

1. Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

At TBS Barcelona, the third year of study is split into two semesters. The second semester, which is the one I attended, has something called a study path where students have the choice between 4 topics to study from, with each topic having 4 classes. The study path options were Fashion & Luxury Management, Digital Marketing, Digital & Social Entrepreneurship, and Doing Sustainable Business. I chose the latter and the classes I had to take were Sustainable Business Ethics & Responsibility, ESG Reporting and Due Diligence, Project Management, and Company Consulting. Each of these classes had 30 learning hours for the entire semester and classes were often 3 hours long with a different schedule every day, unlike UOttawa, where you have the same schedule every week of the semester. The school highly encourages teamwork as seen with the fact that I had group presentations about 3 times a week and rarely had any written assignments, which was definitely a big change from studying in Canada. Other study paths had final exams in all their classes but my Sustainability path only had one final exam which made my semester far less stressful. Classes here have no more than 35-40 students, are in regular classrooms rather than auditoriums like at UOttawa, and I had the same students in my classes throughout my entire study path. This really gave my university experience a highschool-like feel and even made it easier to make friends as you had common faces every day. The workload here is far lighter compared to UOttawa, which is great as it gives you more time to enjoy your exchange. These 4 classes totaled up to 20 ECTS credits, but UOttawa required 30 ECTS from my exchange, meaning I had to take two electives. The elective period at TBS only begins after you finish the study path, meaning I finished my four courses and then began my two electives. There were 6 elective options and the two I chose were Hospitality & Tourism, as well as Business Ethics, who also each had 30 learning hours of class. There are no final exams in the electives here, and the workload was very manageable, as in Business Ethics, I had 2 presentations, and in Hospitality & Tourism, I only had one. To add, the campus is only 1 building as it's only a business school, and it has 7 floors including one with a big auditorium, a fairly priced cafeteria, and 6 floors of classrooms. Also, the school is very hands on and really encourages collaboration and even counts participation grades in all classes. They also often brought in business experts and guest speakers to talk about their journey and we also had a few company visits and had the chance to meet numerous entrepreneurs. My most noticeable company visit was the very famous SAP software company where I had the privilege to go to one of their buildings and see what it's like to work in such a high end company. Finally, attendance was mandatory as there is a 10 minute period before and a 10 minute period after class starts where you have to scan your student card to confirm your

presence, which gets recognized on your student portfolio and you could get in trouble for skipping too many classes.

2. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).

As I mentioned, there are two semesters at TBS. One takes place from September to December, and the other one is from January to March. The last week of April serves as a retake exam period for those who failed any of their final exams in any of the two semesters. I had an orientation day on January 7th where I was given a tour of the school, learned the rules and expectations, as well as had the chance to meet new exchange students in the same position as myself. My 4 class study path began the next day, so on January 8th, and ended on February 28. The exam period took place from March 5-7, and the elective period was very short and only lasted from March 10 to 28, with classes often being either 3 or 4 hours. As I also briefly mentioned, April 25-30 is reserved for retake exams. As you can tell, the semester goes by far quicker than in Ottawa as you basically finish school at the end of March rather than at the end of April.

3. Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

For procedures to follow upon arrival, as I mentioned earlier, there was an orientation day on January 7th. This not only served as a day to learn about the school, but it was also to confirm your identity. I had to fill in a paper with some questions about my home country university, show them my passport, and then I received my student card. As for course selection after my arrival, there was a two day period at the end of January for me to choose my second elective to take in March, as prior to my arrival in the country, I could only choose my first choice elective online rather than both of them. To add, there is also an International Exchange Office at the university who are always willing to answer questions but I never went to it so I don't know what their exact services are. Finally, as for social activities, there were numerous class outings like company visits, weekly group presentations and assignments, as well as a few class workshops to get to know more about other classmates and those around you.

4. Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

For the budget segment of studying abroad, I recommend buying the plane tickets as early as possible, as I bought mine very late (3 weeks before my exchange). That meant the cost was pretty high at almost \$1700 which included one checked luggage (max 23kg), one carry-on (max 12kg), one personal item, as well as the ability to modify my return date for a fee. As for housing, I was lucky enough to convince one of my Spanish speaking friends from Ottawa to move to Spain with me throughout the duration of my exchange, which meant our housing fees were different to a person moving to Spain to live alone. My roommate and I live in an apartment located 25 mins away by train from TBS Barcelona. Our rent cost was €1350, meaning €675 each per month. The average rent here per person in an apartment is typically around €750 monthly, so be ready to spend within that range. However, if you're looking to rent an apartment in a student residence, be ready to spend around €1200 to €1400 per month.

The travel costs in Spain are very low compared to Canada. The monthly metro pass is only about €21 or, if you're under 30 years old, there's a special deal which gets you a 90 day pass for about €48, but it is not found at every metro station. I got mine at the Sagrada Familia metro station which is the most common station selling that 90 day pass.

Moving onto textbook prices, luckily, the school never mentioned anything about needing to buy books or anything of the sort which saved me a good sum of money. As for groceries, they're much cheaper than in Canada. My roommate and I went grocery shopping roughly once every 2 weeks where we'd spend a total of about €60 euros on average, which was divided by two for each of our parts. To add, we also ate out around twice a week, with restaurants serving meals for about €12 to €18 on average, which is a pretty similar price to Canada if you convert it to Canadian currency.

Finally, for my travels, it's hard to pinpoint exact prices as their prices varied heavily. I'm one to book my tickets at a relatively last minute which definitely doesn't help with prices, but they typically range between \$50 to \$250 depending on the location, the season, how early you book them, as well as whether or not you bring carry-ons with you. Cheaper airline websites like RyanAir or Vueling will likely have lower costs than the rest but will charge you a big sum of money if you want to add extra luggage so be mindful of that when looking at prices.

5. Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Application processes were definitely the most complicated and time consuming procedures prior to my arrival to Spain. The Visa process was very stressful as I needed to show proof of study enrolment to my host institution, which I couldn't do as I never got to pick my classes abroad until 2 months before my exchange. This process was very unclear as I was told I'd be able to pick my classes far earlier but TBS Barcelona only got in contact with me at the end of October. After I had finally selected my classes, I booked an appointment with the Spanish Embassy to create my study visa but there was no availability left as it was pretty close to my departure date. Luckily, in the appointment email I sent, I mentioned how I had to leave Canada in January and that I needed this visa for my exchange, which ended up saving me. They managed to squeeze in an appointment for me and said it's their only availability until February which obviously would've been too late for me. Before the appointment, they sent me a list of documents they needed including proof of enrolment, proof of accommodation abroad, my passport, a professionally taken photo of me within the last 6 months, my letter of invitation from TBS, proof of travel insurance, as well as a few other documents which are listed on their website. It cost me \$130 and I waited about 3 weeks to get an answer saying my visa is ready which was perfect timing as I only received it a week before my scheduled departure date. Finally, as for the housing deposit, my apartment required a €1000 security deposit which I got back at the end of my stay.

6. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

As I mentioned previously, the cost of housing per person is roughly about €750/month in Barcelona. I decided not to live in a student residence as I came to Spain with my friend who wasn't attending the school. We lived in a very nice area called El Born. It's in a fantastic location as it is in walking distance to most areas. It's a 15 minute walk from the beach, a 15 minute walk to common shopping areas like Passeig de Gràcia, and most importantly, is known for being a safe location. Avoid living in areas like El Raval as pickpocketing is far more common there, the streets are far dirtier, there is an increased chance of crime, and it is a common area for people experiencing homelessness.

7. Other comments or recommendations.

For quick comments I haven't previously mentioned, there are a few things to take note of. La siesta is very common in Spain as it is known for being a time to take a nap and many shops typically close between the hours of 2 to 5pm. While many don't actually take a nap during la siesta, I believe its main purpose is to give small shop owners some time off during the day as they typically run their entire store alone from early in the morning to late at night. To add, most stores are closed on Sundays as well as on national holidays. Finally, it is also very common to eat dinner here past 10pm, as if you walk outside at night, you will constantly get employees trying to show you their menu and convince you to eat at their restaurant.

As for recommendations on places to visit, Barcelona is known for its many architectural landmarks. There are numerous historical cathedrals such as the Basílica de la Sagrada Família and also the Cathedral of Barcelona. There is also a beautiful and never ending beach which is always fun to walk by both at night and during the day. To add, most museums are free on the first Sunday of every month for those interested in the history of the city. Finally, there are also beautiful day trips close to Barcelona such as Costa Brava and Montserrat if you're ever interested in exploring close-by regions.

8. Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

To summarize my experience, I have to say that this was probably the best experience of my life and I highly recommend it to anyone who is unsure about an exchange. I got to try new foods, experience new cultures, visit amazing cities and landmarks, as well as the opportunity to watch great football matches and iconic players, like watching Cristiano Ronaldo play and score for Portugal, which has always been a dream of mine since I was a kid, and is an experience I will never forget.

As I'm currently writing this at the end of my school semester, I'm preparing myself for a month and a half of travels with friends and family to add to all the places I've already been privileged enough to visit. Before coming here I had never even been to Europe but by the end of this whole experience, I'll have been able to say I've visited numerous cities in countries like Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, England, Slovenia, and Hungary, which didn't even seem possible to me just a year ago.