

ESPAGNE, MADRID – Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

Agenda¹

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad.....	2
II. Before the travel.....	2
A. Preparation.....	2
1. Visa.....	2
2. The flight.....	2
3. My luggage.....	2
4. Bank account.....	3
5. Insurance.....	3
B. Housing.....	3
1. Where to live.....	3
2. Find a flat or a room	3
3. Cost	3
III. When I arrive at the university.....	4
A. Inscription at the university.....	4
B. Information on the university	4
1. List of courses and recommendations	4
2. Organization of the Class.....	6
3. Exam.....	6
IV. When I lived there	6
A. Safety	6
B. Phone and Internet.....	7
C. Events.....	7
D. Sports.....	7
E. Eating.....	7
F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike.....	7
G. Travels.....	8
H. Any other information you would have liked to know about	8
V. After your semester abroad	8
A. What are you planning do?	8
B. Did you apply for master?.....	8

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

It's simple: Madrid is one of the most enriching periods of my life. For nearly four months, I stepped out of my comfort zone, studied in a foreign environment with different working methods, explored Andalousia, and made strong friendships with incredible people.

Thanks to classes taken in Spanish, I was able to recover my previous level of Spanish (which I had lost during my two years of undergraduate studies). The foreign language I practiced the most was still English because my classes were in English, and English is also the language spoken by international students.

I enjoyed studying at Rey Juan Carlos, the teachers are attentive, and the hours I had (9am-1pm) allowed me to enjoy my afternoons.

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

Madrid is part of the European Union so there is no need for a VISA.

2. The flight

We took the train from Montpellier Saint-Roch to Madrid Atocha, thanks to the Spanish company RENFE. With all our luggage, it was the cheapest option (about 150€), and you'll also be eligible for a "sustainable transport" grant.

I bought my ticket about two months in advance, and we arrived 1 week before the beginning of the classes for the integration, I think it's very useful.

3. My luggage

I took a large suitcase and a smaller one (these are the luggage allowed on the train).

For the second half of the year (January - May), it is quite hot in Madrid so take light clothes, but I still recommend taking warm clothes and an umbrella just in case (we had a long period of rain).

Also, don't forget to take a swimsuit if you plan to go to the islands, or a ski suit if you want to go skiing (it's possible in January-February at 2 hours from Madrid!)

4. Bank account

It was not necessary to change bank, there may just be a fee if you withdraw the money but it depends on your bank.

For your international travels, I advise you to install Revolut (no fees!)

5. Insurance

You just need your European insurance card.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I preferred to live in the city center rather than near the faculty (50 minutes by metro). I didn't regret my choice, because it allows me to enjoy Madrid life with activities – bars - restaurants, while the university is quite out of the way.

So, if you live in the center, Madrid is safe in my opinion, because there are often a lot of people in the streets until late. Also, the metro runs until late, and thanks to your transportation card you can use the buses that run all night.

I would simply advise against living in the "Lavapiès" district, which can be dangerous if you are alone in the evening.

2. Find a flat or a room

I wanted to share an apartment with my friend Célia, who was going to Madrid with me. We were able to find a shared apartment for 6 people on the [SpotaHome](#) website.

On the Rey Juan Carlos faculty website, there is a dedicated webpage to help you find an apartment, with several secure sites available and discounts applicable if you study there.

I advise you to do this as soon as possible because the ads go quickly.

3. Cost

Living in the Spanish capital is very expensive: expect to pay between 600 and 900 euros for a shared apartment in the city center (fees included) if you use rental websites. I've had friends who were able to pay less thanks to their contacts who passed apartments back and forth year after year.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. **Inscription at the university**

The process when I arrived at the university was very simple. I was already registered at the university; I just had to attend an "international student welcome" meeting in order to get my arrival certificate signed by the university.

Then, if you wish to modify your courses (overlapping courses, timetables...), you have several weeks to change your learning agreement, and have it signed by MoMa and Rey Juan Carlos.

Rey Juan Carlos University International Relations takes a long time to respond during these periods, but don't worry, they will respond and accept changes even if the "deadlines" have passed.

B. **Information on the university**

1. **List of courses and recommendations**

I took 5 classes: Strategic Management & Corporate Politics II, National and International Economic of the firm, Financial Management II, Balance Analysis, Management Information Systems, and Human Ressources.

All these courses are third-year courses taught in English; and attendance is not mandatory, although it is strongly recommended to attend classes. All professors make their classes available on the Aula (Moodle).

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT & CORPORATE POLITICS (professor Soraya Gonzalez)

At the end of each class we had to answer a quiz on our computer (we had several weeks to do this, and therefore it's possible to do it from home)

In a group, we also had a case study to do and present orally.

Then we had 2 "big" MCQs to do on computer which count for most of our final grade.

→ I think it was a very interesting course, and that really consolidated and deepened my foundations in management because I reviewed concepts I had already covered during my first two years of my degree but with more details. We were assessed throughout the semester through small assignments, and the professor is very educational and lenient.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC OF THE FIRM (Professor Oscar Rodriguez Carreiro)

We had a debate working on the book "What government has done to our money" (40% of the grade), as well as a theoretical-practical exam with a MCQ and GDP calculations (60%) at the end of the semester.

→ I think that this course did not give me much knowledge in economics because we saw concepts already covered during my undergraduate years (national accounts, GDP, The labor Market etc.). On the other hand, this course helped me to adopt a critical sense because the professor had fixed ideas (different from mine), but which he supported with sources.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (Professor Jorge Aracil Jorda)

At the end of almost every class, we had to upload our work done in class, and all of our accumulated work counts for a small part of your final grade. We also had two assessments during the semester to prepare us for the final exam.

→ For me, this course was the course that I appreciated the most : the professor made his course "lively", and the content was very interesting if you are studying management (understanding how income statements and balance sheets work, calculating cash flows, FCE, FCF taking into account some financial variables...). I found it very relevant to be interested in the functioning and usefulness of these variables (and not just in simple French accounting where you have to fill in the tables with the PCG). Finally, in my opinion it was useful to attend all the classes in this subject, precisely to fully understand the functioning and usefulness of all these variables so as not to get lost along the way.

BALANCE ANALYSIS (Professor Marta Villatoro Borque)

In this course we just had a final exam composed in 2 parts: theoretical part and practical part.

→ I thought that this course had quite light content (balance sheet, income statement, ROE, ROS, etc.) but that it allowed us to consolidate our basics. The assessment seemed relatively simple to me.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (Professor Jose Ignacio Atance Alvarez)

In this course, we had 1 group project to submit and present orally during the semester, as well as 1 personal project, then the final exam.

→ I am not a person interested in computer science in general, but I found it interesting to take this course in order to learn the generalities of computer science, in a world that is becoming increasingly automated by technology. The professor is also very attentive and lenient.

HUMAN RESSOURCES (Professor Alejandro Calero)

In this course, we had to submit a group project on an HR report from the company of our choice, and then we had a final exam.

→ I found studying HR management very interesting (even though it's repeated year after year) because I find this course essential in management studies. Before working with people, you have to know how to understand them. The professor is superb, very attentive!

2. Organization of the Class

I had classes from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm, with classes lasting officially 1 to 2 hours, but teachers often finish their lessons before.

My classes were mostly attended by international students, so there were about 60 of us per class.

3. Exam

Most of the final exams were in the form of multiple choice questions and were marked out of 10.

In some subjects, if you pass the semester exams, you will not have to take the final exam.

Spanish students must have a minimum of 5/10 in each subject to complete their semester. But for you, MoMA students, semesters and subjects balance each other out: MoMA regulations apply.

IV. When I lived there

A. Safety

I never felt unsafe in Madrid: people walk around the streets until late and restaurants - shops close late, so you always feel hemmed in.

Just be careful of pickpockets, I have sadly experienced them☹

B. Phone and Internet

It all depends on your operator. We're in Europe, so your operator often works in both France and Spain, but only for a limited time. If you only have 4 months abroad included in your plan, you can buy a SIM or ESIM for the last few days.
Also find out about Wi-Fi in your flat.

C. Events

As it's the capital, there are events every day.
The best way to stay up to date is to follow ESN Madrid's Instagram @esn.madrid where they post all upcoming events.
From May 9th to 15th, don't miss the San Isidro celebrations.

D. Sports

I didn't look into the sports associations in our university, just I know that ESN sometimes organizes climbing sessions, and I also highly recommend the running club for running in Retiro Park every Monday evening.

E. Eating

I loved the food in Madrid☺

- Regarding supermarkets, the "Liddle", "Supermercadona" and "Dia" have the best value for money, often at lower prices than in France.

- I obviously recommend trying the Spanish tapas (tinto de verano, padrons, tortilla, jamon, churros etc.).

- There's a cafeteria at our Rey Juan Carlos University, but given the prices, we'd prefer to eat back home.

- As a capital city, there are also many varied restaurants and rooftops, and my favorites were:

- BEL MONDO (Italian)
- SAN GINES for churros (definitely THE place to eat them)
- MERCADO SAN MIGUEL, great for specialties but a little expensive
- BRUNCHIT (cheap and beautiful brunch)
- Rooftop EL JARDIN DE DIANA
- Rooftop PICALAGARTOS

It's often very busy so I advise you to book in advance.

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

The whole city of Madrid is very well served by its buses, bicycles, and especially its metro. The best thing to do is to get a student travel card (8 euros per month), and you must make an appointment with the office to obtain it.

The University has its own metro stop on line 9.

G. Travels

I highly recommend taking a road trip to Andalusia; there's no better way to discover Spain while making new friends.

ESN also organizes a week in Ibiza every year. I haven't been, but I've only had positive feedback (Plan on spending around €500).

Finally, Madrid Airport is a hub, so you can find cheap flights to some great locations. The trick is to book early. We were able to fly to Morocco and Tenerife without spending a lot.

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

I absolutely loved my Erasmus experience. Madrid is an incredible city where anything is possible! My tips:

- Sign up for Spanish courses in the city center (the closer the facilities are to your classes, the more convenient it will be).
- ESN organizes a lot of outings/parties. My only regret is perhaps not taking advantage of this "international experience," because once I made my group of friends, I didn't go anymore.

And ENJOY! Madrid for 4 months is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I can assure you: it goes by quickly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, I will be happy to answer your questions / discuss my experience and give you my recommendations.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning to do?

Next year, I would like to enroll in a master's degree in management, with a specialization in marketing and communication, then probably specialize in the luxury or banking sector in M2 with an internship.

B. Did you apply for master?

Next year, I will be in a Master of Science in Management (MScM) – marketing orientation – in HEC Lausanne (Switzerland).

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