

## ESADE Spain

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1. Scholarship: Scholarships provided by Spanish Government should be applied for by the end of January, as informed to Prof. Bandopadhyaya last year. No other scholarships offered, by the govt. or by the institute (ESADE). The grant provided by IIM Lucknow covers part expense. One of the students from IIM Ahd. had Deutsche Bank Scholarship (\$4000) which more than covered expenses for her!
2. Visa requirements: Apply for the three month Visa, which is the short stay Visa, or the Tourist Visa. Not only is it cheaper (Rs 1700 presently) but also it does not require Police clearance Certificate (which has to be procured from Passport office of the place from where you got the Passport from @ Rs 300, actually the trouble involved is the worse thing!). However, Spanish are a bit lazy people.. they would ask you to apply in person and then after three days, you have to collect it, in person! But probably, it is not necessary to collect the Tourist Visa in person, you can have some person to collect it for you! You would need a health certificate, economic means certificate, letter from ESADE specifying the dates (very important!), passport (of course!), two photocopies of each certificate. Remaining details could be achieved from the Spanish embassy.
3. Lodging details: No help from the institute, self arrangement through an agent. Reasonably cheap accommodation Euro 660 for three months. (Five people shared a three room apartment @ 1100 euros per month) Could have been cheaper had we looked further (in the town outskirts), but we were too exhausted after day 1. Be mentally prepared to cook your own food, eating out is pretty expensive (on an every day basis) and if you are a vegetarian, it is almost impossible in Spain! Some amount of Spanish definitely helps greatly; some common expressions and words are extremely helpful!
4. Supermarkets: Champion is one of the best supermarkets to shop from. However, a combination of stores should be maintained. There is no funda of MRP in Spain (imagine!) and same goods may be priced differently in adjoining stores. So have a list of stores as favorites to buy particular goods from there. El Corte Engles is also reasonable for groceries (but expensive for other merchandise).

5. Transport: You may buy a T 10 (Euro 5.80) for ten travels (with switch allowed from Metro to bus within 1 hr and 15 mins and similarly a T 50 (Euro 24.30). As you can see, a T 50 is relatively cheaper, but you must exhaust it within a month (which you will, unless you are traveling Europe extensively!)
6. I took an Air India (New Delhi - Frankfurt) and Lufthansa (Fkft - Barcelona) combine. Fairly good service (if you like exotic drinks though, you may prefer Lufthansa throughout!). It cost me Rs. 29 K, which was possibly the cheapest you can get on the sector.
7.
  - 1 Pressure cooker helps for sure
  - 2 Some masalas (usual ones)
  - 3 We also carried rice and daal, helpful, but if you are a Maggi lover, stuff your bag with Maggis
  - 4 Don't worry too much about clothes, neat and very pretty city. Not too chilly in winters (minimum we encountered was 10 degrees, which is fairly high!) Anyways, here your mom would rule the roost, and you cannot help if you end up carrying clothes, clothes and clothes.. (Statutory warning: Don't forget the warm CLOTHES altogether, a leather jacket, one wind cheater and two sweaters should do!)
  - 5 An iron.
  8. Both TCs and cash are priced fairly close, however, I believe that Banks charge significantly higher margin while selling foreign currency! There are foreign exchange outlets opened by RBI, which may charge significantly lower.
  9. Most professors at ESADE were visiting faculty and there was little interactive interface with students (even though they were most helpful when approached!)
  10. None
  11. Theresa Desuyo and Francesca Fabregas. The entire MBA office is extremely helpful!
  12.
    - 1 International retailing
    - 2 Corporate Restructuring
    - 3 Strategic Consultancy
    - 4 International Finance
    - 5 Market research
    - 6 Corporate Finance in Emerging Markets
    - 7 Take language course if you are interested in learning Spanish, however, it makes schedule a little tight! (And of course, you are not awarded any credits for it!)
    - 8 Warning: Remember, for one credit at IIM Lucknow, 30 contact hours are a must, so try and avoid a course whose lecture may fall on a national holiday or whose professor may not take one class because he had some industry assignment (it is very difficult to avoid, but you can always pray!)
  13. Dates of Arrival: Some people arrived fairly early to search for an apartment. We arrived on 15 September itself, the course started off on 16th Sept. The dates of departure could be highly flexible, and you could request the professors for exam at an earlier date. However, since the semester was ending on 19 Dec, and I had confirmed the ticket in advance (recommended because of Christmas rush), I could

reach India only on 18 Dec.

14. Other IIM Students: We were residing in the same apartment as two IIM Bangalore students, so their experiences were almost the same! However, IIM A students were residing separately (one paid euro 1400 for accommodation, and the other two euro 900). Advice: Make a yahoo group well in advance, and try to stay together, avoid making an online reservation for an apartment, it may turn out to be substantially more expensive!

You may contact Prateek Goel and Ajay Mahipal for expert advice. Their in-depth research was something that helped us out of many peculiar situations!