



Universitat Pompeu Fabra

2023-2024

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I wanted to go to Barcelona, so I applied for Barcelona. Everything went smooth and received help from the international office when needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very helpful. I did some extra courses what made it more difficult to agree on my proposal, but they helped me a lot.
academic preparation
I came unprepared.
language preparation
I could already speak a bit Spanish but this wasn't necessary at all. it's helpful but not necessary
finances
I got some money from DUO, Erasmus and my grandfather. You can make live as expensive as you want in Barcelona.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did the following courses: Psychology and Business (really interesting), Business Games (interesting but it is 95% group work), Consumer Behaviour (great and good mixture of lectures and seminars), Business Logistics (I liked this course), Network, Crowds and Markets (this was by far the hardest course, but if you like advanced maths this is something for you) and Gender Economics (this was a really interesting course to see how males and females participate in the working and household environment and why).
academic quality of education activities
Some courses where easier at my home university and some where harder. Overall I think that the courses were on a good level.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not need any support but teachers were very helpful.
transfer of credits
I got 5 credits per subject which is 2.5 points lower than at my home university.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
They organised two welcome days, one general day and one for my faculty. During the 2 nd one I met my friendgroup for the whole semester, which was nice.



Accommodation

I lived in a student residence: Onix. By looking back at it I think it was really nice, because I had my own small studio. I did not really had contact with the people living there (mostly Spanish or American). But we had a nice rooftop terrace where I invited my friends mostly. I think it was a bit overpriced (by looking at what my friends payed) and it felt a bit too much like a hotel. Overall I would give it a 8.5/10.

leisure & culture

The city is awesome. Everywhere you go there is something to do. The people are nice, especially when you speak a bit Spanish.

suggestions/tips

Do good research on where you live. I lived in Fort Pienc. Which is a very good neighbourhood and is close to almost everything.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend it. When you are there you almost don't want to come home again.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Rent a bike with Swapfiets, it'll prevent all the costs for taxis. Biking is easy in Barcelona. Don't go live in Raval. Barcelona is not as dangerous as people say, just don't walk alone in certain neighbourhoods. I never felt scared at all. And go play padel.



2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application was fairly easy and smooth, however, the enrolling for courses is a headache and 2 weeks into my classes at UPF I still was not sure if I was enrolled in all of them or not. At the end, I managed to find spots for everything and do the 30 ECTS required but it def was a hassle.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Support from UU was amazing and I cannot stress enough how lucky we are to have a communication system that actually works opposed to UPF or other universities around Europe.
academic preparation
I did not do anything to prepare for my courses in advance.
language preparation
During the summer before leaving, I studied a bit of Spanish grammar to get me started. When arrived in Barcelona, I took the landing program at UPF Idiomas and while the course itself did not really teach me much, it gave me the right push to start speaking in Spanish with my peers at university and sooner than I expected I was able to have full conversations in Spanish. To be fair, it is easier for who already speaks a latin language like myself, however, spaniards are really helpful in trying to teach you their language and therefore it is not unattainable to learn the language during your Erasmus.
finances
Barcelona is not a cheap city. Or better, it is cheaper than the Netherlands, but you'll be out more. More clubbing, more bar hopping, and the tapas. In fact, I ended up spending more per month in Barcelona than I do in the Netherlands, but the Erasmus money helps.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
As I said before, the enrolling was a pain. Furthermore, there is a little problem about UPF, and that is that they have trimesters and not semesters, hence you need to cram a lot of courses in a short period of time. To give a better explanations, here at UU in 10 weeks we do 2 courses, at UPF in 12 weeks I did 6 courses. Passing them is not the problem, but to be able to fit them all in a schedule can be quite hard, especially the english taught courses.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the english taught courses is poor, in my opinion. The spanish ones are undoubtedly better and more challenging. This is not the worst thing though. With a lesser workload you will be able to enjoy your friends and the city. Nevertheless, if you want an academic challenge and you do not speak spanish, this might not be the place for you. I took courses from 4 different faculties, not just economics, and I found them all in general very easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
the OMA office is horrible. I do not understand how UPF students do it for 4 years. Genuinely.
transfer of credits
It was automatically done by UU. No problems there.



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme is meh. However, I met some people I hung out with at the beginning, even if we then drifted apart since most of my friends were people i met in class and out at bars and so on.

accommodation

I'd recommend to get accomodation in Eixample or Born or, if you are not scared of a little sketchyness and want to save some money, I would try to find a place in El Raval. I lived in Gracia, which is the most "spanish" and characteristic neighbourhood in Barcelona, however, it is not well connected.

leisure & culture

The culture is insane. There is everything for everyone. I do not think I have much else to say besides this. By far life is more relaxed and more enjoyable. However there are the classic south european downsides of stuff not working and so on.

suggestions/tips

Just make the most of it. Never stay home. I mean, chill and take it easy, but there is so much going on and I cannot count the number of things I did and loved cause I forced myself to get out of the house

CONCLUSIONS

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

Even if the academic value is not high, i would still recommend the University because it is a cultural hub and there are so many things to be learnt through the discussions among students. In fact, the students are by far more involved in the univeristy and politics that we are here at UU and it is very very interesting to see and be in the middle of that. I fell in love with my experience here and therefore I would suggest you to take your chance to go here. Especially if you feel you are the type of person that would enjoy this city, then do not think twice, anything you have in mind is there for you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really, just that you will have a great time if you decide on this destination. Enjoy!!



2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I went to the information session about the Erasmus Exchange. I looked into the list of universities and Barcelona approached to me. I had to prepare a study plan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support and counselling at Utrecht University is great. I talked to my studyadvisor a couple of times and the mobility office always responded quickly to my emails about application forms.
academic preparation
I had to prepare a studyplan. I looked into the course catalogue of my exchange university. I had to choose courses at a sufficient level. I had to get my studyplan signed by the studyadvisor.
language preparation
Before I went to Spain I did duolingo. Duolingo is a website at which you can learn a different language. So when I arrived in Spain I could already say a few words.
finances
I received a erasmus grant, which was great. I couldn't work in Spain because I didn't have the time for it. So you better make sure you save enough money before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It is important to subscribe for the courses in time. If you don't do this courses might be full. Furthermore I really advise to take the spanish language course.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses differs a lot. I had for example an econometrics course which was quite difficult, while the course 'business logistics' was very easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The mobility office is great, they respond quick to your emails. I didn't have any major problems so I never visited them. However at the beginning of the year there were long lines for the office.
transfer of credits
not applicable yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I joined the ESN welcome programme. It was very nice, I met a lot of people and joined the activities of the welcome week.
accommodation
I took care of the accomodation myself. I first found an apartment in El Raval, but it was in a really bad part of El Raval so I had to move. I moved to a different part of El Raval, which was way better.



leisure & culture

Barcelona is a really nice city. There is a lot to do, the beach, football games, party's, great sightseeing and good shopping. However, there are a lot of protests, sometimes they block public transport for instance.

suggestions/tips

Visit some beaches around Barcelona like Garraf and Sitges. Go to the bunkers and enjoy a beer/glass of wine there. Furthermore, enjoy the sun!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this university/destination. Barcelona is a great city with many things to do. Moreover, the weather is great. I also liked the university, especially the Spanish language course was great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure your apartment is in a good area of the city. Don't choose the most difficult courses because it takes too much of your time.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

Was really easy. The only thing what took a lot of time was filling in all the documents for the Erasmus grant

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The exchange office explained everything very well and gave several presentations with all the steps that you have to perform. Also, if you need support, you can just email them and they reply within one day.

academic preparation

I did not do anything for the academic preparation, however just check your mailbox everyday because the university sends an email with the important information about the introduction days etc. You will get the information very late so don't stress when you still did not receive a email with all the information.

language preparation

In Barcelona almost everybody can speak english but it is very useful if you learn a bit spanish. If you already just prepare the basic words, it will help you a lot in Barcelona.

finances

You will spend a lot of money abroad. So my tip is: Save up a lot of money before you go abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was all fine. However, make sure you directly sign up for the courses when the registration opens. The courses are quickly full so make sure you are on time when you register for the courses and also pay attention to the timeslots. Make sure you don't choose courses that are in the same timeslot.

academic quality of education activities

the academic quality at UPF is the same the academic quality of Utrecht university. The teachers are on time and a 80% attendance is required

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling & support at UPF is also fine. If you email them sometimes they reply the same day but sometimes they forget and it can take weeks. But you can always visit the office, they will then you there.

transfer of credits

The university sends the transfer of credits to your university.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was also very good organized. There were 10 welcome days with a lot of parties and activities where you can meet a lot of people.

accommodation

Try to find a room in the center, close to plaza catalunya and jaume. I got lucky because I took over the room who was from a friend of mine who was also studying in barcelona.

leisure & culture



The best parties and festivals are in Barcelona! Every Sunday there is 'brunch in the park/city' festival. This is so much fun! Also 'la terrazza' is a very good party. On Wednesday you have to go to Razzmatazz to party, Thursday you have to go to Apollo and if you like techno, then input is the best club! la fira is the best spanish club!

suggestions/tips

Enjoy and fall in love with the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! The university is very well organized and the city Barcelona has everything! Very nice weather, the beach, best parties, nice people, good restaurants and the best cocktails!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

ENJOY!



2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was very clear to me. I took quite a few weeks to prepare and write my motivation letter. I never went to a presentation at school, because I was not able to attend at the times. However, I don't feel as if I needed it
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling & Support was outstanding. Quick replies to all my questions and I was positively surprised that they informed if everything was okay considering the political unrest in Catalunya.
academic preparation
For academic preparation I did very little, except for checking which courses they were teaching
language preparation
I have had Spanish classes when I was younger so I had a basic knowledge, which I expanded while I was there
finances
I worked and saved up in the months in advance and made a calculation together with my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Many courses were already full when I arrived and the process of subscribing to classes was not ideal. I managed to get courses I was interested in, but many of my friends did not.
academic quality of education activities
I really enjoyed the way of teaching at Pompeu Fabra. It was very interactive and the teachers were really approachable. I felt however that the exams were too small and therefore not always representative of the level I achieved
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The office of mobility abroad was outstanding. I could go there with all my questions and they were extremely helpful whenever there was some sort of problem. Really do not have anything to say they could have done better
transfer of credits
not applicable yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I joined the ESN welcome program, but ended up only going a few times. However I felt that there were enough possibilities for everyone to join, also on the program that was organised by the university during the time I was there



accommodation

I took care of the accommodation myself, and the first apartment I stayed in was far from ideal because it was very small and across a big drugs house. I moved to el Born to a much better apartment which was both lovely and not too expensive. From there I could do anything by foot really.

leisure & culture

There is enough to do in Barcelona. Football, beaches, museums, music on the street. I liked all of it, however of course I had limited time and budget so was not able to do everything I want.

suggestions/tips

Go to Sitges for the day, buy a museum pass, and do Gaudi's houses!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, absolutely. I have fallen in love with this city, where you can combine the citylife, with beaches, good weather, nice parties, beautiful restaurants and cafes. So whatever it is that you are looking for, you can find it here. Apart from this, the people are nice, it is not too expensive and it has a beautiful language

do you have any additional advice or comments?

When you find an apartment beforehand, make sure you know what you are getting yourself into.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was clear and straightforward. I remember I firstly had to apply in my home university (UU) and then at UPF. What could be a "tricky" part is choosing the right subjects. You have to make sure that they fit your program and they have available spaces. Also, make sure you double check the language they are taught in!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The exchange office at UU is very helpful. They provided answers to every question I might have had and they did so very quickly.

academic preparation

In terms of academic preparation, I would advise students to carefully check the course manuals of the subjects they choose as some of them have pre-requisite mandatory courses which are not provided at our home university and might have a hard time "catching up" with all the extra material.

language preparation

I chose English courses so I can't say anything about the language preparation. However, they offer Spanish courses at UPF which I definitely recommend as it is very easy to learn the language while you're living in Barcelona.

finances

In my opinion Barcelona is a pretty affordable city if you skip the "touristy" places. Rent was cheaper than in Utrecht and also restaurants and bars didn't differ much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Besides the fact that they have a trimester and therefore more study load per week than in Utrecht, everything else was pretty much the same. I personally had a mix of relatively hard and relatively easy courses. My advice would be to attend every lecture as the professors provide quite some extra material which sometimes is not provided in the book.

academic quality of education activities

I was really satisfied with the academic quality at UPF. The professors which I had were all very qualified and really inspired me and made very difficult subject somehow easier.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't have a lot of contact with the mobility office at the receiving institution besides for the needed signed documents which they always provided very quickly.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was very straightforward given that UPF also uses ECTS. A transcript was sent to me as soon as I arrived back in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



There were a lot of events such as introduction days and also parties which the university organised the first weeks. In addition, the ESN network also provided a lot of activities as well as tours around the city during the day.

accommodation

I found my accommodation via housinganywhere.com. I would recommend the same for anyone who is staying for a short period of time. The apartment was very central and quite affordable.

leisure & culture

Barcelona is a city bursting with culture. Every quarter that you visited had a monument or artwork worth checking out. A lot of places where you could see the city from the top which I definitely recommend. The beach is also very close by metro and given the very good weather you are able to go there very often (also in the winter).

suggestions/tips

My suggestion for future students would be to never spend a day at home. Barcelona is a city worth exploring. Even by just taking a stroll into the city you would come across awesome sights and places. In terms of academic activities, I would suggest to keep track by going to classes and depending on the subjects you have chosen not leave everything for the last moment as having more subjects than usual can be hard to adjust to!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Barcelona and UPF. The overall experience was really nice. The international environment made it very easy to adjust. For a semester abroad, it is the perfect place to take in some (very missed) sun rays.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
A lot of procedures have to be completed before going abroad. For example, choosing the right courses, have the right signatures, have a financial plan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange mobility office of Utrecht is really helpful. They help you with all the questions you have. Also the Website gives a clear view of what steps have to be done
academic preparation
In order to be able to apply for an exchange, you have to have enough courses, and you have to finish all your mandatory courses. For me, I already almost finished all of my courses in Utrecht. I choose the courses at UPF such that they would be additional to my studies so far.
language preparation
Because I went to an International University, which was in English, I did not prepare a lot. I did learn some Spanish during my time there, but it was not needed for my studies.
finances
I was still able to loan money from DUO. Also the grant helped a bit, even though it was not a lot. Barcelona was quite expensive. But in the end I made it, by having a cheap room and not spend too much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses I took at UPF was in a way the same as in Utrecht. The difficulty was quite the same. The only big difference was that there were a lot of tutorials and lectures for 4 courses I did in the week. Because they use a trimester system, this meant you had a lot of hours at the university per week.
academic quality of education activities
The level given at UPF was quite similar to that of Utrecht, in my experience. Also the courses given were not things I saw before at Utrecht. For example Business Logistics, I knew nothing of so far, which made these courses quite challenging
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The mobility office was very helpful, and always immediately responded to my E-mails
transfer of credits
For the regular subjects the transfer went quite well. However, for my retake I did later on, the transfer did not go as well (In fact, I still haven't received the transferred credits)

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The University really made us feel at home very fast by organising a lot of events for new students. Also ESN was really nice to meet people at the beginning



accommodation

I managed to rent a room in the center of Barcelona in advance. Because a friend I knew that studied there before was able to get me the room. I really liked it

leisure & culture

Barcelona was a very beautiful city. Also the weather was really nice. This meant we went to the beach very often. After a while I also started playing football 2 times in the week. The nightlife was very nice aswell

suggestions/tips

Try to look for accomodations in advance, it will really help!

CONCLUSIONS

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

UPF is a really nice University, with a good level of education. The organisation of the university was sometimes not as good as in Holland. However, there are a lot of International students at UPF. Finally, Barcelona is a really nice city to be for a couple months!

do you have any additional advice or comments?