Arts International Studies

Universidad Complutense Madrid Spain

Feb/2015 June/2015

$1200

€20

Canadian

$125

proof of financial reliability, valid passport, documentation, proof of n

Consulate of Spain in Toronto

1 month

Using the metro, you can get to the university campus fairly quickly only transfering lines once.

Aeropuerto Barajas - Madrid

There is a short orientation session prior to the start of the semester dedicated to informing students about the important aspects of university life at UCM. I'd recommend students to attend because it is also a good way to get to know students who are also doing a semester or two of exchange.

Not sure - did not do it (though I've been told about a language program).

Not sure.

€900

Included

On campus

Internet access was ok for the most part although it would go offline at random times. The phone was restricted to in-dormitory use so you would have to use your cellphone if you wanted to contact anybody outside the residence.

Through email with a residence administrator.

Off-campus housing generally ranges from €200-500 euros regarding university students (not including food costs). This option is easily cheaper than on-campus living. Had I known this prior to going on exchange, I would have opted for this option as on-campus living is far more costly than the average cost of living in Madrid.

Depends

For me, since I was on campus, it would cost me around €1200-1400 per month, not including trips. This was mostly because of the high cost of rent of a university dormitory.

For others, it would be €800 and below, not inlcuding trips.

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Challenges involve money transferring although that is easy to get used to.

Benefits involve reduced withdrawal charges and better compatibility with local banks.

I'd recommend to bring money in euros and transfer the rest to the bank account you make in Madrid.

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All payment methods are welcomed at most establishments.

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You would choose the courses you wanted and go to the department of visiting students (located on the main campus). In there, they would then register your courses for you.

The difficulty with choosing courses is finding them on the website. The website is not very user-friendly and takes a lot of getting used to. The positive is that classes are seldom full.

International Relations/Tourism

Spanish

Yes, but very few (and some are reserved).

Instruction was mostly composed of the professor speaking through powerpoint slides. Although the quality of instruction seemed pretty standard for a university, expect a lot of late arrivals from students and profesors.

By far, learning to study in Spanish. UCM, being a mainly Spanish-taught university, forces you to completely integrate yourself in a typical Spanish university environment. If you put the effort into it, you'll find yourself growing academically and intellectually as well as culturally.

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