

Erasmus+ Field report on studying abroad

Details on studying abroad

Partner University, country: University of Jaen, Spain

Period (winter semester / summer semester, year): Winter 25-26 and Summer 26 (1 Year)

Faculty and study program at TH Rosenheim: Prof.Dr. Martin Reuter - Master's in engineering science (Mechatronics)

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Planning, Organization and Application

When applying for Erasmus, I would recommend first checking which universities offer courses related to your study programme. I had the option of choosing between France and Spain, and I chose Spain because of its culture, social life, good study opportunities, and reputation as a great destination for students. When I received the confirmation that I was selected for Erasmus at the University of Jaén, I was very happy and excited. I started preparing everything for my stay and packed two 24 kg bags and a smaller bag, which was enough for my stay. I also recommend taking some nice clothes for going out, as Spain has a very active social and party culture. It is also useful to bring basic medicines and personal essentials with you.



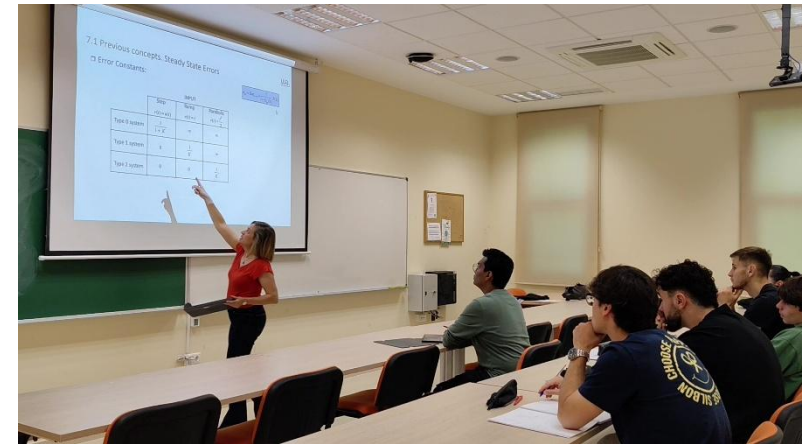
Accommodation and Living in Jaén

I lived in Jaén, a small and peaceful city where the University of Jaén is located. I initially planned to stay for one semester but enjoyed my experience so much that I extended my Erasmus programme to one year. After receiving my acceptance, the university provided me with a local buddy through the Buddy Programme. My buddy helped me find accommodation and added me to a WhatsApp group for Erasmus students, which was very useful for meeting people and getting information. I paid around €300 per month including utilities for my accommodation, which was close to the university. I usually walked to university and used the bus to go to the city centre or visit friends. I strongly recommend getting the student/Erasmus bus card, as it made each journey much cheaper. For travelling from the airport to Jaén, I found the ALSA bus more convenient than the train because there are stops where you can take a break, eat, or use the bathroom.



Studying at the Host University

The University of Jaén offered a large variety of courses in different fields such as engineering, business, chemistry, and food sciences. I had more than 50 courses to choose from, but one challenge was that around 70% of them were taught in Spanish. After filtering the English-taught courses, I selected three subjects related to my Mechatronics studies, including statistics. I also took a Spanish language course and a non-academic course related to food and safety. One of the best things about studying at the University of Jaén was the support from the professors and university staff. They were very helpful and supportive whenever I had a problem or needed guidance. I also participated in a hackathon during my stay. The professors supported me by providing equipment such as a Raspberry Pi, Arduino, and other necessary components, which helped me successfully complete my project. I am very thankful to the professors for their support and for giving me the opportunity to participate. Another special experience was being invited to the university's podcast channel. I participated in a podcast where I talked about my experiences studying and living in Germany and Spain. The complete video is available on YouTube, and it was a great opportunity to share my experience with other students.



Everyday Life and Leisure

One of my favourite parts of Erasmus was the variety of activities available at the university. The gym was free for my programme, and there were also large discounts on activities such as trekking, kayaking, paddling, and waterfall activities. There were also travel agencies organizing regular trips around Spain and to other countries. During my Erasmus, I travelled to Morocco and Portugal and visited many beautiful places in Spain. I also visited a famous bridge used in *Game of Thrones* and explored impressive cathedrals and historical places. One of the most unique experiences I had in Spain was watching a real-life traditional bullfight. It was something completely different from anything I had experienced before and gave me an opportunity to see an important part of Spanish culture firsthand. Another thing I really enjoyed was meeting people from all over the world. Erasmus gave me the opportunity to make friends from many different countries and cultures. I also got to try traditional foods from different countries, which was a fun way to learn about my friends' cultures. Sharing food, travelling together, and spending time with people from different backgrounds became some of my favourite memories from Erasmus. These activities, trips, and friendships made my Erasmus experience much more than just studying abroad.



Conclusion

I would strongly recommend the Erasmus programme at the University of Jaén to other students. I enjoyed my experience so much that I extended my stay from one semester to one year. The people were very friendly, the professors were supportive, the university offered many interesting activities, and there were plenty of opportunities to travel and meet students from different countries. The only challenge I would mention is the language barrier, as many local people do not speak English very well. Therefore, I strongly recommend learning some basic Spanish before coming. Overall, Erasmus in Jaén gave me the opportunity to study, participate in technical projects, travel, make friends from all over the world, experience different cultures and foods, and become more independent. I was able to tick many things off my bucket list—from travelling to Morocco and Portugal to watching a real bullfight, participating in a hackathon, and even sharing my experience through the university's podcast.



If you are thinking about going on Erasmus, I would say: go for it, you won't regret it! Participate in as many activities as possible, travel, meet new people, try their food, learn about their cultures, and enjoy every moment!