

Experience Report – University of Zaragoza, Spain

As part of the EUREC European Master in Renewable Energy programme, I spent my second semester at the University of Zaragoza in Spain. Overall, this mobility period was a very valuable academic and personal experience that allowed me to study in an international environment and work with students from different cultural and educational backgrounds.

Preparation and Arrival

The academic semester at the University of Zaragoza started on 19 January 2026. However, I was still completing obligations from my first semester in Germany and arrived in Spain on 6 February 2026. I attended my first class on 9 February 2026. Before arriving in Spain, I had already coordinated with two friends from the first semester in Germany, one from India and one from Spain. We agreed to live together and started searching for accommodation while we were still in Oldenburg.

Accommodation and Daily Life

Finding accommodation was relatively manageable thanks to the support of my friends. Living costs in Zaragoza were slightly lower than in Germany. Adapting to daily life in Spain was made significantly easier because one of my flatmates was Spanish and had also studied with me during the first semester in Germany. He helped us with administrative procedures, local services, accommodation-related matters, and many practical aspects of daily life. This support reduced many of the challenges typically associated with moving to a new country and allowed me to focus more effectively on my studies.

Academic Experience

The courses were highly relevant to renewable energy and power systems. One challenge I would like to highlight concerns the overlap between the academic calendars of the sending and receiving institutions. Since the semester in Zaragoza had already started before I arrived, I had to catch up with a considerable amount of coursework while simultaneously completing assignments from the first semester in Germany. During the first month, the workload was particularly demanding. My typical routine involved attending classes in the afternoon and working on assignments during the evenings.

In addition, lectures that took place before my arrival were generally not recorded. As a result, students arriving later due to programme scheduling had to catch up independently by studying lecture materials and relying on notes from classmates. Providing recorded lectures or alternative learning resources during overlapping periods could significantly improve the transition experience for future mobility students.

Because of the heavy workload from the beginning until approximately the middle of the semester, I had very limited opportunities to look for part-time work or participate in additional extracurricular activities. Most of my time was dedicated to attending classes, completing assignments, and independently reviewing missed course materials.

Fortunately, after the first few weeks, the workload became more manageable, and I was able to fully adapt to the academic environment. From that point onward, my studies progressed smoothly, and I could focus more effectively on learning and participating in class activities.

Conclusion

Despite the initial challenges caused by the overlap between the academic calendars, my mobility experience at the University of Zaragoza was extremely positive. I gained valuable academic knowledge, improved my intercultural communication skills, and developed greater independence and adaptability. Studying in Spain provided not only a different educational perspective but also an opportunity to experience another culture and build friendships with students from many countries.

Sincerely,

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