

Grażyna

Medicine, IV year, academic year 21/22



Universidad de Malaga, Spain

E+: General information about the Host University, the organization of the academic year, the offer for students coming under the Erasmus+ Program and is it possible to "receive" Buddy?

G: Detailed information on the organization of the academic year is provided by the University in its fact sheet <https://accordi.unistrapg.it/datasheets/datasheet-istituzione-573.pdf> (fact sheet applicable in the academic year 2022/23). The winter semester began on September 17, during the first month there were lectures - scheduled for the whole year, the rest of the semester consisted of seminars that take place in groups (about 20 people) and internships attended in one-person, sometimes two-person sections. The schedule of lectures is publicly available, the schedule of seminars and internships sometimes appears only after the end of the lecture month on campus virtual, where you can also find information to which group you have been assigned. On February 14, the summer semester began, the organization of which was analogous to the winter semester - lectures were held for the first month, followed by seminars and internships. Exams are scheduled for the session, but optatives take place during the lecture month (in practice, there are less classes than what is shown on the general schedule, so don't be guided by it too much). Optativas exams are often held during the year, and many "obligatorias" subjects have early dates, so it may happen that there are no exams in a session. What is the offer for Erasmus students? Generally, students can enroll in all subjects that take place at the faculty. For the most part, this is not a problem, but there are items with a very limited number of places, then first come first served. In addition, the university organizes trips, which are often free, but it is difficult to sign up for them, because there are fewer places than people wanting to. There is also the option of getting a Buddy.



E+: Language in which classes were conducted?

G: Lectures and seminars are in Spanish, internships in the hospital often take place so that one student is assigned one doctor, sometimes two students are assigned one doctor. From my experience, I can say that I have only once met a doctor who did not speak English at all. In general, the assumption is that during the practice doctors speak Spanish, but if you prefer English, you will be able to switch to English for the most part.

E+: In the case of classes conducted in the national language, was it possible to take exams in English?

G: At UMA, there are subjects called "optatives" and "obligatories". When it comes to optatives - very often the lecturers go hand in hand and you can carry out tasks/presentations in English. I also passed an oral exam in English from one optative. This is not one rule. It all depends on the subject and the teacher. In general, I recommend speaking even poor Spanish rather than good English, because in practice it simply impresses them that you are trying and they may judge you more favorably. As for the obligatory subjects - I haven't heard of anyone successfully negotiating an exam in English.



E+: During the application process, did the University ask for a language certificate confirming the knowledge of the language of instruction? If so, what level was required?

G: Nothing like that was required

E+: Curriculum (were there major curricular differences? Did the syllabus more or less overlap with that in SUM? Was it difficult to match the subjects and create a Learning Agreement?):

G: I went to study in Malaga for the summer semester for the 4th year and then for the whole 5th year. I must say that fitting subjects for one semester was very difficult, but for the whole year - quite easy. When going for one semester, there is a problem that you can only choose subjects that start and end in that semester. I started dealing with the documents for the summer semester of the 4th year after the recruitment results were announced (April, I think?), And I managed to finish it and get signatures only in December - it seems to me that a Christmas miracle happened. I left in February. I advise you to go for the whole year, because with a semester-long trip you can encounter many more organizational difficulties. Nevertheless, do not give up mobility even for only one semester, before you are sure that it is impossible to organize a trip at all. Consider this advice not only for a trip to Malaga..

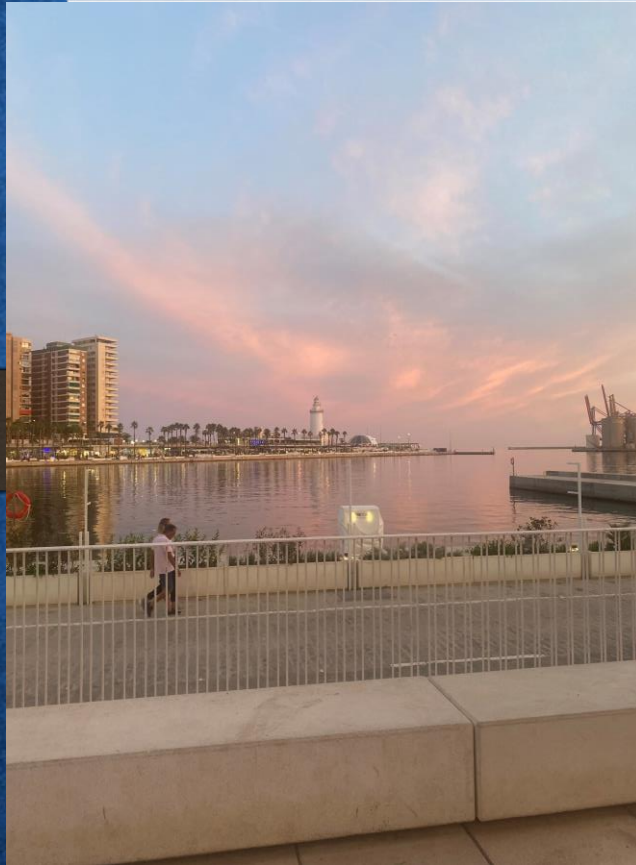


E+: Accommodation (does the Host University have dormitories? If so, how far were they from the places where the classes were conducted? Was it difficult to get a place in the dorm?):

G: I think he has dormitories that are located close to the university - that is in Teatinos, which is about 20/30 minutes by bus from the center, and it is in the center that the best location to live is located - around Centro Historico. Most Erasmus students lived downtown, I don't know anyone who lived in a dormitory. Finding an apartment for rent is very difficult, I advise you to look for more rooms for rent. In general, in Spain, landlords cannot evict a tenant who is unemployed, so in order to rent an apartment you need to prove their solvency, which is impossible without a permanent job in Spain. Of course, renting an apartment is not impossible, I managed, but it is rather a matter of luck and most students rent rooms. Regardless of whether you are looking for a room or an apartment, watch out for scammers, because there are a lot of them. Do not send money without first viewing the apartment/room via video call. You can search on idealista, if you don't want to pay commission, it's also worth checking groups on Facebook. On average, you pay 200-400 euros for a room per month.



Spain



E+: How was public transport like?

G: One bus ride costs EUR 0.55. You buy a card with 10 trips, which you can later top up (card - ~2.00 EUR). If you travel more by bus, it may be more profitable to use the "tarjeta joven", which currently costs EUR 17.00. You can also get around by metro and train, but city buses were enough for me every day.



E+: Food (was there a canteen for students? Discounts on meals?):



G: In the building of the Facultad de Medicina in Teatinos there is a canteen where you can eat relatively cheaply - about EUR 4.00 per meal. For eating out in Malaga - this is really a bargain price. The one in the tourism department is considered to be the best canteen.

E+: Difficulties encountered and tips on how to deal with them:

G: In general, when organizing a trip, you will encounter various difficulties - from the issue of the required documents, through finding accommodation and language difficulties, to documentation ending your mobility. How to cope? In short - the ground is not to give up. Discuss your situation with the Dean, contact the Department if necessary, fight for the necessary consents and signatures. It is best to start looking for an apartment earlier, make an appointment with the landlord for a video call, to know that the apartment exists. Ask the person to whom you are sending money to take a photo of the ID (by the way, check if the photo on it corresponds to the person you are talking to). As for the language - it's worth spending some time, even if you know Spanish very well, to get used to the Andalusian accent (e.g. via the radio, YouTubers from Andalusia or native speakers from those parts from the prepoly).





E+: Useful information/contacts to help organize mobility?

G: *In order to organize mobility (after contacting the Erasmus+ Office, which will provide all the necessary information and document templates - after qualifying), you need to contact the person from the Dean's Office responsible for the given year of study, the Faculty Coordinator and the Dean who will sign the documents. Basically, you need a "Learning Agreement" - signed by the outgoing Student, the Coordinator of our University and the Host University and "Confirmation of Credits Recognition", signed by the Dean, the Student and the Faculty Erasmus+ Program Coordinator. It is best to first arrange PUZ and get signatures under it, and only then deal with LA. You compose PUZ on the basis of the list of subjects implemented in the year in which you are doing mobility, which you will receive at the Dean's Office. As for the organization - I do not recommend leaving signing until the last minute - if you are leaving in September, the "last minute" falls on the holiday period, which means that people whose signatures are required on documents may be on leave and return only after the deadline submission of documents.*

E+: Attractions in the area worth seeing :

G: *There are countless places worth seeing in the Málaga area. Starting from the closer surroundings:*

- *Tourist towns - Torremolinos, Benalmadena, Nerja, Fuengirola*
- *Beaches - my favorite is Playa peñon del Cuervo, Pedregalejo is also nice, it's also worth a drive to Playa Bologna*
 - *Caminito del Rey ♡*
- *Other Andalusian cities - Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada, Marbella, Cadiz, Ronda*
 - *Gibraltar*
- *There are currently cheap flights within Europe, although it is worth paying attention to flights to Morocco, you can also get there by ferry. Both options are quite cheap from Malaga. I could write and write here, but I think it's better to see the tours available with ESN Malaga and MSE (Malaga South Experience). This will shed a better light on Erasmus travel opportunities in Malaga.*



E+: Overall mobility experience and advantages of participating in the Erasmus+ Programme:

G: *It's cool. Don't hesitate!!!*



Spain

