

Student Experience Report

Preparation (planning, organisation, and application at the host institution)

I came to the University of Oldenburg as EMRE (European masters in renewable energy) student and it was mandatory for us to travel to a different country, which deepened on the choice of the specialization we wanted to do. We had the option of Spain, France, Netherland, England (UK) and Greece. I decided to do my specialization in Renewable energy grid integration which was offered by the University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain. As it was a part of my curriculum the application process was fairly easy. Beside the specialization one of the biggest motivation for was that we had the opportunity of experience a whole new county and culture which is great experience if you ask me. I really enjoyed every minute of it. Even though our class in Oldenburg was very diverse and multicultural, Zaragoza didn't disappoint me either.

Travel and arrival

As you will be informed in prior about the start date of the exchange semester, try to book the travel tickets as early as possible to get an economical price. I took a flight from Hamburg to Zaragoza which had a stop in between in Mallorca, Spain. But you will also find direct flights to Barcelona and Madrid from Bremen. Make sure you pack your things in advance and pat attention to the language allowance. If you traveling to Zaragoza airport you will find a direct bus to the central bus/ train station from there you will find buses reaching every corner of the city. And of you are traveling to Madrid or Barcelona you will find direct buses from there to Zaragoza. There are many bus service provider you can choose from. Make plans depending where you will be staying.

Accommodation

Compared to Oldenburg finding an accommodation in Zaragoza was easy. I took an Airbnb for two days and found a room in the second day. Also, like Uni Oldenburg, Uni Zaragoza has two different campuses but far apart. So before you take your accommodation make sure which campus you have to attend. There are a few Erasmus Zaragoza groups in Facebook you can join where you can find accommodation and other helpful information like used bicycles and stuff. Also The University of Zaragoza has an accommodation tool that you can check at: <https://alojamiento.unizar.es/alojamientos>. Additionally, there are also some advertisements in the university notice boards offering flats for rent near the campus that could be checked personally at arrival.

Also do check: www.idealista.com, www.enalquiler.com and www.pisos.com

A few popular locations among students are- Plaza del Pilar-Walls, César Augusto, Plaza de España, Plaza Aragón and Gran Vía.

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

I had a great experience studying at the University of Zaragoza, the staffs are very friendly, helpful and always greeted with a smile. The course was very well structured and lecturers were from different industries, who decided to give us their valuable time and informed us all the real-time difficulties they face in renewable energy. As for me it was a part of the curriculum the credit transfer was not a problem. The university has a well accessible cafeteria, library, computer labs, study area and some green area to take some sun in.

If you are planning to learn Spanish or improve the university also provides Spanish classes and gives a discount to Erasmus students. The course is for one month and called intensive Spanish course.

During the mobility besides academic knowledge, I learned a lot about different cultures, which helped me in developing a better personality and ability to work in a multicultural environment.

Everyday life and leisure time

Like every other Spanish city the city of Zaragoza is famous for their siesta and fiesta so you will never run out of things to do. The city of Zaragoza is a very friendly student city and you get to meet people from all around the world. Also the city has beautiful parks for afternoon picnic near the river bay of Rıo de Ebro or at Park de Grand. And it's always a good time to explore the city's architecture and beauty by foot, cycling and E-bike ride. If you just want to hang out with your friends and have a good time check out the restaurants, shops and bars near Plaza de España. Also Zaragoza is a very windy place and sometimes gets a little too windy other than that the weather is pretty much sunny with a beautiful blue sky. Zaragoza also has a lot of public football fields, basketball courts and parks for running if you are a sports person. Zaragoza hosts a variety of cultural festivals which are worth attending. Plaza of Our Lady of the Pillar and Basılica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar are few must visit places. And if you like partying/clubbing Zaragoza will not disappoint you either.

For everyday transportation Zaragoza is well connected with busses, tram and also well-structured cycle lane. I will suggest you to buy a five euro tram card which comes with two or three euro balance and you can recharge it at any tram stop and tobacco shops (they also sell the cards). Also there many rental bike and e-bike company operates in Zaragoza so transport will not be a problem.

If you like to explore the country Zaragoza is in the middle of Madrid and Barcelona both around 3.30hr bus ride from Zaragoza (Bilbao too).

*Also don't forget to register yourself with the city, the University should provide you the information during enrolment.

*In Zaragoza it is not allowed riding cycle or E-bike when in the influence of alcohol (i.e. Drunk) and punishable with a fine of 250 euros (not a personal experience). So take a walk, tram, bus or taxi back home.

City



Uni

