

## SPAIN – University of Valencia

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## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

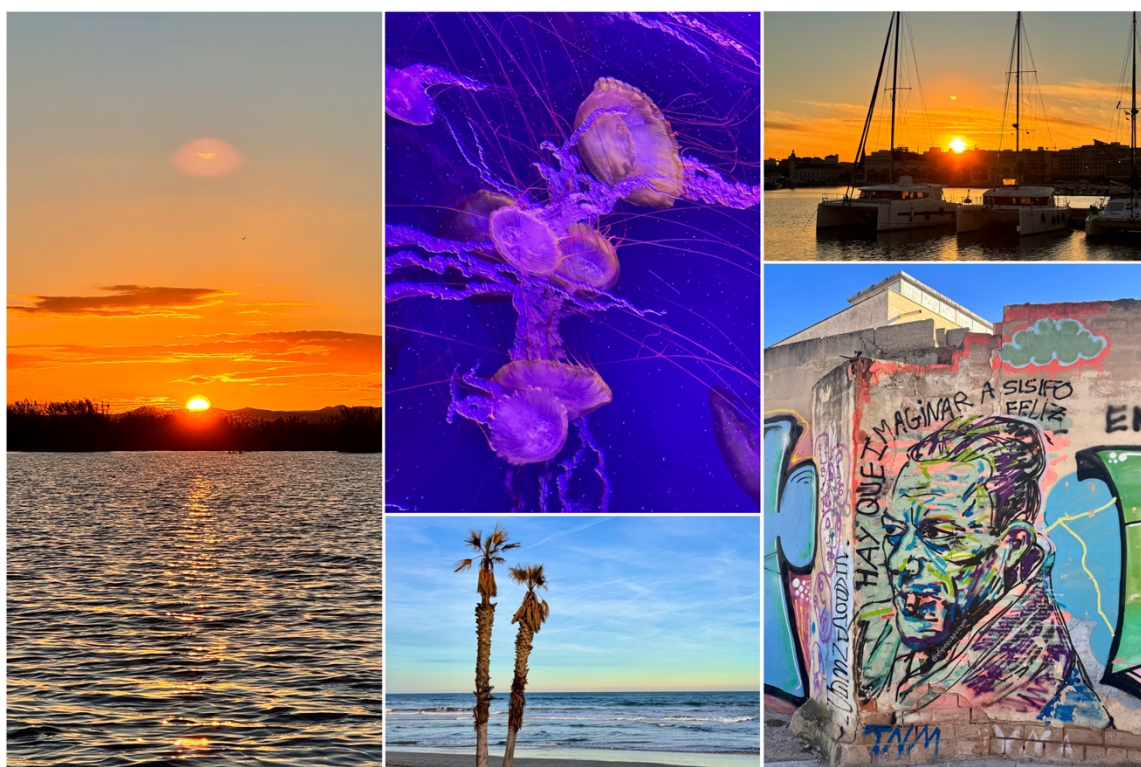
I had a great time in Valencia. The city reminded me of Montpellier in a way, so it always felt comfortable and familiar. It is enjoyable to live there, whether it was the city itself, the activities, the people I met, the school, the location, or the weather... Everything just made life really pleasant. It is a place where life feels easy and enjoyable, and that feels great.

If I had to do it all over again, I'd go back there. It's a city with lots of wonderful things to offer, from the old town to the modern part and the beach. Added to that, the student life there is very pleasant. It's very easy to meet people, and there's lots to do. Thanks to the activities organised by the Erasmus groups, you never get bored.

On the academic side, it was very enriching to have a different teaching method to the one I know in France, and it honestly contributed to my personal development and the development of my skills such as autonomy and group work.

**GRADE :**

**=> 5 I totally recommend this semester to my best friend**



## II. Before the travel

### A. Preparation

#### 1. Visa

As a British student, I chose to not apply to a Visa as I acquired the French nationality during my time in Spain. Some people I know applied for the NIE (Número de Identificación de Extranjero) and/or resident card, but it wasn't of any use to me, so I didn't.

#### 2. The flight

I flew with Ryanair from Marseille, which I would highly advise to do. The flight can cost as little as €14.99, and in the winter, it rarely goes above €30. Even when you add luggage (depending on the amount) the trip stays under 100€. The flight is very short, barely 90 minutes, and the airport in Valencia is great because it isn't too far out, so you can get a relatively cheap taxi depending on the time of day or the metro for 5€ directly into the centre of town.

Valencia is also accessible by bus from Montpellier, which is around 11 hours, but sometimes prices are higher than by plane. So, if you are able to get to Marseille, I would recommend flying.

#### 3. My luggage

Luggage is quite a delicate part because Valencia is a generally warm place, but as Erasmus starts in the winter (for the 2nd semester), you need to plan for 2-3 colder months. I would suggest winter essentials for those months, but also clothes to layer as the sun still shines strong on those days. I would also recommend a raincoat and umbrella because you get a lot of unexpected rain.

Some flats may not provide bed linen. From my experience, my flat wasn't very well insulated, and I heard from other people in the same situation. So, in the winter the room was freezing cold, and from May it became a furnace. So, if your flat doesn't provide heating/cooling, try to be prepared!

#### 4. Bank account

I didn't change bank. In France, I'm with the Credit Agricole. To withdraw money I usually had fees, so I used my Revolut or Wise cards (online banks), which made it easier to manage expenses in real time.

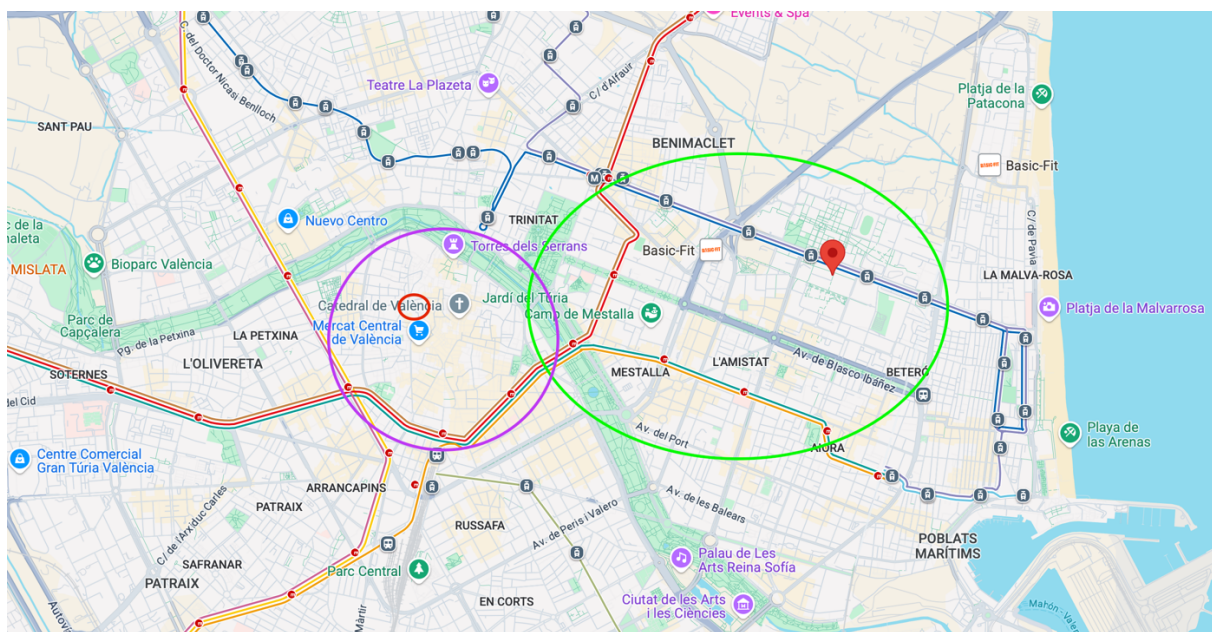
#### 5. Insurance

I kept my AXA travel insurance and European Health Card insurance.

### B. Housing

#### 1. Where to live





Since the faculty is in the Algirós area, it's generally easier to live in Benimaclet or near Avenida Blasco Ibáñez. Public transport is great, with the tram lines 4 and 6 that stop right in front of the university, and there are also several buses like 93, 98, 70, 41, etc.

I lived in the old town and had no issue getting to class. It just changes your lifestyle, as near the university, you'll find more student areas and it's more residential. In the center, things are always buzzing and busy. From March onwards, for example, with Fallas, the crowds can be overwhelming. Also, in the centre, there are more little corner stores than big supermarkets. If I were to do it again, I'd probably live a bit further out, near the Jardín del Real.

As for areas to avoid, I don't have a definite answer, but I've heard you should be a bit more cautious around Malvarrosa Beach and Benimàmet (north Valencia).

- Ciutat Vella (Old Town)
- Where I recommend living
- Where I lived
- 📍 Faculty of Economy, University of Valencia

## 2. Find a flat or a room

You can find accommodation through websites like *Idealista* (similar to *Leboncoin*) or platforms like *HousingAnywhere* and *Spotahome*.

I found mine through *HousingAnywhere* and was later redirected to a rental agency ([helphousing.com](http://helphousing.com)).

What mattered to me was making sure the listing was real, so I preferred paying a bit more to know for sure I would get the keys upon arrival. Many landlords don't offer viewings because everything is very transactional as they are used to students coming for short periods of time. So just make sure you know what you're signing for: check for

hidden fees, number of bathrooms for how many tenants, exact location, is it a loud area, heating/cooling situation, natural light, etc.

<https://www.helphousing.com>  
<https://www.idealista.com>  
<https://www.spotahome.com/fr>  
<https://housinganywhere.com>

### 3. Cost

On average, I think flat prices range from 350-500€ for a room in a shared flat.

## III. When I arrive at the university

### A. Inscription at the university

The process was pretty straightforward. My biggest piece of advice is not to wait around for information, but to go look for it. At the University of Valencia, they sent us emails with tutorials on how to register on their platform, and their administrative team responds quickly to emails if you have questions. Make sure you know the deadlines.

They also organise welcome meetings at the start, some for your faculty, and some for all Erasmus students. They explain how to get transport cards, what student life is like, how to join sports and language courses, Erasmus organisations, and they clarify any remaining administrative steps. Honestly, it was all very well organised. If you need help, contact the administration or student groups.

### B. Information on the university

#### 1. Class

The class format was like we have in MOMA, with a theoretical part (CM) and practice part (TD). The practical part of the course is mandatory, and attendance is taken, and in some classes, it may affect your grade. However, for theory, attendance is not taken but if you choose not to go, make sure to be up to date on classes.

The theoretical part of classes ends with a final exam at the end of the semester, whereas the practice part is done with continuous assessment. That can be through presentations, assignments (to be done in and out of class), and in some cases through midterms.

I found the workload heavier than I expected, as the assignments were very frequent and group projects also, and the expectations were very high.

Also, there is this unspoken rule, where technically classes are meant to last 2h, but they usually end after 1h30 maximum. So, don't be confused if you're always let out really early. Most of the classes were only with other Erasmus students.

#### 2. Organization of the Class

The teachers are really helpful and welcoming. They don't hesitate to answer questions and accommodate in case of problems. Make sure to tell them about any doubts you have.

### **Consumer Behaviour:**

- Teacher: *Maja Seric*
- Format:
  - Theory: PowerPoint slides, theoretical models, real-life examples
  - Practice: individual or group assignments to be done in-class at each session (4 individual and 4 group in total).
- Exam: 45 minutes, 20 MCQ questions
- Opinion: I found this class very interesting and liked the way the teacher went through it. It touches on the internal and external factors affecting consumer behaviour (which is useful for marketing classes).

### **Corporate Strategies:**

- Teacher: *Francisco Puig*
- Format:
  - Theory: PowerPoint slides, theoretical models, real-life examples
  - Practice: case study to be done in class and hand in at the end of the session
- Exam: 90 minutes, MCQ (50% of the grade) + 2 case studies (25% of the grade each)
- Opinion: The teacher was great. This kind of class isn't usually my favourite, but the teacher made it very interesting and accessible to all levels of knowledge on the subject. The course is about business strategies, including business portfolios, business growth and development, international expansion... The continuous case studies helped to better understand and apply the theory to real world situations, which we sometimes had to look up ourselves to make sure we understand.

### **Cross-Cultural Management:**

- Teacher: *Fidel Leon Darder*
- Format:
  - Theory: PowerPoint slides, theoretical models, real-life examples
  - Practice: case studies, film reports, group presentations, final report
- Exam: 120 minutes, 5 open questions from class content and little cases
- Opinion: Interesting class on how to manage cultural differences in business, and how to successfully conduct international negotiations. Lessons about cultures of different countries, cultural dimensions, and culture shock. I enjoyed the classes and found the different assignments quite interesting and insightful.

### **Marketing Management:**

- Teacher: *Ana Rosa Moreno Garcia*
- Format:
  - Theory: PowerPoint slides, theoretical models, real-life examples
  - Practice: individual or group tasks, group presentations + group project during the semester (+final report and presentation)
- Exam: 70 minutes, 5 class definitions + 5 theory real-life examples + 2 mini cases
- Opinion: I found this class very insightful, as the teacher presented marketing under another lens than what I was used to. However, I sometimes found the class content too heavy on the theoretical part. I also sometimes found the teacher very demanding without giving much guidance, so it is very important to ask for clarifications.



## Mathematics II:

- Teacher: *Aaron Lopez Garcia (theory), Angela Sebastia Bagues (practice)*
- Format:
  - Theory: Blackboard exercises and models, notes on the online platform
  - Practice: computer exercises
- Exam: 170 minutes, 3-5 exercises
- Opinion: I didn't really enjoy this class and regret choosing it. It was an error of judgement from my part to keep it, as it is the second part of Mathematics I they did during the first semester. The content isn't similar to what we do in MOMA, so I found myself lost quite quickly. However, it still is interesting to discover problem optimisation as you can actually apply mathematics to business cases.

I liked that a lot of the subjects were connected with each other, and if I were to do it again, I would have kept that consistency throughout all of the subjects I chose. For example, you find elements from Cross-Cultural Management in Consumer Behaviour, and you find Consumer Behaviour and Corporate Strategies in Marketing Management. Other classes that I didn't choose such as Market Research and Communication could have completed the marketing consistency.

Class slides and information are uploaded on the Aula Virtual, which is like Moodle.

## IV. When I live there

### A. Safety

Valencia felt very safe. I was comfortable walking alone, day or night, almost everywhere. The only area I'd probably avoid at night alone is the beach (Malvarrosa). Streets are usually well lit, and people are around but mind their own business.

### B. Phone and Internet

My French mobile plan included international calls, so that was fine. At first, I thought my mobile data would be enough, but I ended up getting an eSIM from an Erasmus Life partner. It cost 10€ to set up, and then I paid 15€/month for 150GB, which was much more than I needed. You can also get 60GB for 10€.

### C. Events

The best way to stay connected is through WhatsApp groups. There are ones for French students, Erasmus students in general, and students at the UV Faculty of Economics. You'll find links to join the groups on these Instagram pages:

- @erasmuslifevalencia
- @happyerasmusvalencia
- @faceconomia\_uv
- @esnenuv

They post about events, day trips, parties, welcome dinners, and just general tips. I honestly recommend following and participating.

## D. Sports

The University of Valencia offers lots of sports on campus, usually with a small fee (I think). Otherwise, there are gyms all over the city.

## E. Eating

Food in Valencia is amazing. There are so many great restaurants, tapas bars, and snack spots, and many are affordable. I ate out a lot and always found good places just by walking around. For bars, I recommend the Russafa area.

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

The university is super accessible by public transport. You can use the same card for the metro, tram, and bus, which is 5€ for 10 rides or you can even get a free student pass. Transport is frequent but metro and trams stop around 11 PM. Night buses exist, and apps like Uber, Cabify or FreeNow are affordable too for other trips.

You can also get a Valenbisi subscription for 29€/year, which is the public bike system. It's super practical and often faster than buses or trams, and you have a lot of places to park them.

## G. Travels

During my Erasmus, I visited Tangier (Morocco), Tenerife, and Mallorca. Valencia airport is easy to reach and has plenty of cheap flights to Spain and Morocco. Erasmus organisations also offer trips, and all you need to do is sign up and show up with your bag. You can also travel around Spain by train or bus, which I found perfect for day trips to places like Alicante, Madrid, ....

I would highly recommended travelling around but also getting information on local festivals to discover local culture. In March, you must stay in Valencia for Fallas, which is a very festive period. In June you have the San Juan you mustn't miss either! A lot of other things happen around the city such as music festivals, Croquetas festival....

Don't forget to check out Port Saplaya and Albufera, some gems around Valencia accessible by public transport.







