

Fia Söderlund

Deusto Business School, Bilbao HT16



I spent my exchange period at Deusto Business School in Bilbao. It was exciting to move to an undiscovered part of Spain and the Basque Country is really beautiful. In my opinion it is more Spanish than other more touristy regions of the country.

The city of Bilbao has a lot to offer, from gastronomic and cultural experiences to shopping and partying. Even though it is a small city there is a lot of activities to do. For instance, kayaking in the river, take the funicular up to Artxanda for an amazing view, go to a football game and do not forget the Guggenheim museum. Moreover, it is very easy to travel to other cities and parts of Spain. At the main bus station San Mamés you can catch a bus, which will take you almost everywhere in Spain and also France. Even though it might seem easier to take the train, you should take the bus when travelling. The bus is cheaper and many times faster and the biggest company is ALSA.

Deusto Business School is very different from Stockholm Business School in many ways. First of all, the courses are worth fewer credits than at Stockholm University, only 6 credits, so I needed to take one extra course. Secondly, all classes are mandatory. It was like going back to high school again, with classes in different courses every day and homework every week. Furthermore, usually they have midterm exams in Spain and a period in the end of the semester for the final exams. It took me awhile to get used to a schedule and cope with several subjects at the same time.

I recommend you to sign up for the intensive course in Spanish, which is before the exchange period starts, especially if you have no previous knowledge with the Spanish language. Besides, you will meet other Erasmus student so you can get to know each other before the semester starts and you will earn 5 extra credits.

The school provides the students with good housing service and I really recommend it. I had great luck with my apartment. It was located in the middle of Indautxu, which made it easy to walk around the city. My rent was 300€ a month, which I heard was cheap. Usually it costs around 350-500€ a month for a room in a shared apartment. There are a lot of good neighborhoods to live in except Indautxu, for instance Deusto and Casco Viejo, practically all areas except for San Francisco.

The food is as expensive as in Sweden, except for the famous pintxos, which are cheaper. You will experience a cultural shock when it comes to bar hopping. Usually when you go into a bar and buy a drink, you get it in a plastic cup to take out to the street. At night the streets and bars are crowded with people. The famous local drink is called Kalimotxo, which is red wine mixed with Coca Cola. Every Basque drinks it and you should as well, it is really good.

My semester abroad has given me a lot of new experiences and I have improved my language skills both in English and Spanish. I could honestly say that this semester was the best time of my life.

Please, feel free to contact me if you want tips or have any questions.

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