

Erasmus study mobility – General Medicine 4th year, Universidad de Valladolid, Valladolid, Spain (September 2020- July 2021) – Alessandra Torrisi



My Erasmus experience took place in north-western Spain, more precisely in Valladolid the primary seat of government of the autonomous community of Castile and León.

It has a population of around three hundred thousand people making it Spain's 13th most populous municipality and northwestern Spain's biggest city. It is definitely a city on a human scale and all the major attractions are easily accessible on foot.

The city of Valladolid usually has a hot-summer Mediterranean climate with influences of a cold semi-arid climate. Valladolid's climate features cool and windy winters due to altitude and an inland location. Fog is very typical in the morning during winter. This winter I experienced seeing snow which here is something not quite common and apparently wasn't happening since more than 10 years.



The university is a well-maintained building located near one of the major emergency hospitals in the city (Hospital Clinico Universitario de Valladolid).

Near the university there are also various copy shop centers where there is the possibility of photocopying all the topics of the lessons (in Spain books are almost an optional) all the material is given by the professors and since my experience took place during the pandemic period due to Covid-19 we had constant access to the Virtual Campus which is nothing more than a database where virtual lessons, power-points and notices of all kinds of the University are loaded.

The University is equipped with a library, wifi and there are various campuses of other faculties where you can easily access with your student card and use their study spaces which are larger and newer.

Very clean Spanish is spoken in Valladolid, with almost no accent, something that was very important to me. I, also, think it has the perfect population size. You can go everywhere on foot and the best thing is that it is not crowded with tourists, like many Spanish cities.

There are a lot of young people and students here from all over the world and therefore a lot of bars and clubs. In many places Erasmus students have a discount on drinks and food.

Since Valladolid airport is quite small, you have to go by train to Madrid (approx. 1 hour) and then from there you take a plane to any kind of destination or keep using the train to travel through Spain cities.

Urban transport in Valladolid is quite cheap, it costs € 1.50 each trip, but if you manage to make a transport card for the urban bus, you can recharge it and it will cost you only € 0.75 for the trip.

It wasn't very easy to find an accommodation in Valladolid because owners prefer workers rather than students but the mentor that the university assigns you will contact you to help you find a place and eventually speak with the owner to increase the possibilities of finding the place you desire. In any case, you can start taking a look on 'Idealista', which is the best website to find a shared apartment.

In general, it is a cheap city, for 180-250 € you have a room near the University, it depends on the price it will be an older or newer apartment. Supermarkets are quite cheap, I recommend "Mercadona".

Living in Valladolid costs between 300 and 500 euros per month, it depends on the life you lead.

Spanish food is generally quite good, I especially recommend 'tortilla de patata' and 'croquetas'.

The places you must visit as soon as you will be in Valladolid are Calle Recoletas, Paseo Zorrilla, Calle Santiago, Plaza Mayor, Moreras Beach and Rosaleda, the Cathedral.

Overall, even during this difficult situation we had to live due to the pandemic, as an Erasmus student I am happy and satisfied of this experience. I strongly recommend this city.



Alessandra Torrisi