

Exchange Report
ESADE Business School, Spain
WU Mingyue (IS, Yr3) 2020 Spring

I. Monthly Activity Log

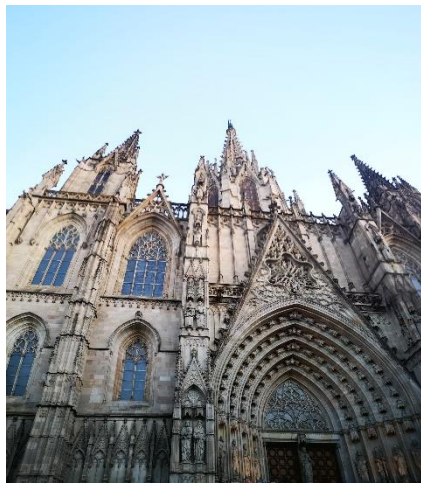
January

I arrived in Barcelona on Jan 7th and the school orientation began on Jan 8th. Before arriving, I already booked my residence from a Chinese BBS and I booked a cab on Ctrip.com, so things went smoothly as planned.

In January, we had the orientation week and winter semester. I chose Spanish intensive course and CMP: Implementing Strategies (some students chose 4 courses in winter so that they had more time in spring). The schedule of the orientation week will be emailed to exchange students in advance. I strongly recommend taking part in Touristic Bus around Barcelona, Barcelona Walking Tour and Corner 4 activity (if you have not registered, you can still walk in). The exchange buddy program will introduce their event throughout the semester, for instance, Andorra skiing trip, Montserrat trip, Barcelona Surf Day, Costa Brava trip.

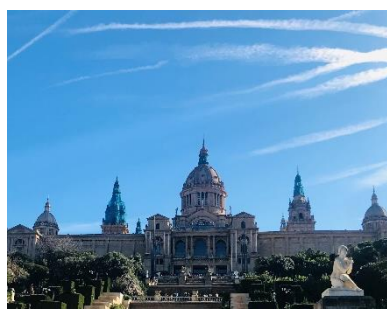
On weekdays, I had the Spanish intensive courses and CMP courses. On weekends, I usually went for shopping for food and clothes. On New Year's Eve, I gathered with some Chinese student, had a dinner and watch the CCTV celebration together.

Overall, the first month is about transition.

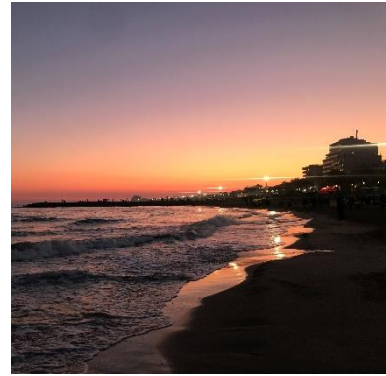


February

The spring term started. I visited many museums and restaurants this month with the suggestions from the 2000 years of beauty course. I visited Picasso Museum, Catalonia's National Art Museum (MNAC), Casa Batlló, and Contemporary Art Museum (MACBA). Some of them are close to Plaza Catalunya, so you may arrange your trip wisely.



There are also many traditional events going on this month. For example, the parade of giants, human castle, fire run. You can get all these information from the 2000 years of beauty course.



March

Because of coronavirus, I couldn't go on my trip in Barcelona. My original plan was going to Andorra for a 2-day skiing. And in the 11 days holiday, I would fly to Budapest, Vienna and then to Iceland with my friends. In April long break, I would visit Alhambra Palace, Madrid, Ronda, then to Lisbon.

II. General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I applied for visa through the Hong Kong consulate. For mainland students, applying in Hong Kong is a little expensive but the shorten processing time and lower requirements benefit. If applying through mainland consulate, Spanish translated documents are required, and it usually takes 3 months for the whole process. Remember to apply in advance and visa must be collected by yourself, cannot have a representative.

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/HONGKONG/en/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documents/Visa%20PDF/Student%20Visa.pdf>

Orientation Activities

As mentioned, the schedule is sent to you in advance. Below is for reference. Strongly recommend walking tour and touristic bus!

esade Exchange Welcome week – Spring 2020			
Wednesday, January 8th Institutional Welcome Campus Sant Cugat	Thursday, January 9th Spanish Intensive Course & Info Sessions Campus Sant Cugat	Friday, January 10th Spanish Intensive Course & Outdoor activities Campus Sant Cugat	Tuesday, January 14th Spanish Intensive Course & Associations Info Sessions Campus Sant Cugat
09.00 – 09.15 Institutional Welcome by Simone Vindis IBA Programme Director Room 003	09.00 – 14.00 Spanish Language Course* (EVERY DAY from Wed. 08th to Friday Jan. 17th) Room published at the Intranet * ONLY for those students who are enrolled	09.00 – 14.00 Spanish Language Course*	09.00 – 14.00 Spanish Language Course*
09.15 – 10.15 Meet your Exchange Advisor • Europe by Cristina Gómez Room 003 • USA by Silvia Molar/Mariona Durán Room 002 • Asia by Beatriz Galvan Room 106 • LATAM, Canada & Oceania by Francesc Blanco Room 006	15.00 – 16.00 Safety & Security Tips by Mossos d'Esquadra Room 003	For these activities, please confirm your attendance before January 6th: 15.00 – 18.00 Touristic Bus around Barcelona 16.00 – 18.00 Barcelona Walking Tour by Alex Fernández de Castro	15.00 – 15.15 Alumni Info session Room 003 15.15 – 16.15 CIEE Ice Breaking Event Room 003
10.15 – 11.00 Campus Tour 11.00 Welcome Cocktail Palm Trees patio 11.45 – 12.00 Presentación Spanish Intensive course by Francesc Spínoglio Room 003 12.00 – 17.00 Spanish Intensive course	16.00 – 16.30 Non Academic Information Session by Caroline Beckershaus Room 003 16.30 – 17.30 Corner 4 activity Corner 4 Gym		Wednesday, January 15th Spanish Intensive Course & Outdoor activities Campus Sant Cugat 09.00 – 14.00 Spanish Language Course* For these activities, please confirm your attendance before January 6th: 15.00 – 18.00 Touristic Bus around Barcelona 16.00 – 18.00 Barcelona Walking Tour by Alex Fernández de Castro
Do Good. Do Better.			

International Services & Activities

There be a WhatsApp group and Facebook page for exchange students. You could check out for latest events and looking for roommates here before your departure.

Accommodations



I found my accommodation through Chinese BBS. It's a single room only 2 minutes' walk from La Sagrada Familia for 300 euros a month (the cheapest I knew compared with my friends). It's in Eixample district, safe and many local families live here.

(Left is La Sagrada Familia, church with 2 faces, under construction forever lol)

The BBS is a platform for mandarin speakers. It's much cheaper but usually you need to live with a family. One thing good about it is that they can help you get familiar with surroundings quicker, e.g. location of supermarket and mall, recommended restaurants. One thing bad may be it takes time to get used to living with strangers.

Also, there are some whole apartments to rent but the price is a little more expensive. My suggestion is looking for accommodation in Plaza Catalunya, Gracia and Eixample. Plaza Catalunya is the best because shopping malls, Chinese supermarket and the train station are here, really convenient but also watch out it's a very diversified neighborhood. Gracia and Eixample are about 2-3 metro stops from Plaza

Catalunya and they are quieter, and neighbors are families with children and the elderly.

Below are the links of 2 BBS. You may browse these posts and contact the owner, remember to have a video chat to know more about the room and better not to pay a deposit before you get to Barcelona. I started to look for accommodation in December, it took me 1 month to find the ideal room, and most of the prices falling between 300-400 euros/month for a single room.

<http://xihualine.com/forum.php?mod=forumdisplay&fid=86&typeid=139&typeid=139&filter=typeid&page=1>

<https://www.huarenjiewang.com/category-267-11-1.html?&areaid=42&&&&>

Courses Registration

For me, Nov 12th-17th is the first course enrollment. It's a bidding system. You need to assign your bid 1-10 to 10 courses. Usually, one may enroll successfully for courses with bid of 7-10. Remember if you would like to learn Spanish in spring semester, you need to register extensive Spanish (in winter we have intensive Spanish and it's an advanced course, I assign 3 to it and I got enrolled, so I guess Spanish courses don't have a quota limit).

The second enrollment is in late November and it's first-come-first-served. Also during this time, remember to apply for course equivalence in HKUST if you would like to transfer credit of a course not listed in the UST database (apply for course equivalence 1 month before the term starts).

The courses that I recommend:

- 1) The marketing manager
Almost every course there is a marketing manager (e.g. Unilever, P&G, Adidas) come with their real-life case. So we need to do pre-analysis, in class discussion and finally present some thought. Really a good course and very intensive. I would say the best marketing course I have so far.
- 2) 2000 years beauty of Catalunya
Professor Alex's courses are always popular. It's good to learn more about Barcelona.
- 3) Spanish
Learn the language in its place. It's a small class, intensive basic about 12 students and extensive element class about 8 students.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Similar to UST, usually in teaching in lecture and assessment depends on lecture. I think professors prefer engaging students more in the lecture here.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There's a gym in ESADE. About 90 euros for 3 months, they also offer dances. The price is way cheaper than downtown, but if you live in downtown, I suggest not choosing this one, it's too far away.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I brought cash and a credit card with me. Credit cards can handle most of the situations. In some large shopping malls like Ingles, Alipay/WeChat Pay are also welcomed.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

CIEE always organizes events and announced in the WhatsApp group.

Health & Safety

Generally, always being careful when in the crowds. There will be a course about safety of Barcelona in the orientation week, don't miss it. Btw, buying healthcare insurance here starts from at least 6 months.

Food

Good! But with a price. There are many recommendations of restaurants on TripAdvisor, also you can have the locals' view if you are in the course of 2000 years of Catalunya. Tapas, patata bravos, paella, jamón, chorros con chocolate, sangría, cava... Grab some spanish before you go.



(School canteen, about 8 euros for a set)



(fresh seafood in La Paradeta)

Transportation

From this year, ESADE is not Zone 2 anymore. Just buy 3 months Zone 1 T-joven ticket. It saves a lot. It can be used in trains, metros and buses. Usually it takes 1.5 hour to get to the campus from city center. If you lose it by accident or your ticket is folded, bring your passport to the nearest station and look for people in red jackets for help.

(<https://www.fgc.cat/eng/cercador.asp>)

Climate

From January to March, the weather is overall good. But ESADE is colder than downtown. I wore coats and sweater in January but it's still not enough. I suggest bringing a down jacket with you if you could. There are days when extremely cloudy or rainy, so waterproof shoes are also recommended. I wore thin jacket in March, and I heard that maybe in May the weather will be like summer. But anyway, there are many shops.

Communication

In places outside school, English may not work so well, including supermarket, small shops and messages from telecom. In tourist attraction and famous shopping mall, English is ok.

Telecom

I chose Orange, chose the cheapest one first and then you can change your plan in the webpage (you may need google translate). Telecom companies always have many promotions. For example, a free gift of 5GB for for new users, gift of 7GB if you charge 10 euros. And these messages txt are sent to you in Spanish, also you may find these gifts in the official website.

Visiting Barcelona

The museums are always free to enter on some days. Search about it first, some may need registration in advance.

Refer to <https://runnerbeantours.com/free-museums-in-barcelona-on-sundays/>

III. Items to bring

<i>Ultimate Travel Packing List For Exchange</i>		
Items to Pack	Quantity	Packed?
Essentials		
Passport	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plane Tickets	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cash And Cards	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toiletries		
Oral Care	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nail Clippers	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Razor	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lip Balm	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medication	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronics		
Mobile Phone	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel Adaptors / Charging Cables	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power Strip / Extension	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headphone	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power Bank	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothes		
Tops & Bottoms	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackets	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimwear	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Towel	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socks	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hat / Knitted Cap	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nightwear	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Footwear	1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source:<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19fLf9vYQzzEL3PZd9GhiQti0l7NpbBnMXqV4gbaoFrw/edit#gid=1904950478>

IV. Useful links and contacts

1. Visa Application Procedures

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/HONGKONG/en/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Documents/Visa%20PDF/Student%20Visa.pdf>

2. Train timetable

<https://www.fgc.cat/eng/cercador.asp>

3. Chinese BBS for accomondation

<http://xihualine.com/forum.php?mod=forumdisplay&fid=86&typeid=139&typeid=139&filter=typeid&page=1>

<https://www.huarenjiewang.com/category-267-11-1.html?&areaid=42&&&&>

4. Museums free entry

<https://runnerbeantours.com/free-museums-in-barcelona-on-sundays/>

5. Barcelona tourist guide

<https://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/index.html>