



UNIVERSITAT
ROVIRA i VIRGILI



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WINTOUR SEMESTER 1

URV – TARRAGONA (Spain)



wintour

Updated on June 2018

CONTENT

	1
1. ACCOMMODATION AND INSTALLATION	2
TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (if needed)	2
USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FINDING FLATS	2
ESTATE AGENTS USED BY STUDENTS	3
LOCATIONS TO LIVE IN (based on experience of current students)	3
2. TRANSPORT.....	5
GETTING TO TARRAGONA	5
GETTING TO THE TWO URV CAMPUSES	5
GETTING AROUND TARRAGONA	5
TRAVELLING AROUND CATALUNYA AND BEYOND	6
3. PREPARING FOR WINTOUR STUDIES	6
4. MOBILE PHONES/INTERNET	7
5. WHAT TO BRING FROM HOME?.....	7
6. OTHER TIPS/SUGGESTIONS	8
GOING OUT	8
RESTAURANTS/WINE BARS	8
GYMS AND SPORTS	8
OTHERS	9

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
CURRENT WINTOUR STUDENTS



1. ACCOMMODATION AND INSTALLATION

WINTOUR students arrange their own accommodation in Tarragona and former students usually share flat with their classmates or with other students living in the city.

Accommodation in Tarragona is much cheaper than in the other WINTOUR locations. Depending on your location, you can expect to pay:

- Sharing: 200-400€/month (all-inclusive)
- Living alone: 400-600€/month (all-inclusive).

These figures are based on the varying levels of rent paid by last year's intake students.

We recommend that you make a reservation for a temporary accommodation, such as an Airbnb or a hostel, for the first few days of your stay in Tarragona. This will give you some days at the beginning of the semester to make sure your permanent accommodation is as you expected. We recommend you to book it in advance of your arrival in Tarragona (1-2 months before) because in September everything is fully booked and prices are exorbitant.

Before confirming your permanent accommodation for the semester, please make sure your landlord or estate agency will give you a valid and proper rental contract. This is mandatory for your NIE (*National Identification Number for Foreigners*) – the Spanish residence permit.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (if needed)

- [Airbnb](#)
- [Tarragona Hostel](#)
- Hostel "[On the road](#)"

In case you don't have time to find your flat before you arrive, try this hostel and you can even work there while you stay to save some money

- Other hotel options can be found at [Booking](#)

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FINDING FLATS

- [Idealista](#)
- [Easypiso](#)
- [Pisocompartido](#)
- [Fotocasa](#)
- [Habitaclic](#)
- [Yaencontre](#)

Airbnb and TripAdvisor also work well. WINTOUR students have found flats in Tarragona and Bordeaux on these platforms.

ESTATE AGENTS USED BY STUDENTS

If you decide to go through an estate agent, bear in mind that many estate agent offices close early during the summer. So we recommend you to try to go or call during mornings, before 12:00h (Spanish Time).

If you are going through an estate agent, keep in mind that the agent's fee is (generally) one-month's rent.

Many estate agents/landlords are reticent to draw up tenancy contracts. The list of estate agents below are those that offered accommodation to last year's intake.

- [Finques Tarragona](#)
- [Barcevall](#)
- [Garrido Inmobiliaria](#)
- [Rambla Vella](#)
- [Finques Mèdol](#)
- [Marebens](#)

LOCATIONS TO LIVE IN (based on experience of current students)

PART ALTA

- Heaps of charm.
- Very close to cultural/historical sites.
- Feels like you are part of the many events that take place.
- A little far from the university campuses but overall a manageable distance: half an hour to Campus Sescelades on foot and Campus Vila-seca is accessible by bus from the main bus station.
- You may develop PTSD related to the sound of the beating drums during Santa Tecla (Tarragona's festivity on September)
- There's an organic bread shop which is great and a fruit/veg/cheese/meat market on Sunday mornings.
- Very good restaurants and (wine) bars in the area.
- The sea is a 10-15 minute walk from Part Alta.
- Bear in mind that buildings here are quite old, in the winter flats can be very cold, meaning you may need to buy a heater, and remember to bring warm clothes!

RAMBLA NOVA

- Vibrant area, with a charming promenade that leads straight to the “Balcó del Mediterrani” where there is an stunning view of the sea.
- You can find more modern flats here than in Part Alta. Flats generally come with lifts, good heating systems, new windows with good insulation and soundproofing.
- Very easy to reach Campus Sescelades by a 25-30 minute walk or by bus number 54 (the bus stop is near).
- Has everything you need: supermarket, stores, wine shops, bars (not as charming as Part Alta though!), laundry, etc.
- Easy walk down to the train station. No further than 10 minutes away.
- Not very easy access to the beach – actually, the beach is not very easy to access on foot due to the train line!
- Previous student street address and highly recommended Carrer Unió, 4. Would not recommend further down this street or too far from the Rambla.

NEAR PLAÇA IMPERIAL TARRACO

- Very well-located - walking distance to the university campus (Campus Sescelades) and to Spanish classes (Campus Catalunya).
- Very close to the main bus station (for Campus Vila-seca and Barcelona).
- Only 15 minutes on foot to cultural/historical sites of the city.
- A lot of very reasonably priced flats – particularly for those who do not mind sharing!
- Close to main supermarkets/bars/restaurants.
- Close to a shopping mall.

REUS (nearest city)

- Different vibe to Tarragona – more cosmopolitan.
- Further away from the university campuses but manageable: requires a bus or train ride.
- Plenty of shops/bars/restaurants.
- Gaudí-inspired architecture.

2. TRANSPORT

GETTING TO TARRAGONA

From Barcelona El Prat airport (BCN), you can take the train or the bus to Tarragona (TGN).

- **Bus** - <http://www.busplana.com/en/transfers>
Takes around 55 min and drops you at bus station, in Plaça Imperial Tarraco. Very convenient. Tickets can be bought online, in the ticket machine near the bus stop or from the driver with cash. The fee is 13€.
- **Train** - <http://www.renfe.com/>
Two trains should be taken. From Barcelona El Prat Airport T2 to Estació de Sants (Barcelona) and from Estació de Sants (Barcelona) to Tarragona. It takes around one and a half hours and costs around 15€.

Note that the bus nor the train work late night, so if you arrive late in Barcelona, you should consider sleeping over there or find another solution (taxi, BlaBlaCar...)

GETTING TO THE TWO URV CAMPUSES

CAMPUS SESCELADES

- Walk
- Bus (Number 54 or Number 41)
- Car
- Bicycle

CAMPUS VILA-SECA

- Bus – from the main bus station.
The timetable can be found [here](#).
- Car
- Train
- Bicycle

It is possible to bicycle to both campuses. It takes around 15 minutes from Part Alta to Campus Sescelades, and 45 minutes to Vila-seca. Spaniards are generally very respectful cyclists, and the route to Vila-seca is part way a cycle path.

GETTING AROUND TARRAGONA

- Most parts of the city can be reached on foot.
- Get the student bus pass if you are using the bus to get to university. As soon as you have your “Matrícula” (confirmation of registration and student card), the bus pass will be cheaper.

TRAVELLING AROUND CATALUNYA AND BEYOND

BY TRAIN

The train is a quick and convenient way to get to Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza and Madrid, among other cities around Catalunya and Spain. The train company in Spain is [Renfe](#).

BY BUS

The bus is a great and cheap option to move around Catalunya specially. The company that goes to Barcelona is [Bus Plana](#). There are other important bus companies such as [Hife](#) or [Hispano Igualadina](#). If you need to travel to Madrid (for VISA procedures, for instance) you may consider this option as it is much cheaper than the train.

Check out [BusBud](#) for bus travel price comparison around Spain and Europe.

BY CAR

Many areas in Catalunya, like Terra Alta, Penedès, Priorat..., require a car.

[BlaBlaCar](#) is a website where you can find people to share a car with who are already travelling to your desired destination. Presents many options to discover Spain, practise language, and tends to be the cheapest method of transport to places that are difficult to reach by public transport

BY PLANE

The nearest airports are Reus Airport and Barcelona El Prat Airport.



3. PREPARING FOR WINTOUR STUDIES

At the beginning of the course, there are two adaptation subjects: Adaptation to Oenology and Adaptation to Geography and Economics, which you have to take or not depending on your background (this decision is made by the Academic Committee and notified to the students before registration).

Nevertheless, former students recommend that if you do not come from an Oenology background, it would be great to get a basic idea of the basic terminology behind the winemaking processes (for red, white, rosé, sparkling) to be familiar with this world before the classes begin.

4. MOBILE PHONES/INTERNET

- Bring a phone that is unlocked and can work with Spanish/European SIM cards.
- The main networks are Lebara, Movistar, Orange, Vodafone, Libramobi, Lycamobile and Pepephone.
- Some of them do not allow you to have a mobile phone contract for less than 6 months. Those that do include **Movistar, Lebara, and Vodafone**
- Your flat may not come with an Internet contract. Networks like Movistar and Vodafone offer short term contracts
- Orange has very good for prepaid services, with a good offer for 20€ (as of January 2017).
- Vodafone and Lebara offer mobile plans without a fixed term contract, offering 1GB of Internet and free unlimited calls between the same network for 10€ (as of January 2017).
- Vodafone has very good prices, especially if you want an internet connection for your home. Cable TV will be included and there is no 12-month commitment. But you need to agree this with your landlord since the company needs to access the building cable system
- Pepephone is one of the most transparent mobile/internet companies there is. You can access all the information in their website, contact, leave and stop the services anytime. Really good prices.

5. WHAT TO BRING FROM HOME?

- A bottle of wine from your home country to share with your new classmates.
- Be prepared to buy any cooking tools that you might need. Even if furnished, flats are limited in utensils.
- Both summer and winter season clothing if you do not have the opportunity to go home during the semester.
- Swimsuit and beach towel to enjoy the beach until mid-October! 😊
- **At least 3 months** of your rent in cash or card, if you hold an Erasmus Mundus scholarship, as the paperwork to be done to formalize the registration of your Spanish bank account and the transfer can take some time (i.e. you may start receiving the payments – travel year 1, installation (if applicable) and monthly subsistence – between October and November). This will help cover any extra costs such as estate agency fees, deposits, or any other upfront costs.

6. OTHER TIPS/SUGGESTIONS

GOING OUT

Totem Bar	In this locals they play popular music.
Totem Club	
Highland Bar	
La Barata Bar	It is a bar in Plaça de la Font where drinks and food are cheap. Many Erasmus students would go there.
El cau	Best bar to hang out and dance with music from all over the world. If you go there early (around 23h) you can even ask them to play you own music.
Night Clubs in Salou	For party lovers.
El peix que es mossega la cua	Bars in Rambla nova with great tapas and drinks.
Coimbra Tarragona	

RESTAURANTS/WINE BARS

Plaça del Fòrum and Plaça de la Font	Several good places there	Wok Tarraco	Asian food with Karaoke
Korxo	Great prices and knowledgeable staff	La Cuineta	
Koop		Barquet	For the best paellas
Espai Vi	Good wine and food	Quim Quima	
El Llagut	Best rice in Tarragona	Lo Gat	
L'Ancora	Fresh seafood	Racó d'en Mario	

GYMS AND SPORTS

- Orion - Rambla Nova area.
- Viv and Viding – Close to Plaça Imperial Tarraco.
- Pavelló i Piscina Municipal - Public gym/swimming pool with lot of activities and good prices.

OTHERS

- Try to change your currency into Euros before arriving in Spain. Otherwise, you should change the currency once you arrive in Barcelona as it will be difficult in Tarragona
- Visit the beach of Tamarit and Tamarit Castle, easy to reach by train
- Get ready for the crazy Santa Tecla festival in September; a lot of drinking will be involved. You cannot miss it!
- Really recommended to visit Siurana, the place is magnificent.
- Other places of interest: Cambrils and Pont del Diable
- Join the Erasmus Tarragona Facebook groups/pages for tips, parties, flat renting
- Enjoy the Spanish wine! They are of excellent quality and have an even better price. Macabeo, Garnacha Blanca, Garnacha Negra, and many other grape varieties. Cava, Priorat, Terra Alta, Tarragona and all the other Spanish appellations. Don't waste your time on other regions, you will have time for them later! And you will definitely miss the Spanish wines in France and Porto!
- Also, make sure you taste a lot of Vermut (Vermouth)! It fits so well with the Tarragona atmosphere! Enjoy the Jamón and Tapas. You are in the perfect land for them.

BEST LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME!

