



Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona

2023-2024

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It was quite a lot of work, but the UU study abroad site is really helpful. And you get e-mails from the exchange office that tell you exactly what to do, so It is not that hard. You do need to take some time for it.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The Exchange Office reacts and was able to help me with any problem I had on the way.
academic preparation
Not necessary.
language preparation
There is a requirement of B1 level of Spanish. But I choose three subjects in English so I didn't learn any extra Spanish. Note from the IEO: For this destination a B1 level of Spanish is required at the time of the Utrecht University Study Abroad application. The reason for this is the limited availability of English-taught courses. While some students might be able to follow only English courses, we cannot guarantee this and as such the B1 level is a requirement for your application.
finances
I saved some money by working for my period in Barcelona. But the preparation itself doesn't cost any money. I did spend a lot of extra money in Barcelona because I went out for dinner a lot and did a lot of extra trips. With the money I saved, DUO, the OV-vergoeding and the Erasmus beurs I could easily afford it. It is really worth it to have some extra money to spend.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed a trimester at UPF. I did three courses for 15 ECTS in total. This trimester is around 8 weeks. For a trimester you will need 15 ECTS. The courses I could do in English were really nice, but you didn't have a lot of options. i took the following courses: Gender & Law Technology & Law International Protection of Human rights. I stayed one month longer to study Spanish.
academic quality of education activities
The lectures are different than in Utrecht. I found the quality of some of my courses better than others. Overall the courses are easier than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The exchange office was very helpful and easily accessible.



transfer of credits

15 ECTS

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

You get e-mails and there is a welcoming meeting. This was really nice and helpful.

accommodation

I hired an apartment with 4 other girls that did an Erasmus exchange. We hired it through Housinganywhere.com. This is a really nice site. there are also a lot of Whatsapp Groups that can help you find a room and the site Idealista can be helpful. I paid 648 euros for a spacious apartment at Plaza Reial. Most people I spoke had no issue in finding an apartment. I would suggest looking in Born, Gotic or Eixample.

leisure & culture

Barcelona is an amazing city for an exchange. There are a lot of international students and there is so much to do. The nightlife is amazing and especially in the first few months I spend a lot of time on the beach. There are a lot of tourists in Barcelona, but you avoid this by going to beaches that are further away.

the people are very relaxed here and your day is definitely not over at 7 o'clock. you can have dinner till late in the evening.

suggestions/tips

Get a T-jove metro card for 40 euros. You can use public transport for 90 days then. Join in Padel tournaments. It is a really fun way to meet a lot of people. there are a lot of Padel fields around town. Don't go to the tourist traps. there are a lot of cheaper terraces that are really nice. You can also get in a lot of clubs for free with Aashlist or Rumbalist. Ovella Negra is a really cheap place to have pre-drinks. A lot of Spanish students go here as well.
in the summer months go to La Terrazza!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would really recommend my university and Barcelona. Barcelona is the best place for an exchange. I enjoyed my time here so much and made a lot of new friends. UPF is a really nice university near the beach and Ciutadella parc.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you want to study Spanish at UPF you should be very quick! I was too late to enroll. You can learn Spanish here very cheap.



2022 – 2023

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process of application was a lot of work, but i don't think this is something for Barcelona specifically. in gender going on exchange takes a lot of effort and work.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The Exchange Office is very helpful if you need any help with your application.
academic preparation
none
language preparation
For Barcelona there is a requirement of a B1 level of Spanish, which i don't understand because you can follow the courses in English. i met a lot of students from others countries and universities that didn't need the Spanish b1 level. *note from the IEO: very often in the past our students couldn't attend sufficient English taught courses (upon arrival they seemed to be full, overlap or cancelled) or even Spanish taught (courses appeared to be offered in Catalan). Therefore, you have to be able to follow courses in Spanish instead in order to obtain sufficient credits.
finances
There are not any financial aspects to the preparation

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
UPF works with trimesters. it is important to be aware of this, because this means that if you apply for a trimester, the period will be a lot shorter than when you go for a semester. also, the courses are 4 ECTS. this is important to remember when you apply for an Erasmus scholarship. If you go for one trimester you need to have 16 ECTS, so you will need to follow at least 4 courses.
academic quality of education activities
everyone coming from the UU will easily be able to follow the level of education.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
the exchange office from UPF was very helpful with the issues I had.
transfer of credits
16 ECTS

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme



there is a welcome program at the beginning of the trimester. you will also receive an email beforehand with all the information you will need.
accommodation
i found my accommodation through Uniplaces.com. If you start looking on time, you will find very nice rooms on there. I started looking 4 months prior to my exchange. I paid 575 euros for a big room, in the neighbourhood Eixample.
leisure & culture
Barcelona is a big city and there is always something nice to do. the erasmus community is also very active here. daytrips to little cities around Barcelona is also a big recommendation. The nightlife in Barcelona is very alive, there are a lot of clubs. The daily life is very different from the Netherlands, which i liked very much. The days are a lot longer here since people have dinner around 9. Going for a beer or something is a lot cheaper than in the Netherlands. The beach is also close.
suggestions/tips
make sure to get an accommodation near to the city, otherwise you won't be able to enjoy the city to the fullest. although with the metro you can come a long way for cheap.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
absolutely, if you like the mediterranean lifestyle i definitely recommend going to barcelona. it is an amazing city and never boring.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
To apply for my exchange I had to fill in my study plan that needed to be signed by my home university and had to hand in my motivation letter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Exchange Office at UU has helped me a lot during my preparation for my study abroad.
academic preparation
I did not need academic preparation.
language preparation
I chose to only follow courses that were given in English. However, in order to communicate with the locals I chose to follow a Spanish cursus of level A1. This has really helped me to communicate with the people outside the university.
finances
Erasmus grant and own saving money.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I took 4 English courses: Law of Damages; Justice and Individual Rights; Gender and the Law; International Protection of Human Rights. Besides these courses I also took a Spanish course of level A1.</p> <p>The English courses were taught in big groups, with both international and local students. Every course was given twice every week. These courses all had one final test at the end of the trimester and a part of the final grade was formed by presentations we had to give or essays we had to hand in.</p> <p>My Spanish course was given in Spanish. For every class we had to prepare homework and for the final grade we had to give a presentation, write essays, had an oral exam and two written exams (including reading, audio and grammar). In my opinion the course was intense, but it really helped to learn the basics of Spanish in a short period of time.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>In my opinion the quality of education activities were good. The professors knew a lot about their subject and could answer all your questions.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>The support for international students was very good. There was an office at the campus for international students which was open every day of the week. Also, to e-mails they replied very quickly.</p>
transfer of credits
15

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The welcome programme was very well organized and so much fun! I would definitely recommend to attend as many of the activities as possible. Especially the welcome week is a great opportunity to get to know new people from your univeristy, but also to get to know the university itself (classrooms, office hours, etc.) and the city.</p>
accommodation
<p>I found it really challenging to find an accommodation from home. I found my accomodation through Resa Housing which is an organisation which I found through my university. Resa Housing is for students only and they were very helpful with finding me a good accomodation. I was really happy with my flat: it was clean, not too expensive (500,- incl. cleaning service) and the location was perfect. Don't wait until the last moment to start looking!</p>
leisure & culture
<p>Barcelona is a great city with a lot of culture and history. Every day of the week there are lots of things to do! Also, the UPF Erasmus group organizes a lot of activities, trips and parties through the year!</p>



suggestions/tips

My most memorable moment of my Erasmus experience was the National Event held in Valencia. With over 1500 Erasmus students we went to Valencia for the weekend. The event was organized by Erasmus and everything was perfectly organized: transport, hostels, food, parties and cultural activities were all organized. The National Event is held every trimester, so all the (new) students get the opportunity to go. I would definitely recommend this trip!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend both my university and destination! The location of the university is perfect (metro station/ busstop are nearby) and its really close to the city centre. Barcelona is a great destination to study abroad: there is lots to do every day of the week so you will be never bored!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2018-2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite clear. Be prepared for a lot of administrative work though. You will have to send in documents to your home university, your host university, the erasmus grant organisation etc. If you want to change your courses during your exchange you will have to get different documents signed by your home and host university.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was of great help to me. Whenever I contacted the international office, they would reply soon after. It was very clear what was expected of me and whenever I had questions the International Office would help me out.

academic preparation

I did not (have to) prepare my self academically.

language preparation

I took a language course of 5 weeks during the summer. I would recommend this to anyone who is thinking about studying in Barcelona but does not speak Spanish. Although I took all of my courses in English, the language course taught me how to communicate with people in the city and at the university (outside of the classrooms).

finances

With my government grant and the Erasmus grant I was able to finance everything. Living costs are comparable to the Netherlands. Renting a room in Barcelona will probably be more expensive than it is in Utrecht. I live in Amsterdam, so for me rent was cheaper in Barcelona. Going out for dinner and public transport are cheaper than they are in the Netherlands, so you will not have to spend too much on those things.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took Contract Law, Justice and Individual Rights, History of Catalan Law and Spanish A2. Most courses are 4 or 5 ECTS courses and UPF has trimesters instead of semesters. This makes it hard to take courses that add up to 30 ECTS, because if you do your schedule will be crazy. Utrecht University told us (students doing their exchange at UPF) we could take 20 ECTS. I did not need 30 ECTS, because I already took extra courses at Utrecht University, but if you do want to take 30 ECTS at UPF be prepared to be on campus a lot.

The Spanish classes that UPF offers are really good. The teacher is amazing and UPF students can take the courses for a discounted price.

academic quality of education activities

UPF ranks highly, so I had high expectations. I found the quality of education to be good, but not outstanding. The level of education is comparable to Utrecht, but the teaching methods are very different. Most courses consist of lectures only. For some bigger courses you have to attend seminars as well. I only had a few seminars for Contract Law. Attendance is not mandatory for lectures, it is for seminars. The university offers courses in English, Spanish and Catalan. UPF does not offer a huge amount of English courses, but it is possible to take all of your courses in English (as I did). If you speak Catalan and/or Spanish you will be able to choose from a much bigger selection of courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at UPF was very helpful and generally responded quickly to any requests or questions.

transfer of credits

The international office of UPF transferred my credits to Utrecht University. As far as I know this went well.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I believe there was a welcome week organised by the university. I did not partake in many activities, because I had already made some friends at my language course. The welcome presentation at UPF was very nice. I met some fellow international students here and was informed about opportunities to play sports, take dancing classes, go on cultural trips etc. This all sounded very cool, so if you are interested in doing sports or taking some classes to meet other people, this is definitely possible!

accommodation

I rented a room in the neighbourhood Eixample. I shared the apartment with 5 other international students, which was very cool because this way I met people from all over the world. I would recommend the neighbourhoods Gracia and Eixample for living. Some of my friends lived in El Raval and Gòtico which are older, more central neighbourhoods near the beach. These are cool places to live as well, but very noisy and busy at night. Finding accommodation is not hard. You can easily search for a room online or book a hostel and search for a room while you are already in Barcelona.

leisure & culture

The city is amazing! There is so much to see and do, I was never bored. You can go to the beach every day in summer. You can visit Gaudí buildings, museums (I recommend Picasso, Miró and



MNAC) and parks. There are amazing restaurants, bars and clubs all over the city. All year, there are many food and music festivals all over the city (La Mercè and Las Fiestas de Gracia were especially cool). The weather is great, so you can always go outside and do something. I would recommend going on an exchange to Barcelona to everyone, because the city is so great! I took a trip to Morocco with a group of friends. There are organisations that organise trips for Erasmus students in Barcelona to Morocco (and other places) all year round, so it is very easy to book a trip like this. I also took daytrips to the Costa Brava and Andorra. Some friends of mine went to Valencia, Madrid, Sevilla, Girona and some other places as well.

suggestions/tips

1. Find a good room that is not too expensive. Don't settle for the first thing you find because you are afraid you will not find something else, you will!
2. Learn some Spanish: it will help you a lot if you know a even a little Spanish (or Catalan!)
3. Make a list of everything you want to see and do, so you get around to it.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! The university is good and the city is great! I had the most amazing time in Barcelona and would recommend this city to everyone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Definitely go on an exchange, you will not regret it!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

If you follow the instruction given and keep an eye on your email-address the exchange application process is not too difficult. If you have questions you can always contact the international office.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had lots of help of the REBO International office. I was very happy for that. Everytime I had a question I could phone and email them. They are very helpful

academic preparation

Before I left for my exchange I looked up what my courses would be like.

language preparation

I did not need lots of language preparation. I did a Spanish course at my university in Barcelona.

finances

With my grant, family and savings I had enough money to live in Barcelona and to be able to do fun things in and around the city

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



My study programme had to be changed because my timetable had lots of overlap. After some great help I
academic quality of education activities
The lectures at UPF are great. The level of education is not too high but they want to challenge you to be active during the class. I really liked that. The content of my courses were really interesting and different from my home university
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everything was very clear at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. The email contact was good and there are various people who want to help you at the University
transfer of credits
The Transfer of Credit was easy and they were very fast in answering my questions

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a welcome & orientation programme. It was a good possibility to meet students from different faculties
accommodation
I lived with 2 other girls from Holland. We found our accommodation by our self via the website idealisa
leisure & culture
I have been sightseeing a lot. There is so much to do and see in Barcelona. There was enough time to do so, next to my University life.
suggestions/tips
Go to Sevilla! (You can buy cheap tickets). My favorite neighborhood in Barcelona was Gracia

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend Barcelona and Universitat Pompeu Fabra to everyone! It was an amazing experience, with nice people, good food, great lectures and helpful people. I have learnt so much in my abroad period, at University but also my personal life.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The first step was to decide on the country and city in which I would spend my time abroad. Because of my prior knowledge of the Spanish language, the choice was easy, it would be Spain. I checked all



the available universities in Spain and decided on UPF in Barcelona. Then the application had to be started. I remember that it was a lot of preparation, with different documents being necessary. And then when you finally hand in the required documents, it's two months of waiting before you even hear something. This was quite hard, but in hindsight, all worth it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of the REBO was always there for me during the preparation. Whenever I had a question I could e-mail them and I would receive an answer within days. Calling was even quicker, but it was harder because of the limited opening hours.

academic preparation

My academic preparation was mostly getting my level of Spanish back to the level that it had been when I got out of High School, this was sadly not that easy without spending a lot of money. But I have to say that you do not necessarily need a high level of Spanish to survive in Barcelona. UPF offers extensive language courses that can teach you the language in as little as two trimesters.

language preparation

Due to certain circumstances I could not do a language course in Spanish before I left for Barcelona. This caused my Spanish to be slightly under the level that I had expected it to be.

finances

Finances were a big issue at the start. Of course you have to make sure that you have enough finances to survive the months that you are intending to stay. I was really lucky to get a lot of support from my parents which made it possible for me to live in Barcelona without having to worry about my financial situation.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme became clear in the months before I was actually moving there, but it was still the question of what the courses exactly entailed because there were no syllabi for every course yet. This was very chaotic, but in the end it all turned out quite alright.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of UPF is definitely lower than in Utrecht, but nonetheless they had some very interesting courses that were worth going to UPF for. It was surprising that at UPF they work mostly with lectures and very little seminars. While in Utrecht the amount of seminars and lectures is fifty fifty.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The OMA office was always there for the Erasmus students to find support if they had questions. The teachers that gave the courses were sometimes very unhelpful and inconsiderate towards Erasmus students.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
Barcelona's ESN made sure that there was a brilliant welcome week for the new Erasmus students, with a lot of activities. You could buy a welcome pack which gave you access to all the fun activities. These were both cultural, social or gastronomical. Apart from this welcome week they kept organising fun activities throughout the year. We felt really welcome in Barcelona and it was a great way to meet new people.
accommodation
The accommodation was actually really easily found through the company called RentRoom Barcelona. They have several houses in the city with separate rooms for around 5/6 people per floor. I ended up in a house which had two floors owned by RentRoom, which was the reason that I actually felt like living with 11 people. That was really great. The building was in the middle of the centre and was quite big.
leisure & culture
Barcelona is a brilliant city and there is culture everywhere. I learned so much about the Catalan culture in the many museums that are in Barcelona. But also by visiting the houses made by Gaudi. The Catalans are really proud of their culture which is why it is almost impossible to not learn a lot about their culture. We tried to visit most of the Catalan holidays, which gave us the feeling to be kind of part of the Catalan vibe. Leisure wise there is so much in Barcelona as well. Of course you have the far stretching beaches which start with the famous Barceloneta. But Barcelona is also rich in parks, with the biggest being Park Guell, which offers plenty of places to relax. Apart from that we spent a lot of time in Park Ciutadella, which is right next to the university of Pompeu Fabra. The club life in Barcelona is one of a kind, with a lot of special nights every night of the week. The ESN organisation also organizes a night every week in Apollo, where you can meet other internationals but also locals.
suggestions/tips
If you go abroad to Barcelona, be sure to either learn some Spanish, or if you speak Spanish already, try to learn some Catalan. Be prepared for hot weather, but if you stay in the city centre, there is usually bad isolation so take some clothes for in the cold winter months as well. It gets cold in Barcelona! And of course, always watch your pockets, after a few months the caution wanes, but Barcelona is still a very criminal city and thieves are always on the lookout.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, Barcelona is an unforgettable city, which continues to amaze you day after day. The people are one of a kind, with the weirdest people sometimes walking through the streets. The university is very close-knit so you really have the feeling to be on a campus, that is why I would definitely recommend going there. The Erasmus Student Network is very big and there is always something to do that will let you meet new people. The weather is of course also a big plus. One last reason why I would definitely recommend this destination is because of the interesting culture that lives in Barcelona. If you are interested in learning about new cultures, Barcelona is a place where you will learn about a culture that you wouldn't learn about in any other city in Spain. And learning about this culture, and the interesting political situation there really enriched my life.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
An Erasmus experience is one of the best things you can do to further expand your C.V. but also to further expand your personal life. Experiences with other cultures and being totally on your own abroad is one of the best experiences you can have.



2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It was a long process and a lot of necessary paperwork, but support is well available (see next topics). It is important to be aware of the total work of the application process, really well in advance starting with it is necessary. Especially the motivation letter can be difficult. I personally tried to adjust it to my specific choice, to make sure it had the elements that were embedded in local culture of my preferred university.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I am more than happy about the support. As I said, the preparation takes a lot of time and patience. Having the staff from the International Office at your disposal for all of your questions, makes it a lot easier. At the time of the application process and after I was selected for my university, there were always things that you wanted an answer on right away and you could get that.
academic preparation
I cannot say that I could academically prepare myself for the courses I took abroad, because they were only available for me for enrolment in May 2017 and the last period in Utrecht had already started at that time.
language preparation
Especially at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, it is important to be aware of the fact that the university has been named after the creator of the Catalan dictionary. This means that Catalan is widely present in the university, so good knowledge of Spanish is recommended. As for my own preparation, I took a few courses at the Babel Institute in Utrecht and used the Duolingo and the Tandem apps to keep up with the Spanish on a regular basis.
finances
Students are quite frequently being reminded of the state of their uploads on Osiris for the Erasmus grant. This amount covers a lot of the expenses abroad, but by far not everything. I would personally recommend to save a lot of money beforehand to make sure not to be too dependent on the grant. In case something happens with the grant, e.g. a delay because of some required documents, you will already have enough money to fall back on.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I found that the study programme was well manageable. In the beginning of the study year, I was still trying to find out how the schedule and the online learning environment worked. As soon as I found it out, I noticed that the number of mandatory hours per week was a bit less than in Utrecht. However, back in Utrecht there was always a lot of preparation to do for every class, which was not always the case in Barcelona. Apart from that, the big difference with Utrecht was that in Barcelona I did not need to always have my lawbooks with me, the way of studying and the academic focus was different. Finally, choosing courses was something that you had to do already at home before departure, but in case something changed you had to do that shortly before or just after a new period had started.



academic quality of education activities
I was overall satisfied with the academic quality of educational activities. At the beginning of the year, we had an introduction week, during which several people came to speak about their field or department. People from the Erasmus network, the police and different academic scholars spoke about their areas. It was good to know that there were a lot of people you could fall back on in case of hardship.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support mostly came from the International Office in Barcelona and I am happy with how things were taken care of. I do have to say that one time I was afraid of not passing a deadline for an Erasmus document because I was waiting for a long time for a signature from that International Office. Luckily, the Dutch International Office was aware of the fact that delays were not uncommon at universities abroad. Apart from this one thing, I am satisfied of how the support was in Barcelona. The system of changing courses was a bit unclear to me at first, but they provided good support to me about this.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was never something I had influence on. Because the number of credits was different between Utrecht and Barcelona, I could only hope that the transfer did not mean a significant change. In Utrecht, it was usually 5 or 7,5 credit points, but in Barcelona there were more options. The Board of Examiners in Utrecht is solely responsible for the transfer and they did not acknowledge one course I followed in Barcelona, because it had too much overlap with another course I already followed. This was a shame, but after all, there was not much I could do. One just has to be aware of the fact that this can happen after having followed an entire course.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I am happy with the welcome & orientation programme that was arranged by ESN. They provided a welcome week during the first week of classes, as well as a buddy system that you could sign up for. This meant that you could already get to know some other exchange students and a local student, which could be both fun and very practical. Sadly, I never managed to meet up with my entire buddy group. I heard from a lot of other people that it was mostly very nice to already have a small group of friends before starting the year. Apart from the buddy system, there were lots of activities that you could participate in to get to know more people.
accommodation
Finding adequate accommodation in Barcelona can be difficult. Housing is not cheap for international students. I would not recommend starting the search only after arriving in the city, but doing it way in advance to make sure to get a good room/house for a normal price on a good location. Accommodation is getting more expensive now over the years and I think the average price of a room is around 500 euros per month. Next to that, one should be aware of the fact that landlords and renting agencies often misused the situation of exchange students, depending on them for their housing and therefore overcharging too much for the most simple things to make money out of them. Finally, I found myself a very nice house with other international students from my age that I became the best friends with during my time in Barcelona. Such good friends that I did not feel the need that much to mingle with the ESN network and meet new people.
leisure & culture
As for leisure & culture, there is always more than enough to do in Barcelona every day of the week. The ESN association organised lots of activities to do with other international students. As I said, however, I spent most of my time with my roommates when I explored the city. Barcelona is



really proud of their own Catalan culture and you will see that most of the city is based on the Catalan autonomous region, in which they can have their own language. Street names and important city buildings are usually in Catalan instead of Spanish, but with some knowledge of Spanish, you can usually figure it out. For the real culture vultures, museums are often not expensive with a student discount. If you just want to walk around the city and discover new places, I recommend the 3-month metro ticket and often take the metro to a whole other station far away from the city center and walk all the back, which is also usually not that far. Lastly, I recommend the Bunkers of Carmel as a hangout space at night for locals and a good spot to watch the sunset.

suggestions/tips

Prepare your Spanish level, because a lot of important things in the city and the university are in Catalan. This can really help you understand most stuff around you without help of others. I also recommend to join the buddy system from the ESN network, to make sure you already know some people at the beginning of the year. Next to that, I would advise finding a house with other international students, because I really think living in such an international environment has added value, both socially and culturally. Buy the 3-month metro ticket if you have to travel far and often to not have to worry about buying tickets every time again and save money. Finally, I recommend travelling a lot in Spain whenever you have the time in a weekend. I have taken the plane for a cheap weekend with roommates to explore cities like Valencia, Madrid or Malaga. More closer to Barcelona, you can easily take the regional train to places like Figueres or Girona.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would definitely recommend both the university and the city of Barcelona to others. It is a very complete city with a beach life and that true urban feeling. It has a very young and diverse population that makes you feel welcome as a foreigner or exchange student. There is a nice warm, Mediterranean climate that is really nice to have as a change, especially if you are used to a more rainy climate like in the Netherlands.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure to start in a timely matter with all the paperwork that needs to be handled for the whole exchange so you are able to take your time for it.