



## Studying in sunny Valencia

### Before departure

I apply for exchange studies because I love to know new places and meet new people, having the experience to study in another country also contributes in my professional and personal growth. I chose to go to Politecnica de Valencia in Spain because I had heard great things from the university and the city, also being Mexican the language was an advantage. Before going to Valencia I had to apply a Spanish student visa which I did the procedure here in Stockholm.

### Upon arrival

I arrived just a week before starting my studies in Valencia because I did not needed the language courses that started early in the summer. I attended to an introduction meeting for Erasmus in the university, which was good to get to know more about the education system and the university campus. In this meeting they also introduced us to the Erasmus office and the sports clubs that the university had. I also got to meet more exchange students there.

### Financials

I received an Erasmus scholarship for the months I was abroad. Living and transport was a lot less expensive that in Sweden so the scholarship did almost cover all my expenses there. However, using valenbici (the bicycle city system) and cooking your own meals can save you a good amount of money. There were no mandatory fees but there was an international student card that if you purchase got you a lot of discounts.



### Accommodation

Accommodation in Valencia is relatively easy to get. I first tried to get a full apartment with 2 friends but that had to involve a rent company and finish being expensive taking into account we were only staying for 5 months. At the end I got my room via uniplaces.com and I had a good experience. I lived closer to the beach than to the university but I was only a 12 minutes bicycle ride from the campus. Everything in Valencia is close by. The room was small but had everything and was a really good price that included all the services.

### University and studies

UPV is a big university and has many different areas of studies. In my case they did not had the exact master degree I was studying in KTH but I was able to find courses that were related. The education system was different; there were more class hours and more homework. Also they had more practical parts each of the course I took had a lab and a study visit part where you got to use in a practical way

the theory learned in lectures. Most of my courses were in Spanish but I did have one in English. My schedule courses were in the afternoon so in a normal day I usually went to the gym or yoga class in the morning and then to classes afterwards.

### **Courses**

I chose my courses by reading the information in their web page, however when I got to Valencia I had to make several changes. What I liked about the courses is that we got to do practical part which was really interesting for me. They have a different grading system and it is usually mandatory to assist to most classes.

### **City and country**

Valencia is a beautiful city, not too big and not too small. They have a lot of culture in their buildings, food and people. My semester ended before las Fallas but I think that is one of the best cultural experiences in Valencia.

### **Leisure and social activities**

In my spare time I loved to go to the beach and do yoga and rock climbing in the university. Valencia has the perfect weather is always sunny and even in winter is not too cold, so just walking around in the city center was really nice. The university has different activities for Erasmus students where they take you to touristic sites, teach you how to cook and help you make a lot of friends.

