**Polytechnic University of Catalunya (UPC)** [**http://www.upc.edu/?set\_language=en**](http://www.upc.edu/?set_language=en)

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| How does the workload in your classes compare to Strathclyde.  |
|  2 x Easier1 x the same1 x Harder |

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| Is there anything that you wished that you knew about the classes before you went?  |
| I wanted to be informed about the language skill in English of the professors/tutors. |
| N/A - doing a master thesis here |

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| What type of accommodation are you staying in whilst away?  |
|  Private accommodation |

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| What is your monthly cost for accommodation?  |
| €350 - Є525 |

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| Do you have any advice about how looking for accommodation? Is there anything you wished you knew before you left about accommodation? |
| Come to Barcelona first, stay in a hostel and look for one with other people. That way you can see the place and the people before you decide and can usually get a cheaper place to stay. |
| If you search for a flat do it with an agency. There is a fee of around 50 euros for the agency. It is safer, especially if you do not know Spanish. |
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| Facebook group called Barcelona Erasmus Flat Sharing has lots of people offering flats all throughout the year. Good way to meet other Erasmus students as well |

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| What is the town/city like where you stay? |
| It's barcelona... |
| Barcelona - it is the best place for Erasmus. There are always many events in the city. |
| Unbelievably amazing. Living in a city with endless amounts of attractions and events |

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| Where is your favourite place to go? |
| The beach |
| To squares in the city. They are very lively and cool places to meet friends, or relax, or have lunch or brunch. You can do whatever you feel like doing. |
| bunkers: abandoned bunkers at the top of a giant hill in Barcelona. Get a full 360 degree view of the city from the top and not many people know about it so it's usually quite |

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| Do you spend more or less money than you expected?  |
| 2 x More2 x Less |

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| Are you surprised by the high cost of anything in particular(for example, taxis, cheese, bread, wine)?  |
| Beer can cost up to €10 in clubs. But everything else in the city is generally the same as home if not a bit cheaper. |
| Many places in the Gothic quarter and in Barceloneta area are expensive because they are the tourist areas of the city. Other than that it is cheaper than living in Glasgow. |
| accommodation |
| A large bottle of wine is 1 Euro out here... |

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| How much money do you estimate you spend per month (any currency is ok)? |
| £500 |
| 400 euro |
| 1 000 euros (including accomodation) |
| 450-550 Euros a month on average (including rent). However, it depends on what events run each month and how busy the university schedule is. In May I have a massive gap between assignments which has been seen as an excuse to take holidays to Morocco and the Canary Islands. That month will probably be more expensive although not too much more as flights to basically anywhere from Barcelona are never more than 40 Euros return |

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| Do you have a good social life? Does the host University offer any particular activities for international students? |
| The host university doesn't offer much but he ESN organisations and private Erasmus companies offer loads of trips and events everyday. |
| There is a good Erasmus society in the city. They have a lot of events and trips organized for Erasmus students. The university itself had a few student parties where you can meet your Spanish/Catalan classmates as well |
| ESN helps at the beginning, and the orientation week is very helpful |
| I share a flat with five other Erasmus students so there's always something going on between them. Our university took all the new Erasmus students to a museum on the first day to meet people as well as organise a team sports day (football etc) |

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| Would you recommend this University to future Strathclyde students who are considering studying abroad |
|  3 x Yes |
| If you can speak good Spanish, you will have no problems. If not (like me when I arrived there) you have to be an easy-going person and try to make more connections with your classmates. People in UPC were very nice to international students. Do not be afraid to ask. |

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| **Are you glad you decided to participate in an Erasmus Exchange? Please explain your answer.** |
| **Of course, it's the opportunity its to live abroad, meet new people, have fun, travel lots, generally classes are easier, you get additional funding. There are no negative aspects to it!** |
| **Yes. I feel i learned a lot and had a great cultural experience.** |
| **Yes, because meet a lot of people, lot of fun and travels, learn a lot and gain in maturity** |
| **It has been an unbelievable experience and would 100% recommend it!** |

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| Is there any additional information/advice you would like to pass on to future students who are considering study abroad at the same institution as you? |
| GO ABROAD |
| Getting in contact with staff can be a mission out here. Lecturers seem to take random 2 week holidays in the middle of the semester, some people can be untraceable ghosts when they are in and a fair few don't reply to emails |