

**ESADE
BCom Mart
2015 Semester 1**

Well where do I start - with a cliché that exchange will be the best time of your university career. If you like the sun, friendly people, great food wine and beer, and the opportunity to tune up your Spanish then Barcelona is definitely the place for you amigo.

Studying in Barcelona for 3 months was such a treat, in between attending classes our times was spent at the beach, at the local bars or exploring the city of Barcelona that just keeps on giving.



Accommodation: This can be a daunting task for kids heading to Esade because the university does not offer good student accommodation. Whatever you do, do not stay out the Sant Cugat campus - it's over priced and quite the journey from town. My advice would be to get active on the Esade exchange Facebook page that you will be added to. Just put your name out there and you will either sort it before you get there or once you get there. Don't worry if you haven't sorted it before you get there it will work out while you find your feet during the intensive language course – My advice is to do the language course as it is a great way of meeting all the people on exchange. Just a word of warning - agency fees are pretty expensive, we went through an agency because it was easy and they moved us into a modern flat within a day but we had to pay big start-up costs. You can find rental agencies online or just walk the streets and you will find them.

Areas to live in - Gracia, Eixample or El born would be my top recommendations.

Money: Barcelona is a relatively cheap city to live in. Buying your food and drinks from the supermarket makes it a lot cheaper and of course eating out all the time can make it quite expensive but you must eat out at least once a week to enjoy the Barcelona experience. My

food recommendations would be Patatas Bravas, paella, Tomato bread and wash it all down with a local Estrella Cerveza.

In terms of budget -

Rent: Around 400 euros per month

Personal expenses: 50-100 euros per week.

Of course this can vary on how much travel you want to do - word of warning make sure you take time to enjoy Barcelona, of course travel but don't spend all your weekends away from Bcn - you'll regret it.

Social Scene: The social scene in Barcelona is world class. Aashi guest list will have you sorted for your night life in Bcn, you will be added by him when you get invited to the Esade exchange page. This list will get you into some of the sickest beach clubs for free, clubs like Pacha, Opium and Shoko where you will arrive late and leave as the sun comes up – don't buy drinks in the clubs they are far too expensive! Make sure you do some of your own exploring in terms of nightlife in Barcelona, there are some great jazz and blues bars, Gracia has some really cool bars and almost every street corner has a little bar you can grab a little afternoon beer at. One website that we used a lot to help us find cool stuff to do was the Time Out website - make sure you check this regularly as you will find some really cool stuff to do on here.

Some other things that I would highly recommend: Palo Alto markets - these happen on the first weekend of every month, these are thought of as the coolest martes in Bcn with great food, music, drinks, and stuff to buy - the girls I lived would spend both Saturday and Sunday at these markets.

Montjuic - a monastery about 40 minutes out of Barcelona by train, just Google it and you will find it. Make sure you get a crew and hike up it. The views are awesome and once you get to the top it is well worth it.

Camp Nou - You have to go and watch FC Barcelona play a home game. With 100,000 other people this is such a cool experience, I went 4 times and watched some of the world's best player's score an abundance of goals.

University life: The Esade campus is located 1 hour from central Barcelona in a town called Sant Cugat so be prepared to travel to university every day (city mapper or Google maps will help you get there on your first day as it can be hard to find). In terms of papers it depends on what you study but I would recommend the Spanish art, history, culture and current affairs papers with the lecturer Alex. These classes were a personal highlight for me and helped me understand the culture of Barcelona and Spain. The paper selection process is a bit of a nightmare and everything in Spain seems to take forever, but don't worry be patient and it will all work out if you keep on your toes and up to date with the emails.

Once you get there you will need to buy a train pass. Buy a T-Jove 2 stage 3 month pass, this will cost you 150 euros, although this seems expensive this gives you unlimited travel on busses and metro for a three month period. You will use the metro a lot as you will be on it at least twice a day to travel to university.

Places to visit: I did a lot of travelling while on exchange, I managed to see most of Europe but a few places that are a must around Barcelona are Tarragona, Madrid, Andorra, Portugal.

In terms of within Barcelona there is so much to see. Areas that I enjoyed were El Born, Gracia, El Barri Gothic (Oldest area of town). All these areas have cool bars, great food and good museums to visit. If museums interest you then the Picasso Museum is a must, the national history museum is also a must as it gives you a background on the Catalonian history.

Overall just relax and enjoy your time in Barcelona, not everything will go to plan when on exchange but that is half the fun. Make sure you try everything and do as much as you can and I guarantee that your time in Barcelona will be some of the best months of your life. Make sure you enjoy yourself because before you know it your time will be up and your time in Barcelona will be over. It is a city that I really enjoyed and I cannot wait to go back to.

