

Study Abroad Experience Report:

Erasmus Year at University of Murcia, Spain

Year 2025/2026

1. General Info

- **Host University:** University of Murcia (UMU), Spain
- **When I was there:** The whole academic year of 2025/2026
 - **First Semester:** September 2025 – January 2026
 - **Second Semester:** January 2026 – June 2026
- **Faculty:** Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- **What I studied:** A combination of Business Administration and Marketing courses.

Choosing Murcia was a very easy decision for me. Although I have been living in Germany since I was a child, I am originally from Spain. Erasmus gave me the unique opportunity to return to my home country for an entire year, spend more time with my family, and experience studying at a Spanish university. Looking back, I would make the same decision again without a doubt.

2. Preparation and Paperwork

The application process through Hochschule Trier was very simple and well organized. After being nominated for the University of Murcia, I completed all the necessary paperwork online. The registration process at the Spanish university was straightforward, and I did not encounter any problems with any of the required documents.

One thing I particularly appreciated was how efficient the administration was. After finishing the examination period, the Transcript of Records was available very quickly, making it easier to complete the credit recognition process back in Germany.

Overall, the preparation before departure was uncomplicated and required very little effort compared to what I had expected.

3. My Academic Experience

I completed a total of 10 courses, three taught in English and seven in Spanish.

The overall academic level was comparable to what I experienced at Hochschule Trier. However, the teaching system is quite different. At the University of Murcia, almost

every subject includes continuous assessment throughout the semester. Weekly assignments, presentations, quizzes and practical exercises are common, and these activities contribute to the final grade. However, they only count if the final exam is passed.

Every course consists of a two-hour theory lecture and a one-and-a-half-hour practical session every week. Attendance in the practical classes is generally mandatory. Depending on the course, the final examination may consist of multiple-choice questions, written questions, or a combination of both.

I would recommend future students to consider taking some courses in Spanish if their language level allows it. Although the university offers courses in English, creating a timetable without overlapping lectures can be difficult if you only choose English modules. Since I already spoke Spanish fluently, taking courses in Spanish gave me much more flexibility when selecting my timetable.

Overall, I would rate this part around 7 out of 10. As at every university, it depends a lot on the individual professor, but in general I found the courses well organized and interesting.

4. Daily Life and University Life

University life in Murcia was enjoyable and very different from Germany.

One noticeable difference was the teaching format. Since practical classes are mandatory, students are expected to attend university regularly throughout the semester instead of only preparing for the final exam. This creates a more continuous learning process but also means that the workload is spread across the entire semester.

Outside the classroom, student life was one of the best parts of my Erasmus experience. The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) organized many welcome events during the first weeks, making it very easy to meet other international students. Throughout the year, they also organized trips to destinations such as Ibiza, Granada and Valencia, as well as hiking trips and cultural activities. I participated in the Valencia trip, which I really enjoyed.

Murcia itself offers a fantastic quality of life. The city is full of bars, cafés and terraces where people spend much of their time outdoors. There is always something happening, both during the day and at night, and there are plenty of opportunities to meet people. I also travelled extensively throughout Spain and managed to visit almost every region except the north.

Another highlight was the weather. During my entire stay, temperatures never dropped below 10°C, even in January. This allowed me to do outdoor sports all year round. As a football fan, I also enjoyed attending several matches of Real Murcia and FC Cartagena. The Spanish lifestyle never dissapoints.

5. Housing and Cost of Living

Finding Accommodation:

I decided to live in a newly opened student residence located in a quiet and very safe residential neighbourhood close to the university campus. The residence offered excellent facilities, including a gym, swimming pool, study rooms and common rooms with billiards, games and televisions.

It was located approximately 20 minutes from the university and 25 minutes from the city centre by tram. I found the accommodation on my own, although the University of Murcia also offers a housing service to help Erasmus students find accommodation.

I paid approximately €750 per month, including food. Without the meal plan, the rent would have been around €500 per month.

I specifically chose a student residence because I wanted to meet as many international students as possible. It turned out to be a great decision, and I would definitely recommend it. However, many Erasmus students also lived in shared apartments in the city centre, which are generally cheaper.

Expenses and Budgeting:

One major advantage of studying in Murcia is that there are no tuition fees, since Erasmus students remain enrolled at Hochschule Trier and only continue paying the regular semester contribution there.

Compared to Germany, Murcia is a very affordable city. Public transport is inexpensive, with an unlimited monthly tram ticket costing €12. Eating in restaurants usually costs around €15–20, and you can often find a beer for around €2.

Overall, Murcia is considered one of the cheapest cities in Spain while still offering an excellent quality of life.

6. Challenges and Personal Growth

The biggest academic challenge was adapting to the continuous assessment system. Since assignments and practical work are spread throughout the semester, it is

important to stay organized from the very beginning. In addition, professors generally do not like to make special exceptions for Erasmus students regarding deadlines or examinations.

On the personal side, my Erasmus experience helped me become much more independent. Although I already spoke Spanish, living abroad for an entire academic year taught me how to organize everyday life completely on my own. I also met many amazing people from different countries, especially England and Italy, and built friendships that I hope will last for many years.

Travelling around Spain was another unforgettable part of the experience. With good planning, it is possible to visit almost every major city during weekends or holidays.

7. My Tips for Future Students

If I could give future Erasmus students a few recommendations, they would be the following:

- **Stay for the whole academic year if possible.** One semester passes much faster than you expect, while a full year allows you to build stronger friendships and experience much more.
- **Don't be afraid to take courses in Spanish** if your language skills are good enough. It makes scheduling much easier.
- **Participate in ESN activities**, especially during the first weeks. They are one of the easiest ways to meet other international students.
- **Travel around Spain.** Murcia has a good location, and there are many beautiful cities that can easily be visited during weekends.
- **Enjoy the local lifestyle.** Spend time on the terraces, try the local food and take advantage of the amazing weather.

Overall, I can highly recommend choosing Murcia as an Erasmus destination. It combines affordable living costs, excellent weather, friendly people, delicious food and a vibrant student atmosphere. Whether you want to improve your Spanish, travel around Spain or simply experience a different culture, Murcia offers an unforgettable Erasmus experience.

8. Contact Me

If you are planning to study in Murcia and have any questions about the university, accommodation, courses or student life, feel free to contact me by email.

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