¡Bienvenidos!

Hola y bienvenidos to the URI Spanish IEP Study Abroad Survival Guide! We know how hard you have all worked to make it to this point and so we would like to congratulate you for your efforts thus far. However, there is still much to prepare for before embarking on your journey abroad and we would like to help you breathe a little easier through the process.

This is a guide and tips created by students who have been in your shoes before and have successfully completed their year abroad. Our goal is to outline the general process for you in order to help alleviate some of your stress. We would also like to answer the majority of the questions that you may have regarding your journey. This packet won’t answer all of your questions but thankfully you have many resources at your disposal such as the Spanish IEP (SIEP) Director, the SIEP Student Ambassadors and your Education Abroad Advisor in OIE. Most importantly, remember that if we were able to do it, you all can too!

**Academic Year**

**Course Requirements**

Although there is no specific requirement as to which particular level of proficiency you must have before the program, any student who has not or cannot take SPA 321: Spanish for Business and Technology must meet with Spanish IEP Director. Spanish 321 is a prerequisite to the internship course and must be completed before you go abroad. In addition to learning technical vocabulary, you will learn about social and professional customs, how to write a resume and cover letter in Spanish, and several other topics and themes that are directly related to your study abroad preparation process. This course also provides you the opportunity to get to know your fellow students who will be going abroad with you.

**Timeline for Preparing for your Year Abroad**

During the fall semester of your junior year, the SIEP Director, will contact you to set up a meeting. This preliminary meeting will be used in order to discuss your study abroad options. Visit the Spanish International Engineering Program page to view a timeline and learn more about how to prepare for your year abroad. Part of this preparation will include mandatory paperwork that you need to fill out in URI Abroad for your application and permission to study abroad, your application to the host university, as well as pre-departure orientations, visa advising and a helpful checklist of what to do when you arrive in Spain based on your exchange partner institution (these are attached and can be found at the end of this document). Be sure to pay close attention to the deadlines listed in the timeline and to follow all the processes and guidelines so that you stay on track to complete everything. IEP works very hard to ensure that you are selected to attend your chosen program, however nothing is guaranteed. The program is a direct exchange with our partnering universities. Therefore the number of slots at partner universities is limited and may change from year to year.

During the fall semester of your junior year, the SIEP Director will contact you to set up a meeting. This preliminary meeting will be used in order to discuss your study abroad options.
When investigating, make sure to look at the different programs and courses that are offered at each school. Also find out if courses are offered on the main campus or at a satellite campus. Generally speaking, TECNUN is the best option for biomedical engineering students, UNIZAR is the best option for chemical engineering, and Universidad de Cantabria is the best option for both ocean engineering students and civil engineering students as they offer courses in those specific disciplines. However, you may choose to go wherever you please just as long as you can find an engineering or high level math course that you can get approved for SPA 412 credit. You should conduct ample research regarding each university and write a persuasive motivation letter as to why you deserve to go to the university you have chosen. Remember that rationale such as “the courses, such as XXX, offered at this university will supplement my education from URI and align with my future career goals” will hold much more weight than “I’d like to go to this university because I love that the city has a beach”.

Scholarships

Trust us, you’re going to want to have all of the money you possibly can when you are abroad. Whether it is $20,000 or $20, any amount of scholarship money helps you immensely. Apply to any scholarship in which you are eligible because you never know what may happen! Keep in mind that the majority of scholarship applications require recommendation letters. Make a note of the deadlines and ask for references at least a month in advance. You know how you dislike it when professors give large assignments at the last minute? Well professors and other mentors would appreciate more advanced notice, too. You probably will not get the best recommendation letter if the writer is chugging coffee and rubbing their eyes the night before it’s due. That is, if they agree to write you one at all!

Make sure to occasionally check the IEP specific scholarship website (https://web.uri.edu/engineering/academics/iep/scholarships/) as there may be new scholarships posted for which you all could be eligible.

Additional Spanish language study opportunities

Even after all of the Spanish classes you’ve taken you likely still feel nervous about living in Spain or Chile. While most do not speak very much English they are incredibly kind and gracious, always willing to help you through the difficult language barrier. If you’d like to improve your Spanish before your year abroad experience there are a variety of resources you can use. The best practice for living in Spain or Chile is to visit there. You can see if there is a J-Term trip, where you can get exposed to the culture and language in a way that no Spanish class can prepare you for.

Are you nervous that your Spanish isn't at a high enough level to be successful in the coming year? Or do you simply want to get more practice? Attend the Spanish Coffee Hour hosted at the IEP House! Contact the SIEP Director or one of the SIEP Student Ambassadors for the schedule. Spanish Coffee Hour isn’t just people sitting and drinking coffee together (although there is free coffee available), it is a social event designed for practicing your language skills. At the coffee hour you have the opportunity to converse with native speakers and practice your conversational skills before going abroad. There are also other events available such as movie nights and tutoring sessions by the language department. Reach out to the IEP Coordinator SIEP Director for more information related to these events.
Language Immersion Program Applications

If you have been selected to attend a university in Spain, you have the opportunity to attend an immersion program before you begin your semester and not only receive Spanish credit but also have a smoother adjustment to life in Spain!

For students attending Universidad de Cantabria, there are language immersion classes offered at the end of the summer for two weeks. The courses are free for URI students and are a great way to continue to improve your language skills and meet other foreign exchange students. CUIC is the center for language courses where you can sign up for Spanish classes. You will report here to take the language placement exam. The summer immersion paperwork should be filled out along with the University Application. Remember it will take time for paperwork to arrive in Spain so send it out well in advance. Go to https://web.unican.es/unidades/ciuc/espanol-para-extranjeros for dates, enrollment forms, and prices for living with a host family. Mention that you are an exchange student coming from University of Rhode Island so they do not charge you for the course.

For students attending TECNUN or the Universidad de Zaragoza (UNIZAR), you can attend either a month or two-week long program at UNIZAR’s summer language school in Jaca, Spain. You must pay in order to participate in these, however it is very affordable and well worth the money. Details for this can be found at https://cursosdeespanol.unizar.es/es/cursos-de-verano-en-jaca.

If the summer program you are interested in is NOT directly affiliated with the university (if your grades will not appear on that university’s transcript), and you need/want to earn credit, you must fill out an unaffiliated application in URI Abroad. Contact your Education Abroad Advisor in OIE for more information.

General Student Tips while abroad in Spain:

General Student Advice: The Spanish Lifestyle

Siesta is a real thing! Except it really isn't for napping, it is more for taking time to eat lunch with friends or family. Not everything will close but a lot of stuff will! Typically all of the banks close around 2 and some open back up later but it is rare. Some grocery stores will also close from 2-5. Clothing and electronic stores will also be closed during this period. However, some places (typically bigger supermarkets) tend to stay open. It is incredibly location dependent whether a place closes or not. Also on Sundays and Holidays most stores will be closed. It is rare to find a grocery store open and banks are not open at all. There are express stores open every day but they are more in case you desperately need something as opposed to Sunday shopping. Cafes and some restaurants also tend to stay open sundays, however with restricted schedules. It is typical for people to stay up late (even on weekdays), a common dinner time is around 9 or 10, and it isn't rare to see small children awake past 10. This doesn't mean that the days start later... Spaniards just live on no sleep it seems. Also when events are supposed to start at a
certain time they really start an hour after that. BUT this does not apply to classes at the University, those almost always start on time or within 5 minutes.

Spanish diet? Yeah, not really. They sure love their carbs. You will almost always get a side of bread with most anything you order. Generally, the tortilla de patata (omelette w potatoes) is ever popular along with jamón ibérico (not anything like ham back home trust me) and just about any kind of pastry.

SCHEDULE
Grocery stores (and pretty much everything else) are closed on Sundays!
Siesta 2-5ish (depends on the store, but this is mostly true everywhere)

0900 breakfast (tostada o croissant, cafe)
1100 second breakfast - like hobbits (tortilla de patata or a small sandwich con jamon)
1400 lunch (largest meal)
1800 merienda (afternoon snack)
2100 dinner

If you have lived off campus/away from your parents you likely had a car and are used to going grocery shopping once a week or so. To be frank, the Spanish lifestyle couldn’t be more different. Not to say people don’t have cars, but it is rarer. University age adults don’t typically have a car but public transport is much better here so it’s often easier than dealing with parking (as well as you’re gonna wanna work off the carbs that are so common here). As well, city living is very different. Buildings are much more dense, and typically apartments are squeezed into any free space available. It’s quite common to be walking by a business district and look up and realize you are surrounded by apartment buildings. However, the important takeaway is that typically, stores are smaller and more frequent. Whereas in Narragansett there is the Stop n Shop everyone knows, there might be a (small by our standards) Lupa somewhere and a brief 2-3 minute walk will bring you to another supermarket, say a Dia. This is not to say bigger supermarkets don’t exist. However, they are more difficult to get to.

General Student Banking Recommendations

Talk with your bank about their policies regarding foreign withdrawals and transfers to a foreign account. Will the fees be manageable at least until you can create a bank account? If not, you can create an account with another banking company that has no fees or fewer fees, such as Bank of America. With their account, you can withdraw money from any of their partner ATMs without an ATM fee, although you will still be charged a 3% Foreign Transaction Fee. Additionally, Bank of America offers a Travel Rewards credit card which you can use anywhere in the world in any currency with no fees.

Charles Schwab Bank is another great option, as they do not have a foreign transaction fee and ATM fees are reimbursed automatically worldwide!

Citizens bank is popular in the New England region, but from past student experiences, it is HIGHLY recommended to convert over to Bank of America to avoid ATM fees (citizens $13 fee,
Regardless of which banking or credit card company you decide to use, make sure to notify them of your travel plans **BEFORE YOU LEAVE** so that your transactions will not be denied and you can access your money when you need to.

Some students have opened a bank account in Spain and used Xoom to transfer money from their US bank account to their Spain bank account; it is about $5 per transfer. Keep in mind that anything paid for with American credit card or withdrawal will result in a currency conversion fee.

**General Student Advice on Booking your Flight**

Once you have all of your paperwork squared away, your visa is submitted, and you know when you need to arrive at your host destination, you can finally purchase your flight! There are several different ways to purchase affordable plane tickets, especially for students. Some discount and student specific sites that you may not have heard of include:
- [https://www.studentuniverse.com/](https://www.studentuniverse.com/)
- [https://www.statravel.com/](https://www.statravel.com/)
- [https://www.momondo.com/](https://www.momondo.com/)
- [https://www.cheapoair.com/](https://www.cheapoair.com/)

Also consider some of the more well-known sites such as:
- [https://www.kayak.com/](https://www.kayak.com/)
- [https://www.travelocity.com/](https://www.travelocity.com/)
- [https://www.orbitz.com/](https://www.orbitz.com/)
- [https://www.expedia.com/](https://www.expedia.com/)
- Google Flights for flexible dates

Book directly via airline:
- [https://www.iberia.com/](https://www.iberia.com/)
- [https://www.delta.com/](https://www.delta.com/)
- [https://www.norwegian.com/us/](https://www.norwegian.com/us/)
- [https://wowair.us/](https://wowair.us/)

Flight prices usually depend on the day and time that you travel. For example, a 2pm flight on a Saturday will generally be more expensive than an 11pm flight on a Thursday. Search different day/time combinations as well as airports where you plan to depart/arrive as this can play a major factor into the final cost of your plane ticket. Also note the time difference to where you are traveling. For example, if you are flying to Spain the time difference is six hours. Therefore, if you plan to leave the United States during the evening time, you will have an “overnight flight” and arrive in Spain in the morning.

**¡Note! It is recommended that you purchase a round-trip ticket and then plan to change the date of your return and location where you will be completing your internship because it will most likely be unknown at the time of your original ticket purchase.**
General Student Advice on What to Pack

So what exactly do you need to bring? This is obviously going to be somewhat different for everyone, but overall there are a majority of things that everyone should bring. Before you begin packing, make sure to check the airline site that you are flying with to see their allowances and fees for additional or overweight luggage. As difficult as it sounds, try to only bring things that you absolutely need. You will be able to purchase things such as toiletries, towels, school supplies, etc. when you arrive. As for hand luggage, the rules are generally one carry-on and one “laptop bag/purse.” They are much more lenient with this than with checked bags, so make something like a backpack your “laptop bag” and have a checked bag and a carry-on along with that.

Suggested Packing List:
- Copies (hard/electronic) of all the documents mentioned in the “Visa Process” section
- Passport photos of yourself, these are often required for applications for bus cards, phone contracts, etc.
- Enough cash converted to Euros to last you the first few days (a couple hundred, but not much more is suggested). Try to obtain converted currencies before traveling abroad to avoid worse conversion rates that are generally found in airports.
- Apparel (for all occasions!)
  - Professional dress clothes for your internship
  - Region/weather specific clothes
    - San Sebastian/Santander - Rainy, mild temperatures
    - Zaragoza – Windy, dry, hot in summer and cold in winter
  - Rain jacket
  - Rain shoes
  - Clothes to hit the town! Keep in mind people “dress up” more for many occasions, especially for going out to clubs/bars
- Adaptors
  - Bring several
  - Be mindful of wattage capacity for certain items such as hairdryers
  - Cheap and fairly easy to find upon arrival as well
- Toiletries you are using regularly and do not want to change
  - Generally, stick deodorant is not available in Europe
  - Items you can’t live without and don’t think you’ll find abroad (hair product, brand of makeup, etc)
- Medicine
  - It is recommended to bring along a small travel first aid kit that includes band-aids, Neosporin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, etc.
  - ¡Note! If you are taking a prescription medicine, be sure to take enough to cover you while abroad, as you may be unable to obtain it at Spanish pharmacies. Be sure to discuss this with your doctor
- Pictures of family/friends/home
- A camera/camera phone to capture all your future wonderful memories
- Portable charger for your phone
- Laptop and other electronics
- A purse/bag that makes travel easier (you won’t be an outcast if you have a fanny pack)
• Coin pouch
  o You will be using a lot more coins than you are used to

What not to Pack

• Large quantities of personal care items/bedding/towels/other house items if you are struggling with space/weight- you can find them easily when you arrive

Student Advice on Traveling with Documents

How to handle and keep your identification documents abroad? As discussed already in our preparation meetings, the following you should always keep and take with you:

• Make good color copies of your American passport (the original stays in your hotel, apartment, etc. in a safe spot (safe, cupboard, suitcase etc….):
• main page and page with the Visa sticker from the Spanish Consulate.
• Your CISI Health insurance card (see print out and cut out, fold and put in your wallet)
• A copy of the letter with your NIE number that you will receive upon your appointment at the police station in your city (see point 4.)
• The actual NIE card once you receive it. Make a scanned copy and save in the cloud for easy access if needed.
• A piece of paper with your emergency contact information (also include URI/IEP/me please and the OIE of your university abroad)

General Student Advice: Establish Residency and Obtain the NIE

Unfortunately, the process for obtaining your Número de Identificación de Extranjero (NIE) is not exactly equal for all cities within Spain and the details regarding the process often change from year to year. However, the overall process remains fairly constant. We recommend that you follow the visa/residence permit advising you receive from the Office of International Education before you depart and speak with the International Office at your institution.

General Student Advice on Communication and Cell Phones

You’ve just landed and gotten off the plane and the first thing your loved ones expect you to do is notify them that you are in fact still alive and breathing. One way to do this is to bring a device that allows you to connect to wifi. If you have a device that you can connect to wifi, you will be able to Skype and use other apps such as Facebook, Whatsapp, and Viber to communicate. However, only using wifi is a temporary solution. Eventually you will need to get a new number that you can use to communicate in your new country. The sooner that you can do this, the better!

We recommend that if you have a Smartphone (any kind of smartphone), you make sure that it is unlocked with your American phone company and you bring it with you to use and simply purchase a SIM card. If you do not have a smartphone, very basic cell phones can be purchased for cheap. We also recommend that you cancel your American phone plan right before you leave. Even though you will not be using your American number while you are abroad, most (if not all) phone companies will still charge you your monthly fee.
International plans with T-mobile are very popular and cost around $60 a month. This means that you can remain with the same phone number you have in the USA, and have data roaming. Internet signal isn’t the strongest, but it is up to personal preference.

In order to purchase a phone or start a phone plan, you must have your passport with you for legal reasons.

**Cell phone plans in Spain**

In Spain, most cities have a “Phone House” where you can shop different cell phone providers and plans. Most contracts are usually for a year and require residency cards which you will not have for 3 months, so the best option for students is a prepaid plan. One of the more popular phone companies is Orange, which usually has tremendous prepaid offers such as 1 GB of data per month and unlimited free phone calls within Spain for less than 10 Euros a month. Almost all of these prepaid plans will function in all European countries with no additional fees, but check if that is the case before purchasing the phone plan if it’s something you want! This is a great option if you plan on traveling throughout Europe, especially if you are traveling alone, and want to have the ability to contact people in an emergency or have access to maps. Other phone companies in Spain include Movistar, Yoigo and Vodafone.

In Spain, practically everyone communicates using WhatsApp, so although most plans do not include messaging, you will be sending WhatsApp messages with data instead of text messages anyways. If you do not have a smartphone to bring with you, you can purchase a very basic phone, and still have the same type of plan detailed above, for about 20 Euros.

**General Student Advice and Tips for Travel in Spain**

There are many different options and routes that you can choose to take in order to reach your final destination. We have described some of the more recommended options below, but if you’re feeling adventurous you’re certainly more than welcome to travel as you please. This is your adventure after all!

The recommended site to view bus schedules and purchase tickets is with a company called ALSA at [http://www.alsa.es/en/](http://www.alsa.es/en/). The recommended site to view train schedules and purchase tickets is with a company called RENFE at [http://www.renfe.com/EN/viajeros/](http://www.renfe.com/EN/viajeros/). You do not have to purchase your bus or train tickets ahead of time online and you can purchase them at the stations. Occasionally there are issues purchasing tickets online with a US credit/debit card through ALSA and RENFE. To avoid these issues, PayPal can be an easy and efficient alternative method of payment.

**¡Note!** There are often promotion fares for cheaper tickets when you book tickets a bit in advance. Once you’ve booked your flight, check out these sites to see which options would best fit your itinerary.

Make sure that you have enough time between each mode of transportation in case of unexpected delays. If anything does happen, ALSA is generally very accommodating and will substitute your bus ticket for one that leaves later.

**General Student Advice on Housing**
Students in Spain generally live in shared apartments in Spain. There are not typically campuses with dormitories like we’re accustomed to in the US. Most exchange students stay in a hostel when they arrive in their host city in Spain. This allows you to contact landlords and visit apartments before you agree to rent. It is not recommended to commit to an apartment before your departure; you should go to the city and see it in person. Certainly DO NOT send money to a landlord before you go see the apartment in person. When you arrive in the city you can go to the university to look for apartment ads. Generally, there are billboards in the main building with apartment listings or people looking for roommates. You should also go to the international student’s office of your university and tell them you are looking for an apartment.

You can look for and book a hostel before you depart the United States using http://www.hostelworld.com/. This is a good idea if you do not have a living situation setup for your arrival. Hostels are very flexible and will allow you to extend your stay until you find more permanent housing.

For any city in Spain, you can also use the following sites to search for housing:
www.easypiso.com
www.milanuncios.com
www.idealista.com
www.erasmusu.com

Here are our recommendations:
- Familiarize yourself with the city and region you will be living in (for your study abroad experience or your internship). See maps online AND print out or buy a map that you hang up. Look at it every day!
- Find out about public transportation in your new location.
- Ask around (IEP students who lived there before, Office of International Education) to find out where to move and where NOT to.
- Please get in contact with the Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales at your university abroad; they might have updated information.
- Check the bulletin boards in the university where students post flyers with rooms to rent or apartments to share

General Student Advice on How to go about getting an Apartment

I think the best way to do this is by setting up appointments to tour places ahead of time and go see them during your first days here. It does come with the inconvenience of having to find lodging for a couple days but pays off as you are going to be living in that place for 5-6 months. Another way is to ask people who were abroad in the last few years about their apartments and if they had a positive experience, you could reach out to their landlord. This is great because you can get this out of the way and know you won’t get scammed. Honestly speaking, there are a good number of scams out there. Most listings will be legitimate, but there are some dishonest people out there. Here I will go through how to find apartment listings, how to respond to a listing, how to avoid scams, what to ask people about the apartment, what to check for when you visit the place, and how to proceed from there.

- See the following web pages to rent a room (shared) or an entire apartment to share:
- Erasmus Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/erasmussantanderns/about/?ref=page_internal
- http://www.milanuncios.com/alquiler-de-pisos-en-zaragoza/
- http://www.fotocasa.es/es (enter: ‘alquilar’ and name of town)
- http://www.idealista.com/

Ask past IEPers about their apartment and if you are interested, ask them for their landlord’s contact info.

- Other Common sites in Spain for finding listings
  - Easypiso
  - Airbnb
  - Badi
  - Trovitcasas
  - Roomgo

- Also you can look up rental agencies, they tend to be a little more expensive to rent from but it’s a little more official than the other options.

- Additionally, there are a lot of student/ Erasmus rentals you can find on facebook

**General Student Advice on how to respond to a listing:**

Typically when you respond to a listing you want to say who you are, what you will be doing during this time, what you like about the place, how you found the place, when you want to rent the apartment, what makes you a good renter, confirm you can afford the place, ask to see the place, and thank them for their time. This is my template that I used:

Estimado ________,

Me llamo ________ y me interesa alquilar una de las habitaciones en su piso en (address). Me parece bonito y bien situado. Lo encontré por (where you found it). Soy un alumno extranjero de EE. UU. de la Universidad de Rhode Island. Busco alojamiento en San Sebastián desde septiembre hasta febrero. Durante este tiempo trabajaré como becario para una empresa local. Soy respetuoso y tengo los fondos para pagar el alquiler con mis ahorros y ____. Si está interesado en alquilarme el piso, querría hacerle algunas preguntas y me gustaría pedir una cita para ver el piso. Gracias de antemano por su consideración y espero su repuesta.

Un Saludo,

Nombre Apellido
General Student Advice: How to avoid scams

There are certain things you should ask or do to make sure an apartment is legit. If the person you are in contact with about the place is hesitant to answer these questions or requests, then they are probably not to be trusted. Here is what to look out for:

- Ask if they can do a contract for the lease and ask that they send it to you beforehand. This is standard and the contract protects you legally; they can’t just kick you out without notice or unrightfully hold on to your deposit if you have a contract.
- If they do not provide you with their full name, DNI number, or their rental company’s information.
- They are not willing/able to show you the apartment before.
- In the case they are not the owner, they won’t give you the owner’s information.
- They ask you to pay via paypal or some other 3rd party money transfer that isn’t a direct bank transfer.
- The apartment pictures look fake or too good to be true for the price. Also keep in mind that rooms in Zaragoza typically run 250-400 euros a month bills included.
- If you are still unsure and want to verify that the person who claims to be the owner is the actual owner, you can request proof of ownership online as this information is public record. Go to https://www.registradores.org/ and request a “nota simple de finca”. You need the address/apartment number. It cost 10 euros and arrives to your email in less than a week. It will tell you who the current owner is of the apartment.

What to ask the person about the apartment:

Here is my go-to list I asked when talking to people about apartments. Of course, make sure to review the listing so you do not ask something that is already listed. Add any question you think is important.

- ¿Cuáles meses estará disponible el piso? (Just to confirm that it will be available while you are there)
- ¿Cuántos se miden el ancho y largo de la habitación? (pictures on listings can be misleading)
- ¿Cómo es la presión y la calefacción de agua en la ducha? (this may seem silly but for me having a warm shower with sufficient pressure was important)
- ¿Quién va a estar en el piso durante este tiempo?
- ¿Cuántas habitaciones están disponibles?
· ¿Hay otras tarifas no incluidas en los gastos? ¿Incluye internet?

· ¿Hay otras reglas o responsabilidades específicas de la vivienda? (some buildings maybe occupied by mostly elderly people and may have stricter rules than other)

· ¿Cómo es su proceso para evaluar los que quieren alquilar una habitación? ¿Cómo se describe el inquilino ideal? (gives you an idea of what’s expected of you)

· ¿Cuál es su norma con respecto a invitados? (if you are expecting friends to visit, it might be good to ask this although you could figure this out later with your roommates)

· ¿Cómo es su norma para mandar una solicitud de mantenimiento? ¿Hay alguien que normalmente hace las reparaciones del piso? (gives you an idea of how quick repairs get made in case something breaks like the washing machine or stove)

· ¿Hay alguna mascota en el piso ahora mismo? (noise/ allergies)

· ¿Hay un arrendamiento oficial que puedo ver antes de mande una finanza? (you want to see the contract you would be signing and sign it before you lock yourself in a place financially)

· ¿Es la dueña/ el dueño del piso usted? (sometimes people rent the whole apartment and look for new roommates when theirs leaves or sometimes the landlord rents by room, either case you want to have the landlord’s contact)

· ¿Viviría en este piso usted? (silly sounding but makes them be honest about the good and bad of the place)

· ¿Se puede pagar el alquiler por transferencia? ¿O efectivo? (transfer is better in almost all cases)

· ¿Cual seria el próximo paso en el proceso de vivir en el piso? ¿Tenéis que evaluar me como inquilino o puedo decidir, firmar un contrato y mandar un depósito?

What to check for when you visit:

· Make sure the place looks like the one in the pictures

· Room has plenty of outlets

· Doors have locks

· Water is good, bathroom appliances work

· Bed is big enough

· Enough storage for your clothes
· Kitchen has everything you need
· Current renters are neat or not

How to proceed from there

· Once you find a place you like and would be happy to live in, you need to sign your contact and you will send your deposit (typically a month’s rent) and then you should be all set!
  ○ Your contract should mention your deposit, your rent, what your room contains, stipulations for breaking your contract, how you will get the deposit back at the end of the rental period

*Student Advice on How to Succeed in your Courses:*

- Students in Spain study a lot more independently than here and they are held responsible for their own time management and study success.
- Study and follow up even when you do NOT get any homework. This way you do not leave the bulk of studying and understanding the material for the last weeks.
- Reach out to your professors after class or during office hours and ask questions, show your interest... This interactive approach helps you immensely.
- Form study groups, ideally with Spanish, native students who know more tricks and tips than you.
- Try to get sample assignments and exams to see how the professor designs them...
- Sit in the first row in each course so that you understand everything.
- Take notes and study all words and vocabulary that is new to you.

*Tips while abroad by the US Embassy in Spain:*

- Info on many topics: [https://www.expatica.com/new/es/about/basics/](https://www.expatica.com/new/es/about/basics/)
- News of Aragon/Zaragoza:
  - [http://www.elperiodicodearagon.com/](http://www.elperiodicodearagon.com/)

*General Tips from past S-IEPer's before You Leave*

- Inform your bank that you will be going abroad and for roughly how long. Many banks will take notice that your card is being used in a foreign country and freeze it until you contact them to confirm that it is indeed you. This is a great feature unless you are actually the one using the card and lose access to your funds at an awkward time.
- Look into a Capital One credit card. They are frequently lauded for having the best exchange rates and there are no transaction fees or fees associated with currency exchanges. Even taking money out of an ATM only results in the fees of that banking entity. They have an awesome student card that also nets you 1.5% back if you pay on time.
- Convert some of your money to Euros before you leave. Credit/Debit cards work just about everywhere but some banks charge fees and it is generally comforting knowing that you will have some cash upon arrival. AAA is a good place to do this provided you aren’t trying to do so the day before you leave. Many airports also have an area for currency conversion although there may be fees involved.
- Order a few outlet converters before leaving. The outlets in Spain are different and you wouldn’t want to be left without a way to charge your phone or computer before getting settled in.
- Learn to cook 4-5 dishes using basic raw ingredients. Food is cheap in Spain but depending on where you are you may be surprised at the things they don’t sell in stores and you don’t want to be stuck making the same meal every night for a week.
  - To add on to this, utilize the local fruit stores and other specialty places! Fruits and veggies are specifically very inexpensive in fruit stores, and other specialty shops offer better cuts of meats/cheeses/etc than what you are typically able to get in the grocery stores.
- The app Moovit uses public transit information to show you how to get from point a to point b effectively in most cities. Some places may have their own travel apps that are more specific (ie bus times down to the minute) but if you plan to travel this is a good app to have.
- Keep your passport on you at all times until you get your NIE card. After you get your NIE card that is good enough for a local ID so make sure your passport is in a safe place along with some backup stuff (for me this was a spare SIM card and some Euros).
- Prepare to be flexible!!! Especially in reference to your classes but generally as well!
  - With reference to your classes, there is a reason you are asked to clear as many classes as possible with the PAF process. Many students end up taking a very different course schedule than originally planned. As US students, taking classes from multiple majors can be messy and just because two classes work schedule wise does not mean the exams don’t overlap.
  - You might be frustrated to find out that typically students go to Spain without concrete housing plans. This is fine! Things work much differently than in the states. Check the tips in each city specific section and more generally ask around the university about university assisted housing. Additionally, there are a number of websites used to rent out rooms (like idealista). And above all DO NOT!!! Take a place without visiting.
  - There were also a number of us that only had internships solidified within a few weeks of starting. This is also normal! It can be a little frustrating especially as some of us were unfortunately unable to solidify desired positions but you will end up somewhere. Spanish business and life in general occurs at a much slower pace than we are accustomed to
- Typically speaking, Castilian Spanish is more informal than latin american spanish. By this, I mean the Usted/Ustedes conjugations are rarely utilized. You do not typically address people as Usted. Obviously they will understand you and this is a small dialect thing but specifically my host mother asked that I not use Usted with her.
IF YOU HAVE A CHRONIC ILLNESS:

I am a type 1 diabetic and this is my experience with both prior preparation and while I have been here:

Specifically for pump supplies but if you generally need medication: I was able to request additional supplies from my insurance up front but get this process started early. Depending on your insurance/supplier the process may vary but I first spoke with my supplier who needed a specific form from my insurance and there was some back and forth but eventually I was able to get additional 6 months of supplies up front. Unfortunately, you need to bring this with you as prior to receiving your NIE you will be unable to receive international mail (within Spain, however, you can). I found that talking to my endocrinologist and getting a letter of medical necessity helped in terms of allowing me an extra bag at no cost, or at least would have had I been more proactive. Get in touch with any and all airlines/travel entities you plan to travel with early on and explain the situation. Something else to note is (at the very least mine but I would guess other) pump suppliers will offer a backup pump program. Essentially you sign a contract and they send a backup pump in case for whatever reason yours stops working. Again, start this process early.

For insulin/ refrigerated medication: Frio pouches off Amazon!!! I cannot recommend them enough. My parents visited me over winter break and despite Iberia losing their luggage for a few days, the Frio pouches remained cool. Made specifically for insulin but will work with any medication that must remain refrigerated.

Gettings labs/ A1C done: I found out that before getting routine lab work done you first need to see a general doctor who will then request the labs and you can then set an appointment and then get your results. Unfortunately, I sort of brute forced this process and as a result ended up paying out of pòcket when I could have been covered by the URI international insurance. From my understanding (which is still a little wonky) you MUST first go to the government medical center before going to any other medical location (even one the CISI sends you). From there, you set up some sort of consultory appointment and go from there. Even out of pocket, my total costs for the consultation, labs, and receiving lab results was only 150€.

The University of Zaragoza

Arriving at the University of Zaragoza

Please report to the Office of International Relations at UNIZAR/EINA and get to know the team. They are your onsite support during your stay aboard. Please show your appreciation for their help; they are going the extra mile to support your study abroad efforts. Please represent URI and the IEP honorably!

Adolfo Pallarés -and- Rosa Martinez

International Office EINA
Once you arrive, connect and ask for advice! Ask for a meeting with your international Advisor:
- Javier Civera (for all but CHE) – jcivera@unizar.es
- Jose Luis Sanchez Cebrian (for CHE) – jlsance@unizar.es

The International Advisors can help evaluate the courses you are planning on taking and make recommendations. Please send your course choices to the advisor above & also to irsea@unizar.es

Helpful links with an abundance of information:
- Official Web Page for UNIZAR: https://www.unizar.es/
- Research center(s) at UNIZAR: http://i3a.unizar.es/en
- Web Page with New Student Information: https://eina.unizar.es/presentacion/ (abundance of info!)
- About Zaragoza:

Before beginning courses at UNIZAR, you will be emailed about attending an orientation for all new engineering students. At this orientation, you are given a variety of paperwork, informative documents, as well as a map of the city that will help you get around easier. An important document you will receive is a temporary student ID, which is in paper form. You will also receive a paper that shows how to activate your UNIZAR email account. This account serves as a means of communication between your advisors, professors, as well as other students.

Take note that you will not be enrolled in classes before you arrive in Zaragoza. This process needs to be completed by meeting with your academic advisor at UNIZAR, where they will process your documents. It is necessary for you to obtain your official UNIZAR student ID before this since it is required for enrollment.

After successfully enrolling in courses at UNIZAR, you’ll be given a stamped document that lists your courses. KEEP THIS DOCUMENT AND MAKE A COPY (it will be useful when you need to provide proof that you’re a student during the NIE process). If you decide to drop courses, you are still able to but you must meet with your advisor again to make the switch.
Housing:

- Contact your designated UNIZAR Consultants to find out recent tips.
- Info from UNIZAR's web page:
  - Housing: [http://wzar.unizar.es/servicios/inter/internationalstudents.htm](http://wzar.unizar.es/servicios/inter/internationalstudents.htm)
  - See under Alojamiento below left: [http://www.unizar.es/vida-universitaria](http://www.unizar.es/vida-universitaria)
  - [http://alojamiento.unizar.es/](http://alojamiento.unizar.es/)
  - And: [http://webdiis.unizar.es/~neira/INCOMING/housing.htm](http://webdiis.unizar.es/~neira/INCOMING/housing.htm)

Events and Activities at UNIZAR or Zaragoza:

There is an abundance of activities and events offered in Zaragoza and at UNIZAR. Some examples:

- [http://zaragenda.com/](http://zaragenda.com/)
- [https://cultura.unizar.es/](https://cultura.unizar.es/) (with an abundance of information)

General Tips from Past Spanish IEP Students who attended UNIZAR

UNIZAR Student Advice on Banking

I believe that Bank of America has a credit card that you can apply for that does not incur international fees, if that interests you. With this card you will also get reward points to use for travel purchases, I was also to get a 200 euro trip for free using my points. Although this is an easy solution to your money-handling, it is essentially required for you to get a spanish bank account if you are going to get paid for your internship since the company will require you to give them your IBAN number, which is a bank account number that is exclusive to Spain (US bank accounts have account/routing numbers).

I personally chose Santander Bank since there are many branches located in Zaragoza. I chose the Smart 123 bank account. There’s an option to pay 2€/month which provides some benefits that you may find useful. The best one is cash-back on transactions if you use Apple Pay (I accumulate about 12€/month by using Apple Pay, so it's very worth it). I also recommend getting the app on your phone which allows you to track your spending, view cash-back accumulation, transfer money (especially useful for paying rent), etc…

Of course there are other banks that are prominent in Zaragoza including CaixaBank, Sabadell, Ibercaja, etc… I do not have much info on how they are for students/young adults.

To get a Santander bank account you need to:

1. Go to your local Santander branch location, bring your passport with you, as well as an apartment contract to show proof of residency (I believe you need this)
2. Mention that you’re a student and would like to open a simple debit account (agent will give the option of the free account or the 2€/month card)
3. You will be given a paper that includes all your bank account info needed. You will not get the card right away since they need to generate that in a separate facility, but you can use that info to input it into the app and buy things you may need online
4. You’ll have the option of having your card delivered to the branch or to your residence, I chose the branch since it was the easiest. The card can take a few days or up to a week to deliver.

UNIZAR Student Advice on Courses:

To let you know, the course design is quite different from URI. From my experience, there have been no quizzes, homework, extra credit assignments, etc… Although this feels like a relief to some, it is quite stressful for others. Depending on your course, the most weight on your final grade is the final exam. For 2/4 of my courses, the final exam was worth 100% of my grade. This is why it is essential to attend class, take notes, and ask for help from the professor or other students if needed. On the first day of class, meet with all your professors and introduce yourself. Let them know that you’re a foreign exchange student. A prior connection with your professor will be useful as they may provide you with notes and useful advice to pass your courses. Keep in mind that most classes last 2 hours or more which may be a bit drastic but bring a snack so that you can stay attentive.

If you’re going to be taking any courses with a lab component, ask your professor if you will need a lab coat, glasses, gloves, etc… If so, I went here to buy them: Productos Gilca, Street: Paseo de las Damas, 27, 50008 Zaragoza

UNIZAR Student Advice on Transportation:

The easiest way to get around anywhere is to use google maps to and hit the public transportation option and most of the time it will show you the best way to get where you want to go.

Getting around Zaragoza:

Zaragoza has buses that run all around the city and a tram that runs mostly north to south through the city. When you first arrive you will arrive at la estación de Delicias and from there you will either take a bus or taxi to where you are staying. Taxis are about 8-10 euros from the bus station to the center of the city. If you are going with someone and have a bunch of bags, this is probably you best option. Buses are 1.35 euro in cash but with the bus card they are 75 cents. To get the bus card you have to go to el caracol centro comercio and buy a card for 2 euros. The tram has stops at both the engineering campus and general campus. It cost the same as the bus does but to use the tram you need to use the tram card to pay. If you get caught not paying, you could get a 30-50 euro fine. The tram and buses run about every 5-7 minutes during the day and with limited frequency in the early morning and at night. If you need
to get somewhere quick or during the off hours of the bus schedule, taxi is your best option. You can call ahead to order a taxi to be at your address when you need to go.

**UNIZAR Student Advice on City of Zaragoza:**

- Honestly a great city to visit because it has everything you would want for tourism (museums, lots of cheap restaurants, Christmas markets) but doesn’t get a lot of visitors so it makes for a very authentic visit
- City of about 600,000 people but feels smaller
- 2000 years of history, ruled by the Romans, the Moors and Spanish Catholics so there is a lot of historical sites and beautiful architecture
- It’s super safe (I have walked the streets at all hours and never felt unsafe nor have I seen any crime)
- Pilares is a 10 day festival in early October to honor the patron saint. There are concerts, parties, parades, oktoberfests, pop up restaurants and more.
- Very cool Christmas market from around Dec. 18 to Jan 6.
- They also do not speak much English really

**What to see:**

Tourist attractions typically open at 10, close from 2pm-5pm for lunch and reopen 5-9pm

- **El Palacio de la Aljafería:** catholics built it, got conquered by the Moors who built it some more, they got conquered by the catholics and they built it up some more
  - They have tours in English, entrance is 1 euro, free on Sundays
- **La Basilica de Pilar:** huge church in the city center, one of the most spectacular churches I have ever seen.
  - Christmas markets and nativity scenes surrounding the church (best at night)
  - [https://www.mercados-navidad.es/mercado-de-navidad-en-zaragoza/](https://www.mercados-navidad.es/mercado-de-navidad-en-zaragoza/)
  - There is another church directly to the east of the Basilica that's just as nice looking
- **Museo Goya:** one of the most famous artists from Spain who is from Zaragoza
  - [https://museogoya.ibercaja.es/](https://museogoya.ibercaja.es/)
- **Museo de Ciencias Naturales:** FREE, whole bunch of fossils from Zaragoza, taxidermy animals [http://museonat.unizar.es/](http://museonat.unizar.es/)
- **Museums about Caesar Augustus and the Romans (namesake of the city)**
  - [Museo del Teatro de Ceasaragusto](https://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/museos/es/teatro) ***must see, def the coolest of this group***
  - [Museo de las Termas Pulicas](http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/museos/es/termas)
Museo del Puerto Fluvial de Ceasaragosto
http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/museos/es/puerto

Museo del Foro de Ceasaragosto
http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/museos/es/foro

Museo de Pablo Gargallo: sculptor
Museo de Pablo Serrano: modern art

What to eat/drink:

Heads up: The schedule over here is very late over here. Don’t try to fight it, with the time difference, you will get used to it quick.

Shops/Markets: Generally open everyday except Sunday and at lunch time between 2-5pm.

Breakfast: Cafes open at 9 or 10am
• go to any cafe, they will usually have a breakfast deal where you get a tostada (toast with olive oil and tomato or jam) with coffee or orange juice for 2-4 euros
• You can also get a croissant, napolitana (chocolate filled croissant), chocolate with churros
• How to order your coffee: cafe solo (espresso), cortado (espresso and a splash of milk), cafe con leche (espresso with a bunch of milk), cafe americano (watered down espresso)

Lunch: Restaurants open up for lunch between 1-2pm and close between 3-4.
• go for “el menu del dia” (menu of the day)
  o For 10-15 euros you get: water, ½ bottle of wine, bread, first plate (salad or soup), second plate (meat or fish with potatoes or eggs typically), and dessert!
  o You’ll find it at a majority of the restaurants, also the best way to get a lot of authentic food for cheap and to get ready for a siesta/walk
• I recommend this one: Parrilla Albarracin
• 20 best cheap lunches: https://www.gastrozaragoza.com/restaurantes-baratos-zaragoza/

Tapas: (Similar to appetizers) Restaurants open around 7pm.
• El casco viejo is a bunch of historical neighborhoods that are dense with good tapas
• How to do tapas: order a drink and a dish at the bar, share with your friends, go back up to try something else, or move on to the next place!
• SPECIAL DEAL: JuePincho
  o On Thursdays starting at 8 pm, lots of bars will offer a tapa and a drink for 2 euros, especially in La Magdelena neighborhood

Dishes to try:
• General stuff: go to Bar Sin Nombre, Bodegas Almau
• Croquetas (fried doughy balls with ham, cheese, fish, etc)
  Try at Entalto, Dona Carta, Puerta Cirugia
- Tortilla de patata (Spanish omelette with potatoes and onions, most popular dish in the country)- anywhere
- Patatas bravas (fried potatoes with spicy sauce)- anywhere
- Pinchos (things on slices of bread)
- Champi (mushroom slider)
- Ternasco (lamb)
  Try at “La ternasasca”
- Rabo de toro (stewed bull’s tail)

Dinner: Starts around 8 or 9 pm and goes until 10 or 11 pm

- Same as lunch restaurants

Vegan Restaurants (or ones with plenty of vegan options)
- La birosta (bueno, magdalena)
- A flama (barato, magdalena)
- La fresca (pizzas, magdalena)
- Barrio sur (barato, magdalena)
- Baobab (el mejor, por la city)***
- El festín de babel (muy bueno pero caro. centro)
- Los helechos (muy barato. solo para lunch time)***
- La quinoa (bueno, entre city y centro)
- Mr dumbo (libanés, entre city y centro)
- La olla vegetal
- La retama
- Uh mami (plaza del pilar)

Honorable mentions:
- El Calamar Bravo: famous restaurant for calamari sandwiches with a spicy sauce
- Nola Grass: they have a really good cheese cake that has a sharper taste
- Montal Gormet: wine and specialty food shop, good for gifts and decent wine
- Places to try Spanish cured ham: Aires del Sur, Jamoneria, Come Jamon
- Bread shops: Panaderia Simon, Mondo Cafe, Panishop, literally any place

The University of Navarra (TECHNUN)

Arriving at the University of Navarra

Please report to the Office of International Relations at TECHNUN and get to know the team. They are your onsite support during your stay aboard. Please show your appreciation for their help; they are going the extra mile to support your study abroad efforts. Please represent URI and the IEP honorably!

Your main contacts are:
Estibaliz Oliva Herreros
Management Assistant. International Relations Service
Secretaria. Servicio de Relaciones Internacionales
Familiarize yourself with TECNUN and San Sebastian

Helpful links with an abundance of information:
- Official Web Page for TECNUN: http://www.tecnun.es/
- Research center at TECNUN: http://www.tecnun.es/alumnos/rtp
- International Student Information for TECUN:
  http://www.tecnun.es/en/services/international-relations-service/incoming-students
- San Sebastian was the 2016 European capital of Culture:
  o http://dss2016.eu/en/?view=default
  o http://www.donostiakultura.com/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=165&id=10225&Itemid=408&lang=en (with many interesting links and videos)

General Tips from Past Spanish IEP Students who attended UNIZAR

TECHNUN Student Advice, The City of Sanse

San Sebastián is a city in the Basque Country. There is a lot of history here that you should learn. There was a lot of oppression during Franco’s time and this has created a strong nationalist mindset. The people here are extremely proud to be Basque, as they should be. One of the official languages of Spain is Basque (or Euskera) which is what they speak in San Sebastián. It is a very hard language to learn, but here’s some words that you will hear:

Kaixo: hello
Eskerrik asko: thank you
Agur: goodbye

And whenever you see a “tx” it is pronounced as a “ch”.

There is a stereotype that basque people are rude. However, compared with Rhode Islanders and people from Massachusetts, they are very kind. I have found if you are polite and make an effort to respect their culture, they will be nice to you. In my opinion, they are very friendly, especially with each other. This city is like one big family. With that being said, they can tell when someone is not basque.

TECHNUN Student Advice, Transportation

The city is small so it's super easy to get around. I recommend getting a bus pass. It costs only 5€ and decreases the fares. You have two options: anonymous or with photo. With photo, you
need to fill out a form and provide them with a 2x2 passport style photo. This one i recommend if you will be taking the bus a lot because the price decreases the more you use it. As a reference:
without card: 1.80
With anonymous card: 1.22
Card with photo: 0.95 and then eventually it decreases to 0.18 per trip

To find a cheap bike once you are in San Sebastian look on apps such as Wallapop and search for a bike and there will be plenty of bikes to choose from for a good price. You can also visit one of the many bike shops around the city and you might be able to find a good deal there as well. Once you have a bike you can find a map of all the bike paths around the city in a bike shop. I highly recommend the use of the bike paths as they are well connected throughout the city and make for quick transportation.

To get to bilbao/the airport you use pesa.net. You have to print your ticket if you buy online, but you can also buy a ticket from the machine at the bus station or airport.

Travelling within Spain it is good to use Alsa, but travelling to france or portugal etc it may be cheaper to use flixbus.

**TECHNUN Student Advice, Food**

The eating/drinking culture in Sanse (and Basque country in general) is HUGE. The first thing you need to know is that in Pais Vasco, there are no tapas. Only Pintxos which generally means a tapa on bread - but still not a tapa. Also, this part of Spain is not big on sangria.

Be aware that a lot of the food at the grocery stores will be different. A lot of Americans complain about the lack of peanut butter and ranch dressing. However, the spanish food that's available is incredible. Try out new things!

Whenever I go out to eat dinner, I will usually take pintxos from different bars instead of sitting down for one big meal. When doing this, expect to be standing - there will probably be very few tables/seats. Every thursday there is “pintxo pote” all over the city, however the neighborhood Gros is where all the students and younger people go. For pintxo pote, you get a pintxo and a beer/wine/kalimotxo/cider for 2.5€

Drinks to order and how to order them:
Beer: “una caña” this generally means a large -ish glass of beer
Wine: “vino tinto” or “vino blanco”
Sparkling white wine: “txakoli” this is a basque drink thats a super dry sparkling wine
Cider: “sidra” this isnt like hard apple cider. Its a basque cider and i cant really explain it, you just have to try it. Super popular here.
“Kalimotxo”: this is red wine with coke. It sounds gross but just try it.
Shot: chupito

You should go to the cider house. I believe every year, the international department at tecnun organizes a dinner there. So, definitely go. There is a set menu and this is the best place to try the cider.
Also, there is something called a “txoko” (in English: gastronomical society) where people gather to cook dinner together. However, you have to be a member or a guest of one to be able to go. Tecnun has one and they will most likely organise something for the students.

My personal favorite pintxo bars and what to order at them:
Txalupa - pulpo, tacos de bacalao
Bar sport - txipi
La viña - cheesecake
Gandarias - foie a la plancha, solomillo
Mejillonera - literally anything from here
Bergara - txipi, foie
Fuego negro

**TECHNUN Student Advice, Apartments**

- Contact your designated **TECNUN Consultants** (I had connected you) to find out recent tips.
- Info from TECNUN's web page: [http://www.tecnun.es/admision-y-ayudas/alojamiento](http://www.tecnun.es/admision-y-ayudas/alojamiento)
- See the following **web pages** to rent a room (shared) or an entire apartment to share:
  - [https://www.facebook.com/ESNSanSebastian/](https://www.facebook.com/ESNSanSebastian/)
  - [http://www.milanuncios.com/alquiler-de-pisos-en-san-sebastian%7Cdonostia-gipuzcoa/](http://www.milanuncios.com/alquiler-de-pisos-en-san-sebastian%7Cdonostia-gipuzcoa/)

There are three main neighborhoods that you should have in mind when looking for a place to live in San Sebastian: Antiguo, Parte Vieja, and Gros. Tecnun’s Ibaeta campus is in Antiguo, which would make living here a quick and easy commute to school.

The university is in Antiguo, however, many students live in the center or in Gros. This is where all the “action” is. I would recommend living in one of these two neighborhoods and getting a bus pass or a bike to get to class. When you make friends in your classes and through the international program, you will want to meet them for pintxos etc and this will make it much easier. Also, the bus station is in the center, so this makes travelling much easier as well. Many students stayed at a hostel until they found an apartment. It's easy to look on facebook or one of the websites like idealista to find an apartment. Keep in mind, a lot of the elevators in the apartments in the city are too small to accommodate for bicycles and I have heard of bikes getting stolen near la concha/the center when left outside.

Vieja is a 5 to 10 minute bus ride from the university and Gros is a 15-20 minute bus ride from the university. Public transportation in San Sebastian is very easy, there is even an app called “Official Dbus app” that provides real time location of the buses, so do not let this stop you from living in Parte Vieja or Gros. In fact, many students would consider these places the best place to stay because they are right near the city center and close to the beaches. San Sebastian also offers a bus card called “Mugi” which you can reload at almost any store. It will reduce the price of each bus ride and it is much more convenient than scrambling for coins
before getting on the bus. The link below will tell you all of the stores in Donostia/San Sebastian where you can request a card and/or recharge it.

TECHNUN Student Advice, Events and Activities at TECNUN or San Sebastian

There is an abundance of activities and events offered in San Sebastian and TECNUN. Some examples for your review:

- http://www.tecnun.es/alumnos/actividades-acreditadas
- http://www.tecnun.es/vida-universitaria/actividades/musicales
- http://www.tecnun.es/vida-universitaria/redes-sociales (sign up in your field to receive updates)
- https://fiestas.net/san-sebastian/

You can also find a lot of coverage on YouTube.

Other Helpful Web Pages

- Business Etiquette: https://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/guides/guide-to-spain-etiquette-customs-culture-business/
- Info on many topics: https://www.expatica.com/new/es/about/basics/
- News of Spain: http://politica.elpais.com/

In general, Sanse is a place where you can just enjoy the city without really having to do anything. But still there are fun activities available:

- Watch the sunset from the top of Monte Urgull with a couple beers and a couple friends (there is also a bar at the top that is open during the warmer months)
- Take the ferry to the island - there is a bar! The ferry is near the Aquarium. You can also rent a paddle board or kayak and take it to the mountain. There usually is a rental center right on the beach in the warmer months.
- There are lots of mountains around the city, try to find someone with a car and go hiking. Txepa is a former student of TECNUN who will probably be in the tecnun erasmus group chat-befriend him.
- Sign up for surfing lessons! The weather will be gorgeous through october! They will most likely be at Playa Zurriola.
- There is a hike which starts at Zurriola (beach) and the path goes through Ulia and ends in Pasaia which is a small village where you can take a ferry across the river and take a cafe. The hike is not too long or too hard.
Quick trips:
Guggenheim in Bilbao has parties every once in a while. You should gather some friends to go to one of them. San Juan de Luz and Biarritz are gorgeous coastal towns in France which are very close to Sanse. The bus is cheap—maybe 7€.

**Santander**

*Arriving at the University of Cantabria*

Bienvenidos a una de las más bonitas ciudades de España! Santander is a locally known tourist destination situated on the northern coast of Spain in the autonomous region of Cantabria. When you arrive, the weather is fairly sunny and warm with intermittent rain. Starting late September/early October, you’ll feel quite at home as the incessant rain reminds you of lil Rhody. Eventually it cycles back around and it’s good beach weather again!

Please report to the Office of International Relations at UNICAN and get to know the team. They are your onsite support during your stay aboard.

Please show your appreciation for their help, they are going the extra mile to support your study abroad efforts. I know them all personally and appreciate them greatly. Please represent us, URI and the IEP honorably!


Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales (ORI)
Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas
Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander
Tel. + 34 942 20 10 18 / Fax + 34 942 20 10 78
E-mail: exchange.students@unican.es
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/oriunican](https://www.facebook.com/oriunican)

**Familiarize yourself with UNICAN and Santander**

Helpful links with an abundance of information:


**General Tips from Past Spanish IEP Students who attended UNICAN**

*UNICAN Student Advice, Spanish Lifestyle in Santander*
Specifically in Santander seafood is the sustenance of choice. Take advantage of the fish markets such as the one by Cuatro Caminos or go to the barrio pesquero for the best seafood you’re gonna get this side of the Atlantic. Curiously, the use of comida more directly aligns with lunch, and almuerzo is a morning snack. Lunch is typically the big meal of the day.

The Spanish enjoy celebrating anything and everything from the mundane to the truly exciting because why not? There are frequent fiestas meaning no school/work (but also that stores are closed) and right after we arrived the yearly celebration of the founding of Santander occurred (late August). There were fireworks and the streets were filled with people until the wee hours of the morning. Find out when these are and enjoy the Spanish lifestyle! (Protip: Plan around the frequent 3 day weekends to travel)

In terms of grocery shopping, n the case of Santander, there is a Corte Ingles (A giant mall) but it is a train ride away and not very feasible to get to on a day to day basis. It is good to understand that because of this, 1) stores tend to carry different brands/foods/etc as opposed to carrying the exact same stock and that 2) you will likely find yourself buying enough for the next day or two and going more often. As such, I highly recommend getting situated and figuring out where you can buy the foods you want. As an example, at the one market I frequented I could never find fresh herbs but one of the other IEP students went to a market and found fresh basil.

Another stark contrast is the lack of drying machines and dishwashers. The latter is not so much a problem (as long as your housemates are good about cleaning their dishes!). The former, however, is more problematic, especially in Santander. Generally speaking, Spain is sunny enough that air drying clothes is more than feasible. However, in Santander, this is less so the case. It rains frequently enough that a few weeks in we just washed our clothes and let them hang around the apartment to dry. Absolute worst case, there are laundromats everywhere.

If you are looking for a gym as I was, keep in mind that as with everything else they are smaller and more common. The gym I ended up in is called Novo Sport which is right off Calle San Fernando, one of the main roads. I wouldn’t recommend living there as it’s fairly far from the uni but on the off chance you’re around there it’s a great gym. Other gyms I looked at required a Spanish bank account, this one did not.

Finally, you are in wine country. Take advantage of it! Any cheap bottle of wine is as good as any mid shelf stuff you would buy back home and getting into the 5-10€ range is getting to the higher shelf stuff. The culture is very different from the US in the sense people really drink to socialize. As my French friend said “Europeans like the taste of wine and getting drunk is just a side effect.” Other region specific drinks include Orujo (the ESN chapter did a trip to the local town where a yearly festival takes place, DO NOT miss!) and Sidra. Calimochos (red wine with coca cola) are also quite popular here.

Places to go:

- Casa Lita (great tapas place)
- Primos de Origen (fantastic coffee shop in the city center)
- Plaza Cañadío (small plaza in the center with tons of bars)
- Chocolatería Áliva (Phenomenal churro place)
● Restaurante Vivero (Of all the seafood places in the barrio pesquero, this had the best paella)

UNICAN Student Advice, The University of Cantabria

First of all, there are classes taught in English but I highly recommend you only take courses in Spanish. In addition to only being able to receive SPA 412 from a Spanish course, you will find that you understand Spanish quicker if you completely immerse yourself.

I personally didn’t find that speaking to my professors and telling them I was foreign was super useful, but YMMV. The one engineering course I took was a very small class and in that one the prof knew I was foreign and it worked out better that way. However, the other classes I took were much bigger and as a result it was less important to speak with the professor. Since ERASMUS is a big program they are used to having exchange students in their classes. That said, it is not like back home where they will afford you the benefit of the doubt. You are just another student to them and are not afraid to fail you.

In terms of actual course materials, I was surprised to learn how inexpensive they are. Typically, you are able to purchase printed class notes for a small amount of money. One class had just class notes (stapled) that you had to buy as the class progressed, and in total it probably came out to 1.50€. For another, there was a nicer spiralized book of material that came out to maybe 8€. Your professor may mention external resources but they are neither required nor expensive (you would typically rent them at the library). This certainly comes as a relief compared to being gouged back home. It seems that there is less of an online presence compared to back home but YMMV. Two classes did not even have a page on the UNICAN virtual classroom and the other two had assignments submitted through the virtual classroom along with the class notes online.

Definitely try to make friends in these classes. In the one class where I didn’t know a soul, I sometimes would resort to randomly asking classmates about things like upcoming exams. Since you’ll likely take classes more or less within the same major, you’ll see people in more than one class. As a result, these friendships are very beneficial.

In my personal opinion (!!!) try to take mostly language classes that will count for SPA 4XX. Obviously you need an engineering course to transfer SPA 412 but I was unfortunate enough to have not taken another course that would count for 4XX and as a result will need to take another lit course when I get back. My reasoning for this is also I would prefer to take engineering courses in my native language as opposed to being super stressed about the vocabulary in addition to learning new concepts, and taking 1 engineering class is (IMO) enough.

I personally think (and the other international students I spoke with agreed) it takes about a month to more or less understand what people are saying. Especially if you have a professor that speaks very fast (like I did), don’t worry about the content so much as trying to understand what they are saying.

University classes are quite different to what you would take back home. Classes expect more time spent studying at home but do not typically ask you to do homework or things of that
Some ways to find housing:

- Contact your designated UNICAN Consultants to find out recent tips.
- See the following web pages to rent a room (shared) or an entire apartment to share:
  - Erasmus Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/erasmussantanderns/about/?ref=page_internal
  - http://www.fotocasa.es/es
  - http://www.idealista.com/ (enter: ‘alquilar’ and name of town)
  - http://www.emancipia.net/flats/portada/ (worry free housing service organization for Santander; pick-up from train or bus station in Santander; small fee included)
  - Official web page: http://pisos.emancipia.net/flats/portada/
  - Service Options: http://pisos.emancipia.net/flats/emancipia/
- If you participate in the language immersion program prior to the actual semester abroad, we strongly recommend you stay with a host family in that time. This will give you two weeks to find housing stress-free and you have support and help for all your initial questions.
- Emancipia is a company that provides transportation from the airport to apartments; they have a partnership with the university to help international students upon their arrival. Please ask the SIEP Director for more information.
- Join the ESN Santander Group chat in advance because sometimes people look for roommates on there

UNICAN Student Advice, Apartments

Your classes will most likely be on the Las Llamas campus of UNICAN, so when looking at apartments, those in the neighborhood of San Roque or Los Pinares will be the closest to your classes. Sardinero is also a nice area to live in because it is near the beaches and it is not too far from classes. Puerto Chico is basically the center of the city but it will take a little bit longer to get to classes (20-30 minutes by foot).
Generally speaking, housing in Santander will run you in the range from 200-300€ utilities included. Check out the housing section for Zaragoza (Written by SIEP enthusiast Oliver Paul Hazard) for a more cohesive idea of what to look for.

NOTE: We made the mistake of going through a private real estate company, DO NOT do this!!! We ended up in an apartment paying more because they wanted long term rentals as opposed to the 6 month lease we signed.

UNICAN Student Advice, Sports/Activities at UNICAN or Santander

There is an abundance of activities and events offered at UNICAN. Please see the main web page here:
http://web.unican.es/unidades/Deportes/cursos-y-actividades/listado-de-cursos-y-actividades
Ask the ORI Team at UNICAN for more details!

Another great center for all kinds of activities in Santander is:
http://clubdeportivomarisma.com/inicio

Other Helpful Web Pages

- Business Etiquette: https://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/guides/guide-to-spain-etiquette-customs-culture-business/
- Info on many topics: https://www.expatica.com/new/es/about/basics/
- News of Spain: http://politica.elpais.com/
- Smart City Santander:
  - https://www.thelocal.es/20160409/spains-santander-becomes-global-pioneering-smart-city

UNCAN Student Advice, Setting up a Santander Bank Account

Setting up a bank account through Santander bank is a good idea especially if you’re going to be living in Santander for a year or just a semester. For myself I needed a Santander bank account or just a spanish bank to set up wifi in the apartment I lived in for the first semester to complete schoolwork and other important things. However if you can get an apartment through Emancipia then just go with them, because everything is usually included and the whole monthly payment process is super easy and pretty cheap. In Santander the only Santander bank I was able to open a bank account was the one within the University of Cantabria. The bank tellers are super helpful and they walk you through the process. Things you need are:

- Your passport as a form of identification
- To fill out some forms
- And a spaniard number (A spanish phone number is really helpful to get, because it's much cheaper than paying for an international plan and you can set up a plan with Vodafone or Orange paying only about 15 euros monthly for 7 gigs of data and it's much easier to contact people within Spain when you're not in your apartment relying on WiFi)
- After going about the NIE process (your advisors here in Spain are also super helpful with guiding you through this process as well) and you finally receive your card, you must go back to the bank so that they can update your passport number to your new spaniard identification number (but don’t worry because they make the change for you).

The nice thing about having a Spanish bank account in Spain is that you can pay for anything with it in Euros without any fees applied like the ones your banks may charge you back home (it’s very helpful in other foreign countries as well, whose currencies are also in euros and if not the exchange rates still tend to be better with a Spaniard bank card for example being used in Hungary to withdraw forints). You can go to the banks Mondays through Fridays from 9 am to 2 pm, but you can also download the Santander.es bank app to keep track of your account actions and more (there’s also a lot of Santander banks and atms literally everywhere).

**UNICAN Student Advice, Transportation**

Transportation is super easy in Santander, because you either walk, take the bus, or ride a bike. There's a lot of escalators, because there are a lot of elderly people, but you can go to any stand that says Tabacos and buy a TUS Santander bus card that is 1 euro and put money on it, which is much cheaper than paying in cash each time you take the bus. (Note: When I first arrived I had a hard time finding a stand with bus cards in stock. Just keep asking around until you find one that does) You can also just wait for your student ID card from your university which in this case would be UNICAN and put money on it at the same places you would for the TUS card, without having to buy a card. Whatever you choose they both work and you only pay 0.66 cents as opposed to 1.33 euros each time you take the bus. They have bus maps everywhere and their transportation system is great, but because Santander is very small and hopefully you'll find some place pretty close to the university you'll be able to walk mostly. In my experience I had to take the bus every day to school and back, because the apartment I had gotten was a far walk and I definitely would find an apartment through Emancipia, because you can choose a location close to the University. (You can have international roommates who will most likely be students as well from other countries and it's a great experience.)

To add on to this, there is a very useful app called T.U.S. Santander (I believe it is free on the Google Play store and a few bucks on the App Store) which will use your phone GPS to tell you nearby bus stops as well as the estimated arrival times for bus stations. That said, the wait times are sometimes inaccurate by means of skipping the next bus and using the following bus for the next arrival time (IE bus 7c2 would say next arrival in 2 minutes and the following after 32 minutes even though the bus typically runs every 15 minutes). It's important to understand general bus schedules and from there use the app as a baseline. In the aforementioned example, 7c1/7c2 is the bus you would take if you are going to/from the university during the day and they run every 15 minutes on the hour in the mornings. If the app says 3 minutes and then 33 minutes, there is likely a third bus in 18 minutes. It is also useful to favorite the station closest to your flat.
The bus system can be a bit confusing, because in Santander at least bus routes can vary even within the same bus number. For example, 7c1/7c2 are the same bus but one runs in the other direction from the other and in the mornings (but only in the mornings!) it goes through a tunnel and gets to the university much faster than going around el sardinero. Bus line 4 has 3 or 4 different routes it takes including one that runs by the barrio pesquero and one that goes by the university. Typically the bus header will give an indication of where that specific bus is going, just pay attention and you'll figure it out.

Finally, public transport ends at 11pm sunday-wednesday, and thurs thru sat normal buses end at the same time but night busses run until 2/3ish.

In terms of general transport, Alsa is probably your best bet within Spain. There is a bus station right in the center of the town and right next to it is the train station (I never took the train but I’ve generally heard it typically isn’t worth it). Ironically, the Santander airport isn’t even located in Santander, rather a nearby village, but in any case your best bet with flying is RyanAir. Getting to the airport is super easy. There is a bus that takes you right to the airport that runs every half hour from the bus station. The thing with RyanAir is it’s very picky with where you can go but it is cheap. So generally be vigilant in looking for flights ahead of time.

**UNICAN Student Advice, Things to Do in an and Around Santander**

**In Santander:**

- Climb up to the top of Centro Botin, there are great views of the center and the bay.
- Walk around the palacio de Magdalena.
- Take the path from second Sardinerio beach all the way to el Faro and the lighthouse. It makes you feel like you are far outside of a city.
- Go to Barrio Pasquero for some great seafood.

**Around Santander:**

- Take the ferry from the center of Santander to Playa de Somo, and maybe try surfing.
- Take the bus (or bike) to Liencres. There is a long path along the water that can take all day to complete.
- If you do not do the orientation, try and figure out a way to see the Picos de Europa. They are a small Cantabrian mountain range that are 100% worth seeing.

**UNICAN Student Advice Tips and Tricks**

- You are lucky enough to have the option to do the immersion program. I highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity. You will meet other ERASMUS students as well as better your Spanish before the semester even begins. I also recommend staying with a host family until at least the end of the program. This allows you to get in town and not immediately have to start worrying about housing. You do have the opportunity to stay with the host family indefinitely but definitely don’t commit to this. The other SIEP student and I were both ready to move out
- In the same vein, I would HIGHLY recommend doing the orientation program the school offers. It isn’t so much a typical orientation as it is seeing some of the absolutely breathtaking nearby Cantabria region for fairly cheap.
● You are also lucky enough to be at a school with an ESN chapter, also take advantage of this! They do local trips at a lower cost than if you planned them yourself. There is a second ERASMUS organization but their presence was not as big.

● When you get in its fairly sunny, and within a few months it begins to rain and be more like new england weather. I’d recommend bringing a light amount of “summer” clothing and mostly packing for rain and cold weather.

● I HIGHLY recommend finding housing with Spanish/international students. Not to say living with IEP students was a mistake, rather we only spoke English in the apartment which I found stagnated my learning of Spanish. Similarly, put yourself out there and speak Spanish whenever possible! Much easier said than done, I know, but the more you speak the more comfortable you feel and Spanish speakers are generally kind and forgiving of foreigners speaking their mother tongue. I really recommend frequenting a smaller nstore and getting to know the employees. I did this with a fruit store and found myself using Spanish around them and getting great fruits/veggies!

● Your study abroad semester should be your travel semester. You will likely have a more strict schedule during your internship and typically the classes you take abroad aren’t the most useful whether you pass them or not.
  ○ This was obvious to everyone but me who had the idea that I would spend the university semester studying.
# Checklist for Exchange Students to the University of Zaragoza

## Pre-Arrival

### Prepare
- Check email & **READ** the information!
  - Details about Orientation Week
  - Activate UNIZAR email account
  - Invite to Buddy Pair
- Read the Incoming **Student Guide**
- Take out (or be able to get) enough € to cover: deposit & 1st month’s rent
- Get bank reference letter & funds ready for proof of finances
- Extra passport photos & copies of documents
- Obtain negative COVID test 72 hrs before departure & fill out health questionnaire

### To Do
- Attend Special September Course or Summer Course in Jaca (optional, non-affiliated program)

## 1st Month

### During Your First Week
- **Move-in / Locate Housing**
  - Sign & obtain original contract & housing confirmation
- **Check in** with the International Center at UNIZAR (Maria de Luna 3 50018 Zaragoza, Spain, Tel. + 34 976 762233; irsea@unizar.es)
- **Attend Orientation Week**! *(receive temporary student I.D., important paperwork, map of the city etc.)*
- **Register Locally in Zaragoza** at the Oficina de Extranjeros & Obtain Residence Certificate card *(Calle Obispo Covarrubias, 0, 50001 Zaragoza, Spain)*
- **Make appointment online** for your Foreign Identification Number / *Número de Identificación Extranjeros* (NIE)
  - Usually appointments are available in 1-2 months – so don’t delay in booking your appointment!
- **Make an appointment online** to get your fingerprints / *toma de huellas & for your Foreign Identity Card (TIE)* from the Policia
  - Select a date that is the day after your NIE appointment
- **Meet with your Prof. of SOE at UNIZAR**
  - Enroll for courses – receive university document for NIE
- **Open a Bank Account / Get a Cell phone** (if applicable)

### To Do
- **Apply for your NIE** *(Oficina de extranjeros -skip the line!)*
  - **DO NOT MISS THIS APPT.** There is a processing time to get your NIE! **You MUST possess a valid NIE to be able to travel after your initial 90 days in Spain or the Schengen Zone is up.**
  - **Contact the Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales (ORI) at UNIZAR for the newest information**
  - **Bring copies of & all required documents** listed in the email they sent you plus € 15
  - **You will receive a document that your application has been submitted. DO NOT book any travel out of the country until you receive your NIE.**
  - Card will arrive in 30 days

## 2nd Month

### To Do
- **Get your TIE card & Fingerprints** *(Office next to the Oficina de Extranjeros en Calle Obispo)*
  - Bring copies of & all required documents listed in the email

## End of Study

### Leaving UNIZAR & the City of Zaragoza:
- You will be Ex-matriculated automatically at the end of the semester
- Download copy of unofficial transcript/ official transcript will be sent to OIE at URI
- De-Register from the city
- End gym membership
- **Register with new city**
- **Apply locally for a social security card / TESORERÍA DE LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL** *(if internship is paid)*
  - Give SSN to your employer

### If leaving Spain:
- De-Register from the city
- Close bank account/gym etc.
- Fill out **Intent to Graduate Form**
## Checklist for Exchange Students to the University of Navarra (TECHNUN)

### Pre-Arrival
- **Prepare**
  - Check your email & READ the information!
  - Application process: MIUNAV
  - Read the Incoming Student Guide
  - Sign up for a Buddy
  - Take out (or be able to get) enough € to cover: deposit & 1st month’s rent
  - Extra passport photos & copies of documents
  - View Welcoming Days Events
  - Obtain negative COVID test 72 hrs before departure & fill out health questionnaire

- **To Do**
  - **During Your First Week**
    - Move-in / find Housing
      - Sign & obtain original contract & housing confirmation
    - Check-in with the International Center at TECHNUN ([Pº Manuel Lardizabal, 13, 20.018 SAN SEBASTIÁN, Spain, Tel. +34 943 219 877 / Ext. 2408, Email: irs@tecnun.es](mailto:irs@tecnun.es))
    - Attend Orientation & **Welcoming Days Events, campus tour, city tour and excusions**! (receive temporary student I.D. important paperwork, map of the city etc.)
    - Meet with your academic advisor at TECHNUN
      - Enroll for courses & receive enrollment letter / La hoja de Matricula needed for NIE
    - Make [online appointment](#) & Register Locally with the City of San Sebastián (as soon as you have the La hoja de Matricula!)
      - Apply for your Foreign Identification Number / Número de Identificación Extranjeros (NIE), & get your fingerprints / toma de huellas & and Foreign Identity Card (TIE) at the National Police Station / Comisaría Nacional de Policía (20014, Urrumea Pasealekua, 17, 20014 Donostia-San Sebastian, SS, Spain)
        - Bring all **required Documents**. Make an appointment. It takes 2-3 hours. Obtain Residence Certificate card

  **DO NOT DELAY.** There is a processing time to get your NIE! You MUST possess a valid NIE to be able to travel after your initial 90 days in Spain or the Schengen Zone is up. **DO NOT book any travel out of the country** until you receive your NIE.

  - Open a Bank Account / Get a Cell phone (if applicable)
  - Access Classes through [ADI](#)

### 1st Month

### End of Study
- **To Do**
  - Leaving TECHNUN & the San Sebastián:
    - You will be Ex-matriculated automatically at the end of the semester
    - Download copy of unofficial transcript
    - Official transcript is sent to OIE at URI
    - De-Register from the city
    - End gym membership
    - Register with new city
    - Apply locally for a social security card / TESORERÍA DE LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL (if internship is paid)
      - Give SSN to your employer
  - If leaving Spain:
    - De-Register from the city
    - Close bank account/gym etc.
    - Fill out [Intent to Graduate Form](#)
# Checklist for Exchange Students to the University of Cantabria (UNICAN)

## Pre-Arrival

### Prepare
- Check your email & READ the information!
- Read the Incoming International Student Guide
- Take out (or be able to get) enough € to cover: deposit & 1st month’s rent
- Extra passport photos & copies of documents
- Obtain negative COVID test 72 hrs before departure & fill out health questionnaire

### To Do
- **During Your First Week**
  - **Move-in / Locate Housing**
    - Sign & obtain original contract & housing confirmation
  - **Check-in with the Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales (ORI)**
    - Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Económicas, Avda. de los Castros s/n. 39005 Santander, Tel. + 34 942 20 10, E-mail: exchange.students@unican.es
    - Receive your Tarjeta Universitaria Inteligente (Student I.D., email, library, load €, discounts, bus card)
    - Review process for obtaining the NIE & TIE
  - **Attend the Orientation / Welcome programme**
    - Tour of UNICAN, local guided excursions, presentation on Spanish culture, info on cultural activities, mentor program etc.
  - **Register for courses (2nd week)**
    - Register with the Padrón Municipal de Habitantes / empadronamiento at city hall
    - Bring housing contract & Obtain proof of residency for the NIE

### To Do
- **Within 30 days of your Arrival in Spain:**
  - **Make appointment online for your Foreign Identification Number / Número de Indentificación Extranjeros (NIE) & Student Residence Authorization Card / Tarjeta de Estancia por Estudios (TIE)**
    - from the Policía “Policía-Toma de huellas (expedición de tarjeta)” (Oficina de Extranjeros de Santander, C/Vargas nº 53, Santander, Tel. 942 999 399)
  - **DO NOT MISS THIS APPT.** There is a processing time to get your NIE! You MUST possess a valid NIE to be able to travel after your initial 90 days in Spain or the Schengen Zone is up.
    - Contact ORI at TECHNUN for the newest information
    - Bring copies of & all required documents listed in the email they send
  - **Open a Bank Account / Get a Cell phone** (if applicable)

## 1st Month

## End of Study

### To Do
- **Leaving TECHNUN & Santander:**
  - You will be Ex-matriculated at the end of the semester
  - UC issues a Certificate of Stay & a Transcript of Records (includes grades obtained for registered courses) that is sent to home university (March)
  - De-Register from the city
  - End gym membership
  - Register with new city
  - Apply locally for a social security card / TESORERÍA DE LA SEGURIDAD SOCIAL (if internship is paid)
    - Give SSN to your employer

### If leaving Spain:
- De-Register from the city
- Close bank account/gym etc.
- Fill out Intent to Graduate Form