

## FINAL REPORT In Fulfilment for an ERASMUS Grant Summer Semester 2017

Universität Liechtenstein

Name

Receiving Institution [Universidad Europea de Madrid] [28760]

Sending Institution Universität Liechtenstein, International Office

Address Fürst-Franz-Josef-Strasse

9490 Vaduz

**Study Duration** from [27.03.2017] to [21.06.2017]



Lake, Universidad Europea de Madrid

I began my Erasmus Mobility program at the Universidad Europea de Madrid in March 2017. This was the Third Trimester of the Institution. This was interesting to because at my sending institution, we had the Semester system and not the Trimester system employed by the receiving institution.

Madrid is a very large city with far more inhabitants and a larger surface area than the entire country of Liechtenstein where my home university is located. The transition from a quiet country style of living to getting accustomed to the big city rush was exciting and thrilling for me. The University was also a lot larger than my sending institution with more students.

My accommodation was in the central part of the city of Madrid whereas my receiving university was located at the outskirts in a smaller town called VillaViciosa. I had to ride the Metro and a Bus bringing my total travel time in one direction to approximately one hour. I quickly adjusted to this and found that I could use the transit period to study or plan my

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activities for the day. Living in the city centre also meant I was closer to most social activities which I enjoyed.

In terms of the academic atmosphere, I can say that I found it intellectually stimulating. The teachers were very passionate about their jobs and the courses they taught. They made the classes very interactive and participatory. I learnt a lot of things I had no idea about before I began my mobility and I am excited to put this new found knowledge into relevant use in the future.

Culturally, Spaniards are very social and friendly people. I learnt from this experience abroad how to be more at ease in social gatherings. I used to be a very shy person who tends to hide in the corner during social events but because of the Spanish way of life I have learnt how to easily interact with new people in social gatherings.

I had the opportunity to visit some of the Museums and see famous art works by some of the legendary artists like Picasso, Rafael, Bosch, Van Gogh and Goya. There were a lot of breath taking parks and gardens around the city which provide inspirational places for recreation and relaxation. I also had the opportunity of visiting some of the beaches and one of the islands in Spain.

Interacting with other students was quite easy as it was a very international mix with students from different countries and we could all communicate fluently more or less in English. On the other hand, interacting with the locals was a little bit challenging at first because of the language barrier. This however helped in pushing me to learn and try to communicate in Spanish thereby building my language skill.

The receiving university itself provided a comfortable indoor learning environment as well as a serene outdoor environment with breathtaking views. My favourite was the lake in the picture above which had a bridge over it and the cutest fish swimming around and whenever you stopped walking and looked at them, they would come around as if to say 'hello'.

Overall, I really enjoyed my time abroad and I strongly believe that I have grown as an individual and learnt a lot not only academically but also socially and culturally. It is an experience I will not trade for anything and one I will cherish for life.

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