

[SPAIN] – [Universitat Rovira i Virgili]

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your mouse



I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

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

Aide : Comment s'est passée votre expérience à l'étranger ? Si vous pouviez revenir en arrière, iriez-vous dans cette université et pourquoi ?

My experience went very well, I lived 5 exceptional months. even if the experience was not 100% "normal" with the covid period. I still smile when I talk about this period, it was beneficial in my schooling to go abroad to discover a new culture, new people and new ways of thinking. I have grown from this experience and I am grateful to have been able to live this experience. I would not change my choices and decisions. At first I was sad not to go to a "big city". But in the end, Tarragona is a smaller city but it's a different experience, all the Erasmus students from all the universities are together because there are not many of us (group of 30 people approximatively).

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

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

No ! Just your identity card (in Spain they ask a lot for the identity card !!).

2. The flight

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

I went to Spain by car (4h30 drive only). It costs 60/65 euros (one way).

3. My luggage

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

In my suitcase I had clothes for both seasons (it is cold in February and very hot in May!). Do not forget your identity card.

4. Bank account

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

No, you have to go to your bank in France before leaving to ask for the fees. Personally, I was at the Caisse d'Epargne and I didn't pay any fees for card payments and I didn't have to withdraw any money. Spaniards pay a lot with their phones.

5. Insurance

Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?

I just took an extra option on my "normal" insurance. I was with La Macif .

B. Housing

1. Where to live

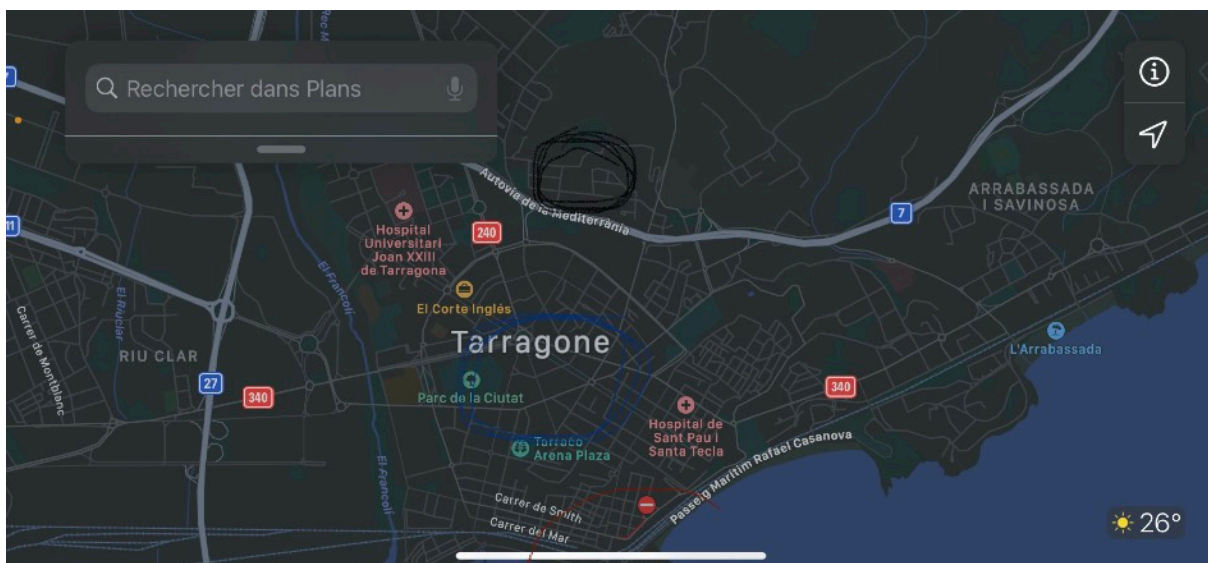
Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)

Personally, I lived a bit "outside" the city centre because I had my car. It is impossible to find parking spaces (or very difficult). So I made the choice to live further away (30min walk to the city centre) but to be able to park my car easily and for free.

The black circle: where I lived

The blue circle: where I recommend to live + (tips : if you have good legs: Part Alta de Tarragona)

The red circle: where I do not recommend (station area)



What you need to know: the beach days or volleyball days are held at the "Arrabassada" beach (in blue on the bottom right) .

There are many electric scooters (trotinette électrique) in Tarragona, which makes it easy to get around if you don't like walking ...!

2. Find a flat or a room

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

There is a great site called "Idealista" where many flats are offered. However, beware of prices, a shared flat in Tarragona costs between 250 and 350 euros, and anything more is expensive. There is a great facebook page (where I found my great flat) called "De Pis en Pis - Pisos d'Estudiants Tarragona, Reus, Tortosa, URV". I searched through my thousands of photos and couldn't find a photo of my room :(

My recommendation is to share with Spanish people, not Erasmus students. It's a bit paradoxical because the aim is to have an Erasmus experience but I find that the complete immersion in Catalan culture with people from Catalonia was incredible and I don't regret it!

Afterwards, if you want to party, speak English and live with Erasmus students, that's very cool too! It's your choice :)

3. Cost

Help : How much should I plan for a room?

Around 300 euros for a flat share.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

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

I went to the international relations office (I lived 2 blocks away). I don't remember much about the process but it was quite simple.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

Help : List the different courses, and for each course, describe the format, the content, the exam, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?

First of all, you should know that during the covid period they reduced the number of courses taught in English: there were only 6 and you had to choose 5. The choice was quickly made.

You have the possibility of choosing courses in Spanish (I regret not taking at least one) or Catalan (I don't recommend it, it doesn't sound like French!)

1- Macroeconomy : I really didn't like this course (and I didn't validate it). The teacher was not interesting, she had a strong Russian accent and the level was high. I would advise against taking this course if you don't have a real interest in numbers and the logic of macroeconomics.

2- International commercial law : I loved it! We had a final paper to do on one of the course topics chosen during the year. The teachers (two women) were understanding and attentive. We even went on a boat tour of the port of Tarragona. I recommend it 100%. An easy subject to validate and very interesting.

3- International economic relations : This course was very internationally oriented. It was very interesting even though the teacher only read the lectures. We had case studies to do. I recommend it.

4- International marketing : This course reminded me a lot of the International Economic Relations course, even though it was marketing. It was quite simple and understandable. We had a lot of material to read but it was interesting! I recommend it.

5- International economics : The courses were put online and every week we had to read the slides... It was not very educational. I revised 24 hours before and I got the average but I regret not to have followed the program assiduously because it was an interesting course.

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

Help : would you recommend for a student when picking its courses

It's complicated to know the pedagogy and content of the course only with a title. I recommend to go to the university website to see if there are more explanations on the subject and not to hesitate to send an email to the professor who is in charge of the course. Teachers are quite responsive (for the most part) .

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

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

I do not recommend the station area and the "Part Alta" of Tarragona at night. However, I found Tarragona very safe (more so than in France) especially for a girl. I always had a walk home and nothing ever happened to me. The "Mossos" (police in Catalonia) are often on the streets of Tarragona.

But always be careful!

B. Phone and Internet

Help : How to be able to call and have internet

I had an internet package that allowed me to call for free in France and for internet it was included in my rent.

Tips: download the maps of Tarragona on Goggle Maps before coming at least, even without internet, you can't get lost.

C. Events

Help : How to know about the events?

It is necessary to be added on Whatapps groups (Spanish people usually discuss on Wsp).

Here is the contact information of one of the Erasmus evening organisers (only to be used if you go!!): +34 642 37 61 03

D. Sports

Help : What sport can I do ? and how?

Tarragona Erasmus students have a passion for beach volleyball!

E. Eating

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

Yes, yes and yes! Go to KOYO: an all-you-can-eat sushi restaurant that is excellent and inexpensive!

Otherwise for tapas: At the plaça de la font (place where everyone meets for a drink)

And for paellas: on the port!

You will thank me later ;)

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

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

With my car for me but it's possible by bus (because the campus is in Reus : 15 min with car to Tarragona). To be honest I only went there for the exams because with the health crisis we had the courses online (it was not so bad to avoid "long" transport).

G. Travels

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

I was only able to travel to Valencia and a little to Catalonia. My big regret is that I didn't go to Madrid, nor to the south ...

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 think I've said it all. I remain entirely available for any questions or queries. It is a great opportunity to discover another culture and another country, be aware of it!

Go alone, discover a country and speak the language of the country.

Personally, apart from in class, I never spoke English: all the time Spanish (with Erasmus students, pupils, my flatmates). Only Erasmus students from Germany do not speak Spanish.

I spoke almost better Spanish than English!

ENJOYYYYY xx

WWW.MONTPELLIER-MANAGEMENT.FR

MONTPELLIER MANAGEMENT - Espace Richter - Rue Vendémiaire - Bât. B - CS 19519 - 34960 MONTPELLIER Cedex 2 - Tél. : 04 34 43 20 00

