

[ESPAGNE] – [Université Rey Juan Carlos]

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I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

[Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back in time, would you go to this university and why ?]

My semester abroad was a very enriching experience in both ways, academically and personally speaking. I really enjoyed this time; I met new people from diverse cultures and built friendships that made the experience even more meaningful. As an international student already studying in France, this semester was quite different from my first experience abroad in France, which allowed me to discover myself. I really recommend Madrid as an exchange destination because it is an incredibly dynamic city that never seems to rest, always offering something to do, see, or experience.

*If I could go back in time, I would have considered the same university because the system has some similarities with the French system but having in mind that it requires a bit more effort and adaptation due to exam system and different ways of working. One crucial difference to keep in mind is that if you do not obtain at least **5/10 on the final exam**, teachers do not calculate the average with the grades obtained throughout the semester. As a result, even if you performed well in continuous assessment, your final grade can be significantly affected.*

Overall, it was a rewarding and unforgettable experience, I give it a 3.5/5.

GRADE : [a grade between 0 and 5]

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) – 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

[Help : Do I need a visa ? If yes, what is the process ?]

No, I didn't need a visa, I was able to go with the German passport.

2. The flight

[Help : what flight did you take (the company name, airport etc.) and when did you take your flight ticket]

I took a train from Montpellier to Madrid with the Renfe company and took around 6 hours. I bought the ticket like a month before my departure (I left in mid-December)

3. My luggage

[Help : what to not forget in the luggage (what was useful and what you would like to have taken)]

Pack clothes for both, cold and warm weather. At the beginning of the semester, in January and February, it is cold and rainy. After that, the cold gradually decreases, and by April and May, it starts to get quite warm.

4. Bank account

[Help : did you have to change bank? To respect some amount requirement on the bank account etc.]

I didn't change my bank account, I have Crédit Agricole in France and I used their card.

5. Insurance

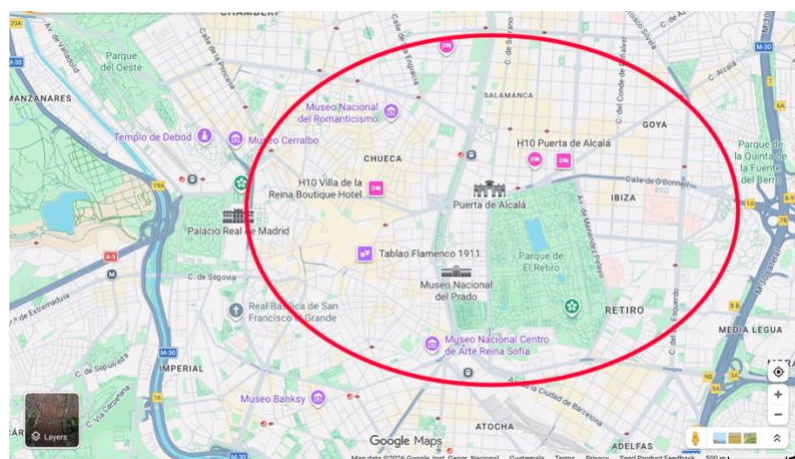
[Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?]

I ordered my European Health Insurance Card and I have an insurance back in Guatemala.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

[Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)]



Try to avoid Distrito Centro, Villaverde and Puente de Vallecas.

2. Find a flat or a room

[Help : How did you find your flat? Do you have any recommendation]

I found a room on Idealista. But I also searched on Spotahome and student residences.

3. Cost

[Help : How much should I plan for a room or a flat?]

I lived in Opera and paid 600 euros per month.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

[Help : How was the process, what did you have to do?]

I arrived in Spain and they organized a welcome day where they explained everything. We had to give our names and an ID, so they confirmed we were there. After that I had to redo my learning agreement because I had a schedule problem.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

[Help : for each class tell us how was the class, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?]

DIRECCIÓN DE PRODUCCIÓN (in spanish)

I really liked this class, the course was well prepared, and we did a lot of exercises in class. This course is about how to organize production in a company. We had 2 exams that were 80% of the grade and 2 activities that were 20% of the grade.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE FIRM (in english)

This class was interesting, and I really liked the content. Two professors gave the course, the first professor was highly organized and her classes were dynamic. The second professor was a bit disorganized, but he gave the presentations and everything was in there.

We had only 1 MCQ final exam worth 60% of the final grade and for the 40% we had to do 2 summaries (of 1 page) and a report (of 15 pages).

HUMAN RESOURCES (in english)

This class was easy to understand, and everything was well structured. The teacher is really kind and gave us all the presentations. We had to do a group presentation for each week that is 40% of the grade.

The remaining 60% of the grade consisted of a final MCQ exam.

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA ECONOMÍA (in spanish)

I really liked this class because the teacher is really invested and you can see that she likes to teach. She explained everything detail by detail. Since it is an introduction, the subjects are not that hard.

For the grade, we had 2 MCQ exams where we had to justify our answers and were 40% of the final grade. And the final exam, worth 60% of the final grade, we had to do 5 exercises.

MATEMÁTICAS FINANCIERAS (in spanish)

I would not recommend this class because it was a bit hard. The methods are confusing because they explain them differently from what we learn in France.

We had 2 exams; the first one is about the firsts chapters and is worth 40% of the final grade. And the second is about the lasts chapters and is worth 60%. Both are exercises.

MACROECONOMÍA (in spanish)

I would not recommend this course at all. The teacher gave all the documents that we needed but she did not explain some parts and since I did not have any prior knowledge on the subject it was hard.

We had 3 graded activities worth 40% and the final exam (MCQ and exercises) was 60% of the final grade.

2. Organization of the Class

[Help : tell us the duration of the class, the volum of work, the behavior of teachers etc. ?]

The 6ECTS courses, they schedule 4 hours a week (2 hours one day and 2 hours another day, but they always last 1 hour and a half).

The 4,5ECTS courses, they schedule 3 hours a week (2 hours one day that always lasted 1 hour and a half, and 1 hour another day).

The workload is much lower than in France.

3. List of courses and recommendation

[Help : list your different courses and let us know what do you think : level (easier, same or harder than the 1st semester course at MOMA, what you liked about the content, how is the class organization, who is the professor). Finally, for each class, tell us if you recommend the course.]

Dirección de Producción (Spanish) 5/5

I really enjoyed this course. The content focused on how to organize production within a company, and the classes were well prepared with many practical exercises. The level was good and if you followed the courses you could understand. The course organization was clear, and the professor explained the material effectively. I would definitely recommend this course.

National and International Economic Environment of the Firm (English) 5/5

This course was interesting, and I particularly enjoyed the content. Two professors taught the class. The first professor was highly organized and made the lectures dynamic and engaging. The second professor was less organized, but all the necessary material was available in the presentations. The workload was reasonable. I would recommend this course, especially for students interested in economics and the world in general.

Human Resources (English) 4/5

This course was easy to follow and very well structured. The professor was kind, supportive, and provided all the course materials. Weekly group presentations encouraged participation and made the classes interactive. The course is quite different from Human Resources course taught during first semester at MOMA. I would recommend this course if you like HR.

Introducción a la Economía (Spanish) 4/5

This was one of my favorite courses. The professor was very dedicated and clearly passionate about teaching. She explained every concept in detail, making the course easy to follow even for students with limited background knowledge. Since it is an introductory course, the class is not hard but still you have to work to have a good grade.

Matemáticas Financieras (Spanish) 3/5

I found this course quite challenging. The methods used were different from those taught in France, which made some concepts confusing at first. The level was harder than the equivalent courses I had taken at MOMA because of these methodological differences.

Although the content was interesting, I would not particularly recommend this course unless you already have a strong background in financial mathematics.

Macroeconomía (Spanish) 2/5

I would not recommend this course. Although the professor provided all the required documents, some important concepts were not fully explained during class. As I had no previous knowledge of macroeconomics, I found it difficult to follow certain topics independently. The level felt harder than comparable courses at MOMA due to the lack of explanations and guidance. Overall, it was the most challenging course of my semester.

4. Exam

[Help : How was the exam? Format? Duration? Grade]

DIRECCIÓN DE PRODUCCIÓN (in spanish)

- 80% of the final grade 2 MCQs (40% each one)
- 20% of the final grade 2 activities (10% each one) on moodle

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE FIRM (in english)

- 60% of the final grade MCQ
- 40% written assignments during the semester

HUMAN RESOURCES (in english)

- 60% of the final grade MCQ
- 40% of the final grade were group presentations

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA ECONOMÍA (in spanish)

- 60% of the grade, final exam with 5 exercises
- 40% of the final grade, 2 MCQs with justification questions

MATEMÁTICAS FINANCIERAS (in spanish)

- First exam, worth 40% was an exercise-based exam covering Chapters 1 to 3
- Second exam, worth 60% was an exercise-based exam covering Chapters 4 to 8

MACROECONOMÍA (in spanish)

- 60% of the grade was a final exam combining MCQs and exercises
- 40% three graded activities

Depending on the exam, they lasted either 1 hour, 1 hour and a half or 2 hours. All grades were given on a 10 point scale, with 10 being the highest mark.

IV. When I lived there

A. Safety

[Help : Is it safe? Is there areas or times I should avoid]

Yes, it is safe but since it is a very touristic city, you should be careful with pickpockets.

B. Phone and Internet

[Help : How to be able to call and have internet]

I had a mobile plan with the company Free back in France, and I had 35GB of internet and I used WhatsApp whenever I needed to make calls.

C. Events

[Help : How to know about the events?]

You can be included in the ESN Madrid group where they send everything that they organize and also you can be included in the City Life Madrid group where they also organize a lot of activities and trips.

D. Sports

[Help : What sport can I do ? and how?]

I really didn't go to any sport activity from the university but I know that ESN Madrid organized a run club and there is a gym at the University in Vicálvaro.

E. Eating

[Help : Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g. an international house buffet)]

There are a lot of good restaurants. The ones that I liked the most are Honest Greens, Nolita (for brunch), Wingstop, Goiko, Pecorilo and Florentine. For ice cream I recommend Ilaollao and Myka.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

[Help : How did you get access to the bus, car or bike]

I went by metro and it took me around 30-40 minutes.

G. Travels

[Help : What do you recommend and what do you not recommend]

I recommend going to Toledo that is free with the transportation card, go to Valencia, which is not far from Madrid, and where you can see most of the main attractions in one day. I went to Santander and I liked it as well.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

[Help : What would I liked to know if I could have gone back in time]

I really recommend to live in the center because it's close to everything and easier to go back home when you go out. Even though the university is a little far.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

[Help : What do you want to do next year]

I am doing a gap year; I will work back in Guatemala.

B. Did you apply for master?

[Help : in which master where you accepted]

I didn't apply to any master.

[remember to fill in the excel : https://lnkd.in/eUt_xB54]

