

ESADE University
2015 Semester 2
LLB/ BCom (Marketing)

My first advice is definitely to **go on exchange** - it seems like lots of admin at the start but is definitely worth it and is an amazing way to finish your studies. Barcelona was awesome because it is so close to other parts of the world to travel to and the city is filled with amazing art, music, food, and is really chilled out. The people are lovely and there is so much to do you will never get bored.

First steps:

- Apply for travelling scholarships especially the Westpac one.
- Organise your Spanish visa and check your passport doesn't expire for a while.
- Sort your learning agreement - this was pretty tricky because ESADE changed lots of papers on us and it's quite hard to communicate with your advisors at Otago and ESADE in those crucial first weeks of class. Don't worry too much because Graeme and the other advisors were really helpful at the Otago side and everything eventually works out.
- Definitely enrol in the 2 week Spanish course and maybe learn some Spanish before you go, it's actually really useful even though so many people speak English in Barcelona. Also if you haven't sorted out housing the 2 week course is a good place to meet people to go flat hunting with!

Accommodation:

- When you first arrive and if you haven't organised anything, I recommend staying at Casa Gracia in Passig de Gracia which is a really great hostel in a central location.
- I lived with two other Otago students in Eixample and we organised it through Long Stay Barcelona (see <http://www.longstaybarcelona.com/>). The landlords were lovely and it came with linen etc but we did have to pay a big agency fee and bond. It worked out about 450euro/month and I really recommend the Carrer de Provenca location which is super close to La Sagrada Familia and heaps of local fruit and vegetable shops.
- If you want to live with other foreign students, the Facebook page (don't worry you will be added to it, I don't know how they find everyone but they do) is really useful. Lots of students organise flats before they arrive so it is easy to chat people and ask what they are doing. Everyone is on the same page so really friendly and welcoming.
- If you don't want to organise anything or don't have the time, there are pages like Flat Hunting Barcelona where people are always advertising rooms too.
- Some students lived in big student residences in the city or lived out in Sant Cugat but I wouldn't recommend either of these options - they were both quite expensive and inconvenient.
- My favourite area was Gracia, which is filled with cute bars and shops. If possible I would recommend living there, but Barcelona isn't actually that big so is easy to explore no matter where you live.

Budget:

- This is pretty tricky because I travelled for so long before the semester, went on lots of trips during the semester and am still travelling. If you want to add more travel this will hike up the costs but I think it is definitely worth doing, especially because it's so expensive to get over to Europe in the first place!
- Basic budget for the semester would be:
 - 350 to 500 euro per month on rent
 - 50 to 100 euro per week on food
 - transport = 150 euro for 3 months
 - extra costs like shopping, concerts, drinking, taxis, etc are dependent but I would say add about 50euro.

- Also with your student visa you can actually get a part time job I think, which would have been quite handy so keep that in mind because I didn't find that out until the end of term.

Academics/Course Load:

- Don't stress at the start of course enrolment when ESADE says all its papers are full because there are opportunities to change and its easier done when your actually at the university. You get 2 weeks of freedom once classes start to change – it's not as easy to swap as Otago but eventually is fine.
- One definite mistake I made was thinking that one paper at ESADE was equivalent to the paper I got it signed off for at Otago, but it's not quite that simple. I found out that Otago look at the proportion of papers you are taking in terms of how many points it is worth - there were some difficulties getting quick responses from ESADE and from my commerce advisor so making sure I had fulfilled the requirements for finishing my degree was not as straightforward as I had hoped. So is best to try sort it all out before you go - but in saying that, everyone understood the situation and was really helpful.
- Like all the other reviews say, take Alex's papers: Art and Culture and the History ones were great for learning about Barcelona and especially the current issue of independence from Spain. Also highly recommend going out to lunch with Alex's class at the end for a delicious Catalan experience.
- Anthropology was also a really thought provoking paper that was unlike anything I had done before - I highly recommend it. The lecturers are really interesting.
- Change Management for Service Excellence, Supply Chain Management and Brand Management were all really interesting marketing papers too that involved heaps of group work but weren't too hard.

Transportation:

- I got a t-jove 2 zone pass which was 150euros and covers 2 zones on the metro for 3 months. This was worth it as it covered all transport, even to the airport and to uni and back everyday. The uni is actually outside Barcelona, so the commute took me an hour there and an hour back. Pretty niggly but worth it to be living in Barcelona and if your lucky you can only have classes 3 days a week. Plus each paper goes for 3hours once a week so your not travelling that far for just one hour which is good.

Weather:

- Barcelona is a city of sunshine and the weather is great - only in November/December did we need to start layering (and that was only jeans and a jumper). Definitely a benefit of Spain as opposed to other parts of Europe!

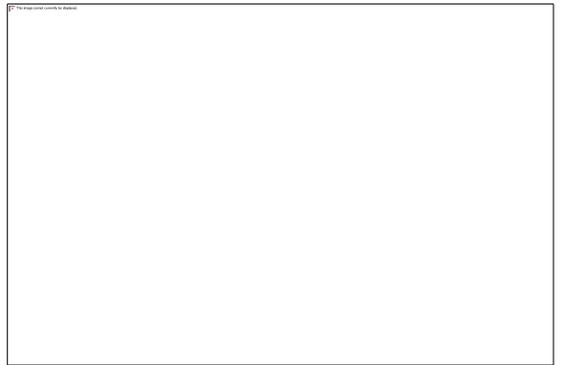
Eating:

- This is a huge highlight of the trip - Spain has so much delicious and cheap food. Highlights are the patatas bravas, the paella, croquettes, tortillas, pan con tomato - everywhere has delicious tapas especially if you stay off the main tourist streets like La Rumbas and head down the little alleys - the area around the Picasso museum is good for this.
- If your missing brunch, Brunch & Cake is delicious and they have a few cafes around Barcelona.
- Caravelle is an Aussie cafe w great food and coffee too.
- Teresa Carles and Flax and Kale are two veggie restaurants which do amazing food.
- Sarra jordia is a bakery you will walk past on the way to the commerce campus when you get off the metro in Sant Cugat - it has such delicious bread, coffee, muffins etc. Highly recommend! The Uni also has cheap baguettes and a proper cafeteria for lunch and snacks.
- Nomad Coffee is the best coffee I had in Spain so look out for their cafes or cafes that sell their coffee too.

- The supermarkets are all pretty cheap (my fave chain was Bonpreu) and have great food so if you like cooking thats a great option too.

Going out:

- O'vella Negra has great sangria and free popcorn. Good for pre drinks.
- Aashi is a club promoter in Barca and he adds all the exchange kids to his Facebook groups - he always posts events w free entry and guest lists to clubs so I definitely recommend following him. Opium and Razmatazz are always a good time.
- Hotel 1898 has a really awesome view over the city and is expensive but nice to get one drink.
- Chatalet is a cute bar in Gracia that is a nice part of town, really chilled and great wine. Theres an amazing pizza place down the road too.
- The W Hotel is pretty fancy but fun to go to for amazing views and if there is a wet deck party on definitely go because there is great people watching!



Things to do/Places to visit:

- All of Gaudi's buildings & Parc Guell are gorgeous and a must see
- La Boqueria Market
- Tapies Museum - an awesome Spanish artist
- MACBA Museum has great skateboarders outside so worth having a look.
- Walk up to Montserrat Monestary
- Miro museum
- Palau de la Musica - a really beautiful concert hall
- Barceloneta - the beach is huge and has some nice cafes
- Take a road trip and see the Dali museum and stay in Girona - its beautiful and lovely to visit for a day or two.
- Once a month, the Palo Alto market is on which is really cool - they sell locally made goods and delicious food.
- If you are into vintage shopping there are some awesome shops like Flamingos Club which is off La Rumbblas. Vintage shops around Raval have all sorts of gems too, there are quite a few on the street Carrer dels Tallers.
- El Born is a really cool area to explore for shops and bars.
- The Old War bunker is a nice walk with a beautiful view over the city.



Other tips:

- Definitely follow the TimeOut website www.timeout.com/barcelona because they post about concerts and events in Barcelona and also new bars, cafes and restaurants. Another good blog with cafes and places to visit in Barcelona is www.foundafavourite.com.
- Plan an extension of your trip before and after: Sziget festival in Budapest, Yacht Week in Croatia and travelling through Turkey were definitely highlights of the summer before I started uni. Closer to Barcelona was Mallorca, Madrid, Girona and the French Pyrenees. Highly recommend all of these!

- Try learn some Spanish and Catalan and read up on the Catalan/Spanish independence issues.
- I found Barcelona to be really safe despite its pick pocketing reputation barely any of us had things stolen and it was usually at clubs or on the metro.
- Walking around the city is the best way to discover lots of new places to explore and get the Citymapper app to help w public transport - its crucial on the metro in your first few weeks.
- Biggest tip is to be relaxed and open minded. Don't worry about the little things and enjoy all the new experiences because the trip will be over before you know it!