

# Study Abroad in Spain

I'm studying European Master in Renewable Energy at University of Oldenburg in Germany, which is an interuniversity master program organized by the Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centers (EUREC). It consists of three semesters, Core Module, Specialization Abroad and Final Project. According to the program regulation, it's mandatory that I study abroad outside Germany for the Specialization Semester. From 7 February to 10 June 2022, I studied Specialization in Grid Integration of Renewable Energy at University of Zaragoza in Spain. In the end, I completed all professional courses successfully.

The time when studying abroad in Spain went so fast, I still remember the first arrival day in Zaragoza. Looking back the whole process from application to finding accommodation, then from specialization study to daily life adaption, it was challenging but exciting.

In terms of application procedure, I already know I will be allocated by EUREC to study Grid Integration at University of Zaragoza for second semester based on my preference and availability since the beginning of the master program. Therefore, the application procedure wasn't that complicated for me. The most important thing that I had to handle was to fill in the learning agreement and have it signed by three parties (sending university, host university and me). I started to find a suitable accommodation one month before the first arrival day that I planned. Even though I also had to manage all exams of first semester at that time, in the end I found a cost-effective shared flat by asking friends and alumni for suggestions. I strongly recommend to actively contact with them for the room searching tools and tips. I suggest to book the transportation tickets as early as possible once your departure plan is settled.

I arrived at Zaragoza the second day after I finished the last exam for the first semester. I was living in an Airbnb during the first week because the room that I rented was available starting from the second week. I got a lot of advice from the landlord of Airbnb, for instance which supermarket has the cheaper and better foods. I met up one of my classmates at the first night in Zaragoza, we've been keeping touch with each other online before even though we were not in the same university in the first semester. It lets me not feel alone in Zaragoza.

After settled down, I started to enjoy the academic study and Spanish daily life. According to the schedule, we have to finish 6 professional subjects within 4 months. It was a bit compact, but planed well by our director. Therefore, I didn't feel too stressed or overwhelmed by heavy study duties. The most point I like about this abroad study is that each subject was taught by competent teachers who are from their confident fields. In addition, teachers are not only from academic universities but also industrial companis. Thus, it was great that I had sufficient opportunities to obtain expertise from academic, industrial, economic fields. In order to enhance our presentation skills and get prepared for the future thesis defense, one of the essential criteria for each exam is oral presentation or report and paper. I can clearly feel that my presentation skills and English proficiency have been improved because of quantitative practices.

Besides from professional study, I was also amazed by the diverse Spanish culture and incredible Spanish nature environment. It's totally different from the one from my home country China and Germany where I studied in the first semester. My classmates and I went hiking several times. The view was just amazing. And the city of Zaragoza is suitable to live because of median living cost, convenient transportation, rich historic culture and nice weathers (even though it's windy). Furthermore, it was so much fun to study and hang out with our classmates.

I hope every future Erasmus student can enjoy their daily life while learning adequate professional knowledge during abroad semester. Below is the picture that I took when friends and I were hiking at Parque Natural Sierra de Cebollera.

