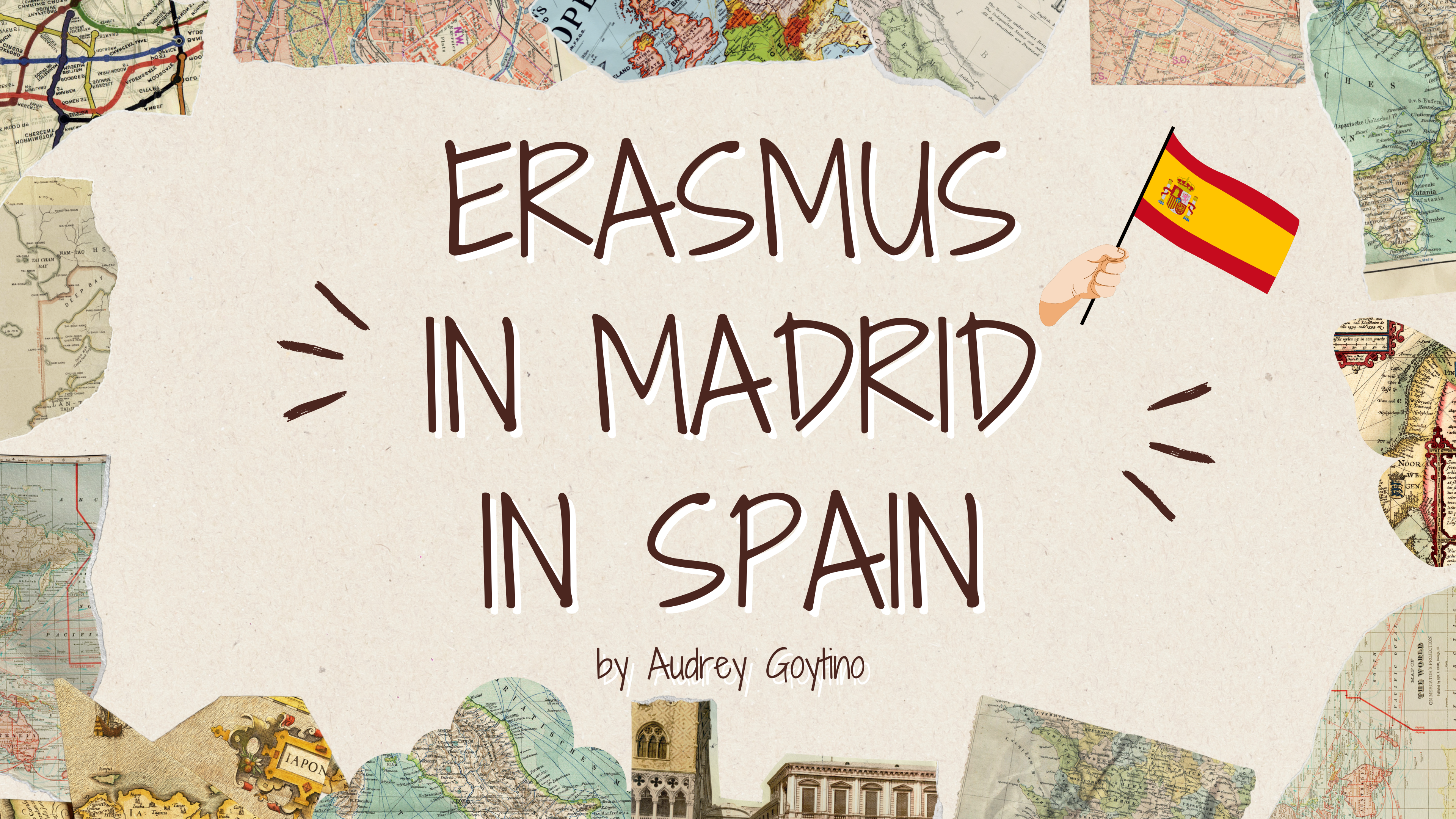
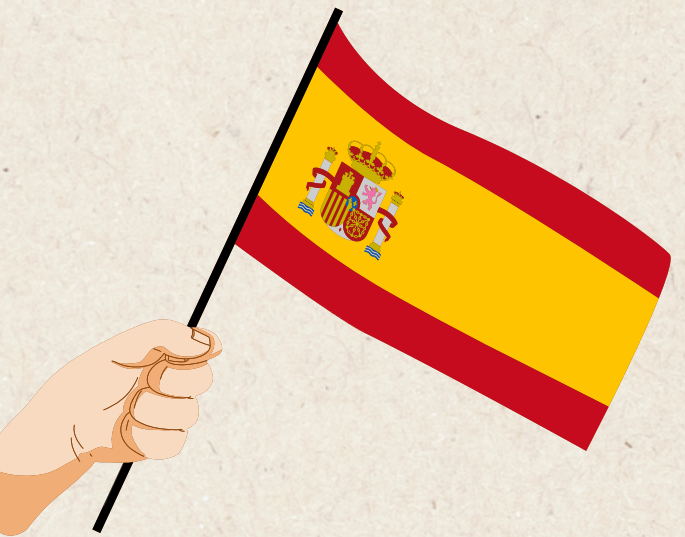


ERASMUS IN MADRID IN SPAIN

by Audrey Goytino





SPAIN



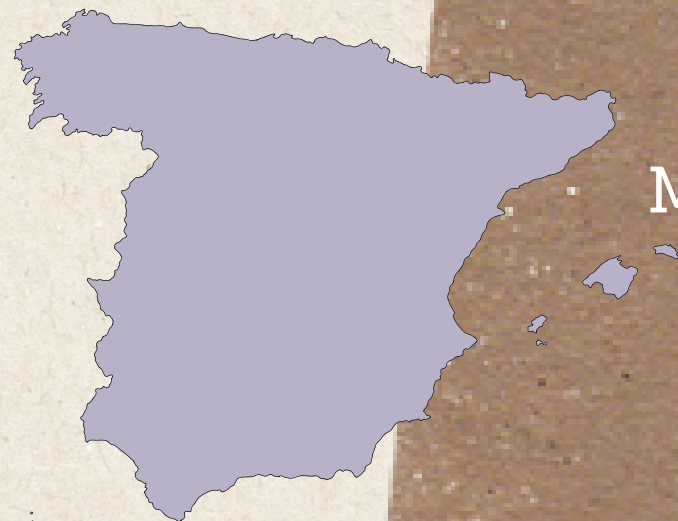
España in Spanish, officially known as the *Kingdom of Spain* is a country in continental Western Europe. It occupies 85% of the Iberian Peninsula which it shares with Portugal. It is separated from France by the Pyrenees.

It covers an area of 505,992 km²

The country's currency is the euro and its economic and geographical capital is Madrid

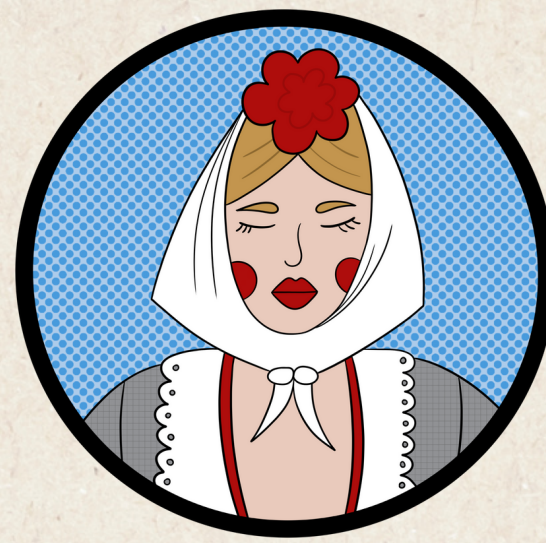
Spain has just over 47 million inhabitants and is organised into 17 administrative divisions known as Autonomous Communities

Moreover, Spain is a constitutional monarchy and the Spanish is the official language of Spain





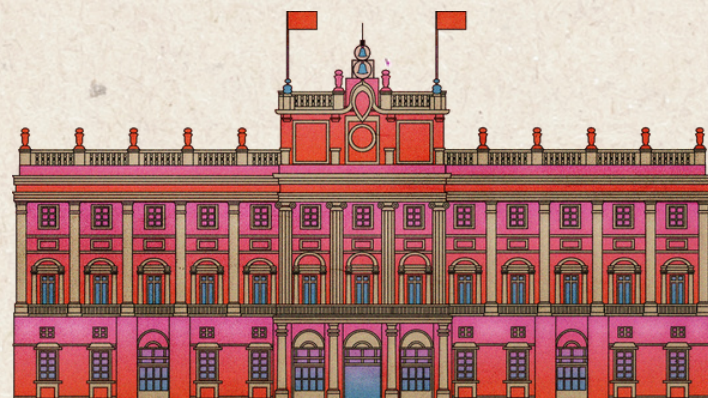
MADRID



In the 17th century, it became the official capital of Spain. Madrid has witnessed key moments in Spanish history, including the War of Independence and the Civil War.

The city's architectural heritage bears witness to its past, with gems such as the Royal Palace and renowned museums such as the Prado.

Today, Madrid stands out for its cultural vitality, its vibrant neighbourhoods, and remains the political and economic heart of Spain.



MADRID



Madrid is located in the center of Spain
From France, Madrid is easily accessible by plane, train or car.
Living near the Spanish border, I had only 5 hours of train
from San Sebastian or Pamplona.

I highly recommend living in Madrid, as it
embodies the very essence of Spain in all its facets.
As soon as you set foot in this city, you feel an
immediate well-being, ease and security

The Spaniards are distinguished by their openness,
sociability, warm welcome and friendliness.

MADRID

Housing in Madrid is quite expensive, so choosing a shared flat is recommended, even if it means paying 600€ for a room with shared bathroom. However, roommates for young people are usually spacious. In my experience, I shared an apartment with 7 people of various nationalities, all Spanish speakers, which allowed me a total immersion and a significant progression in Spanish. Some of my friends even lived with 7 to 11 roommates.



Life in Madrid is very pleasant, with a generally sunny climate, although summers are very hot and winters very cold. When it comes to food, Spain is renowned for its rich and gourmet gastronomy. During my Erasmus stay, I was able to fully enjoy Spanish cuisine, especially since the meal prices were affordable.





ACADEMIC INFO



I attended the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Industriales of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, which is recognized as the best engineering school in Spain. This institution enjoys a great reputation, an extensive reputation, and maintains a very high academic level. It is important to stress that choosing Madrid as an ERASMUS destination implies a serious commitment to studies.

The school offers various master's degrees, including in industrial engineering, environmental engineering and organization. Schedules in Spain are structured, with classes either in the morning from 8:30 to 13:30, or in the afternoon from 15:30 to 21:30.



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Academic Info

As an ERASMUS student, I had the freedom to choose my courses, ensuring that they were in line with those provided in my study program in France. My selection included subjects such as Digital Methods for the Environment, Electrical Machinery, Decision Support Methods, Human Resources, Finance, etc.

The courses were mainly taught in Spanish, although some are also available in English. I highly recommend taking the courses in Spanish for a real language immersion and better understanding.

As for the evaluations, the examinations were carried out either in continuous monitoring or by a final examination, scheduled for January or June, with a score of 10.

Balance lingüístico

Antes de partir a Madrid, tenía un nivel de español bastante satisfactorio, bueno, alrededor del nivel B1-B2. Mi objetivo al venir a Madrid era perfeccionar, mejorar realmente mi nivel de idioma española. Para lograrlo, me sumergí totalmente en la cultura española, frecuentando solo hablantes nativos.

En mi vida cotidiana, solo usaba el español por que vivía con hispanohablantes, tomaba clases en ese idioma y también por que hacía amistad con españoles.

Después de pasar cinco meses en Madrid, siento una clara progresión en mi dominio del español, siendo ahora capaz de comprender prácticamente todo y de entablar largas conversaciones. Así que pasé del nivel B1-B2 al nivel C1.

Gracias

TÚ
PUEDES
HACERLO

¡Muchas
GRACIAS!

IMPORTANT!

Para progresar en un idioma, es crucial integrarse plenamente en la comunidad local, sobre todo porque los españoles le dan la bienvenida con los brazos abiertos.

Intercultural assessment

Barcelona



Cordoba



Sevilla



Ségovia

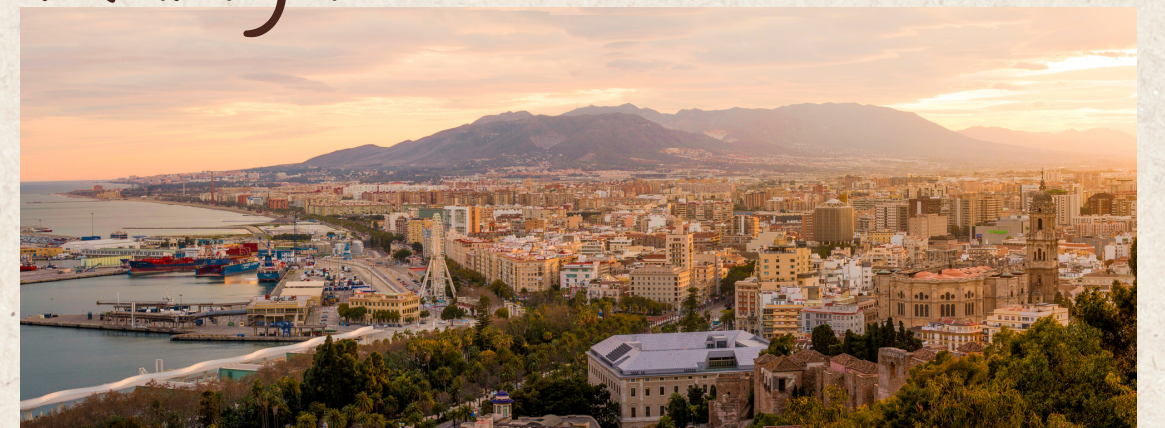


Toledo



During my ERASMUS stay, I had the opportunity to visit cities such as Barcelona, Sevilla, Malaga, Cordoba, Toledo, and many others. These trips have enriched my passion for exploration, constantly pushing me to discover new places and cultures.

Malaga





Intercultural assessment



In addition, I am convinced that traveling alone promotes deeper integration and encourages you to reach out to others. While leaving with a friend can bring a sense of security, it can also limit opportunities to meet new people.

During my ERASMUS stay, I really made every effort to integrate myself with the Spanish, I really made an effort to adopt an authentic Madrid lifestyle. As mentioned earlier, I mainly frequented Spaniards, which gave me the opportunity to go out with them, travel, attend museums, football matches, participate in a bullfight, run errands in Madrid. Live the life of Madrid

Intercultural assessment

We will now explore the cultural iceberg. During my stay, I was able to admire the apparent beauty of Spain: its breathtaking landscapes, its delicious gastronomy (croquettes, tortilla, flamenkin, etc.), its lively bars, its mesmerizing music, its typical dances, and its fascinating museums.

But let's turn to the hidden side of the iceberg. I was deeply marked by the sociability of the Spanish.

As a Frenchwoman, accustomed to a certain reserve, I was struck by their human warmth. They welcome you with open arms, gladly integrate single people into their groups, and overflow with good humor, joy, and open-mindedness.

On the other hand, I was surprised by their habit of gathering with family, friends or acquaintances over coffee or beer in a bar. The Spaniards spend a lot of time outside, and from 10am until 11pm-12pm, the streets are lively and full of people.



Intercultural assessment



Adaptation

So, I had to adjust to this lifestyle, and this adaptation was not particularly complex for me. The warm behavior of the Spanish reinforced the stereotypes I had about the French, often perceived as cold and distant at first.



Accent culturel

As for the accent, it was not a problem for me. Thanks to my familiarity with Basque, which shares similarities with Spanish, I could easily roll the "r" and master the right pronunciation. I adapted so well that some Spaniards thought I was native to the country. Regarding gestures and easy expression, I did not encounter any major difficulties either.

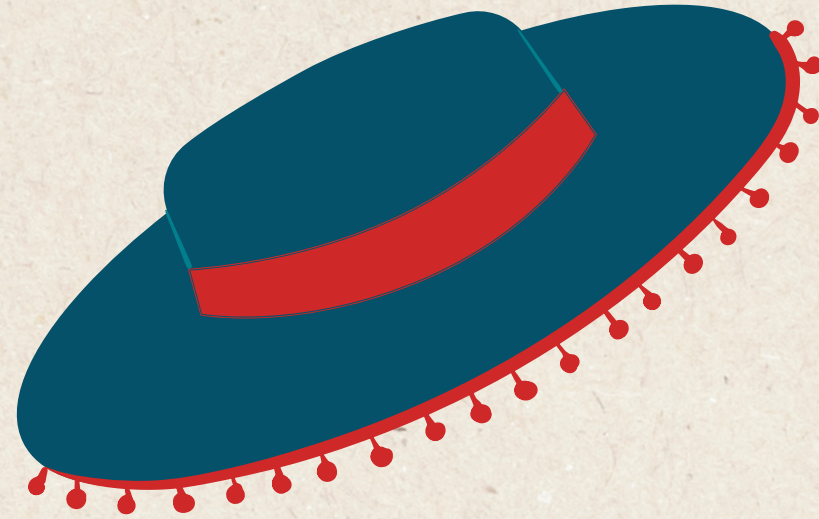


Impact of the stay on working life



Since I left alone, I really realized that it was sometimes difficult for single people to integrate into a group with friendships that have existed for a long time. So I am now paying more attention to people who are alone in the discussion and participating in activities. This experience made me realize that the well-being of a person within a group, company is important and I will pay particular attention as an engineer to that my team works in good conditions.





Impact of the stay on working life



Moreover, there could be prejudice among the Spanish towards the French, which could lead to discrimination against foreigners. In my view, it is essential not to judge individuals based on their origin. In my work, I will strive to diversify my team as much as possible, because each person from different countries brings a unique perspective.

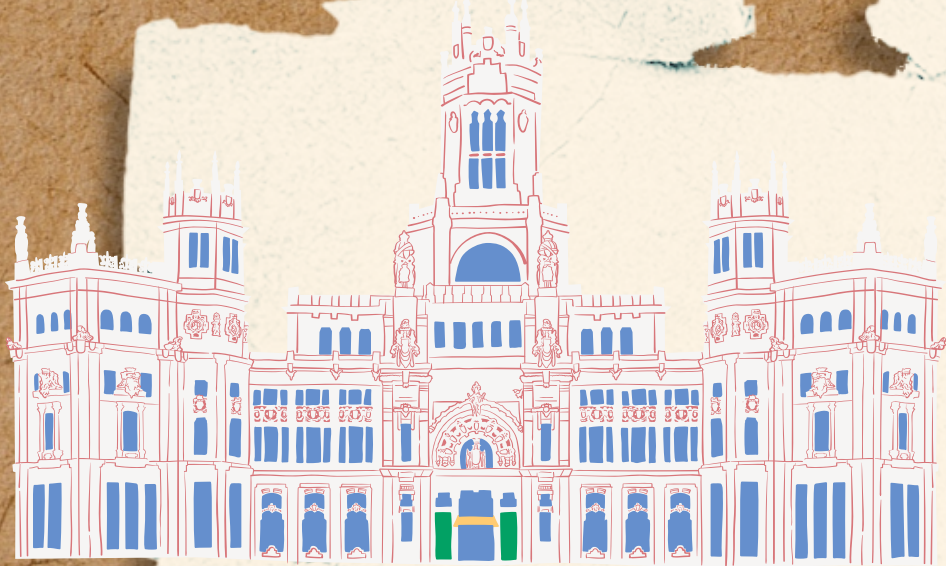
This experience also strengthened my autonomy, my resourcefulness and my independence. It amplified my constant desire to discover new areas and meet new people.

On the other hand, achieving proficiency in Spanish bilingualism was a life goal for me. I intend to capitalize on this skill in my professional career, because in the future I hope to work in Spain.



Conclusion

This experience marked a turning point in my life, a period that I will always cherish. The discoveries I made allowed me to explore new horizons, meet fascinating people and discover different cultures. Beyond these aspects, this trip also taught me a lot about myself. I developed my autonomy, gained independence and nurtured my passion for travel. I do not regret having undertaken this adventure, especially since I reached my main goal: to become bilingual in Spanish.



Thank you!

I hope I have managed to persuade you
that Madrid is an exceptional city to
live its Erasmus. Do not hesitate, get
started!

