

ERASMUS EXPERIENCE REPORT SoSe23 Zaragoza

As a master's student in the European Masters in Renewable Energy program at the University of Oldenburg, I had the opportunity to participate in an exchange program at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. This report aims to overview my experience, focusing on various aspects.

The application process for the exchange program was straightforward, and upon acceptance, I meticulously planned and organized my exchange semester. I created a timeline to ensure I started my semester well-prepared. I also dedicated time to familiarize myself with the host institution's curriculum and academic requirements. Additionally, I learned some very basic Spanish language skills, as having some knowledge of the language proved beneficial during my time in Spain.

To reach Zaragoza, I chose a sustainable mode of transportation by taking a bus from Oldenburg to Barcelona, with two changes at Amsterdam and Paris. Although the journey lasted approximately 40 hours, this choice significantly reduced CO2 emissions compared to air travel. From Barcelona, I continued my journey to Zaragoza by train. Despite the long travel time, I found it to be a worthwhile experience as I witnessed the diverse landscapes and cultures along the way.

I booked **accommodation** near the city centre of Zaragoza, which allowed me to easily access various amenities and immerse myself in the local culture. I shared an apartment with a fellow classmate and a Zaragozaian resident who worked as a school teacher. Their support and guidance helped me settle into the new environment smoothly. The apartment was well-equipped and provided a comfortable living space during my exchange period. My accommodation was within a reasonable distance from the university, requiring a 15-20 minute tram ride. This arrangement gave me the convenience and flexibility to balance my academic responsibilities and explore the city during my free time.

My experience **studying** at the University of Zaragoza was great. Renewable Energy Grid Integration courses provided me with valuable knowledge and insights. The excursions organized by the university provided practical insights into renewable energy systems and energy market operations. However, I would recommend prospective students acquire some Spanish proficiency before arriving, as it greatly enhances the learning experience and facilitates interaction with local students and faculty.

Spain is a vibrant country with a rich history and culture. The lively atmosphere and easy-going nature of the people fostered a welcoming environment for international students. I had the opportunity to socialize and form lasting friendships with students from Spain and various other countries who were my classmates in the course, fostering a global network in the renewable energy sector. Exploring Zaragoza and its surroundings during my leisure time allowed me to immerse myself in Spanish traditions, cuisine, and historical landmarks. It was a truly enriching experience that broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the country.

In Conclusion, my exchange experience at the University of Zaragoza was incredible. I gained valuable knowledge in my specialized field of study and learned about Spanish history, culture, and their approach to renewable energy. I am grateful to both the University of Oldenburg and the University of Zaragoza for this wonderful opportunity. I highly recommend the exchange program at the University of Zaragoza to other students. Prior knowledge of the Spanish language will greatly enhance the experience. It is essential to plan and organize the semester well in advance to maximize the benefits of the exchange program. Embrace the lively Spanish culture, engage with the local community, and make the most of your time abroad.

Thank you and Warm Regards.

