

## Travel Report

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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What was your semester abroad like?

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**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

**Academic year** 2023/2024

**Start semester** Herbst/Fall 2023/24

**Duration in semesters** 1

**Study program at EUF** B.A. European Cultures and Society

**Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Subject 3 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Host country** Spain

**Host university** Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

### YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

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

To prepare for my semester abroad in Las Palmas I mainly firstly attended information sessions by the EUF and read travel reports (I was lucky that there was one by an EUCS student). I looked on the University of Las Palmas's website what study programmes and what courses they have and if there was enough courses that matched EUCS. Before doing my learning agreement I send my list of courses to my coordinator here to make the process of the Learning agreement easier. In the case of the University in Las Palmas defininetly one needs to organize the schedule themselves as the university is not really helping with that. Meaning looking up each study programm's schedule and build your own through that.

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

As Gran Canaria is an island it is very hard to travel environmentally friendly. But I have heard of a few people who went with by boat and train, but it is a very long journey but it is possible. In between Islands and on the islands there are possibilities to go by boat as well as use public transportation. But depending on the island especially the latter one can be less available, but on Gran Canaria itself that is not the case.

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

I lived close to one of the university's campuses (Obelisco) as this was the campus where I had all of my classes so for me it was convenient. But I know that a lot of students live in the area of Las Canteras as it is closer to the city centre and the beach. I lived in a shared flat that I found over the webpage idealista. But I also saw a lot of scams on the webpage so one should be aware of that. I also searched in WhatsApp or facebook groups (but also here a lot of scams!), but as far as I know most people found their flats through this.

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

First of all I joined many Erasmus Whats App groups (maybe too many), through this and Social media I got to know different events, trips, or parties and through these kinds of events it was easy to get to know other Erasmus students. Also I just met people throughout my university courses. Also I found it quite easy to connect with students from the Canary Island just throughout my classes. People are very open in Gran Canaria and I just talked to people in class and established friendships and social contacts like that.

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

To be honest the university was very chaotic, especially when it came to Erasmus organisation. We kind of needed to find out everything about our schedules and where to go ourselves and there is not a lot of help. Especially for signatures on certain documents it took a lot of time and asking multiple times but in the end it all worked out somehow. Regarding the classes I would say that the workload in my classes was overall comparable to Flensburg, but there was more work to be done throughout the semesters than only one exam in the end. But in contrast to my courses in Flensburg each course or module always had 2 classes a week and they are mandatory so I definitely spend more time in university than I usually did in Germany. Also each study programme is usually divided into morning or afternoon classes but as an Erasmus student I had different courses from different study programmes or semesters so I had both classes in the morning and afternoon.

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

I did already know Spanish before coming to Las Palmas, due to my mother being Spanish. But to be honest I would say knowing the language is necessary to study here as most of the courses are in Spanish. Overall knowing Spanish is quite important as even in English courses professors would sometimes start to speak in Spanish regardless of the courses official language. Also knowing Spanish helps to speak with students and locals from Las Palmas as sometimes their English level can be not the best. Overall I would say before studying in Las Palmas one should have a good level in Spanish. But to be fair in the classes many of the professors and students were very helpful/understanding also in the exams we were allowed to use a dictionary.

**What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?**

Definitely studying in a different language as I am used to as well as a different university in a different country. Also living together with people from different countries.

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

I appreciated a lot the openness of the people on Gran Canaria. Definitely an attitude regarding life that I will take with me to Germany.

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

Depending on if I had classes in the morning or not my days would vary. As most of my classes were more towards noon/afternoon I would usually do work for uni in the morning as well as other things like grocery shopping. I would then go to uni by foot ( as I lived about 10 mins away) and go to my classes.

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

Firstly I would say that the Public transportation system on Gran Canaria is very good, considering that it is a volcanic island with many mountains. Especially in Las Palmas it is very easy to go around by bus or even bike if you own one. Also if one wants to visit other Islands taking a ferry instead of a plane is a very viable option.

**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 managed quite good I would say. I paid about 400 euros/month for my room which is a bit over the average from what I heard. Also grocery prices were not too different from Germany but there are certain food items that just cost a bit more. Public transportation was very cheap (even without getting the canarian residency which gives you 70% discount in this regard). When it comes to travelling I tried to not spend too much, but as Gran Canaria and the Canary Islands as a whole are very touristic there are always cheap options for traveling to find. Regarding university expenses I only had one subject where I needed to buy a book which cost about 20 euros. So not too many expenses. One thing that I wasn't able to get because I stayed under 6 months is the canarian residency which can give you a lot of subsidised prices concerning traveling and leisure activities. So I definitely would recommend to get it and organise it beforehand as well (get the appointments and so on ready).

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

I would say my best experiences were all of the travels, roadtrip, trips I did on Gran Canaria and other Islands. There is so much to see and the nature and landscapes are incredible. I sadly need to say my worst experience were my first two weeks regarding the uni as I needed to get used to how unorganised it was in contrast to the EUF. But still it wasn't a nightmare and while it was my worst experience it was all manageable.

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

I would definitely recommend a semester abroad in Las Palmas. While the university itself is a bit unorganised in my case most of my classes, the professors and the people made up for it. The island is very beautiful and throughout all of my time there I barely experienced weather lower than 20 degrees. I was able to build a lot of friendships (both erasmus students and locals) that will last for a long time. Also my spanish improved a lot and I think it's one of the most valuable things.

## PHOTOS

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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\_65d4f3d241151-img\_3655.jpeg

**Photo (2)** file\_65d4f46b999b5-img\_1864.jpeg

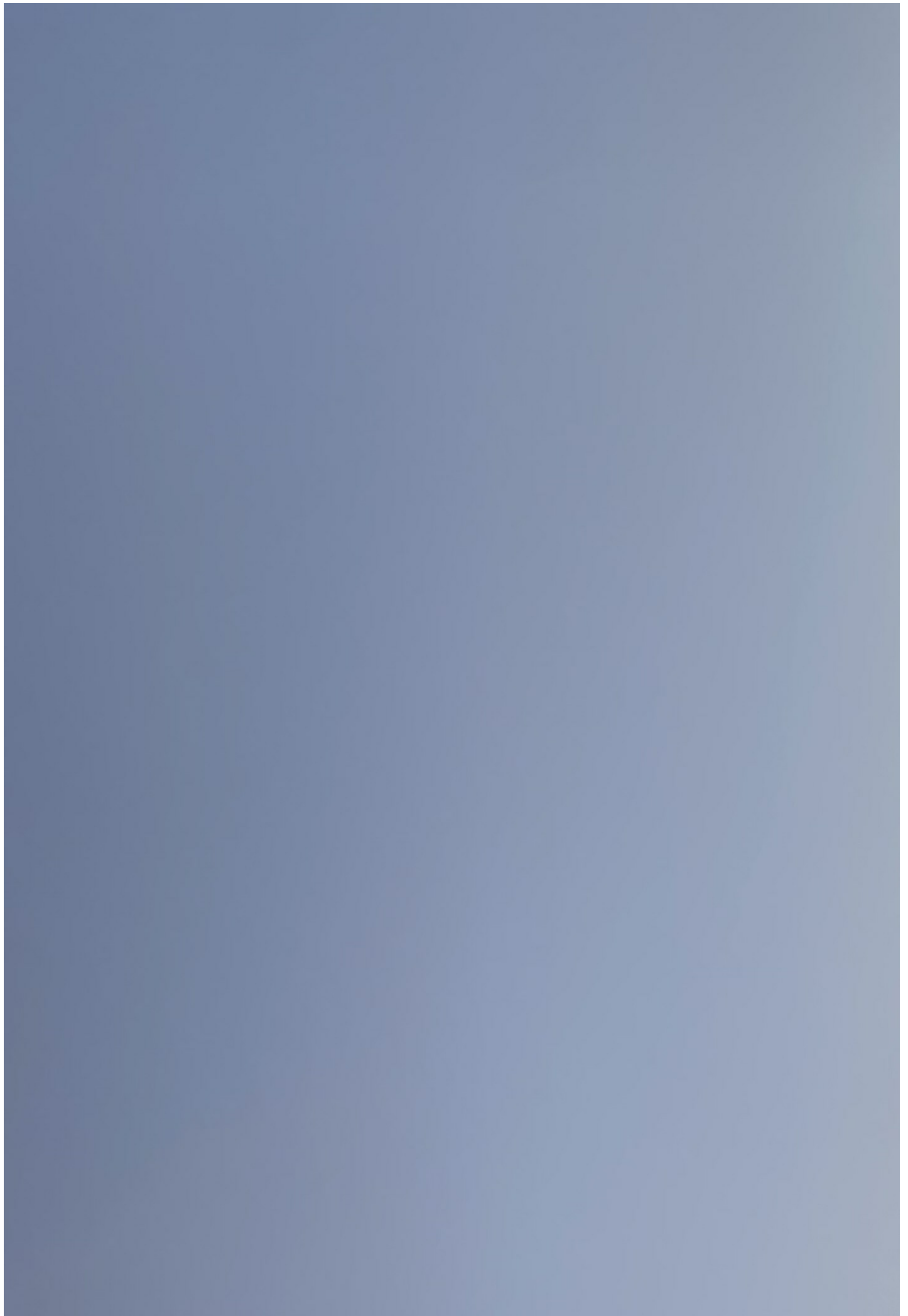
**Photo (3)** file\_65d4fa6b0f4fb-img\_2411.jpeg

**Photo (4)** file\_65d4fcf1c9227-img\_2929.jpeg

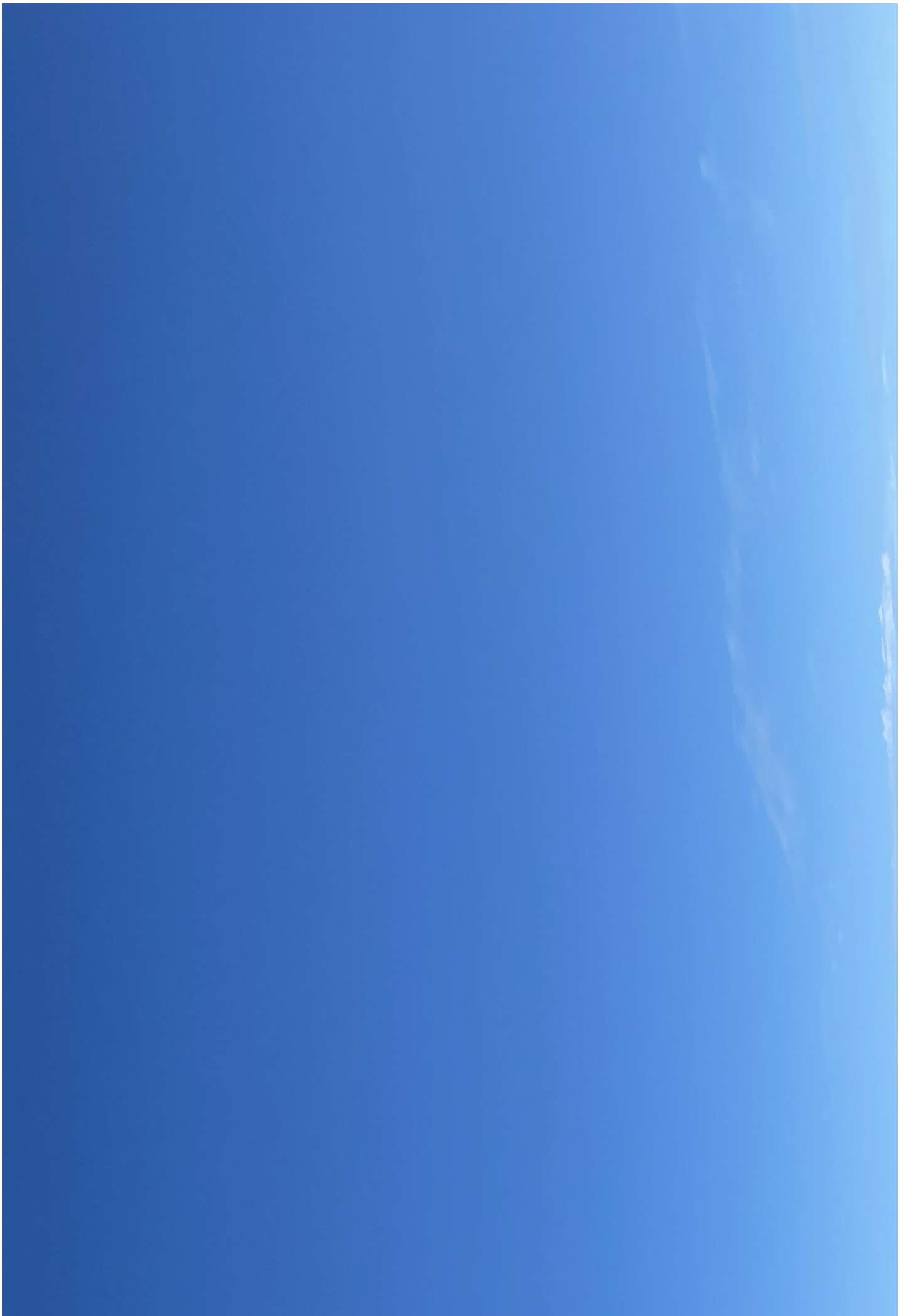
**Photo (5)**

**Photo (6)**

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