

Experience report

Fist and last name:

Study program: International Tourism - and Eventmanagement

Bachelor or Master: Bachelor

Host institution, country: Euroaula escola universitaria de turisme, Spain

Period: 31.01.2020 – 20.06.2020

Declaration of consent to the publication of the report

I agree that the present report will be linked on the website of the ERASMUS office, so that future prospective customers can get first-hand information about my experiences at the university location abroad.

I agree that my e-mail address will be available to prospective students who would like to get first-hand information about my experience at the university abroad, upon request to the Erasmus office.

I agree that only **my first name** can be found in the published report.

Formalities:

The application process was relatively easy, even though I was already behind the application deadline, I was still able to apply. I had to write an CV and a motivation letter to be able to apply. I got a superfast respond and ready to prepare for my exciting adventure.

Motivation and preparation for mobility:

As I mentioned before I missed the deadline for the application, which basically means I have less time to prepare. It was a little bit stressful but my host university helped me in terms of accommodation. I found a beautiful apartment in La Barceloneta district on spotahome.com. The host university even provided me with a discount. Next, I was able to choose my subjects from a variety of choices. I was given the opportunity to study in English or Spanish, such as Spanish classes for foreigners. Of course, I chose from courses I would've also taken at SRH but I decided to take some additional courses as well since they had really interesting courses to choose from.

Start of mobility:

Arriving in Barcelona was a very exciting but surreal feeling. Euroaula asked all Erasmus students to arrive before the 31st of January to have an introduction day. On that day we got a full tour of the university such as cute and handy little presents. It was also a great opportunity to meet the other exchange students. Since we were a relatively small group,

we only got 2 local students assigned. That was not a problem at all because Euroaula is a small institution and everybody knows everybody. We also were able to meet some of our new professors. Afterwards we had lunch together.

During the mobility:

I got used to a daily routine in Barcelona. I only had classes on 3 days during the week so I was able to balance free time and studies perfectly while enjoying the city and the stay. I regularly hang out with people from university which were super open and welcoming. The classes were interesting because I received very creative and open tasks such as homework which I really loved to work on. There was space for a lot of creativity. Unfortunately, I was not going to enjoy everything for too long because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We were forced to not leave our houses. We were only able to go to the doctors or for grocery shopping. We switched to online classes which worked relatively well. At the beginning we were all very optimistic, because the Catalan government was implying that everything will come back to reality soon. Afterward the central Spanish government stated the state of alarm for the whole country. Many exchange students left but I stayed due to my optimistic way of thinking. It was a very weird experience being alone in an apartment in a foreign country but I think I learned a lot and self-reflected much during this time. I got the chance to bond with my classmates more over the internet and after the lockdown when we were finally able to meet we became very close friends. The exams were held online, which everybody agreed on was a good choice.

What have I learned and what am I taking with me from this time?

I would say I learned a lot of Spanish such as Catalan language which I was very happy to improve in such a short time due to become friends with not only local people but also students from the Netherlands. We are all still in contact and are even going to meet soon multiple times. I also learned a lot about myself since I was able to reflect so much during the lockdown. Spain is a beautiful country with amazing people, I felt in love with the mentality the people are having in Barcelona. Everybody is open and welcoming such as very eccentric and funny. I was very sad to leave but at least the last couple weeks I was able to enjoy with my new friends.

Green ERASMUS – How is the topic of the environment treated at the host institution & in the host country?

Unfortunately I have no information about this.

Impressions (photos, links etc....):





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