
Erfahrungsbericht - Sevilla

Christian

“My experience was very enriching and fulfilling. Initially, my goal was to experience a realistic daily life in Spain because I’m considering moving there in the future. Not only was this possible, but I also found a good balance with the Erasmus dynamic of visiting several cities—especially in the Andalusia region—going to parties, meeting amazing people, and exploring the beautiful city of Seville.” – Christian

Recommendations:

If you are considering doing your Erasmus in Seville specifically, I suggest paying attention to the following points: Check if your faculty offers classes in English. Although it may seem like they do, this is not always the case. The Faculty of Economics and Business, for example, had a document listing courses supposedly taught in English, which in reality did not apply to Erasmus or undergraduate students. Furthermore, if you opt for classes in Spanish, be aware that there may not be any special treatment for Erasmus students—meaning the quality expectations and deadlines for assignments will likely be the same as for local students. Get private health insurance for this period as well. Although German health insurance plans offer European coverage, I had some difficulties accessing the healthcare system there using my German card due to data incompatibilities. In other words, I tried to use my TK coverage and it worked, but always with obstacles—having to explain and argue in order to receive care. Another personal tip would be to subscribe to the “Sevici” bike service, which works the same way as NextBike in Marburg. Additionally, the city is mostly flat and full of bike lanes, making it ideal for getting around by bicycle. The annual plan is about 34 euros. However, if you prefer getting around by bus or S-Bahn, I recommend the monthly pass, which at the time cost 10 euros per month and allows unlimited travel. Just be aware that buses can sometimes run late. Another option would be to use the metro, but due to its limited coverage, it depends on how close you are to a station. (Metro use is not included in the 10-euro pass I just mentioned.)



Foto: Christian E. 1

Highlights and/or Regrets:

The city of Seville is simply beautiful and full of tradition and culture—perfect for anyone wanting to experience the purest essence of Spain. In addition, Andalusia has many cities that are well worth visiting, such as Granada, Málaga, Córdoba, Cádiz, among others. It's also worth mentioning how close Portugal is and the beautiful beaches in southern Spain. Erasmus organizations (such as ECS and ESN) are great for visiting these places at very affordable prices—and with the company of people who are going through the same experience as you. As a practical example, day trips cost around 25 euros and usually take place almost every Saturday and Sunday, organized by both groups. To take advantage of these opportunities, I recommend getting the card from these organizations (ECS/ESN Card) as soon as possible, as they offer benefits such as access to parties, discounts on events and trips, among others — which will quickly pay off the cost of the card itself if you're an active person. Another positive aspect is the culture of open-air bars and terraces, which allows you to fully enjoy the country's climate. Additionally, food prices are quite affordable, with Seville and Spain being well known for tapas — small portions of food that usually cost around 4 euros. Beer is also widely consumed and can be found for as little as 4 euros per liter in student bars, such as the ones in front of the Economics faculty.

Academic:

Since the teaching method may vary depending on the university and the course, I will share my own experience and that of close friends for more specificity. Out of the four subjects I took, two had mandatory attendance and two did not—the criteria depend on the professor. In general, all subjects consisted of assignments and tests throughout the semester, with the possibility of passing “before the exam phase.” The final grade is a weighted average of these partial assessments. This method is called continuous assessment. The other method is more similar to what's used in Germany—your grade is entirely based on a final exam, which takes place during the Klausurphase or Convocatoria, as it's called there. In the

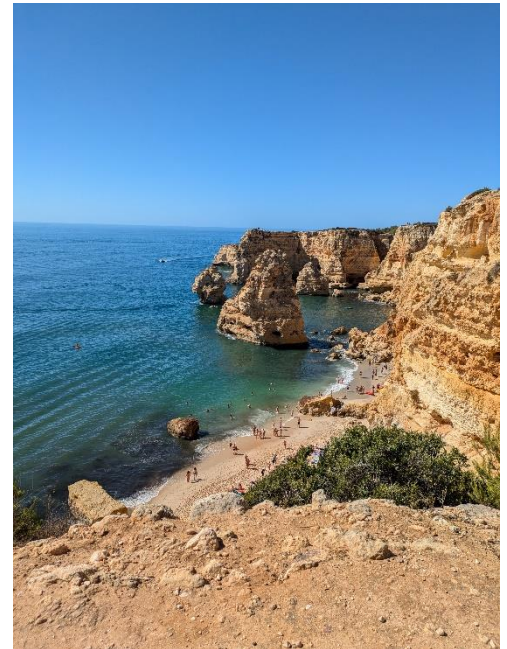


Foto: Christian E. 2

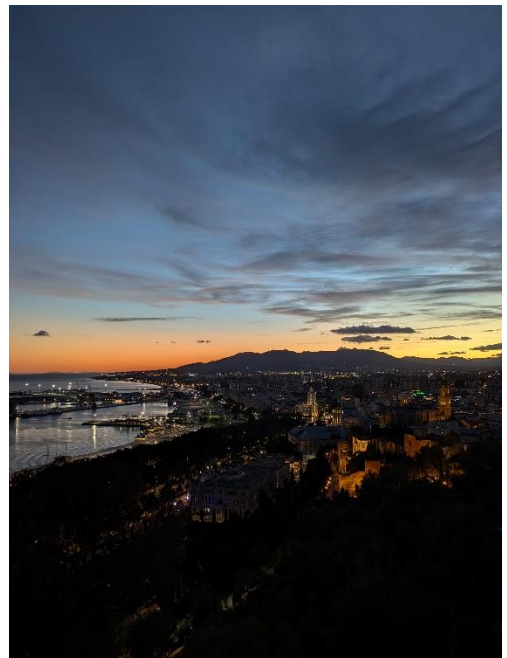


Foto: Christian E. 3

economics course, class sizes were smaller, not exceeding 30 students per room (at least in the 5th semester). Also, each class lasted 2 hours and was held on the same campus. In terms of difficulty, I can say it's not rocket science, but the amount of work to be delivered can be heavy—especially for an Erasmus semester. In the recommendations section: If you enjoy studying in libraries, I recommend the Law Library, which is located right across from the Economics/Business faculty. It offers plenty of space and has a bunker-style area that is open 24 hours a day.

Organisational Issues:

The organization of the Faculty of Economics/Business in Seville didn't seem exemplary to me. In the end, I was able to resolve all my issues, but it took some effort and stress. Additionally, during vacation, the local office is closed, as is the International Office in Marburg, causing a long period without answers to certain questions. I recommend paying close attention to the emails sent by the host university and the deadlines for each document—especially the “Pré-Matricula”—to secure a spot in the desired courses. As for the Learning Agreement, it took a while to get email responses, but as soon as I spoke to someone in the office in person, the issue was handled quite promptly. In other words, my Learning Agreement wasn't signed for more than a week after I sent it, but the same day I went to clarify the situation in person, it was signed without any problems.



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Housing:

During my stay, I lived in a shared flat (WG) with three Spanish flatmates on Calle Asunción, in the Los Remedios neighborhood. Although I had a positive experience and the location was great in terms of safety, beauty, proximity to the economics faculty, and access to shops, I think it's worth considering sharing a flat with other Erasmus students and, if possible, living in the city center—where most activities happen. I say this because the daily life of an Erasmus student tends to differ from that of a regular student, so living with people who are going through the same experience as you can be very beneficial. To find my WG, I created a profile on the website [Erasmusu.com](https://www.erasmusu.com) and ended up being contacted by the Spanish person who rented me the room. Unlike Marburg, where there is a wide availability of Studentenwohnheims, that's not the case in Seville. There, you have “colegios mayores”, a

kind of boarding house, which Erasmus students don't usually have access to, and private wohnheims, which typically cost more than 750 euros. Therefore, shared flats (WGs) end up being the best option for those who don't have a large budget.

Financing:

Fortunately, the rent for WGs in Seville is not usually very expensive—it's similar to prices in Marburg and quite different from Madrid, for example. The general cost of living is about the same, sometimes even lower than the German average. That said, an Erasmus semester obviously includes extra costs for travel and leisure that go beyond a "normal" cost of living, so the stipend is very helpful. Be aware that the amount you receive will not be exactly 540 euros times the number of months, since the calculation is based on countable days. Therefore, budget for about 15–20% less than what you might expect. As a practical example, I stayed for 5 months and received a total of 2,000 euros—70% paid before the trip and 30% afterwards.

Non-academic:

Overall, doing Erasmus in Seville comes with many more advantages than disadvantages. Although no city is perfect, I've only ever received positive feedback from people who chose to go there. However, it's important to note that English is not necessarily widely spoken by locals, so Spanish might be necessary to connect with them. Without a doubt, they are very friendly and cheerful people who deeply value their culture and traditions. In my case, being Brazilian, fluent in Spanish, and having frequent contact with Latin Americans in Germany, I had no communication difficulties. Still, even for me and other Spanish speakers, the Andalusian accent can be difficult to understand. That said, the people I connected with the most were other Erasmus students, who are present in large numbers throughout the city. If you're going during the summer, you can expect very high temperatures, reaching up to 42°C, and little rainfall. In the winter, the lowest temperatures are usually around 5°C

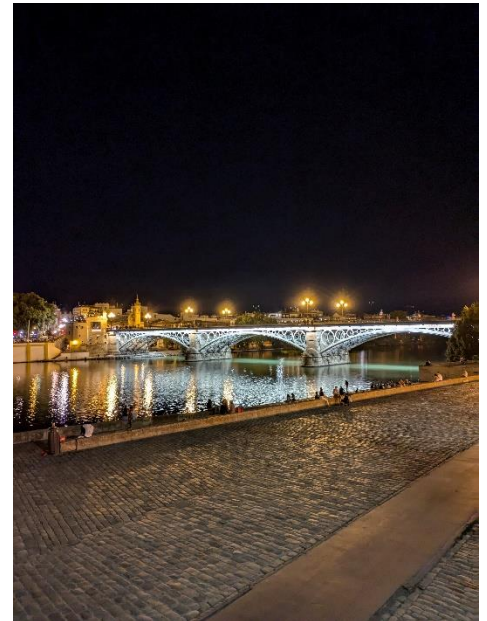


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