

SPAIN – university of Valencia

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Living in Spain for five months was a life-changing experience, one that I will always cherish. The vibrant culture and dynamic environment made me feel like I was living a different life, filled with opportunities for growth and learning. Valencia became my second home, and its energy and warmth left a lasting impression on me.

The city has everything one could wish for: stunning beaches, a lively city center, historic landmarks, and expansive parks. The social scene is fantastic, with numerous bars, restaurants, and nightclubs, creating a relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere. The almost year-round warm weather was a huge bonus, making it feel like a never-ending summer from March onward.

Initially, adapting to a new environment was tough. The first few weeks were marked by loneliness and the challenge of adjusting to a different lifestyle. However, these difficulties quickly faded as I started to go to Erasmus events and make new friends. The sense of belonging I found in Spain was unparalleled.

Academically, the University of Valencia offers a diverse range of courses in both Spanish and English. While some teaching methods and evaluations were not what I expected, this minor inconvenience did not overshadow the overall enriching experience. The exposure to different academic perspectives was invaluable.

Reflecting on my time in Spain, I realize how much I grew both personally and academically. The experience taught me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace new challenges, leading to extraordinary encounters and lifelong memories. If given the chance to choose again, I would undoubtedly pick Valencia as my Erasmus destination. It's a place where I found happiness and a sense of purpose, and I hope to return someday .

GRADE : 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 separate visa to go to Spain. In my case, I had a long-term visa for France, which also allowed me to study in Spain.

2. The flight

Since I had a lot of luggage, I decided to take a BlaBlaCar, which cost me 76 euros and took 7 hours for the way from Montpellier to Valencia .

3. My luggage

Here's a bit of advice on what to pack: Make sure to bring clothes for all seasons. From January to March, mornings can be quite chilly, so a heavy coat and a rain jacket are essential. Also, I suggest bringing any necessary medications with you, as obtaining them without a prescription can be challenging.

4. Bank account

I did not change my bank account I kept the same one I used in France with the bank Société Générale as it is simpler and I was able to use it during the whole stay without any problem .

5. Insurance

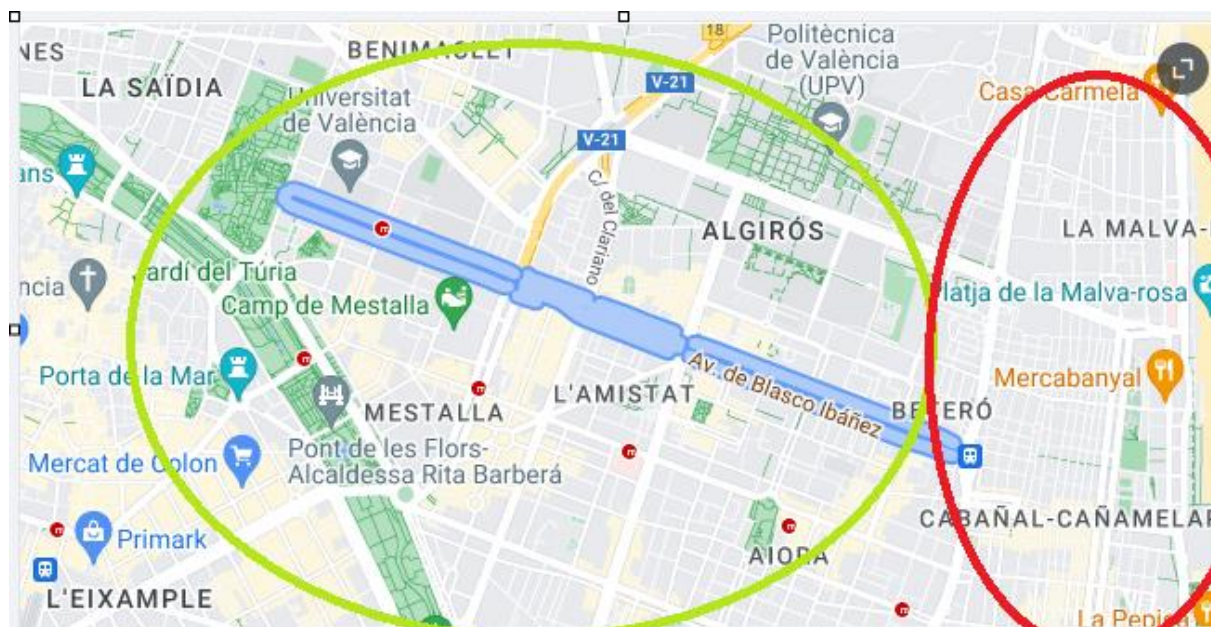
I kept the insurance I already had and provided the university with my European health insurance card.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

For my stay, I opted for the Blasco Ibanez area, known for its vibrant student community (marked in green). It's close to most university faculties, including the faculty of economy where you will probably be studying This neighborhood is vibrant with activity, offering plenty of bars, restaurants and supermarkets. It is also close to the beach .

However, avoid the area near the beach like Cabnal or malvarossa , it is a bit scary at night .



2. Find a flat or a room

I found my shared apartment on the Idealista website. I only had to pay a deposit, with no agency fees. I shared the apartment with four other girls, and it went really well.

3. Cost

I paid 420 euros for a room in a shared house, which is the average cost in Valencia. Individual apartments and student residences are pricier, usually around €500 to €600 per month.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

All the details for registering at the university are sent via email and the process is completed online. When it comes to enrolling in courses, this is also done online a few weeks prior to the start of your Erasmus program. If you need to make any changes to your schedule after arriving you can do so at the international relations office you have 10 days to add courses or change them and then other 10 days were it is only possible to remove courses and can no longer add . I personally took 7 courses at the beginning instead of 5 and then changed and removed the ones I did not like and had 5 courses at the end .

B. Information on the university

1. Class

The format of the courses is consistent across all subjects. Each course is divided into a 1.5-hour theoretical part and a 1.5-hour practical part, delivered weekly. The theoretical part is not mandatory. In contrast, the practical part is compulsory, with most professors checking attendance or assigning graded tasks to ensure class participation.

Evaluation methods vary across subjects, some courses requiring extensive weekly assignments. It's essential to pass both the theoretical and practical parts of a course to pass the subject overall. Even if you score 100% on the theoretical part, failing the practical part results in failing the course.

2. Organization of the Class

the courses I have chosen:

- **Operational Management: Decisions and Resources** This course aims to provide an understanding of production management and its relationship with other organizational subsystems. Topics include production strategy, product development, process design, technology decisions, long-term planning, and plant location. Tactical decisions like plant layout, inventory management, JIT systems, and project planning and control are also covered.

Evaluation Method:

- 30% continuous assessment (quizzes)
- 70% final exam

diversification and internationalization. It also covers mergers and acquisitions and strategic alliances.

Evaluation Method:

- 30% continuous assessment (Quizzes and class participation)
- 70% final exam (case analysis)

My Opinion: the course is intellectually stimulating and offers a deep dive into corporate strategy and the professor encourages critical thinking and strategic analysis but personally I do not recommend this class it was really challenging and The final exam is incredibly tough.

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

Valencia is a city where I felt very safe at any time of the day or night. I was able to walk home late at night with no one disturbing me I felt really safe. But some of the people I know got their phones robbed in parties so be careful when drinking to keep your things next to you .

B. Phone and Internet

I kept my SFR plan since it offered around 20GB of mobile data per month within the EU. But I regretted it later since it cost me so much money after 3 months of using it in Spain. So my advice is to take a Spanish plan

C. Events

To stay in the loop about local events, follow Erasmus associations on Instagram, such as happyerasmusvalencia and erasmuslifevalencia. They share updates on parties, activities, and trips. Joining WhatsApp groups is also a good way to keep informed about what's happening around town.

For nightlife, free club nights are hosted every night of the week, including Sundays. Check out Caribbeañ on Wednesdays for bachata classes , MYA/Umbracle and also La marina .

Don't miss the Fallas festival in March. Huge statues are displayed around the city, and nightly street parties with DJs create a lively atmosphere. The festival ends with an impressive fireworks display as the statues are burned, making for a memorable experience.

D. Sports

You can practice many sports available through the university, including:

- Dance (Bachata, classical, modern, salsa, etc.)
- Martial arts
- University gym
- Golf

A. What are you planning do to?

For next year, I am applying for various master's programs with an apprenticeship.

I am interested in working in sectors such as new technologies, However, I remain open to other possibilities.

B. Did you apply for master?

For my master's degree, I chose to do it with an apprenticeship. I applied to IAE and universities, especially in Paris as it offers apprenticeship opportunities more than other places.

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