



## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

I really enjoyed my experience abroad, Madrid is a wonderful city, very safe and where life is really sweet. It gathers in the same place parties, cultural visits and activities, beautiful towns to visit in the surroundings, really good restaurants, etc. Flights from Madrid are often cheap which allows to visit Spanish islands and countries around.

The university Rey Juan Carlos is approximately 30-40min by metro from the center of Madrid. Buildings are not really modern and can feel a bit sad in winter but there is a really nice garden to chill, study, or eat. There is also a big library and a gym that is very cheap! Regarding classes, I took only Spanish courses to improve my level, I don't regret it but I noticed that Spanish classes require much more personal investment than English ones (professors understand better that students are Erasmus and are generally more chill).

*Also, the atmosphere in Spanish classes is quite weird: students select the classes they want to assist to so very often classes are small (15-20 students) and they don't know nor communicate with each other. However, I elected*

**GRADE : 4/5**

*=> 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

There is no need of visa for Madrid as it's part of the European Union.

#### 2. The flight

We went to Madrid from Montpellier by train. It was the cheapest option (regarding the luggage allowed also), and the Erasmus scholarship gives you 50€ more if you travel with a sustainable mode (including the train).

We booked our train approximately one month before, it was around 150€ per way. We went to Madrid one week before the beginning of the semester (for Erasmus integration which is really useful) and also left one week after exams to enjoy the last moments without pressure.

### 3. My luggage

The weather in Madrid is changing really fast. We were really lucky because from February until May we had a really beautiful weather and didn't use our jackets. However, it can rain, snow or hail even under 20 degrees! Thus, I would advise you to take either winter and summer clothes (we would like to have taken more shorts), also a swimsuit (if you go on holidays in a Spanish Island or if you want to tan in the amazing Retiro Park).

### 4. Bank account

Nothing special regarding bank account. You can keep your European one, just note that some cashpoints take a commission (but not all of them).

### 5. Insurance

There is no special need of insurance for Madrid. Nevertheless, the Erasmus program asks you to subscribe to a global insurance if you don't have it (the simplest is completely okay). For medical issues, you need to make your European insurance card with your French medical care program some months before living (it comes in your mailbox).

When you have a medical issue, you need to go to a "*centro de salud*" that is working like hospital in France (but not only for emergencies). You normally don't have a lot of chances to be really sick so I would not recommend a private insurance. Regarding pharmacy, you will have to pay and will be reimbursed with your European insurance card.

## B. Housing

### 1. Where to live

Madrid is a really safe city so you have small chances of living in a bad neighborhood (except Puente de Vallecas that is not really reassuring, especially if you go back home alone). I would recommend to live in the south-center of Madrid so you are near to every activity either in the night or day and to the university. However, Madrid has a very good transportation network. Metros are quick and go almost everywhere, same as buses. You will also enjoy night buses every 20 minutes (free with your transportation card) that allow you to go party whenever and wherever you want.

### 2. Find a flat or a room

I went with Emy and we want a shared flat just between the two of us. This solution was not easy to find, and really expensive: we ended up in an Airbnb. We had no chance with our first Airbnb that was unsanitary and had to change our flat (but at least we got the support of Airbnb).

Otherwise, the best way to find a flat is Idealista website or agencies. On idealista ads are not checked so you need to be really careful with frauds, avoid any landlord that want you to pay before, or in cash, or to pay for the visit or whatever that seems strange to you. The best option results in the international flat-shares, it's the cheapest option, and the one that will allow you to meet international students as you ! You can find those flats on Idealista, different websites or on Facebook groups such as "Français à Madrid".

### 3. Cost

A room in a shared-flat: 500€ - 700€ (depending if charges are included or not).

A flat alone: 900€ - 1 000€.

A room in a university-residence:  $\approx$  800€ - 1 000€. You need to be really early for those rooms otherwise they become very expensive (they can get to 1 800€). You will find different formulas (alone or shared room, with breakfast, lunches, dinner).

## III. When I arrive at the university

### A. Inscription at the university

The inscription process should be completed before you arrive in Madrid. You can easily join the international relations by email to help you. It's not really complicated.

However, once at the university you can have two main problems:

⇒ You have two or more classes at the same time:

- You can normally find another group when looking at the plannings that is working with your schedule. Then you will have to send an email to the international relations (of Madrid) telling them the subject and group code you want to go to.
- If you can't find a group that suits you schedule then you will have to select another class (and then refer to the point below).

⇒ You want to change classes (but for other reasons):

- Normally the only acceptable reason is that the course is not fitting your schedule and you can't find another group. But I think they accept it for other reasons also. You will then have to change your learning agreement and sign it with all parties (MOMA and Rey Juan Carlos international relations).

In any case, the international relations are really busy in this period so they will answer you with lots of delay. This is normal, no worries about it, they will answer at some point (even if the deadline they fixed for you to change your learning agreement is overcome).

## B. Information on the university

### 1. Class

I took all classes in Spanish. It was really good to improve my level, but Spanish classes require more personal works than English ones and are usually more complicated. The international relations told me I couldn't mix Spanish and English classes but a friend of mine from MOMA had negotiated with them (so you might try).

I will talk about the professors I had but note that according to the group you are assigned you may have different professors and it can change a lot of things.

In Spain, grades are over 10 and Spanish students have to pass all the exams for all the subjects they have. Don't worry, for MOMA subjects compensate as well as semester (your semester abroad will compensate with your first semester). So, you need to work but don't have to pass 100% of the exams with more than 5/10. Most exams are MCQ with negative points.

### 2. Organization of the Class

In general classes last two hours but they often finish earlier (sometimes even just one hour)!

The volume of work is more important for classes in Spanish.

The way of teaching is different than in France, professors are much less informal and can seem less organized.

### 3. List of courses and recommendation

***Dirección estratégica y política de empresas:*** same as MOMA. This subject was really interesting (it's like strategic management), it looks like the management classes we have but goes more in depth. The professor I had gives a lot of personal work along the semester (case studies each week, 3 exams in the semester, one final exam) and goes really fast (she just read the slides and you have to make picture of those because you won't have time to write and she doesn't give them).

But, this class (the concepts taught) is very interesting. It represents some work during the semester but the professor gives good grades and you will have lots of grade (which allow some "mistakes") and normally good ones. So, I would still recommend it to you !

Organization of the class: approximately 8 case studies in group (documents with 4 questions), 1 case among the 8 that you will present to the class (the one you want to), 3 MCQ exams (each one contains only 2 or 3 chapters – they are not really long), 1 final exam (questions to develop, one global question for each chapter and the teacher told us the questions that we could have before).

**Dirección financiera:** easier than MOMA. This class was extremely interesting! The professor was passionate and wanted us to understand everything. He took lots of time to explain concepts and was really kind to students. He gives all the slides and they are very detailed so we can just focus on what he says.

Organization of the class: 2 exams during the semester (half MCQ, half exercises). If you succeed both you don't go to the final exam and if you fail one or both of them you can go to the final exam to improve your grade (in may).

**Contabilidad:** same as MOMA. This accounting class is quite basic; it looks like the financial accounting one you will have in the first semester. The professor is very motivating, he brings good humour and is arranging (he offers to students who missed last class to stay and catch up).

Organization of the class: one personal task to do at home and upload on the Moodle that is not mandatory and counts for 20% of your final grade. The final exam is composed of MCQ questions, one question to develop (on a very wide subject so you just add the maximum of knowledge), and 2 or 3 exercises of operations.

**Análisis de balance:** much more difficult than MOMA. This class is very complicated. I thought it would be something like management accounting but it is more "financial states analysis". Financial states in Spain are not the same than those we used to study. Moreover, you will have two different professors (one for theory and one for practice). To me, the theory was complicated but interesting. However, the practice was very difficult, the professor is not clear in her explanation and the correction of exercises made was not what she expected at the exam. It was very confusing, and even with the understanding of the theory, I failed the practice. I would not really recommend this class, except maybe if you really want to specialise in finance.

Organization of the class: theoretical MCQ test and some exercises (40% of the grade, related to the theoretical concepts); final exam with all the financial tests of a company to analyse, deduct, calculate ratios and make recommendations (60% of the grade, related to the practice part of the course).

**Dirección marketing:** same as MOMA. The teacher of this class is amazing! It's basically all the concepts of marketing you have already seen in one course. The professor is passionate and he's from the company's world so it is more interesting. However, classes are not very organized, he can talk about a news during the class. You need to go on the moodle and follow the class in autonomy because he rarely speaks in front of the slides it's more informal.

Organization of the class: several group projects (marketing plan, oral presentation, business model canvas), one marketing book of your choice to read and make a summary and comment, 2 MCQ exams during the semester (if you succeed you don't go to the final exam, if not you go in may and there are questions to develop).

**Estadísticas:** more difficult than MOMA. This subject is okay; it is a bit difficult but when you go to classes and train with the exercises it's okay.

Organization of the class: one final exam with exercises.

#### 4. Exam

Most of the time exams are MCQs with negative points. They last about 30 minutes. Grades are over 10.

In some courses, succeeding in exams during the semester will dispense you to go to final ones.

### IV. When I lie there

#### A. Safety

Madrid is a very safe city, going out in the night is totally okay in any area. You need just to be careful of some pickpockets in the center of the city.

#### B. Phone and Internet

Usually, your European phone contract allows you to text, call and use internet (sometimes it's limited but still enough). You will have access to the Wi-Fi at university and in your flat.

#### C. Events

The ESN association will make a presentation at the integration day and enable some WhatsApp groups where they will send all information about parties, events, visits and trips they organize. You will also be able to get the ESN card for 15€ to get access to some events and get discounts with their partners, but honestly, we didn't use it, most of the events didn't require it.

#### D. Sports

You can get access to the gym at university. It is very good, costs 15€/month and you will also have access to some classes (Zumba, glute/abdo/legs, yoga...).

#### E. Eating

ESN organize each week international diners with a focus on a country. Alongside, you have a lot of very good restaurants in Madrid. Here are some we enjoyed:

- ▶ Ornella (Italian)
- ▶ Bel Mondo (Italian)
- ▶ Sushiao (buffet sushi)
- ▶ IGO Ramen
- ▶ Galeria Canaleja (gallery with several restaurants and food stand)
- ▶ Mercado San Miguel (it's a bit expensive but really famous and typical from Madrid)

Remember to book before going to restaurants they are often full.

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

The metro and cercanias (equivalent to RER) go and stop just in front of the university (line 9). Some buses also go there so it's really easy.

## G. Travels

From Madrid you can find really cheap and amazing destinations. I really recommend you to go to Lanzarote (Canarias Islands) that is an amazing island and Mallorca.

## V. After your semester abroad

### A. What are you planning do to?

Next year, I am planning to do a Master in Management or Master in International Business in a business school. I would like to have the opportunity now to go on a semester abroad farer away.

### B. Did you apply for master?

Next year, I will be in a Master in Management (MiM) at EDHEC Business School.

[remember to fill in the excel : [https://lnkd.in/eUt\\_xB54](https://lnkd.in/eUt_xB54) ]