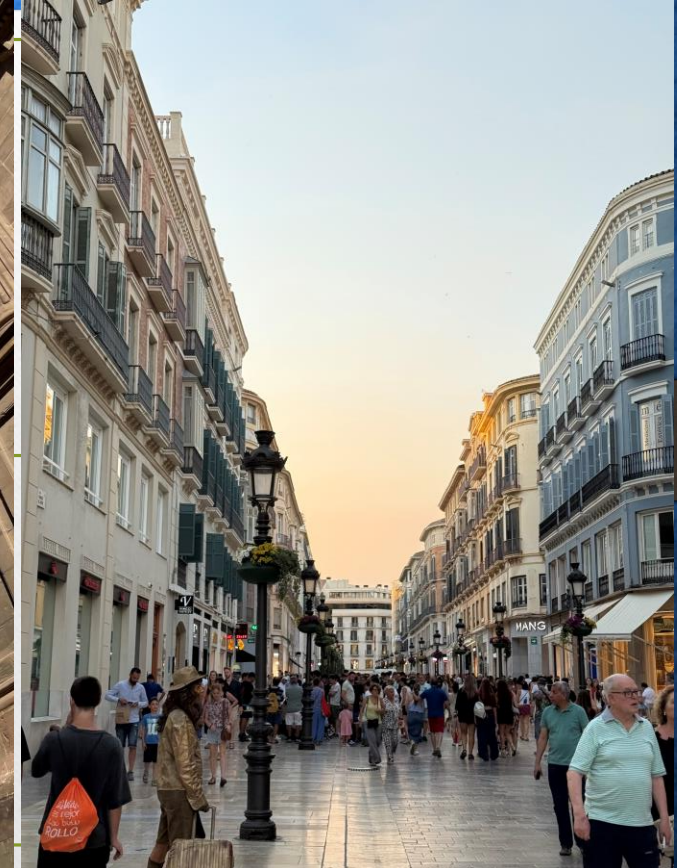


Julia

Medicine, III year, academic year 2024/2025



Universidad de Málaga, 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?

J: The Faculty of Medicine is located on one of the two main campuses - Teatinos. The academic year begins in September and ends in June. One problem may be that most courses there last one semester, which sometimes makes it impossible to come for only half a year, as well as the fact that they are only in Spanish. They also do not have courses with fewer than 3 ECTS credits, which makes it difficult to pass our Polish faculties there. As Erasmus students, apart from one (not doubled) Polish surnames, we did not stand out in the group (well, maybe our complexion and eye colour), because we studied together with Spanish students in a group, i.e. there are no separate groups for Erasmus students. Nevertheless, the University is super friendly, I met great people and I want to go back there in my fifth year. 😊

The Buddy programme was available there, but I didn't use it. As for their Erasmus Office, I didn't have much to do with them, but our Erasmus Office SUM in Katowice is super helpful and always helped us with everything, so don't hesitate to ask questions and ask for help!



E+: Language in which classes were conducted?

J: Spanish. Pharmacology and anaesthesiology were certainly available in English.



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

J: No. Exams are taken under the same rules for Erasmus students as for locals. The only difference was that we were allowed to have paper dictionaries during the exam. Most professors didn't care whether we understood everything. Only during the microbiology exam the lecturer came over to make sure that everything was clear to us.

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?):

J: The scope of material covered in the courses was similar to ours. Most courses there last one semester, so, for example, Paediatrics, Surgery and Internal Medicine (which at SUM begin in the 3rd year and ending in the 5th) lasted one semester there - Paediatrics in the 2nd semester of the 5th year, Surgery in the 2nd semester of the 3rd year, Internal Medicine (two semesters here, but in different years) in the 2nd semester of the 4th year and the 1st semester of the 5th year, but divided into Medical Pathology 1 and 2. So, if we leave in the 3rd or 4th year in Poland, we will continue to study these courses after our return, and there we have to pass an exam to pass them (unless the Dean agrees to pass them only on the basis of a 'Certificate of Attendance' - a matter of individual agreement with the Dean).

Some courses do not match in terms of ECTS points, but this can usually be agreed upon, as the differences are not significant (except for pharmacology). It seems impossible to take electives there that are worth 1 ECTS here, because there, courses start at 3 ECTS and more. Among the third-year courses, there is no course called 'Laboratory Diagnostics', or at least we did not find it and took it in Poland.

There were very few places available for the course 'Bases Quirurgicas' (for Erasmus students) and some people were unable to enrol, so when enrolling for courses, it is worth taking this into account and choosing that course first. Our friend did not manage to enrol and ended up taking surgery with physiotherapy (in Malaga), so sometimes it is worth looking for such solutions.

*If something cannot be done there, it does not mean that it is impossible to do it in Poland.
It is easy to match courses at medical school, the same applies to LA.
Sometimes you just need to search under a different name, such as:
General Pathology (SUM) -> Pathological Anatomy (UMA)
Internal Medicine (SUM) -> Medical Pathology 1 and 2 (UMA)*



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?

J: No, but without any knowledge of Spanish it can be problematic, at least at the beginning. In class, we were in groups with Spaniards, as if they had simply added someone to our group for a year and didn't really care whether we understood or not. Spaniards themselves, even those our age, don't speak English very well on average, and the same goes for shops, restaurants, etc.



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?):

J: There were student dormitories near the Teatinos campus, but we rented a flat together with our friends. You just have to be careful about scammers when it comes to paying deposits, etc. It is worth asking for a video call before making a final decision about renting. There are many offers, especially for students, who often rent a room, not necessarily an entire flat. It is worth looking on Facebook groups and on the idealista website.

The average cost of living there is €400-500 per person per month. For studio flats, you have to count on €700+. We paid €1,300 per month + €150 per month for electricity and water for a 3-person flat 20 minutes' walk from Teatinos. We also paid a deposit of 2x the monthly rent, so this is perfectly normal there.

However, if we had to choose the location of the flat again, it would be best to look for something closer to the Centre, or in the very Centre, and preferably close to the metro, because you can get everywhere with it.





Universidad de Málaga, Hiszpania

E+: How was public transport like?

J: Very good, widely available, but practically unnecessary when living in the city Centre, as everything is within walking distance. I recommend getting a card at 'Tabacos', preferably a green one, because it covers buses and the metro. The cost of obtaining it is ~ €5.00. You can top it up with any amount and use it when boarding a bus/metro. One bus ride with a card costs €0.52, without a card €1.40. One metro ride with the card costs ~ €0.30, without the card ~ €1.35. There are also other cards - blue (only valid on buses), monthly for students (~ €13 I think it cost and is valid for unlimited travel on buses for a month) and red, which is probably only for the metro. The green card works for everything and we used it the most. Bus operation - they ONLY stop if someone waves at the bus stop to signal that they want to get on, or if someone presses STOP on the bus (every stop there is on demand). You can ONLY enter through the front door, immediately tapping your card or phone (with a payment card) or paying cash to the driver (max. €5.00). You can exit through any other door (but not the front door).



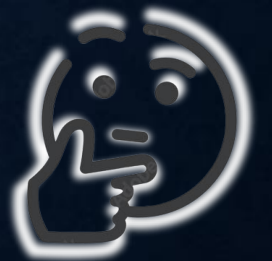
E+: Food (was there a canteen for students? Discounts on meals?):



J: Each department, at least at Teatinos, had its own canteen. Throughout the day, you could get sandwiches, burgers at some, croissants at others, etc. Every afternoon, there were fresh lunches, similar to what we have in restaurants by weight. Most often, there were chips/rice/potatoes/pasta/some meat/vegetables/fish, etc. The food was very good and relatively cheap. For the primero and segundo plato it was ~ €6.00, and for just one of these ~ €3.00. Near Teatinos there is also a Mercadona, where they have fresh meals, microwaves and places to eat.

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

J: Unable to complete our elective and diagnostics there, we flew to Poland. Difficulties with paediatrics, internal medicine and surgery – we didn't want to take exams there, so we asked the Erasmus Office and then the Dean's Office for a solution (a short course in Poland after our return). I didn't take advantage of it, but many people participated in Spanish language courses organised by UMA (and I think everyone was satisfied). 😊



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

J: I am happy to help with any questions, so please contact the Erasmus+ Office at the Medical University of Silesia, which will provide you with my contact details. 😊



E+: Attractions in the area worth seeing :



J: Malaga is beautiful, so it's worth seeing the old town (with the Roman theatre and Alcazaba fortress), the cathedral (admission to mass is free), the Picasso Museum (free for UMA students), Picasso's birthplace, Gibralfaro Castle, Monte Victoria Hill and restaurants with delicious tapas (e.g. Casa Lola Uncibay with their croquetas al pil pil, ensalada rusa, fried eggplant with black honey, seafood...). <https://maps.app.goo.gl/W3S3Kiptqhw5UhPf8> - places to visit in Malaga. It is also worth renting a car (I personally recommend the Polish rental company odkryjauto) and taking a road trip around Andalusia to visit Ronda, Cadiz, Seville, Cordoba (or Granada and Gibraltar).

There are cheap flights from Malaga to Morocco (I recommend a trip combined with quad biking in the desert), the Canary Islands (Tenerife!) and Majorca. Barcelona and Madrid are also worth visiting. It's also nice to fly to Lisbon and from there go to the Azores (e.g. Sao Miguel).

I have saved places to visit on Google Maps, so I am happy to share them.



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

J: I liked it so much that I definitely want to return to Malaga in my 5th year. I met wonderful people, visited many places around the world, learned about Spanish culture (e.g. their Semana Santa, or Holy Week) and improved my Spanish.

I also saw that it is possible to study differently and work differently in a hospital. Such a mobility is a bit like jumping in at the deep end – not only a new university and new people, but also a different culture, different traditions, behaviours and a different language. It really broadened my horizons. I understood how important a healthy balance is and how different life can be.

I really recommend such a mobility to everyone, even if it's just for a month of traineeship...



Universidad de Málaga, Hiszpania