

# EXPERIENCING BARCELONA

By Jasmin Klitsch & Annika Sanders



Hello! We are Jasmin Klitsch and Annika Sanders from Leipzig, Germany.

We and 11 participants did an internship in the field of administration in Barcelona from July to August 2019 with the Erasmus+ program, financed and promoted by the EU.

In this article we would like to give a glimpse of how does it feel for the trainees to live and work for one month in Barcelona. We interviewed a couple of trainees in their third week of working period. If you are interested in doing an internship in a foreign country, this article may help you with your decision.

First we visited Angelina, she was doing her internship at a coworking company. She really enjoyed the way her coworkers welcomed and treated her during the internship. One of the things that surprised her was that the people at the office spoke fluid English and even some German. Also she could gather a lot of great memories in her spare time.

After a stroll of 20 minutes through restaurants, cafes and palm trees we met Andrea. Her internship company was a nonprofit organisation that works promoting the benefits of doing physical activity. Her daily work consists of creating marketing contents, uploading pictures, articles and working on invoices. Andrea got very rejoiced, that the company is trusting in her and that she got confronted with tasks that require some responsibility. She gained a lot of confidence overcoming the language barrier and being new to the colleagues.



Angelina, Laura, Tom and Andrea at their host companies

Afterwards, we went to the language school to interview Laura about her experience. When we entered, we immediately felt very comfortable. Laura is responsible for welcoming teachers, students and families at the reception desk, taking care of the needs from students and work on invoices. What she liked best was that her job is perfect for meeting people from all over the world and also that it got easier to speak to people who have a different mother tongue. In her spare time she enjoyed exploring the city, sometimes she got off the metro on random stations, just walked around a bit and always discovered something new

Our selves worked at the administration department from a primary and secondary school. Our working days started at 9am and ended at 3pm, so there was still a lot of free time to explore Barcelona in the afternoon. We helped the secretary by archiving student files and preparing diplomas and certificates for students. Our coworkers were really nice and even though they didn't speak any English, Google Translator helped us to understand each other very well. We even got delicious lunch every day!

We stayed in a student's residence in the Gracia District together with other trainees. Our twin rooms had a fridge and a balcony and was enough for us to enjoy living there. The residence was located at a street with lots of boutiques, cafés and grocery stores. It didn't take long till we got in contact with other students in the residence, who were really nice and showed us around a bit.

All participants agreed in recommending this program for everyone who is thinking about going abroad for an internship. The only thing they didn't like about the experience is that it was just for one month. Last but not least, we would like to share a couple of experiences and tips for you getting the best of your Erasmus+ experience!



Group picture at Parc de la Ciutadella

# SHORT BARCELONA TRAINEESHIP GUIDE

## MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS

Barri Gòtic with its great architecture, the sunset at Bunker del Carmel, Plaça Espanya with its Magic Fountain, Montjuïc, Parc Güell with its world famous benches and the modernist architecture all around Barcelona.

## TIPS HOW TO ENJOY BARCELONA

- Be open to Spaniards relaxed way of living
- It's really easy to go by metro and they are arriving in a 3 minutes frequency
- Be careful with your belongings in crowded places

## ITEMS YOU SHOULD BRING IN SUMMER

Sunscreen, swimming wear, comfortable shoes for walking around in the city, a hip bag, a pocket fan.

## ITEMS YOU SHOULD BRING IN WINTER

Avoid heavy wool coats & snowsuit but still bring a warm coat. The best is to bring and dress in layers. Bring pyjamas and/or warm comfortable clothes to wear at home.

## ITEMS YOU SHOULD NOT BRING

Too much clothes, heavy boots, all your cosmetics & food.

