

FIELD REPORT ON STUDYING ABROAD

DETAILS ON STUDYING ABROAD

- UNEATLANTICO - Santander, Spain
- Summer semester 2026
- E-commerce bachelors at Campus Chiemgau
- Lochana Atapattu, mudiyanselage.atapattu@stud.th-rosenheim.de



PREPERATION

The preparation process for my Erasmus exchange was surprisingly smooth and straightforward. Since I applied only a few days before the application deadline, I initially chose my host university by looking through the available Erasmus partner universities and their campuses online. Although I would not recommend applying at the last minute, my experience showed how efficiently the International Office at TH Rosenheim handled the entire process.

The International Office responded to my questions very quickly and processed all the required documents without delay. My faculty coordinator, Mr. Fleischmann, was also extremely supportive and always replied promptly, even while he was abroad. We used an online platform to complete and sign the Learning Agreement, which made the process simple and efficient. Whenever I needed to make changes, they were approved very quickly.



As part of the application, I also completed the required language assessment at TH Rosenheim. The examination and the issuance of the language certificate were both organized very efficiently, allowing me to complete all the necessary requirements in a short period of time.

Overall, the preparation was well organized, stress-free, and supported by excellent communication. Most of the important information was provided via email, making it easy to stay informed throughout the entire process.



Source: UNEATLANTICO website

ACCOMMODATION

I stayed at the UniAtlántico student residence during my exchange. Finding accommodation through the university was straightforward, and the apartments were generally clean. However, my overall experience with the residence was disappointing, mainly because of the high cost compared to the quality and level of comfort provided.

I shared a relatively small room with another student and paid €570 per month, which I found to be excessively expensive for a shared student room with limited privacy. In comparison, student residences in Germany, such as those at TH Rosenheim, are much more affordable. During my stay, I also learned that many students who rented private rooms or shared apartments in Santander paid almost half the price while enjoying better living conditions, greater privacy, and

more independence. This made the university residence feel particularly poor value for money.

In addition to the already high rent, several essential services required extra payment. Using the washing machine cost €4.50 per load, the dryer cost €5.00 per use, and access to the gym required an additional €22. Considering the monthly rent, I found these additional charges difficult to justify.

Another challenge was the strict curfew imposed by the residence. As international and Erasmus students, it was difficult to adapt to these rules, especially considering that social life in Spain often begins late in the evening. Even on days with extended opening hours, it was difficult to fully participate in social activities because residents still had to return relatively early. The residence administration was also very inflexible, making it difficult to discuss or resolve concerns.

The residence also imposed strict rules regarding package collection, as deliveries could only be collected during specific hours. Furthermore, students had to plan flights and other travel arrangements around the residence's opening and closing times. I also found the contract conditions to be very restrictive. Students who wished to move out before the end of the semester were still required to pay the full accommodation fee for the entire semester and could lose their security deposit, making it financially very difficult to change accommodation even if they were dissatisfied.

During the colder months, the heating did not work properly, and despite reporting the issue several times, my room remained cold. I also had to request repairs to the window on multiple occasions because cold air entered the room. Given the price of the accommodation, I expected these issues to be resolved much more efficiently.



Source: UNEATLANTICO website

I travelled from **Bilbao Airport** to the residence by taking two buses, with a total journey time of approximately **three hours**.

Based on conversations with university staff, I understood that similar complaints had been raised by previous students as well. Therefore, I would recommend that future Erasmus students consider renting a private room or shared apartment in Santander instead of staying in the university residence. Websites such as “Idealista” are commonly used by students in Spain to find accommodation and often provide more affordable, flexible, and comfortable housing options.

STUDY AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

As I do not yet have sufficient Spanish language skills to study courses taught in Spanish, I enrolled in the Business Administration modules that were offered in English. In addition, I took a Spanish language course, which helped me improve my language skills during the semester.

Overall, I had a very positive academic experience. The courses were well organized, interesting, and at an appropriate level of difficulty. I took modules including **Coaching, Entrepreneurship, Human Resources, Project Management,** and **Spanish Language**. The course content was practical and engaging, and I enjoyed all of the subjects.

The lecturers were one of the highlights of my exchange. They were approachable, supportive, and always willing to answer questions during or after



class. Their openness created a comfortable learning environment and encouraged active participation.

I also appreciated the university's attendance policy. Students were expected to attend classes regularly, with an attendance requirement of 80%. I found this to be a good balance, as it kept students engaged with the courses while still allowing enough flexibility for short trips or occasional illness without negatively affecting academic progress.

Beyond academics, the university regularly informed students about extracurricular activities through email. During my semester, I participated in a hip-hop dance workshop, which was a great opportunity to meet other students and experience campus life outside the classroom.

One aspect that could be improved is the support provided by the International Office. Although the staff members were always friendly and helpful when available, it was often difficult to reach them. On several occasions, the office was closed due to breaks or staff leave during its stated opening hours, making it challenging to receive assistance around my lecture schedule. Improving the availability and accessibility of the International Office would greatly benefit future international and Erasmus students.

Overall, I was very satisfied with the academic program and the quality of teaching at the host university. The supportive lecturers, engaging courses, and welcoming learning environment made this part of my exchange experience particularly enjoyable.



EVERYDAY LIFE AND LEISURE

On the first day, the university connected the students with the Erasmus Network in Santander. Unfortunately, I missed this introduction because I arrived late due to some personal difficulties. However, I highly recommend joining the Erasmus Network WhatsApp group as soon as possible. Through this group, you can stay updated about parties, events, trips, and other activities organised for Erasmus students. The group is also useful because students sometimes share information about accommodation and other practical matters. You can usually find the link to join the group through the Erasmus Network website, so make sure to check it out.

Apart from the Erasmus Network, the university itself does not organise a large number of social activities, but they do occasionally offer sports events and similar activities. If you are interested in sports, these can be a nice way to get involved and meet people.

During my stay, I also had the opportunity to travel to other Spanish cities such as Barcelona and Valencia, which were amazing experiences. Erasmus students can often benefit from travel discounts, including plane and bus ticket discounts provided through the Erasmus Students Network, so it is definitely worth checking those offers.

Regarding daily life in Santander, the weather was often windy and cloudy, but the summer period was beautiful. I experienced about a month of proper summer weather, and having the beach nearby made it even more enjoyable. In fact, I could not leave Santander without going into the sea, so I went swimming at the beach in February. Even though the water was cold and I did not have a neoprene suit, it was a memorable experience and definitely worth it.



The social life in Santander was also a great part of my Erasmus experience. We usually went out every week, and Thursdays were especially popular because many places offered free entry for students. Apart from nightlife, we spent a lot of time together having coffee, exploring the city, and simply enjoying everyday moments. Santander is a very charming city, and there are also opportunities to take surfing lessons, which is a great activity considering the coastal location.

Overall, I had a wonderful time in Santander, especially because of the friendships I made and the experiences I shared with others. Santander is a beautiful city, and the activities you choose to participate in can make your Erasmus experience even more memorable. The challenges I faced and things to avoid have been mentioned in the previous sections, but if you keep those points in mind, your Erasmus stay can become a very rewarding experience.

If you have any questions, I recommend asking previous Erasmus students or contacting the International Office, as they can provide helpful advice and clarification.

CONCLUSION

I would definitely recommend this program to other students. However, I would suggest doing some research beforehand, preparing in advance, and arranging your own housing to make the most of the experience.

What I liked the most about Santander was the beautiful coastline and the beaches. Having different beaches nearby, some feeling almost private and surrounded by nature, made the city very special. I loved the landscape, the charm of the city, and being able to enjoy the sea, especially during the summer when I could relax at the beach and sunbathe.

