

Name of the Host University: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Country, City: Spain, Barcelona

Course Name: Master's in Hydroinformatics & Water Management (EuroAqua+)

Semester: 3rd

I am a student of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree (EuroAqua+). Doing a semester abroad is mandatory part of this course. I did my third semester at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain. I applied in the month of May 2020 to the host University and got acceptance in July 2020. The semester started from 28 September and ended on 30 January 2021. I started looking for the apartments well before the semester started and got a decent apartment near to Plaça d'Espanya which is 30 minutes away from the host University. It was a private accommodation. I used to travel to the University via Underground Metro which is considered as the best mode of public transport in Barcelona.

I studied, six different modules, mostly related to my field of study i.e., Hydroinformatics and Water Management. Out of all, I really enjoyed learning Urban Drainage which was taught by Prof. Manuel Gomez. I learned a lot of new computer applications such HEC-RAS and IBER as well as computer programming languages such as R programming and MatLAB in Artificial Neural Network (ANN) and Real-Time Control of irrigation canals, respectively. The final exams took place in January in the form of reports, presentations, written exams, etc. Overall, the study experience was up to the mark and as per my expectations.

Living experience in the Barcelona was a pleasant experience, I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I loved the beautiful beaches the city has to offer, on the weekends I played volleyball at the beach and I especially liked the Spanish foods such as Paella, Bravas, Tortillas, etc. I went to the top of the Montjuïc with my friends which is a 5kms walk up the hill. It was a great experience to see the whole city of Barcelona from the top. Speaking Spanish is not easy, but I tried my hands at it and finally learned some Spanish sentences. The local people were nice and supportive and got to know about Spanish culture through them. I liked the weather at Barcelona very much and thoroughly enjoyed the heat of the shining sun. There are lots of activities you can do in Barcelona but due to COVID restrictions many were not possible. Still, the time I spent in Barcelona was pleasurable and fun.

I would like to thank Erasmus for giving me this great opportunity to study at Barcelona. Special thanks to BTU for considering me for the Erasmus Mobility Grant. Honourable mentions to Prof. Frank Molkenthin, Josefine Freitag, Karin Robel for motivating and supporting me right from the filling of the application to the completion of the semester. It was a memorable and great learning experience going forward.