



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

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| family name* | |
| first name* | |
| student number* | |
| permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i> | <i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i> |
| | my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @ |
| faculty/college | Geosciences |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Natural Sciences and Innovationmanagement (NW&I) |

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|---|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Murcia, Spain |
| how did you travel to your destination? | Plane |
| name university abroad | Universad de Murcia (UMU) |
| start date | 11 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 22 / 12 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

| PREPARATION | |
|------------------------------|--|
| exchange application process | <p>After I had decided to study at a Spanish university to improve my Spanish, I focused on the types of courses the university offered and their entry requirements. The International Office advised me not to choose Complutense University of Madrid since I had no prior knowledge of the Spanish language. For me, I preferred Murcia over Barcelona since this city was entirely new to me and is a smaller, less touristy city, which I deemed better for improving my Spanish. Since the University of Murcia (UMU) is partnered with the Faculty of Geosciences, I had to choose a minimum of 2 courses from this faculty. This faculty only offers courses in Spanish. So, in addition to</p> |



these 2 courses, I chose to take 2 courses at the Faculty of 'Economía y Empresa' to reach a minimum of 22.5 ECTS (required for the Erasmus Grant). This faculty offers courses in English. My advice is not to worry too much about which courses you select since you can change these courses within the first two weeks of the semester. After I submitted my signed study plan and motivation letter on osiris and got accepted, I had to apply at UMU. The application for UMU was relatively easy; you will receive an email that tells you everything you need to do (online registration, sending the learning agreement to the tutor). You also get an email address and a pin which give you access to the online platform of UMU. Through this info, you can also apply for accommodation through Vimur, but I would actually recommend finding your accommodation through Idealista. Also, you can apply for a pre-semester Spanish course (this is free). The application deadline is at the end of June.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International office of the U was very supportive and answered promptly to my emails. Also, there were pre-departure meetings that discussed the most important information and deadlines, providing me with a solid structure.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation

language preparation

I have taken Spanish II at the University of Utrecht and I have also been studying Spanish at home using applications such as SpanishDictionary.com and Duoling. This offered me a basic understanding of Spanish. Unfortunately, I missed the mandatory meeting for the pre-sessional Spanish course during the summer holiday, so I was unable to enroll in those classes.

finances

Erasmus Grant, DUO and parents

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the first week of the semester, I met with my tutor to make adjustments to my study program, choosing courses within the Faculty of Geosciences (Facultad de Letras) that better suited my Spanish level and timetable. Consequently, I decided to replace one course from the Faculty of Business Economics since it was located in Espinardo, an hour away, and chose for courses more focused on data science and QGIS (Geographical software). UMU is quite flexible for Erasmus students when it comes to switching courses, so there's no need to stress too much about it. The deadline to finalize our registration was September 22nd. However, keep in mind that if you change courses, this needs to be in line with the Erasmus Grant and UU conditions. Also, a revised learning agreement needs to be accepted by the board of examiners of the UU.

I must say that I found my courses to be more challenging than expected. Compared to Utrecht University, there were more classes, attendance was mandatory, and the teachers spoke in Murcian Spanish (with a challenging accent). The content was entirely new to me and quite extensive. However, don't let this intimidate you too much, as the teachers were genuinely helpful and friendly. Moreover, the smaller class sizes (sometimes around 10 students) allowed for easy interaction and asking questions. I was the first and only Dutch student in this faculty but they were super helpful and supportive. Nevertheless, having a B1 level or higher of Spanish would be recommended as it reduces the intensity of the classes.

academic quality of education activities

In my opinion, the academic quality was quite high. The smaller distance between students and teachers improved the interaction. For instance, we went on a field trip by bus and enjoyed tapas together, it's common to stay in touch through WhatsApp, and the classes are smaller.



Regarding the content, the courses at UMU cover more theoretical aspects compared to Utrecht University courses and are more specifically focused within a smaller domain, rather than being interconnected with other disciplines. The computer courses were quite demanding if you don't have any preknowledge of programming or QGIS.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

As mentioned earlier, the teachers are very helpful and the international office and your tutor are available to assist you with any other challenges or difficulties.

transfer of credits

Most courses are 6 ECTS. I chose to do 3 courses of 6 ECTS and 1 of 4,5 ECTS to obtain the minimum of 22,5 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the beginning of the semester, a welcome week is organized full of activities to explore the city of Murcia and its culture. Also, the university will organize meetings to introduce you to the university and to explain practical matters such as enrolling in courses. As stated earlier, Erasmus students have the first two weeks to orientate for courses before finalizing their study programme.

accommodation

In my experience, finding accommodation in Murcia was relatively easy if you start searching in advance. Also, compared to Utrecht or other Spanish cities, housing is quite affordable. My advice is to search for accommodation on Idealista. Lastly, I suggest trying to find a place to live in the city center rather than near Espinardo or UCAM. It's easier for going out, especially because there is no public transportation at night.

leisure & culture

The university organizes various activities such as rafting, hiking, and scuba diving during the school period. Additionally, the ESN organization hosts a tandem every Monday and Thursday with affordable drinks and tapas. Furthermore, there's Erasmus night in Taboo for partying on Wednesdays. When it comes to nightlife, Murcia has plenty of bars and clubs to make your party nights enjoyable. The sunny weather in Murcia almost every day makes it perfect for outdoor sports. I took Padel classes and engaged in it frequently, but there are also many options for other sports like rugby, running, or soccer. Lastly, ALSA buses can take you to the beaches near Murcia. I went to Alicante twice by bus (1 hour), but you can also take a bus to La Manga, Torrevieja, or numerous other beaches.

suggestions/tips

Join the Erasmus WhatsApp group (I joined through a housemate) because many activities are organized there, and it's easy to meet up with other Erasmus students. Additionally, I would suggest renting a car for a weekend with friends as it is affordable, and this is the best way to explore the region of Murcia since the best spots are only accessible by car or on foot.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the city of Murcia to others! The city is not very touristy, and the center is quite small, which makes it perfect for living because prices are lower, and it's easy to meet other students. After six months, I feel really comfortable in this city. Also, the people in Murcia are very welcoming and open, in my opinion. Although the city is smaller and less touristy, this does not make it dull at all. I was surprised by the number of parades, parties, and fireworks in the city. At night, the streets are full of people enjoying beers and tapas until late, making it a truly lively city.



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| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| Enjoy your time there! If you have any questions, feel free to ask. |

Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

NOTE: Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your ***personal details** between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students. ****Contact details** will only be included if and where permission has been given.