

## Experience report study abroad semester

# How was it?

*You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.*

## 1. General information

*Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.*

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

yes  No

New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact alumni outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of enquiries?

yes  No

Study program at EUF

*European Cultures and Society*

Discipline combination (if BABW)

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Host country

*Spain*

Host university

*Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - ULPGC*

Semester abroad (e.g. winter semester 2020/21)

*Autumn semester 2020/21*

## 2. Your story

### How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

*I went through the usual application process. However, due to Covid-19 it took a lot longer for me to receive the official answer from the university. Therefore, I didn't prepare much. Also, because it was not clear if it is even possible to go.*

### How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

*Due to Covid-19 it was not easy in the beginning because the organization of local students that usually accelerate the exchange (AEGEE) were not allowed to organize anything. From a former exchange I had a host family here and their daughter managed to find an Erasmus group on Facebook that was connected to a WhatsApp group through which I got all of the contacts needed.*

### What I would have liked to know before going abroad?

*That the university here takes a lot of time to answer and that you have to be lucky with the classes.*

### How was the study program at the partner university structured? (e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility) What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

*I was submitted at the faculty of language ( I could have also chosen the faculty of economy) and had to take 70 percent of courses from this faculty. Local students follow either morning classes or evening classes, since I had classes from different study programs that was not possible because they sometimes overlapped. Therefore, I had classes both in the morning and in the afternoon. Contrary to EUCS in Flensburg I got quite some homework additionally to readings here and throughout the semester I had to hand in short papers and exams. All in all, it seemed that more work needed to be done during the semester but there was still time for trips to visit the island.*

*I was very lucky with my classes because most of my professors spoke good English and structured their courses well. From a lot of other students I heard that that was not the case.*

*Also, the overall organization of the ULPGC is a little confusing. Either they answer really fast or late or not at all. Sometimes it is really hard to get documents signed. In that case it helped to walk by their offices or sent mails marked as high priority.*

### What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

*I have been living with some Spanish and Italian people, so, we compared our daily lives a lot.*

### Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

*There are actually many shops that close for the famous siesta, so at times when I would go buy things in Germany, like at 13h or 14h, they are closed and they only open again*

*around 16h. That actually makes a big difference on how I structure my day and I was not expecting this.*

**What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)**

*The daily life here changed due to covid-19. For instance, there was supposed to be a famous Tapas night in Vegueta – a beautiful part of the city – but that was just not possible. However, we still managed to go out and enjoy the local food and culture. Most of the students live around the area Mesa y Lopez or Canteras, whereas I lived between this area and the shopping district, Triana. For many this might not have been ideal but I really appreciated my apartment, the view and my flatmates.*

**How did you manage with the money?**

*Depending on what kind of room you are looking for, it is possible to keep the rent quite low. When it comes to food and coffee, it is quite cheap to eat outside in restaurants and bars (except in the ones particularly for tourists). Around my house I could get a breakfast with coffee, freshly pressed orange juice and a sandwich for 3,30. In the supermarket some things are more expensive than in Germany but overall it is manageable.*

**Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)**

*First you should know how you want to spend your Erasmus semester and then you choose the university and the city. For instance, if you want a well organized university with good classes, you probably should not stay here. But if you are looking forward to discovering the island(s), local culture and learn Spanish, this is the perfect place for you.*

### 3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/imagine your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following reflection questions can help you choose an appropriate photo:

- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?

#### EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG:

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass Rechte Dritter an dem/den unten näher bezeichneten Foto/s nicht bestehen und ich der EUF die Nutzung dieses/dieser Fotos gestatte

Yes  No



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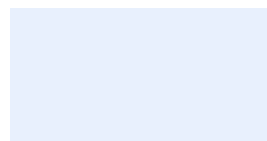
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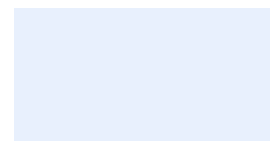
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## Many thanks for your assistance!