

Travel Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

What was your semester abroad like?

I agree to the publication of the report and attached photos (there are no third parties rights to these photos)	Yes
New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact former outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of inquiries?	Yes
My stay (this information will not be displayed if the report is published)	
Academic year	2022/2023
Start semester	Herbst/Fall 2022/23
Duration in semesters	1
Study program at EUF	MA International Management Studies - BWL
Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)	Englisch
Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)	Englisch
Subject 3 (only applicable to teacher training students)	Englisch
Host country	Spain
Host university	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

How did you prepare for the semester abroad? What should be organized in advance?

If you are preparing for a semester abroad in Madrid at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, you should organize a few things in advance: Visa and travel documents: make sure you have a valid passport and apply for a student visa if necessary. Find out about visa requirements and processing time well in advance. Housing: find out about housing options and decide whether you want to live on campus or off campus. The university offers student housing, so you can check this option. If not, you can find private housing through online platforms such as Spotahome or Uniplaces. Language Preparation: Madrid is located in Spain, and Spanish is the main language spoken there. Make sure you brush up on your Spanish skills before you leave for your semester abroad. You can take a language class or use language learning apps like Duolingo or Babbel. Health Insurance: check with your university or insurance provider to make sure you have the health insurance coverage you need while studying abroad. Finances: make a budget for your semester abroad in Madrid. Take into account the cost of living in Madrid, travel, and other expenses you may incur while abroad. Pre-departure checklist: Create a pre-departure checklist. Connect with other students: Join social media groups or online forums for Universidad Rey Juan Carlos students. This way, you can connect with other students and find out more about the university and the city of Madrid. By preparing in advance, you can have a smooth and enjoyable stay at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid.

Do you have any recommendations for environmentally friendly travel (if applicable)?

There are some eco-friendly travel options you can consider when traveling from Flensburg to Madrid: Take the train: traveling by train is one of the most environmentally friendly options. You can take a train from Flensburg to Hamburg and then transfer to a high-speed train to Madrid. Not only is this option environmentally friendly, but it also allows you to see beautiful scenery along the way. Use a car-sharing service: you can use a car-sharing service like BlaBlaCar to share a ride with other travelers to Madrid. This will reduce the number of cars on the road and reduce carbon emissions. Fly on an eco-friendly airline: if you must fly, choose an eco-friendly airline that has implemented sustainability practices, such as reducing carbon emissions and waste. Offset your carbon emissions: Consider offsetting your carbon emissions by investing in carbon reduction projects or purchasing carbon credits. Pack light: Packing light helps reduce the weight of the plane, which in turn reduces the carbon footprint of your trip.

Where did you live and how did you find your accommodation (self-organized/provided by host university, dormitory/private etc.)?

I booked my hostel when I booked my flight two months before of my departure. Then, when I arrived there it was easy to find an apartment with a friend and rented together.

Did you participate in events for exchange students? How did you establish social contacts in other ways?

Yes, I did. Attending events and parties organized by students is a great way to get involved in campus life and meet new people while studying at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos. It's also fun to learn about the local culture and traditions. Joining WhatsApp groups is also a great way to stay in touch with other students and get information about events and activities on and off campus. You can join groups related to your major, interests, or hobbies to interact with like-minded people and make new friends. Overall, getting involved in the student community and attending events and parties is a great way to make the most of your study abroad experience at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos. It is an opportunity to broaden your horizons, gain new experiences, and create lifelong memories.

How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?

I am pretty satisfied to choose Madrid as my destination for my abroad semester. The fact that Universidad Rey Juan Carlos offers a range of English courses is definitely an advantage for international students who may not be fluent in Spanish. It makes studying abroad more accessible and helps students integrate more easily into the university community. In addition, the fact that the campus and community are very international creates a diverse and inclusive environment that allows students from different cultures and backgrounds to learn from each other and broaden their perspectives. This can help students develop valuable intercultural communication skills and develop global awareness. I am totally satisfied with my experience at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos. Studying abroad is a unique opportunity that can open doors to new experiences, perspectives, and personal growth, and it is great to plan your semester there and take advantage of what the university has to offer.

Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?

While the local language is certainly interesting and can be important for international visitors, it is important to keep in mind that most students and people in Madrid also speak English. During my six-month stay there, I made sure to learn some basic communication skills in the local language to overcome any language barriers I might encounter

What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?

The following intercultural experiences and skills have marked my stay at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid: Language skills: One of the most important intercultural skills I could develop while studying abroad is language proficiency. Students have the opportunity to practice and improve their language skills through immersion in the local language and culture. Cultural Awareness: studying abroad provides students with the opportunity to learn about other cultures and ways of life. Exposure to other cultures can broaden one's perspectives and foster understanding and respect for others. Adaptability: Studying abroad often requires students to adapt to new environments and navigate unfamiliar situations. Developing adaptive skills can help students successfully overcome cultural differences and adjust to new cultural norms. Social Skills: Interacting with people from other cultures can foster social skills such as communication, empathy, and networking. These skills are essential for building relationships and making connections with people from diverse backgrounds. Open-mindedness: being open-minded and receptive to new ideas and perspectives is essential to cross-cultural experiences. By being open-minded to new situations, students can develop a deeper understanding of cultural differences and build meaningful relationships with people from diverse backgrounds. Overall, studying in Madrid has provided a unique opportunity for me to develop intercultural experiences and skills that can be valuable in my both personal and professional contexts.

Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?

Studying abroad can lead to a change in perspective with respect to both the host country and the home country. The experience can broaden one's worldview and foster understanding and respect for other cultures while offering new insights into one's personal identity and career opportunities.

How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?

Madrid offers a rich and diverse cultural experience for study-abroad students, with many recreational activities, shopping opportunities, and a well-developed transportation system. The openness of the city can also help students feel at home and connected to the local community.

Do you have any recommendations for a sustainable stay abroad (projects, initiatives, everyday life)?

Yes, here are some recommendations for a sustainable stay in Madrid: Transportation: instead of using cabs or carpooling, use public transportation or rent a bike to reduce your carbon footprint. Waste reduction: Bring a reusable water bottle and reusable shopping bags to avoid single-use plastic waste. You can also look for recycling bins and composting facilities to properly dispose of your waste. Sustainable Initiatives: Look for sustainable initiatives and projects in Madrid, such as community gardens or environmental organizations. Participating in these initiatives can help you learn more about sustainable practices and meet like-minded people. Sustainable tourism: when exploring the city, visit sustainable tourism destinations such as parks or eco-friendly restaurants. This way, you can support local businesses that are committed to sustainability. Environmental awareness: Learn about environmental issues in Madrid and participate in events or activities that promote environmental awareness. This way you can learn about local sustainability efforts and contribute to a more sustainable community. Overall, you can make your time abroad in Madrid more sustainable by incorporating sustainable practices into your daily life, participating in sustainable initiatives and projects, and supporting sustainable staying.

How did you manage financially? How much did you spend on visa (if applicable), travel, accommodation (per month), living expenses, leisure activities, other expenses (books etc.)?

I did not pay for visa because I have German residency and valid to stay in all European countries. In terms of accommodation, costs may vary depending on factors such as location, type of accommodation and amenities. It is important to research different options and compare prices before choosing accommodation. Some common options for student apartments in Madrid are dorms, apartments, and host families. It is also recommended to look for accommodation near your university or public transport to facilitate commuting.

What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?

Some typical experiences that many Erasmus students have in Madrid are:
Exploring the city: Madrid is a dynamic and lively city with lots to see and do. Erasmus students often enjoy exploring the city's cultural attractions, such as the Prado Museum, the Royal Palace, and Retiro Park. Meet new people: Studying abroad offers the opportunity to meet new people from different cultures and backgrounds. Many Erasmus students in Madrid enjoy making friends with locals and other international students. Learning the language: Studying abroad offers the opportunity to learn or improve language skills. Many Erasmus students in Madrid enjoy taking Spanish lessons and practicing their language skills with locals. Try new dishes: Spanish cuisine is known for its rich flavors and unique dishes. Erasmus students in Madrid often enjoy trying traditional Spanish dishes such as paella, tortilla de patatas, and churros con chocolate. Participate in events and activities: Madrid is a city with a vibrant cultural scene and there are always events and activities taking place. Erasmus students in Madrid usually participate in cultural events, music festivals, and sporting events. Overall, the best experience as an Erasmus student in Madrid depends on individual preferences, but exploring the city, meeting new people, learning the language, trying new foods, and participating in events and activities are all common experiences that I have personally enjoyed.

Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?

Here are some reasons why I may recommend a semester abroad at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid: International Community: The university has a diverse and international community that offers the opportunity to meet students from different cultural backgrounds and make new friends from all over the world. Quality of Education: The University offers a range of high-quality academic programs in English and Spanish that provide the opportunity to study in your field of interest and acquire valuable skills and knowledge. Location: Madrid is a lively city with a rich cultural scene that offers many opportunities for entertainment, food, and nightlife. The city is also well connected to other parts of Spain and Europe, which makes it easy to travel and explore other destinations. Language Learning: Studying at a Spanish-speaking university offers the opportunity to learn or improve your Spanish skills, which can be valuable for future career opportunities and personal growth. Cultural immersion: Studying abroad offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in a new culture, get to know new customs and traditions, and gain a new perspective on the world. Overall, the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid can offer a unique and rewarding experience for a semester abroad with opportunities to learn, grow and have fun in a vibrant and diverse community.

PHOTOS

In this section, you may upload some photos that represent your stay abroad. When selecting the photos, please bear in mind that the pictures will be visible online if you have given us the permission to publish your report.

- Photo (1)** file_6425885d97063-city_center.jpg
- Photo (2)** file_6425888859caf-madrid_2.jpg
- Photo (3)** file_6425886490955-ronado_in_madrid.jpg
- Photo (4)** file_6425886c8ca2b-book_stors.jpg
- Photo (5)** file_642588784d180-callao.jpg
- Photo (6)** file_64258880cac8a-madrid_1.jpg

Here you have the possibility to enter descriptions/explanations for the photos

The photos have been taken by me from different parts of the city in Madrid.













