

Experience Report Study Abroad Stay

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- **Preparation (planning, organisation, and application to the host institution)**

As I applied for the EMRE master with core university in Oldenburg, I had to select two universities to do my specialization semester (Second semester). Those universities were the University of Perpignan – Domitian, France which was my first election, and the second selected university was the NTUA (National Technical University of Athens), in Athens. I was lucky enough to get my first preference and choose Solar Thermal & Associated Renewable Storage Specialization (STARS) as my specialization. We had our lectures and practical labs mostly at Heliodysee-Grand Four Solaire of Odeillo. I choose this because of my mechanical background, experience in thermal part and the condition, I had to do an exchange semester during my master studies.

- **Travel and arrival**

Traveling from Oldenburg to France was very easy (apart from few difficulties due to Covid), with the Semesterticket it is possible to go to the airport of Bremen from Oldenburg for free. After that we can take the flight and its end point was Toulouse airport following with a bus journey (ticket cost around 2-3 euros) to Odeillo. Finally, depending on where the accommodation is one can move forward.

- **Accommodation**

There are nice accommodations in Odeillo, the city is in general very beautiful and has very friendly people. I would suggest is to find the accommodation close to Heliodysee-Grand Four Solaire of Odeillo, so that supermarket and other facilities are available close by. In addition, there are various groups for finding the accommodations in Odeillo for instance Air bnb could be a possibility.

- **Studying at the host university (courses, academic performance / credits, support, credit transfer)**

Despite of the exceptional situation, I was blessed to have a face-to-face lecture during the specialisation the lecture and labs was from Monday to Friday. The professors and the institution have provided us a vivacious environment throughout the course. The library

was possible to access without any problems, the lectures were always available when we had any question. The way of studying was arranged in a way that we had the possibility to enjoy study abroad and to do the study in an effective way. The industrial visits and labs at University of Perpignan were some my best memories during those periods, also the restaurant food at the institution was very tasty. The credits awarded were 30, as specified for EMRE program, the credit transfer was lucid, understandable, and supported by our coordinator.



Figure 1. Themis solar plant



Figure 2. The Pic du Midi Astronomical Observatory

- **Everyday life and leisure time**

As mentioned before lecture period was from Monday to Friday. Additionally, we had a ski class followed by skiing on the first weekend which was very interesting and there are

possibilities to engage in many sports activities like hiking, climbing, camping and so on. Some of the main tourist attractions are Estany de les Bouillouses, Boiquere - La Tet and so on. The night life is also very active at Font Romeu.

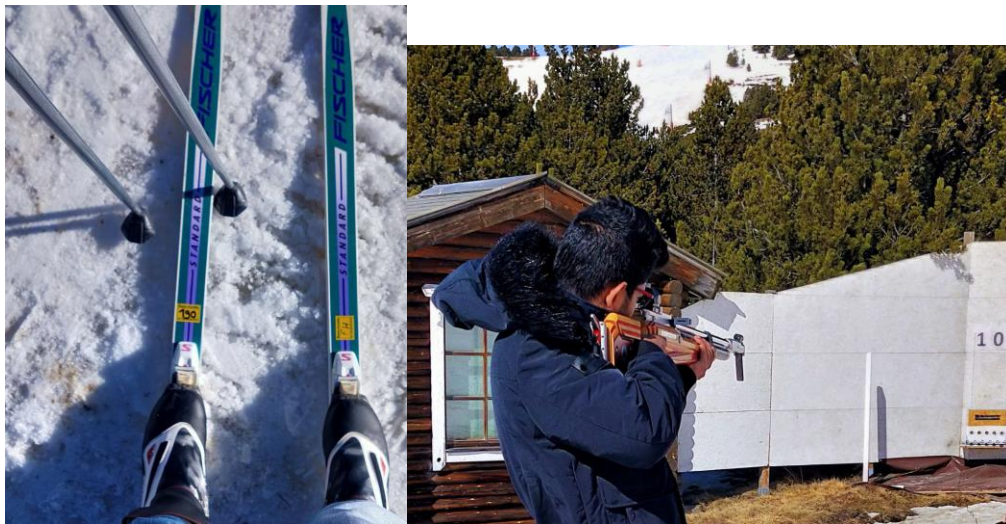


Figure 3. Leisure activities

- **General experience, conclusion**

I found Font Romeu, Odeillo a very attractive, natural friendly, good weather, tasty food, and a place with a friendly people although there are lots of hills that one can climb during these periods.

