

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 ?

My experience abroad went very well, however I feel more like I had the experience of living abroad rather than the experience of “being a student” abroad. I think that there are some personal factors but also maybe the fact that there is not a well defined ERASMUS association in Tarragona also plays a role. My advice would be to go directly to students when you arrive at the university and ask them which group to join on WhatsApp. Because everything happens on WhatsApp and if you are not in the right group, you don't know anything!

Tarragona in general is very cool, there is the historical center where you can find small streets, squares, historical monuments... And the rest of the city which has the Spanish character and which even if at first sight would look "poor", has a huge charm and you feel like at home !

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

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

No need!

2. The flight

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

I made the trips by car but going to Tarragona is easy to access from Montpellier. Car, bus (flixbus, , blablabus), blablacar or plane !

3. My luggage

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

An umbrella and a jacket ! Because contrary to what I thought, the weather was not very nice in March/April ! And generally speaking, of course you can swim and sunbathe in a bathing suit, but these are not extreme temperatures either because the sea air plays a lot!

4. Bank account

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

No need

5. Insurance

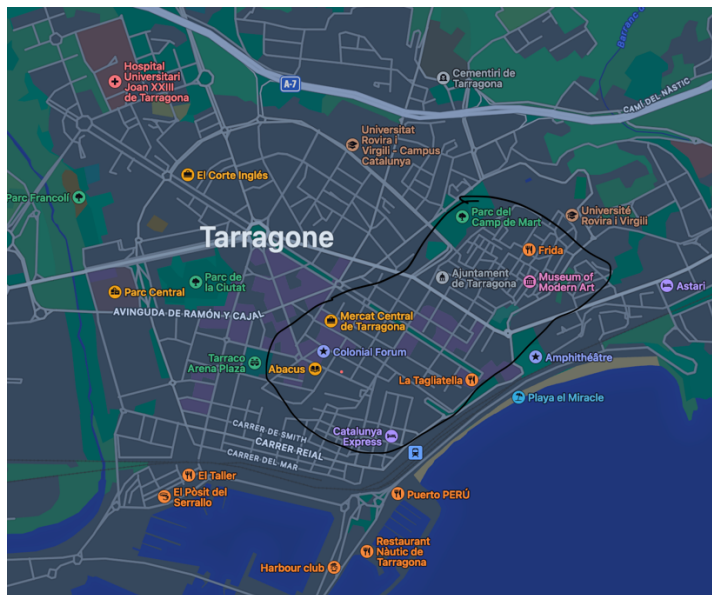
Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?

It is the traditional insurance of my parents that covered me, it works like in France

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)



I have circled what can be called the city center or the hyper center, but overall I don't find that there is a neighborhood that particularly sucks. I just recommend the city center because obviously it's nicer to be close to everything by foot, and the city is more lively and friendly there.

2. Find a flat or a room

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

I found my appartement-share thanks to a friend who sent me the whatsapp number of a landlord in Tarragona who rents exclusively to ERASMUS students (so don't hesitate to contact me if you need to) but otherwise I recommend idealista, there is a lot of accommodation on this website!

3. Cost

Help : How much should I plan for a room?

I paid 400€/month but I think you can find much cheaper if you dig a little bit. I was just to lazy and late to have the luxe of choosing ahah !

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

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

I don't remember everything but you have to fill in a whole registration procedure on a website and then everything is communicated by email in a clear way. I remember that the important thing that marked definitively the registration at the end of the procedures was the "full matricula".

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?

International Commercial Law : I do not particularly recommend... The course is taught by two professors, a legal professional and a professional in transportation I think. So the course content is divided between law concepts as we are used to, and transportation law concepts. This is not very interesting for us students in our field. This part surprised and disappointed me a bit.

International Economic Relations : The teacher of this subject is very interesting, you can tell that he is passionate about what he is talking about and it is therefore very interesting to listen to him.

International Economics : Although economics is not my passion, the teacher does her job very well and explains it really well. The subject is not complicated at all if you follow all the lessons well

International Marketing : A marketing course as we are used to, interesting, very interactive, the teacher is super, I also recommend!

Macroeconomics : This course is a little difficult to follow because the teacher is foreign (I would say maybe Russian) so she has a very pronounced accent and it does not facilitate too much the understanding of the subject already not very obvious. However, she is adorable and answers all the questions you may have!

Spanish : I took this class as an extra because I didn't speak a word of Spanish. The classes are 100% online and the teacher is really really great! Very pedagogical, very friendly, it was nice to talk for 3 hours a week with a real Spanish woman

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

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

No particular advice other than to take a good look at the courses offered in each university in each country in order to make the right choice of destination. It takes a little time, so make sure you do it a little in advance so that you don't choose your destination and subjects by default

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

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

For my personal experience, I would say "100%" safe (even if we are never 100000% safe as everywhere)

B. Phone and Internet

Help : How to be able to call and have internet

I personally didn't change anything because I had everything available in Spain, except the 4G which is only 25GO abroad. But if you have wifi at home (and you do at university 100%) then that's more than enough!!!

C. Events

Help : How to know about the events?

as I said, get informed to be in the right whatsapp groups. Once you're in, you'll know everything :)

D. Sports

Help : What sport can I do ? and how?

On this topic I am not the best informed but if you are looking for a gym, I had registered at one 50m from my home where many ERASMUS went since it was not very expensive (24€/month) and above all you can cancel when you want without any fees so it's what we need when we are expat !

E. Eating

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

The cliché food in Spain is tapas: you can find anywhere pan con tomate, croquetas, fried calamari... Don't expect great gastronomy in my opinion because it's still a lot of food prepared very quickly and "on the go" but to accompany with a drink indeed it is very suitable! Otherwise, I advise to go to the market or to the market halls to eat well and good.

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

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

I did both, by bus and by car. Be careful, the economics campus is in Reus, not in Tarragona, so it's impossible to walk or bike (these are fast lanes). By bus it's very simple, it's at the TGN station that all the buses are taken, there is a card that you can pay by month or by week, at reasonable prices!

G. Travels

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

Personally, I tried to move as much as possible! At the beginning when I had the car I could go to Madrid, Valencia (for the Fallas), Peniscola, Cadaques, Palafrugell, Tamariu, Begur and others. But don't worry, I could also do a lot of things without a car (by foot or by train), all the little towns around tarragona are great to go to nice beaches. And for more "cities": Sitges, Peniscola, Barcelona

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 would just like to say that the beach of Tarragona "Miracle beach" is not very well ""arranged. This is the first thing that jumped out at me when I arrived, the beach is not very pretty because there is the railroad right next to it and you can also see big industrial boats in the distance so it may not be very attractive... And as I said it is not at all ""arranged", that is to say that there is no restaurant of beach, bar of beach or others : that's surprised me.

But what I advise you : you should not hesitate to walk a little bit to go away from the beach and to fall in super small creeks much nicer and more natural, without boat and railroad on the horizon ! And even with small restaurants next to the sea !! I personally walked a lot sometimes (because no car) but to be in places much more beautiful than this industrial beach! After that, it's up to each one's taste once again because I know a lot of people who were satisfied with this city beach with great pleasure!

V. Photos

