

Retour d'expérience de ma mobilité internationale Julie Boutin - Julie.boutin0420@gmail.com

SPAIN - Universitat de Valencia



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I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My semester in Valencia, Spain, was an absolutely unforgettable and life-changing experience. Valencia is a dynamic, festive city where there's always something to do. It also offers a rich cultural and architectural patrimony, with unique traditions. The University of Valencia offers an outstanding working environment, an airy campus, and excellent teaching.

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

WWW.MONTPELLIER-MANAGEMENT.FR

If I could go back, I wouldn't change a thing. I'd choose the same city and the same university. Indeed, if the future allows, I'd like to settle there.

This semester has enabled me to develop new skills and gain confidence and autonomy. It also allowed me to take the time to look for and apply for the Master's degree that suits me.

GRADE: [5/5]

=> 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

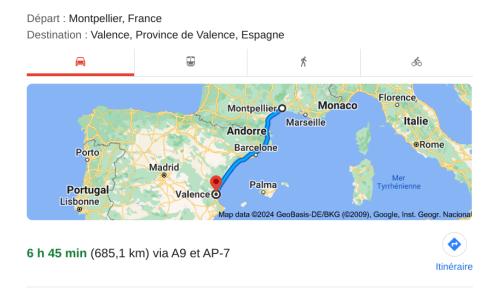
1. Visa

I didn't need a visa.

2. The flight

I chose to drive to Valence. The journey took 14 hours, including an 11-hour drive, as I don't come from Montpellier. From Montpellier, it's about a 7-hour drive. If you have the opportunity to go by car, I highly recommend it. You can park for free on the streets of Valencia, and the Spanish highway (autovía) is free.

There are many advantages to traveling by car. You have the freedom to leave at a most convenient time, and to take more luggage with you without the restrictions imposed by airlines or railways. Although the city is very well served (bus, streetcar, metro), I think having a car makes it easier to get around and visit the surrounding area at your own pace (no need to wait for Erasmus excursions, which are fixed on certain days at certain times). In addition, Barcelona and Madrid are about a 3-hour drive from Valencia. Y aller



If you can't get there by car, Ryanair offers cheap flights to Valencia, but get your ticket as soon as possible, as prices will rise rapidly. Also, if you're planning to have family and friends visiting, tell them to buy their tickets in January/February, because from March, plane tickets go up every day.

3. My luggage

Since I went to Valencia by car, I was able to pack a lot of stuff. However, I wouldn't recommend taking too many winter clothes, as it gets hot quickly and they won't be very useful. Don't forget your passport either, as ErasmusLife Valencia organizes trips outside the European Union (for example, I went to Morocco).

Don't forget your identity card, your European health insurance card and a backpack, as Erasmus organizes hikes for beginners in beautiful places.



Please note: if you'd like to bring an English-French or Spanish-French translation dictionary, some teachers allow you to do so during exams.

4. Bank account

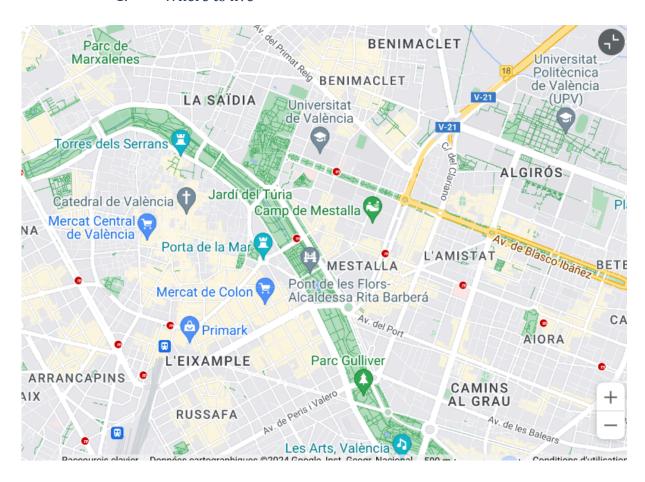
I'm with Crédit Agricole and I have a WOW card. I haven't had any charges in Spain, except for withdrawing cash.

5. Insurance

I don't remember exactly what the insurance was, but if I remember correctly, it was the receiving university that offered it to me when I registered.

B. Housing

1. Where to live



I lived in La Saïdia, a 10-minute walk from the old town, 15 minutes walk from the center and a 10-minute tram ride from the university.

The Algiros district, where the university is located, is 10 minutes by tram from the beach; it's a dynamic student district.

The most popular student district is Benimaclet, a lively and affordable place. Russafa is also an excellent choice, although more expensive.

However, all Valencia neighborhoods are safe, so you can live anywhere. The screenshot above shows the different neighborhoods where most students live, all very well served by public transport.

2. Find a flat or a room

When I arrived in Valencia, a week before the official start of the semester, I didn't yet have an apartment. So I booked an Airbnb for a week, preferring to visit the place in person, especially given the numerous scams reported on the net.

I found my apartment thanks to Idealista.com, the equivalent of Le boncoin in France. It's easy to find accommodation in Valencia, with many shared flats available in every district.



However, if you're looking for an individual apartment (which I wouldn't recommend, as sharing makes it easier to meet people when you arrive), I'd advise you to plan ahead, as these apartments are rented out within a few days.

3. Cost

Room prices range from 250 to 700 euros, depending on what you're looking for and where you live. However, many rooms for rent are around 400 euros per month, including utilities.

For a single apartment, the cheapest I saw was around 500-600 euros, but the average price is around 750-850 euros due to their limited availability.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

You will receive an email to guide you through the procedure. All you have to do is follow the instructions in the email, step by step.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

International Negotiation: 5/5 - 100% recommended

Passionate teacher Relevant content Course focused more on practice than theory Clear structure

Evaluation by written test, role play...

Corporate Strategy: 4/5 - Perfect for students with no background in corporate strategy

Involved teacher

Structured course

Basic content (repetitive if you've already studied strategy)

Strong emphasis on theory

Evaluation by Group work, term project, written test

Strategic Management of Human Resources: 4/5 - I recommend

Passionate teacher

Requires a lot of personal work

Relevant content for those who have not yet studied human resources management or who have little knowledge of it

Evaluation by Group work, oral presentation, written report

Financial Management: 5/5 - I recommend 100%.

Passionate teacher

Dynamic course

Relevant and in-depth content

Numerous examples and exercises to illustrate concepts, with a balance between theory and practice

Evaluation by Excel work, problem-solving, in-class test

Operational Management: 4/5 - I recommend

Passionate teacher

Relevant, in-depth content with a strong theoretical component Evaluation by MCQ with negative points, graded exercises

2. Organization of the Class

Each course is divided into two 1h30 sessions:

- > 1h30 practice
- > 1h30 theory

To complete your semester, you must take five courses, each worth 6 credits. Don't worry if you want to adjust your timetable, as changing your courses in Valencia is very easy.

In terms of workload, you need to work regularly on all the courses, especially the theory part. However, I didn't feel I had to work harder than in France. The teachers are very attentive and guide us in our revision so that the exams go as smoothly as possible. In addition, there are two exam sessions, so if you don't pass on the first try, you get a second chance without stress.

3. List of courses and recommendation

- → International Negotiation Ms Saorin Iborra Maria Del Carmen: easier than at Moma
- → Operational management Mr Camarena Emilio: more difficult than at Moma
- → Financial Management Ms Comeig Ramirez Irene: easier than at Moma
- → Strategic Human Resources Management Mr. Oltra Comorena Victor: same level as at Moma
- → Corporate Strategy Ms Ejarque Catala Ana Teresa: same level as at Moma

4. Exam

- → International negotiation (30min) (9/10): MCQ of 20 questions with negative points.
- \rightarrow Corporate strategy (2hrs) (7.3/10): case study with essay questions.
- \rightarrow Strategic human resources (2hrs) (8.5/10): MCQ + course questions.
- → Financial management (2h30) (6.8/10) : MCQ + Exercises
- → Operational management (2 hours) (7.5/10): MCQ with negative points + exercises.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

There are no dangerous districts in Valencia. The city is very safe, no matter where you are. Even the Malvarrosa beach area, which I'd been advised to be wary of, turned out to be perfectly safe.

B. Phone and Internet

I'm with Red by SFR and I already had a package that allowed me to travel without any problems. However, many Erasmus students have taken out a package in Valencia.

C. Events

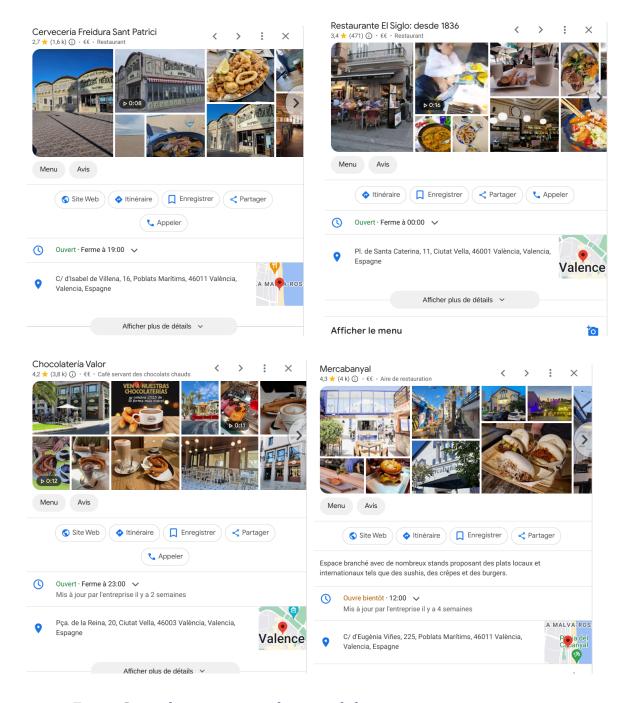
Follow Erasmus Life Valencia on instagram. They are posting about every event and you can ask them questions about valencia

Also, STAY IN VALENCIA FOR FALLAS!

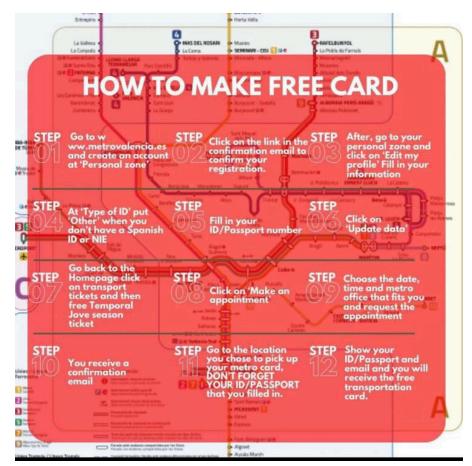
D. Sports

I didn't take part in any sports in Valencia, but the university offers several options.

E. Eating



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



By following the steps above, you'll receive a free transport card that will enable you to use Valencia's buses, tramways and subways.

G. Travels

Here are a few of my trips during my stay in Valencia:

➤ **Vinaròs Carnival** (early February): Erasmuslife also organizes transport to get there, making it easy to get to this festive event.







➤ **Alicante, Altea, Gandia**: These destinations offer magnificent landscapes that are well worth a visit.







➤ **Morocco**: I traveled to Morocco with Erasmuslife for 10 days. We explored several cities, including Chefchaouen, Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech, and Fez, with a night in the desert. It was an unforgettable experience, and the prices were very attractive.







➤ **Madrid** (3-hour drive): I highly recommend visiting Madrid at least once for a weekend. There are direct trains from Valencia to Madrid, sometimes for less than €20.







➤ **Palma de Mallorca** (40-minute flight): Round-trip flights to Palma cost around €30, and the landscapes there are wonderful.







➤ **Barcelona** (3-hour drive): I'd already visited it, so I didn't go back, but if you've never seen it, it's a must-see destination.

➤ **Montanejos** (1h30 drive): A perfect destination with waterfalls and a small lake.



➤ **Guadalest**: a magnificent village with a castle and an incredible view of a turquoise-blue lake.



PLEASE NOTE: You'll have a few days off in March, but don't plan to travel at that time! FALLAS is Valencia's biggest traditional festival, lasting over three weeks in total. However, statutes are burned and parties organized during the vacation period, so don't miss out!









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

I think I've covered everything.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I was accepted at IAE Lyon in a Master 1 - Management of Production, Logistics and Purchasing work-study program. I found a work-study position as an international buyer in a hotel cosmetics company.

B. Did you apply for master?

Yes, in Master 1 - Management of Production, Logistics and Purchasing work-study program at IAE Lyon.

