

**Polytechnic University of Catalonia**  
**Spain**  
**Barcelona**  
**Environmental Engineering, third semester**

Before going abroad, it was very important for me to do an extensive research on the offered modules at the host university, since my main goal was to specialize myself in water management, therefore I was looking for some particular subjects to take. I was very impressed of the modules offered by UPC, and very suitable with what I was looking for. Therefore, I started to do all the paperwork to start my exchange program.

Mrs. Karin Robel from International Relation Office, was very helpful to answer all my questions in regarding of the processes. At my host university, after I got accepted, the staff was very helpful when it came to the enrolment process, medical insurance, accommodation, etc.. Some student organized a WhatsApp group for all incoming international students, since, due to Corona virus orientation week was cancelled, and they were very helpful with all the questions, and also, they tried to organize as many events as they could taking all the proper measures to integrate new student to Catalan culture.

Accommodation is very easy to find, since there are many websites offering shared flats, and those websites are strongly recommended by other students and by university staff. These websites are "BALDI" and "IDEALISTA". Living in Barcelona is a great experience, even with the current Corona situation the weather is lovely all year around so, outdoor activities are always possible. Some cultural events, walking tours or visit to parks were regularly organized by the ERASMUS UPC group to encourage student to visit the city and get to know other ERASMUS students.

The study in the host university was very good, all the professors are very committed, and in general terms the university is very strict, I finished the program feeling very happy about all the knowledge acquired during the program. I also got to know my classmates and I felt very welcomed in the group from the very first day which made my stay in Barcelona a lot more agreeable.

To learn a new language in Spain is a great opportunity since the people is very nice and helpful, they will always try to make the best of your experience. I got to learn some Catalan, even though it was not my main goal, I got to learn a bit and interact with Catalan people. Catalan culture is very fascinating, the language, the food, the people and what they fight for make Barcelona a beautiful place to live in.

The ERASMUS program is an amazing experience for international students to get to know different cultures in Europe, to learn a new language and to see different teaching techniques. In addition, the ERASMUS grant is very helpful to make the stay in the host country better.

However, I would suggest to put close attention on the official language of the university since in my case, some classes were in Catalan, and I was expecting them to be in Spanish. That situation made my first days in Barcelona very stressful since I had to quickly change some classes that I really wanted to take. No one asked me for a Catalan certificate to make sure I was able to take those classes. Nevertheless, everything worked out great in the end and I would strongly recommend the Erasmus Program.

