

# ERASMUS IN BARCELONA

Host institution:

ESDi

Paula Gómez Arias

[pgomez@esdi.edu.es](mailto:pgomez@esdi.edu.es)

Student:

Francesca Rigotti

[francescarigotti6@gmail.com](mailto:francescarigotti6@gmail.com)

February to June 2022

# Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Experience at the host institution
- Social and cultural experiences
- Practical experiences
- Conclusion

Arc de triumph



Bogatell  
beach  
I think



# Introduction

I decided to study abroad in my third semester because I felt like I needed to develop my skills in a different way than what was offered as electives at KEA. I believed that at ESDi I could learn more about Graphic Design and focus less in coding a new website.

With some Spanish knowledge I also thought it would be a great chance to work on it and improve it - maybe also easier to start in a new place while knowing the language.

Furthermore it was a choice also driven by the will to experience a new place, meet new people, learn more about myself.

Finally, SUN! :)

# Experience at the host institution

## The onboarding

The onboarding felt quite chaotic, and you should keep in mind that even if you choose certain courses for the 1st Learning Agreement, you most likely have to change them once you get at ESDi.

Good news is: once you start, you have around one week to try courses out and make changes. It does help if you speak Spanish a bit, so you have more choices - but there are a lot of English courses anyways.

Paula, my contact person at ESDi, was very helpful with getting settled in the school and with helping me figure out my options depending on my wishes and credits.

At the start of the school there was a 'Welcome Day' where we were able to meet fellow Erasmus students and learn more about student life in Sabadell (where the school is located) and Barcelona city.

# The courses

## **English courses:**

Materials and Technology I

Computing II

Photography I

Projects I - Design

Profession Ethics

## **Spanish courses:**

Materials and Technology II

Visual Communication

Technical drawing

# Description of the courses

**Materials and Technology I:** class about introduction to Typography. Helpful to understand basics of Typography, how to compare typographies and the main features to look at, in order to recognize different types (e.g. serif vs sans serif). Also, helpful to understand how different composition, weights and sizes can make a difference in hierarchy.

**Computing II:** Developing a prototype (app or website) from scratch. Developing a concept, working on Personas, Sitemap, User Flows, Wireframes, Screens and final Prototype.

**Photography I:** Introduction to photography, shutter speed, ISO. Portrait pictures. Still-life pictures such as wine bottles or perfume bottles.

**Projects I - Design:** worked on five projects in total. Branding, mockups, digital designs related to specific topics. Use of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator mainly.

**Profession Ethics:** how to design and develop ethical products. Question what products are ethical/sustainable and why. Or how could they be made more ethical.

**Materials and Technology II:** Work with Wordpress and Figma. Develop a Wordpress site from a client brief as a first project. The second and final project consisted of designing wireframes, mockups and prototype for a webshop and then recreate it in Wordpress.

**Visual Communication:** develop and work with communication strategies and materials in order to promote an event.

**Technical drawing:** Exercises aimed to learn about different perspectives, to support and strengthen the design of 3D objects, e.g. cubes, a letter, a house.



# Conclusion on courses

I think the most useful courses were:

**Computing II:** helped strengthen my knowledge of Figma, as well as the process from beginning to prototype, paying more attention to details.

**Materials and Technology I:** helped build a foundation for typography, which I didn't know much about before.

**Materials and Technology II:** able to work more with Wordpress and learn how to use different plugins and themes.

**Projects I - Design:** probably the most challenging course of the semester. It is busy, but rewarding. I learned more about Graphic Design, which was my main goal at the beginning of the Erasmus experience.

The other courses were interesting and did add on useful information, but considering my career development I believe they were less challenging/useful than the others.



# Social and Cultural Experiences

Barcelona is completely different from Copenhagen. Both cities I believe can offer a lot, just in different ways.

First of all, there is a lot of opportunities to meet fellow Erasmus students. A good idea is to follow Instagram accounts that promote parties and trips, as well as students meet ups - great ways to meet new people.

There are also ESN groups - none if for ESDi, but you can join those of other universities even if you are not part of the university.

Some Instagram accounts to follow

[erasmusbarcelona](#)

[erasmus barcelona](#)

[esn bcn](#)

You can also easily meet people in other occasions, but that also depends on your hobbies, passions and the activities you like to do.

For example, I like dance and started dance classes also in Barcelona. There I made new friends as well - and in general people in Barcelona are quite open to talk to people they don't know.

I would advise to just embrace it - take that trip, even if you don't have anyone else to go with - you will meet people there. Barcelona has a lot to offer and you can join many cool experiences, and meet great people.

## To visit

I made a list on Maps that can maybe help to get started on places to visit. It also includes beaches that are less touristic, for example.

But there is for sure more places than these. :)

See it [here](#).





# Accomodation

Accomodation was hard to find, but I think I was lucky. I only used Idealista.

ESDi also has a page that aims to help students find accomodation. Check here.

## Expenses

Like everyone (I think) I spent more than I budgeted. This is because erasmus students go out quite often, or travel around.

Accomodation is generally cheaper than Copenhagen. I decided to stay in a room in a shared flat. A room will cost you anywhere between 400/450 and 600 max EUR.

Eating and Drinking out is also cheaper (depending on what places you choose to go) - but you will probably do it more often than you were used to in Denmark.

Transport: for people under 26 you can buy a travel card called **T-jove** which lasts three months, and can be used with any means of transport. Because I decided to live in Barcelona which is zone 1, and ESDi is in Sabadell (zone 2) I had to buy a **2-zones T-jove ticket** which is around 105EUR (in total for three months) - quite convenient.

# Conclusion

This is a great experience to do and it will add to you as a person in many ways: personally and professionally.

You will learn a lot about yourself, meet great people, see new places. And at the same time you will improve your professional knowledge.

I would suggest starting looking at accommodation on time, and if you do want to meet new people you can follow the Instagram accounts I linked earlier in the report.

For any questions, feel free to contact me through the email I included in the cover page.