

Personal Information

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Degree Program at TAU: MTIE MBA

Host University: IE Business School

Exchange term: Fall 2017, one semester (3 months)

Exchange Experience

- **About the country and city**

Madrid is an amazing city. We've (me and my wife) arrived just before the semester started at the 1 of September and left on the 30 of November (i.e. last day of the fall semester). This allowed us enough time to get to know the city and travel a lot mostly in and around Spain, which was amazing.

Spain is a great country which has a lot of attributes resembling to those of Israel such as weather, nightlife, how people look, etc. One attribute which is completely different is stress level which is basically non-existing (even though our term in Madrid and Barcelona included the Catalan independence referendum).

The best thing for us about Madrid was that it doesn't feel touristic at all, most of the people you'll encounter are Spanish and this allowed us to feel like locals very fast.

- **About the Host University**

IE Business school is a private institution and although is fairly young (founded in 1973), it is considered to be one of the top MBA in Europe (and the world). It is located in the center of Madrid (at the north end of Salamanca neighborhood) and is comprised of several campuses (buildings). The classrooms are very new, clean and technological advanced. There is always something to do on campus and each day there is a new event from one of the clubs, which are run by students (for example, AI club, VC club, Investment club, etc.). Madrid is very well known for its nightlife and this is reflected in the social life of the students and social activities.

- **Courses and professors**

Exchange semester is the elective semester for all MBA students in your intake. They spend the previous semesters on fundamental classes and I joined them in selecting the electives. These electives vary from advance finance classes to presentation skills through Private Equity classes and classes in AI. Each class has a different duration and hours so it's up to you to create your own schedule. There is no specific classes for exchange student, from the moment your there to the professors you are just like a regular MBA student and are requested to provide the same amount and quality of work same as the other students.

- **Accommodation**

No dorms, we rented an apartment through Idealista (same as Yad2). Most of people in Madrid don't speak English so this can be a disadvantage, try to get an Israeli friend to help (there is a Facebook group called "ידיד במדריד" that can help) or just use AirBnB for a short time and try to locate another apartment when in Madrid.

- **Visa**

Visa is required if you are staying more than 90 days in Europe (Schengen area) in any 180 days period, the procedure is fairly simple, just make sure to go to the Spanish embassy before to learn what you need (no need to make an appointment for the first time but will need to make an appointment in advance before the actual meeting. My wife came to Madrid two weeks after I did so she didn't need a visa.

- **Transportation**

Metro system is great, we stayed in Malasaña which is a great neighborhood (but kind of loud since it is crowded with bars and clubs. Salamanca is a much more posh and calmer neighborhood with more trendy stores and restaurants. Either way the Metro will be best when commuting to school, the airport or any other travel within the city.

- **Insurance and Health Services**

Used travel insurance from Israel.

- **Living expenses**

Rent ranging between 1,600 Euros and 1,000 Euros for a 2 rooms apartment (one bedroom), depending on location, amenities, state of the apartment and other conditions (longer periods will be chipper than shorter one).

- **Food**

Yes there is. Not pricy, didn't see any kosher options (but wasn't looking for any). Great restaurants and street food, mostly based on meat and seafood, don't expect too many salad places.

- **General experience**

Loved it! One of the best experiences I've ever had.