

## [SPAIN] – [Universitat Rovira I Virgili ]

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<sup>1</sup> To update the agenda just click right on your moose

## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My Erasmus was incredible! I'm really happy that I chose Tarragona as my destination because it's a small, very safe city, and it's close to Barcelona. The campus is actually located in Reus, which was a surprise for me, but there's a convenient bus from the stop at Plaza Imperial, making it easy to get there.

The beach here is amazing, and there are lots of activities like padel and surfing classes. University classes usually finish around 1 p.m., which leaves plenty of time to hang out with friends, relax at the beach, study, or enjoy other activities. Also, my classes were useful, and one of them was especially interesting.

If I could, I would definitely go back because I met amazing people from different countries, and these were the best five months of my life. I definitely recommend Tarragona!

### **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

Usually, students don't need a visa, but since I'm Ukrainian, I did need one. The visa process is handled by the Embassy in Perpignan. The entire process of creating the application (dossier) is done by email.

#### 2. The flight

I actually recommend taking the FlixBus instead of a flight. It's only a 6–7 hour ride and allows you to bring more luggage than a plane.

If you decide to fly, the journey is more complicated: you would need to go to Marseille, fly to Barcelona, and then take a bus or train to Tarragona. In the end, it takes about the same amount of time as the bus and is much more exhausting.

Another good option is the train. Just make sure to book your ticket in advance. You can arrive at Camp de Tarragona station and then take a bus (a 15-minute ride) directly to the city. The bus ride costs around 3–4 euros if you don't have a transportation card.

#### 3. My luggage

Take enough warm clothes with you, as the houses can get quite cold during winter in Tarragona. I also really regretted not bringing a small umbrella—it was super rainy, and I ended up needing one almost every day.

Definitely pack a swimsuit. The sea is very tempting, and everyone will want to start swimming as early as possible. It's also useful if you decide to take surfing classes.

Many of my Erasmus friends, myself included, ended up sending clothes back home or buying extra luggage. Be aware of this, as the variety of clothes and the prices in the shopping centres can be very tempting!

Also, I don't recommend bringing bed sheets, as they take up a lot of space in your luggage. Usually, if you're renting a room, your landlord will provide them, or you can buy inexpensive ones once you arrive.

#### 4. Bank account

During my 5 months in Spain, I used my French bank account (Crédit Agricole), and it worked perfectly. I didn't need to open a Spanish bank account, and I didn't encounter any issues with payments or withdrawals.

#### 5. Insurance

I made an ISIC card and took private insurance because I had some problems with my Carte Européenne d'Assurance Maladie (CEAM), which is usually sufficient for Erasmus.

I chose private insurance from ISIC – Gapi, which cost me €180 for 5 months, and it turned out to be more affordable than I expected.

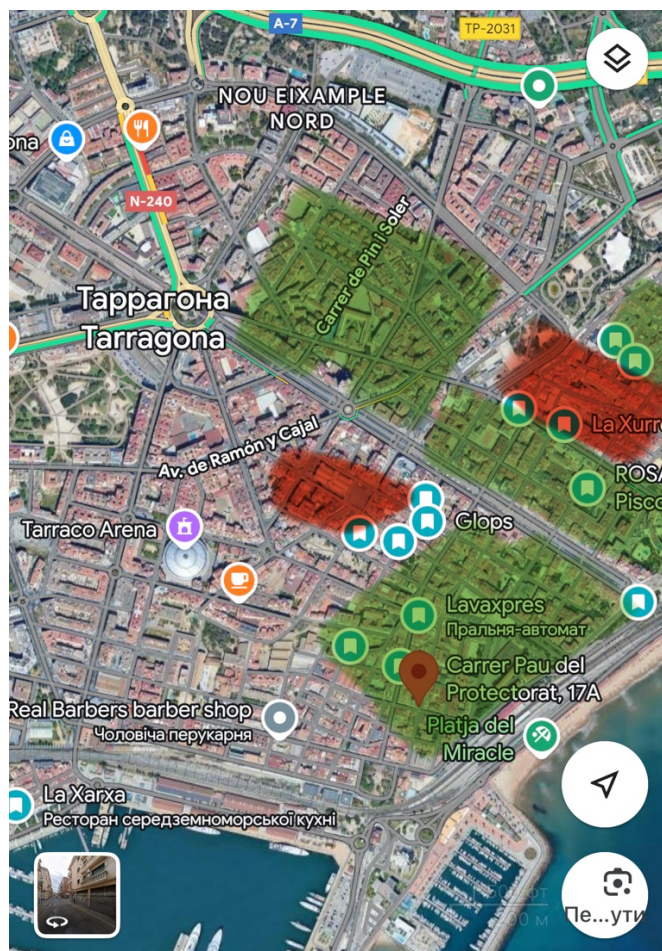
It was really helpful during my stay. I was bitten by an insect and needed to go for an urgent appointment, and this insurance fully covered both the pharmacy expenses and the consultation cost.

### B. Housing

#### 1. Where to live

I recommend living in Tarragona, as most Erasmus students choose it over Reus. Many events take place in Tarragona, and it is very easy to take a bus to Campus Bellissens and other nearby cities.

I wanted to live close to the sea, so I looked for a room near that area. Tarragona is generally a safe city, and there are no particularly dangerous areas. However, because there are many celebrations, I do not recommend living at Plaça de la Font or near the central market, as it can be very noisy.



*Green zones – recommended areas*  
*Red zones – areas I do not recommend*

Also, very important: if you are coming with a car, it might get broken into quickly if your license plate is not Spanish. Unfortunately, this happened to all my friends who came with their cars. The solution was to find a secure parking lot as soon as possible and never leave your belongings in the car.

## 2. Find a flat or a room

To find a flat or a room, I found the app Idealista very useful. I highly recommend booking an Airbnb or a hostel first so you can visit the apartments or rooms in person, as they often look very different from the photos.

Also, during the first Erasmus meeting, you will meet people who need roommates, which can be a good opportunity to live with friends instead of random people.

Don't worry about not being able to find a place when you arrive, as there are plenty of options available in Tarragona.



### 3. Cost

I was renting a room for 430 euros per month, plus electricity and gas. However, it is definitely possible to find something cheaper depending on the location and the type of accommodation you choose.

## III. When I arrive at the university

### A. Inscription at the university

The inscription process at URV was clear and easy to follow. It mainly included activating my student account, accessing Moodle, and completing the Learning Agreement online. URV sent an email with step-by-step instructions that explained what to do.

If you have questions during the registration, it is helpful to contact the International Center of URV through Microsoft Teams. They usually answer quickly and can help if something is unclear.

Apart from activating Moodle and completing the Learning Agreement, there were no other registration steps I needed to do upon arrival.

### B. Information on the university

#### 1. Class

I took five classes during my Erasmus at URV:

#### **International Economic Relations (16214204)**

This was the best class for me. I really liked the teacher, as he was interesting and open to discussions on many topics. The exams were easy, and we also did a project and report based on a film, with the option to present it in class for five minutes to improve the grade. Everyone passed the exam and enjoyed the classes. For the exam, I recommend studying his PowerPoint slides, as most of the information came from them, not from class discussions.

#### **Company Organization (16214003)**

This was an easy class, and since we already have a solid base in management, it was comfortable to follow. We practiced many oral presentations, and the teacher was very nice.

#### **International Finance (16214202)**

This class was complicated for me because I am not very strong in finance, but I managed to pass it at the first attempt with minimum preparation. I learned a lot, although it was quite challenging.

#### **International Marketing (16214201)**

I learned many new things in this class, more than in three years at MOMA, especially new terms and techniques. I recommend taking it, as it helps develop a deeper understanding of marketing.

## **Human Resources Management (16214109)**

This class was nice but a bit boring. The final presentation involved preparing a job interview in a company, which was quite complicated.

I passed all the exams on the first attempt, so overall, it was manageable, and I recommend these five classes for future students.

I would like to add that some of my friends who took Macroeconomics or International Finance: Investment found those classes very difficult. In comparison, the International Finance class I took was much more accessible.

## **2. Organization of the Class**

The volume of work for all five courses was manageable, and we did not have a lot of homework. However, Marketing, Company Organization, and Human Resources Management required some oral presentations, which needed more effort and preparation.

I did not have any problems with the teachers. They were all very nice, spoke English very well, and were always ready to help if needed.

The classes usually lasted around 1 hour and 30 minutes, and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, making it easy to follow the lessons.

## **3. List of courses and recommendation**

- **International Economic Relations (16214204):**  
An easy and interesting course, worth taking. It is based on a lot of common sense, which makes it easy to pass.
- **Company Organization (16214003):**  
This course requires participation and consistent work. Many topics are already familiar from previous studies, which helps in following the course.
- **International Finance (16214202):**  
This course requires more individual work to understand the calculations and financial concepts, but it is possible to pass with consistent effort.
- **International Marketing (16214201):**  
This course involves group work, which demands some effort, but if you are in a good group, it is manageable and enjoyable.
- **Human Resources Management (16214109):**  
This course requires effort, as there are often online quick quizzes and participation is important.

Overall, I recommend these courses for Erasmus students, as they are manageable while still providing useful knowledge and practice.

## **4. Exam**

Most exams lasted between 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours, except for Human Resources Management, which was 1 hour.

**International Economic Relations:**

We had two tests in MCQ format with 2–3 open questions, a report based on a documentary, and the final exam followed the same format as the previous tests.

**Company Organization:**

We had one MCQ test with negative points and one case study. We also had to write a report about an organization and do an oral presentation. The final exam was similar to the first test, with MCQs (with negative points) and a case study.

**International Finance:**

We did a group presentation and a group report. The final exam was an MCQ (including some calculations and theory, without negative points) and 2–3 financial problems requiring calculations and explanations.

**International Marketing:**

We completed a few reports and two large oral presentations. The final exam was an MCQ with negative points and included three open questions.

**Human Resources Management:**

We had small online quizzes once a week, a group oral presentation, and the final exam was an MCQ with negative points, with a duration of 1 hour.

## IV. When I life there

### A. Safety

Tarragona is a very safe place, and I felt secure even at night. For me, there were no specific areas or times to avoid in the city. Of course, it is always important to stay careful, but in my experience, Tarragona felt much safer than Montpellier.

### B. Phone and Internet

I have an SFR mobile plan, which worked in Spain as well. However, if you call a Spanish number, it will add extra charges to your monthly plan.

In my apartment, where I rented a room, there was good Wi-Fi, so I didn't have any problems with internet access.

### C. Events

If you want to know about events, I recommend joining WhatsApp groups, as everyone uses them to share information. I am leaving a link below so you can join the community; there are many groups for different types of activities:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Bw1jxVUth4k0rHVXO5IG8D>

There is also an Instagram account (@erasmus\_tarragona), but they post less frequently there than on WhatsApp.

There is no ESN in Tarragona, but it doesn't really matter, as there are always different meetups, events, trips, and parties organized by students.

## D. Sports

There are many activities you can do, like padel. You can rent a court with equipment and play with your friends. We used to rent a court at Royal Tarraco gym; it costs only 5.75 euros, which is the cheapest and closest option. The price includes equipment, and you can play for 1 hour 30 minutes.

There are also surfing classes, which I recommend trying in February or March. Don't be afraid of the cold water, as they give you a wetsuit, and the waves are good during this period. My friends who waited until May missed the surfing season because, when the weather gets warmer, there are fewer waves.

The surfing school has its own group chat in the "Community Erasmus Tarraco" on WhatsApp, where they post available dates, and you can add your name to the list. One class costs 30 euros, including all equipment (surfboard, wetsuit, theoretical class), and lasts 2 hours. They also have an Instagram account (@tgnsurfschool), but I recommend contacting them via WhatsApp.

If you want to go to the gym, there are many options. Synergym is the cheapest, but it is very crowded. I went to Viding, which costs 49 euros per month for unlimited access to the gym, group classes, swimming pool, jacuzzi, and sauna. There are also cheaper plans available.

## E. Eating

I did my groceries at Mercadona, which is the best supermarket with very good product quality.

There are also many nice restaurants and cafes with affordable prices.

If you like coffee, I recommend trying **Casa Quadrat**, the best coffee in Tarragona.

For tapas, try **Quattros** at Plaça de la Font.

For sushi, **Sushiko** offers an all-you-can-eat option.

For cocktails, I recommend **RedLab**.

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

I lived in Tarragona, so **I took the bus from the Central Bus Station, platform number 11 ("Directe" bus, not the other one) to Reus.** The bus company is **Monbus**, and one trip costs **2.15 euros**, payable **in cash only**. Be aware that they often do not accept 20-euro bills.



**The bus goes directly to the university at Campus Bellissens**, the ride is only 15-20 mins. Later, I got a bus card at the bus station, which cost **50 euros for 3 months** with unlimited travel between Tarragona, Reus, Vila-seca, and Salou.

**!!!** To get the right card, tell them you need the **“joven” card for 3 months**. They will give you a form to fill in with your name and your address in Tarragona, and you need to bring your ID card or passport.

## G. Travels

If you plan to travel often by train to Barcelona, there is a great card that costs 20 euros for 3 months with unlimited rides. You can show the photo of the card at the train station to buy it. If you make more than 16 trips, they will refund the 20 euros you paid.



I recommend visiting **Menorca**, which is a beautiful island. I also visited **Zaragoza** by train for one day, which was a great experience. I definitely recommend spending a weekend in **Madrid**, a beautiful city with a wide variety of museums and restaurants.

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

I tried to give you as much useful information as possible in each section, including things I didn't know when I was doing my Erasmus. I hope it will help you plan your stay better and stress less. If you have any questions, you can always contact me

## V. .After your semester abroad

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

I was accepted into a master's program that provides the first year of study in Venice, Italy, so I am going there to continue studying and discover a new country.

### B.

#### Did you apply for master?

I was accepted into the master's program “European Tourism, Wine and Agrifood Management” at the University of Strasbourg

