

## **IAESTE Internship report** - Barcelona Sep - Dec 2022

The application for my internship went very fast. As a co-be offer, I was nominated from the IAESTE group at TU Darmstadt, had an interview with my future employer La Magnética and signed the contract within roughly three months.

Not much time after I started my trip to Barcelona. Unfortunately, I arrived only one day before the internship started so I did not really have the chance to get some orientation in the city beforehand. Nevertheless, everything went smoothly and I started my first day of work at the digital marketing agency in the heart of Barcelona.

From the start I was welcomed very warmly within the small team of just about 20 people. While I initially struggled to express everything in Spanish, this ability quickly improved over time so that I could even express humor in the foreign language. Even though it might take a little longer in Spanish, my colleagues were always very understanding and helpful. If necessary, speaking English was also possible.

On top of this, I was given a lot of autonomy in my work so that a potential language barrier was not a big issue. As Business Information Systems Student I formed part of the Data Analytics Team (of 5 people) and mostly focussed on scripting in Google AppScript or Python and connecting different data sources to gather user data from webpages. My ideas and feedbacks were always appreciated and leaving room for my personal growth.

The team consisted of Spanish speaking people from different parts of Spain or South America who were relatively young overall. Occasional team building activities like having dinner together, going axe-throwing or having drinks created a really great and friendly atmosphere.

Outside of work I lived together with two Germans who spent a semester abroad in Barcelona. We had a decent flat in the old town of Barcelona and connected via coming friends on Instagram. Because I got support from Erasmus as well I was able to join most of their ESN activities, too. On the one hand, I got to know a lot of people with diverse background, discovered a lot and had a good time. But on the other hand, this made it pretty hard to get in touch with the local people. Therefore, I appreciated that the internship abroad combined the positive aspects of working with locals and enjoying the Erasmus community. Of course, that was at the cost of having to wake up early on weekdays.

The local IAESTE group was so kind to pick me up at the airport and offer help with sim cards etc. most of which I did not need as an EU citizen. Throughout my stay I was in a WhatsApp group that connected all the current IAESTE interns in the city and we frequently met to go sightseeing, on trips, etc.

My internship was just 12 weeks which passed incredibly quickly because I had a really fantastic time. I would recommend everyone to do an internship abroad. In the EU it is not much bureaucracy at all and can be supported by Erasmus. Barcelona, in particular, has a vivid city life and is very beautiful. The organization by IAESTE helped me a lot to make my wish of an internship abroad reality. I want to thank the TU Darmstadt as well as the Barcelona group very much for making this happen.