

My experience in the University of Zaragoza from February 2017 to June 2017, more specifically the centre of research called CIRCE, started at the beginning of October 2017 in Oldenburg, where I started my MSc Renewable Energy. My case is a little bit different from the vast majority of students in Oldenburg as I myself was new to Oldenburg during the winter semester. I originally come from Barcelona, and I decided to move to Oldenburg for my master studies as part of a Renewable Energy Master which includes several European universities on which to course the core semester (winter) and the spring semester (specialisation). As my core, as I have already said, I decided Oldenburg, while for my specialisation on Renewable Energy Facilities and Grid Integration, the only option was the University of Zaragoza.

To be honest, once in Oldenburg, the planning and organisation to Zaragoza was pretty much already organised by the Master Programme already. The Coordinator of the MSc in Oldenburg sent himself my application to Zaragoza, where I was quickly accepted. Once accepted, the University of Zaragoza send me an e-mail about 2 months before the beginning of my mobility. On that e-mail, the Coordinator in Zaragoza sent us all the necessary information to be accounted with. Again, my case is special as I am Spanish and hence, complex issues such as the Health Insurance or Residence Permit were not part of my journey to Zaragoza as I already got everything settled. Therefore, as a Spanish doing a mobility semester to Spain, I only had to sign online at the Zaragoza University following the clear procedure received on this first and only e-mail. And of course, not to forget the filling in of the Learning Agreement by both the sending and receiving institutions. By the way, in case of doubts, the contact in Zaragoza replied clearly and quickly.

My plane trip to Zaragoza consisted on a ticket from Hamburg to Barcelona. After staying a couple of days back in my home city, I took the AVE train (RENFE company) from Barcelona to Zaragoza, which lasted approximately 1h50min. The arrival at the Delicias Estación was only 20mins away by foot to my shared flat. The accomodation was pretty use to find for me as I speak Spanish. I have to say that in Zaragoza, in general, English is not well spoken so looking for a shared flat might be a bit of trouble if you do not have some basic knowledge on Spanish. Anyways, I found my shared flat in the Facebook page calle "Pisos de Estudiantes en Zaragoza". There is almost one Facebook page for any big city in Europe. I strongly recommend this Facebook page to look for student flats. I ended up living on this flat with a lady and her daughter. And a dog!

The courses in Zaragoza were amazing. The Renewable Energy Facilities and Grid Integration MSc taught by CIRCE in Campus Rio Ebro is very well organized and personalised. We were only 19 students in class, always the same ones as we all came from the same study programme. The studies were divided into 6 modules, each one consisting of different subjects. After each module, we had an exam and a presentation. There were always different teachers coming in for the lectures, which was really good as we got to meet different people from different industries and we all had the chance to expand our network of contacts. For each module, we got the power points uploaded in the intranet. We were also given a paper book for each module. The support from the Master organizers was amazing, very warm and always willing to help.

The weekday life in Zaragoza is pretty chill, but on Thursdays the city is absolutely crowded! It is the "Juepincho" day in the neighbourhood of La

Madalena, which means pinchos (typical Spanish snack with food on top of a piece of bread) on a Thursday. It consisted of 2€ a pincho plus a drink: wine, beer or water. The city is very lively on Thursday and especially at the student area in Campus San Francisco. I personally enjoyed the most the Madalena area as it is more alternative. There is a bar called EL ZORRO, which frequently does live concerts at around 5€ or for free.

In terms of hiking, you have to drive approximately 40km until something is found. Zaragoza is placed on a valley at the Ebro River. It is a super windy city and quite desertic, so you have to drive a little bit north (province of Huesca) to find the pre-Pyrenees or Pyrenees. There are plenty of natural swimming pools, also in the South of Zaragoza, in the province of Teruel.

I hope you enjoy your stay 😊

Salut!