

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**Amel Vendela Björkbom2022/2023**Exchange university**Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, ETSIINF**Degree programme**Master in Interactive Media Technology

Life is but a dream!

Before departure

I chose Madrid because I had been there and wanted to get to know the city more. Before departure, I signed a contract to rent an apartment, and I was quite nervous that I was going to get there, and that it would all be a scam. Fortunately, that did not happen, so I was able to move into a beautiful apartment in Malasana. Other than that, I did not have to prepare a lot of stuff. Only university-related stuff such as Online Learning Agreement.

Upon arrival

I arrived in Madrid in mid-August, and the city was completely empty. It was almost 40 degrees Celsius, and the summer was at its peak. Since school had not started, I spent most of my days at the pool area in Casa De Campo. A public pool for all people living in Madrid. While I am usually not a big fan of public pools, I must say that I enjoyed it so much—a big recommendation for anyone going there during the summer months. I met a lot of friends through several social apps, such as Bambuser Friend. There I met people from all over the world who I spent a lot of time with through my stay in Madrid. It was fun meeting people outside the university as well.

Financials

I received the Erasmus+ grant, which I was super thankful for. It was so nice to have that extra money. In general, Madrid is SOOOO much cheaper than Stockholm. For instance, renting a public tennis court in Casa de Campo or Retiro is only 6,90 €. That is a dream for me who loves tennis. Food and drinks do also have good pricing. Especially, when going to buy groceries. Mercadona is my favorite store for going grocery shopping.

Accommodation

I lived in an area which is called Malasana, which could be compared to Södermalm in Stockholm. It's an artsy and very welcoming area. Can recommend staying there! There are many cool bars, nice restaurants, and amazing vintage shops. I found the apartment through Idealista, and the company

renting out the apartment was AProperties. They were super professional and I was very happy with the flat. Would have wanted to stay there forever!!

University and studies

My campus was outside of Madrid center which I did not enjoy. I took both metro and bus, and all in all it was almost 1h from city centre to the campus. However, it was very beautiful and green around the university so that was nice!

The university and classes were great. I was very happy with the teachers and how they built the courses. They were super interesting and I learned a lot regarding UX, Agile software development, etc. I would say that the study level and pace were similar to how it is at KTH in Stockholm. If you do your tasks, show engagement and follow the schedule, you'll do great!

Courses

I could definitely recommend all these subjects:

- Agile Software Development
- UX and Mobile Interaction
- E-health: Healthy Aging
- I&E (Innovation and Entrepreneurship)

The courses were theoretical but also practical. I enjoyed the mix a lot. The teachers were passionate and specialists in their topics and I learned plenty of things which I will be able to use in future careers within tech. The I&E subject belongs to the EIT school, so it's in another building. However, it is still super close to ETSIINF.

City and country

I must say Madrid is one of my favorite cities in the world. Food and drinks are cheap and delicious, the weather is great, the city is super clean and beautiful, the people are so nice, rich culture and exciting things to do. There are also a lot of possibilities for traveling and visiting other parts of Spain. Whether you wanna take a plane, train, boat or car, the city is very well connected to other parts of Spain.

Leisure and social activities

Write here! What did you do in your spare time? How was the offer of sports and culture? Did the university offer any activities? Did you get good contact with other students? Feel free to insert pictures into the text.

You can have a lot of fun in this city. There are amazing museums (El Prado and Von Thyssen museum are a must). Other things to do are: Attend a flamenco show at Café Berlin, play tennis in

Retiro, go dancing in fun night clubs, do a day trip to Segovia or Toledo, and so on. There are endless opportunities if you want to have fun!

Sustainability

Walking walking walking! You can walk anywhere in this city. It was always easier for me to walk than to take the metro or similar. However, the city is also super well connected when it comes to metro and bus. It is very cheap for students (10€/month).

Other recommendations and observations

Try to connect with other than Swedish students. It is a city full of other nationalities, which is so fun! Even if you don't know that much about Madrid, I am sure you'll love it. Everyone who goes there loves it. Just do it! :)))