

YOUR
ERASMUS
SURVIVAL
GUIDE
2025

by  **erasmusplay**

WELCOME

If you're reading this guide, you'll probably be leaving to study abroad in the next few months - Congratulations!

From knowing everything about your destination to finding accommodation and even making friends, Erasmus Play will support you throughout your stay to ensure that you have a unique and unforgettable experience.

**YOUR INTERNATIONAL
MOBILITY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!**



TABLE OF CONTENT

PART 1: PREPARE YOUR STAY.....04

- I. Choose your destination
- II. Know your budget
- III. Apply for scholarships & grants
- IV. Know everything about your destination

PART 2: FIND ACCOMMODATION.....10

- I. Erasmus Play accommodation search engine
- II. Types of accommodations
- III. Understand your contract
- IV. Avoid scams

PART 3: ERASMUS LIFE.....15

- I. Join the Erasmus Community
- II. Open a bank account
- III. Health & travel insurance
- IV. Travel

PART 4: IF YOU GO TO.....20

- I. Spain
- II. France
- III. Italy
- IV. Germany
- V. Poland
- VI. Turkey

CONTACT.....27

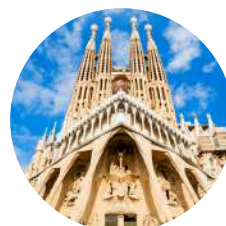


I. CHOOSE YOUR DESTINATION

To choose your destination, you should take into account the following aspects:

BUDGET & COST OF LIVING

It is very important to know if you are going to be able to afford the expenses at the destination where you choose to study. We recommend you to analyze the cost of accommodation, transportation, the average shopping basket, leisure, trips etc, and from there check which destinations fit your budget.



CLIMATE

The climate can be a very important aspect for some students. If, for example, you can't stand the cold or the few hours of daylight, we recommend that you check the average temperature of the destinations, as it will largely determine the activities you will be able to carry out in your day to day life.

UNIVERSITY & EDUCATION

Erasmus is a very enriching period in a student's life. Europe is home to some of the most prestigious universities in the world. So it will be a great opportunity to learn other methodologies and improve your resume.

LANGUAGE

The best way to learn or improve your skills is to live an immersion in another language. Also know that most universities and colleges offer language courses, such as OLS (Online Linguistic Support) courses.

II. KNOW YOUR BUDGET

It is essential to know your budget and the costs you will have to cover each month of the year in advance, so that you can choose a destination that fits your budget.

One of your most important expenses will be your accommodation. Knowing your budget will also allow you to choose the perfect accommodation for you.

Talking about accommodation, here is a little recap of what you will have to pay during your stay :

THE FIRST MONTH

- the first month's rent,
- the deposit,
- the booking fee, if applicable.



THE REST OF THE YEAR



- your monthly rent,
- electricity, gas, water, and internet bills if they are not included in the rent,
- other costs not related to accommodation: studies, transport, food expenses, entertainment, etc.



III. APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

In most countries you can apply for scholarships or grants to help you cover the costs of your studies abroad.

If you are going on Erasmus, you've probably heard about the Erasmus grant. But you should know that there are other funding possibilities from other organizations, depending on the city/country where you live and the city/country where you are going to study. Contact your region to find out more.

ABOUT THE ERASMUS GRANT



WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN ERASMUS GRANT?

Any citizen who is a national of an European Union country or of any country participating in the Erasmus+ programme can apply for an Erasmus grant.

Your long-term study period abroad can last a **minimum of 2 months** (or 1 academic term or trimester) and a **maximum of 12 months**. It is important to know that a person can go on several exchanges, provided that their total period does not exceed the 12-month limit within one cycle of study.

WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE ERASMUS GRANT?

The total amount of the grant can range more or less **from 170€ to 520€ a month**. It is impossible to know the exact quantity in advance as it varies a lot depending on different factors:

- Country of home university (low, medium, high cost of living).
- Country of host university (low, medium, higher cost of living).
- Total duration of the Erasmus.

We recommend you to directly ask your university's international relations office.

IV. KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR DESTINATION

To avoid culture shock, it is advisable to do a little research beforehand, but above all to go with an open mind, to understand and appreciate other ways of life.

If you want to know everything about your destination, check our Youtube channel!



Practical advice and tips to help you prepare for your mobility.



Extensive information on all destinations.



Information on the erasmus program: internships, scholarships, etc.



Guides to major Erasmus cities: accommodation, gastronomy, cost of living, festivals, etc.



IV. KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR DESTINATION

Meet our international team and check out our other Youtube channels in your native language:

ERASMUS PLAY ES



Ayleen

ERASMUS PLAY FR



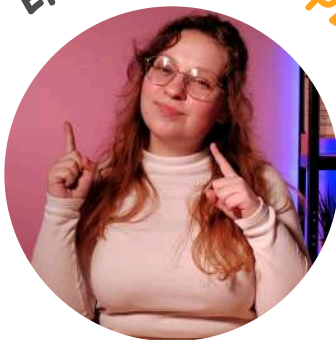
Morgane

ERASMUS PLAY IT



Mirko

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Karolina

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Christina

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Selin



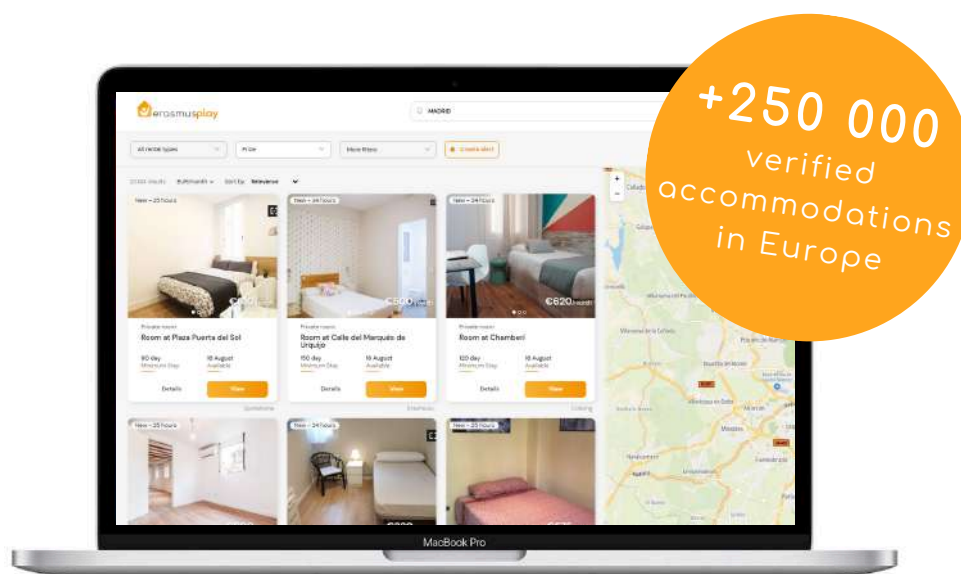
PART 2

FIND ACCOMMODATION

I. ACCOMMODATION SEARCH ENGINE

Erasmus Play search engine brings together all the **VERIFIED ACCOMMODATION OFFERS** for students from our partners.

You can search and compare numerous offers for national and international students throughout Europe, and book online with complete security.



www.erasmusplay.com

VERIFICATION PROCESS

VIEWING OF THE ACCOMMODATION: First of all, our partners check each accommodation. They also take photos, videos, etc.

SECURE PAYMENT: Reservations are made using a 100% secure online payment system. Until your check in, the landlord never receives your payment. It is secure with our partners.

SUPPORT: When you make your reservation you will be given a contact e-mail address and, in the unlikely event of a problem with your accommodation on arrival, you will be assisted to resolve it.



II. TYPES OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Analyse each housing option with its advantages and disadvantages to choose the **most suitable** type of housing for your lifestyle and needs.



SHARED FLAT

- ☒ Cheap
- ☒ Social life
- ☒ Shared chores
- ☒ Easy friendship



PRIVATE STUDIO

- ☒ Independent
- ☐ Expensive
- ☐ Less social life
- ☐ Few options



STUDENT RESIDENCE

- ☐ Expensive
- ☒ Social life
- ☐ Strict rules
- ☒ Support



HOMESTAY

- ☒ Cultural lessons
- ☐ Less freedom
- ☐ Strict rules
- ☐ Less social life



III. UNDERSTAND YOUR CONTRACT

Before booking a room or signing a rental contract, you should understand the following keypoints:

1 MONTHLY RENT

Ask the landlord if the monthly rent is going to be the same every month, as it might vary from month to month.

2 HOUSING EXPENSES

Are the utility bills (internet, water, electricity) included in the monthly price or will you have to pay for it at the end of each month? If so, how much will it approximately be?

3 DURATION OF CONTRACT

Does the lease match the period of your stay? If not, make sure you can leave the accommodation before the date indicated, and find out how long the notice period is.

4 RULES & REGULATIONS

Know the rules of the accommodation by which you should abide.

5 DEPOSIT & COMMISSIONS

Depending on who you are renting from, you might have to pay a booking fee or a one time administration fee. Know this amount, too.

WHAT'S A DEPOSIT?

The deposit is a **guarantee** which will be **given back** to you after your stay if you leave the accommodation in the **same condition** as it was when you entered.

The deposit is usually 1 or 2 times the first month's rent.



V. AVOID SCAMS

Most importantly :
Don't trust anything that is too good to be true.

LOCATE IT

Use google maps to check how far the accommodation is from your place of studies.



USE A SECURE PLATFORM

Search only on **verified and secure platforms**, where there is a guaranteed protection for you.

ZERO BANK TRANSFER

Be sceptical of landlords asking you to send money to their account. **Always try to use a safe platform to book.**

ORGANISE A VISIT

Try your best to **visit the accommodation in person** or know that it is **verified** before making any payments.



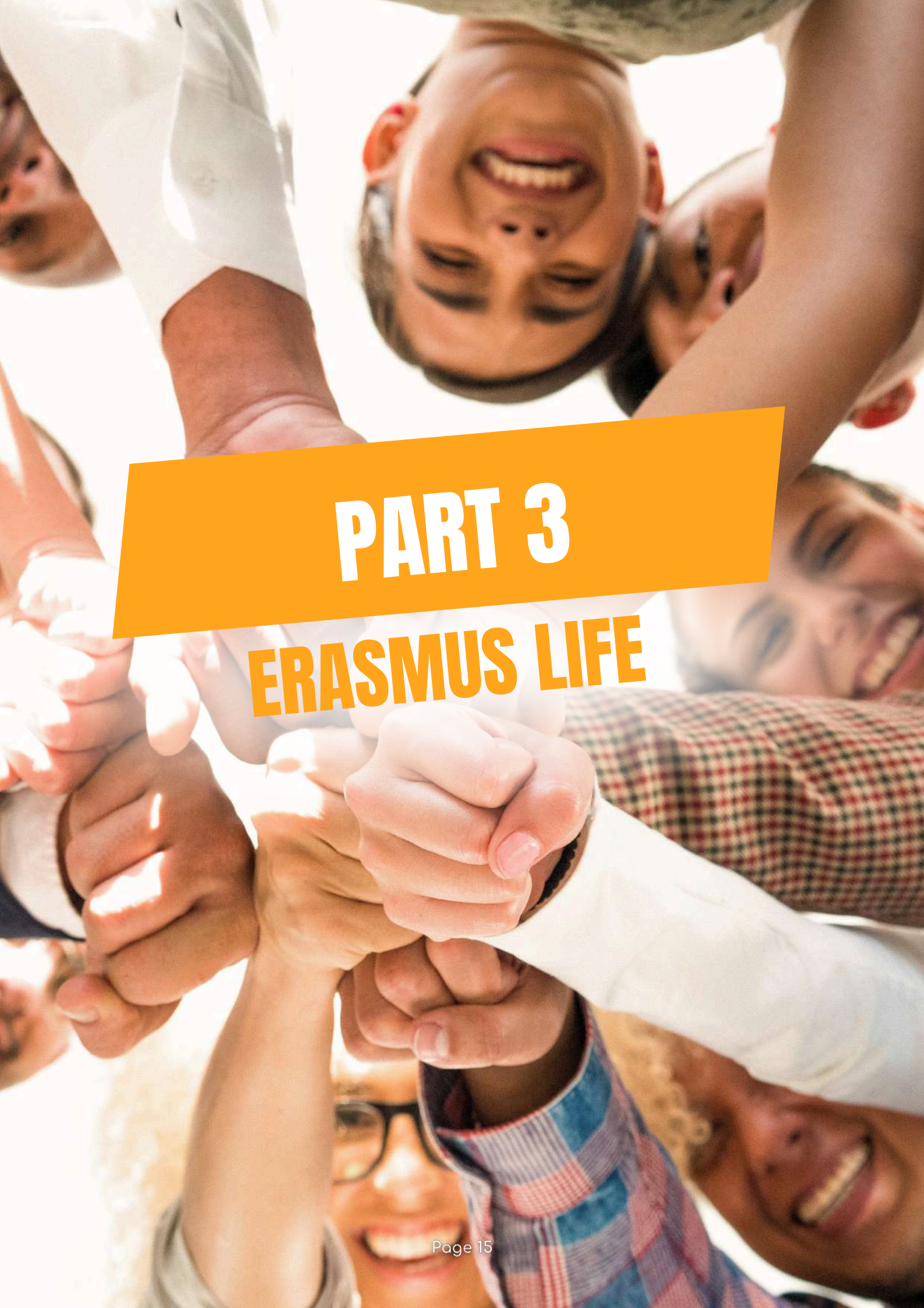
VIDEO CALL

Insist on doing a **video call** with the landlord to view the flat if there is no other verification process available.



FEEL SAFE

If the landlord is **never available** or is **outside the country**, be sceptical, it might be a fraud.



PART 3

ERASMUS LIFE

I. JOIN THE ERASMUS COMMUNITY

Studying abroad is the perfect opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, meet new people, discover new activities, party, and have fun!

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Once you arrive at your destination you can join student associations: you can immerse yourself in the university community and expand your horizons. Moreover, student associations often organise various events, workshops, parties, etc.

FLATMATES CLASSMATES

Your classmates are your study buddies, and forming bonds with them makes learning more fun. Plus, you'll get to experience different cultures and viewpoints. Living with flatmates? That's a golden opportunity for cultural exchange and teamwork. These friendships offer emotional support, local tips, and loads of fun.



II. OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

Perhaps until now you haven't thought about how you are going to **manage your money**, especially if you are going on Erasmus to a destination with a **different currency**?

If you use your regular card to withdraw money from an ATM or pay with a card in another currency, you will probably be charged a **commission** and, considering that you are going to be away from home for several months, this can mean a lot of money.

USE A COMMISSION-FREE CARD

Many students use commission-free cards during their stay. Both Revolut and N26 can offer you this easy payment option.

Revolut

"Change the way you money".

Revolut offers banking services : send money to 160+ countries, get physical debit cards, exchange currency and send money to your friends easily!

[Know more about Revolut](#)

N26

Send, receive, and manage your money anytime and anywhere. Open your online free bank account in minutes. No account fees. No paperwork. No queues.

Going to ?
Ask for a French IBAN with N26

[Get your N26 card!](#)

OPEN A LOCAL BANK ACCOUNT

You might also want to open a **local bank account**, especially if you study in France as you will need one to receive the CAF grant.

To open an account at your destination just go to a local bank. You will be able to open an account easily.



III. HEALTH & TRAVEL INSURANCE

Health insurance is usually not the first thing we think about when we prepare to study abroad, although it should be first on your **priority list**! Not all countries have the same healthcare system, and medical costs can quickly become astronomical...

EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD

If you come from a European country, you are entitled to the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**. Requesting the European Health Insurance Card is completely **free** and covers many of the services you may need during your Erasmus experience....

To get it, just contact your **health insurance organisation at home**, and you'll receive it in your mailbox after a few days.



STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

If you come from a **non-European country**, or simply if you want a **more complete cover**, we recommend you to get a student insurance that covers:

- Medical fees and repatriation assistance
- Medical teleconsultations
- Early return
- Worldwide coverage
- Rental Civil Liability
- Presence in the event of hospitalization

We have partnered with Chapka to provide a **-7% discount** on student travel insurance.

[Check it out!](#)

IV. TRAVEL

If you want to make the most of your experience abroad by travelling, you should consider the following options for getting around:

FLIXBUS

FlixBus has got you covered with their extensive coach routes! With over **400,000** routes across the globe, you can easily find the perfect option for your trip. Plus, the price of the tickets can be quite cheap and make it easy and affordable to get wherever you want.

[Click here to get 10% off your next trip!](#)

Skyscanner

Compare flights from major airlines and travel agencies and book the cheapest tickets online to your favourite destinations.

[Compare flights!](#)





PART 4

IF YOU GO TO...



I. SPAIN

If you're going to study in Spain, here are a few facts you should know:

NIE

The NIE is a personal, unique and exclusive number that is assigned to foreigners who decide to stay in Spain for **more than three consecutive months** and see their future in Spain. You will be asked for it while opening a bank account, signing a contract or getting a social security number.



LANGUAGE

Can you go to Spain without speaking Spanish? Of course, you can, but we highly recommend you to know some basic Spanish. Even if you're going to have all your courses in English, learn the most useful expressions, such as "una cerveza, por favor".

Once you arrive, you can also sign up for Spanish courses offered by your receiving university with other foreign students.

MUST SEE PLACES

Spain is more diverse than many may think. From the historical architecture in **Catalonia** with such architectural icons as the **Basílica de la Sagrada Familia**, through green lands of **Galicia**, to the Mediterranean coastline of **Andalusia**. You can't miss places like Seville, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and the islands - Ibiza or Tenerife.

You should also try some tapas and paella and definitely go to flamenco session.

FUN FACT

With a pinch of luck you can become the next billionaire. El Gordo – the Spanish Christmas Lottery - has the largest total payout in the world... **€2,240,000,000**



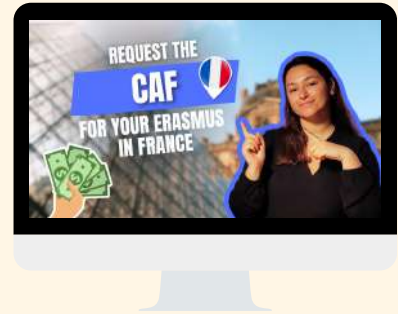
II. FRANCE

If you're going to study in France, here are a few facts you should know:

CAF

The CAF: "Caisse d'Allocations Familiales" offers students financial aid to rent a place. It is the APL : "Aide Personnalisée au Logement". The amount is calculated on a case-by-case basis.

Check out [our video](#) to find out how you can apply for it!



GUARANTOR

You will need a "garant" (guarantor) to rent your accommodation. A "garant" is a third party who will be **required to pay your rent if you cannot pay it yourself**. Your guarantor needs to be french and earn at least 3 or 4 times the amount of your rent. But don't worry, if you don't know anyone in France who can guarantee you, **Cautionneo** can do it!

Get 1 month for free!

HOME INSURANCE

You should know that it is compulsory for the tenant to have a **home insurance**. **Luko** offers you an affordable home insurance, a clear and flexible contract, reimbursements twice as fast and a **100% digital** and transparent model.

ALSO...

Get 1 month for free!

FUN FACT

In France you can eat a different cheese every single day of the year! France produces more than 1600 different kinds of cheese. Many are protected by strict regional labels and are a source of pride for the regions.



III. ITALY

If you're going to study in Italy, here are a few facts you should know:

WHY ITALY?

or better yet, why wouldn't choose Italy?

With its amazing climate, renowned for having the best food in the world, incredible cities steeped in millennia of history and culture. What more could you ask for?



CODICE FISCALE

During your Erasmus in Italy there are a number of documents that you will need to handle. One of the most important is the Codice Fiscale.

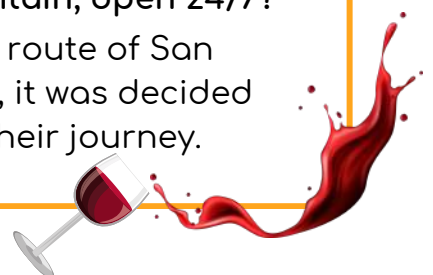
The **Codice Fiscale** (or Italian tax code) is a tax identification document. It's a code composed of letters and numbers that **allows a citizen to identify him/herself to the Italian administration**. You will need to be registered in Italy because you will be living there for several months.

And this is a very important document because it **will be requested in many different fields**. For example, to sign a rental contract, to open a bank account, to buy an Italian SIM card, to join a gym, or even to buy tobacco from a vending machine.

To request the codice fiscale you will have to go to the Italian government delegation of your destination, known as **Agenzia delle Entrate**.

FUN FACT

Did you know that in Italy there is a free wine fountain, open 24/7? It's located in Caldari, in Abruzzo. The pilgrimage route of San Tommaso passes through here, and for this reason, it was decided to create the free wine fountain for pilgrims on their journey.



IV. GERMANY

If you're going to study in Germany, here are a few facts you should know:

ANMELDUNG

If you are staying in Germany for more than 3 months, you will need the “Anmeldung”. It is a legal prerequisite for living in Germany in order to obtain an address registration certificate (Anmeldebestätigung). You require this certificate to apply for a visa in Germany, open certain German bank accounts, take out a phone/internet plan, etc.

INSURANCES

In Germany it is mandatory to have health insurance (“Krankenversicherung”)! You will need to provide proof of this to enroll in university or obtain a visa.

Additionally, it is common to have a “Haftpflichtversicherung”, a liability insurance which protects you from the financial consequences of all the damage you could cause to third parties unintentionally.

With our code “erasmusplay” Fintiba offers you these and more services for your move to Germany!

Get insurance!



TRANSPORT

The Semesterticket is a coveted pass that grants students in Germany access to an extensive network of public transportation. Indeed, most universities' student associations (AStA) have agreements with local transport companies.

If you want to travel around Germany as a whole, we also advise you to get a Deutschlandticket (D-Ticket). This pass costs 58€/month and allows you to take unlimited regional trains!

In both cases, contact your university to find out more!

FUN FACT

With over 7,000 different beers in the country, we can say that Germans love beer. That's a fact. But did you know that beer is considered as food in the Bavaria region?



V. POLAND

If you're going to study in Poland, here are a few facts you should know:

WHY POLAND ?

Poland is an excellent country to study in. It is very well known for its historical background and being the center of new technologies and scientific research. Thanks to its geographical location, Poland occupies a special position in the European Union.



STUDENT CARD

Don't forget to get your student ID card ("legitymacja studencka") ASAP as it offers you a 51% discount on public transport. Ask your Erasmus coordinator how can you get one. Unfortunately, the discount is valid only until the age of 26. You can also use your ISIC card to get certain offers on public transport.



ISIC

Discover other student discounts with the International Student Identity Card ISIC.

STUDENT RESIDENCES

In most cases, your university in Poland will have its own student residence.

Rooms are usually shared (2 people) and the average monthly cost is approx. 140€ (£120).

Remember to ask for a spot as soon as you know you're going to Poland as dorms are assigned by the order of request. First come, first served.

FUN FACT

Did you know that in Poland there is a National Doughnut Day? It's called "Fat Thursday" (Tłusty Czwartek) and trust me, you will see people queuing for hours to get to buy one.



VI. TURKEY

If you're going to study in Turkey, here are a few facts you should know:

WHY TURKEY?

Turkey serves as a crucial geographical bridge connecting the continents of Europe and Asia. It has become one of the world's most visited countries, with 38 million visitors in 2018.

RESIDENCE PERMIT

- If you come from a European country: You do not need a visa to visit Turkey. However, if your stay lasts more than 90 days you will be required to have a residence permit.
- If you do not come from a European country : you need to apply for a visa.

TRAVEL WITHIN TURKEY

The public transport system in Turkey is **very convenient and reasonably priced**.

There are various means of transportation such as **planes, buses, trains, minibuses** (known as dolmus or minibüs), and the **subway** (in major cities).

Students have the right to a special discount for intra-city and inter-city transportation.



CURRENCY

The currency is Turkish lira. One euro is equal to 35 Turkish lira.



FUN FACT

A favorite pass time in Turkey is drinking Turkish coffee followed by having your fortune told from the leftover coffee grounds in the cup. If you go to any Turkish bar, you can have your coffee fortune told. The price is differs from 100 to 300 Turkish liras.








CONTACT

EMAIL

communication@erasmusplay.com

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