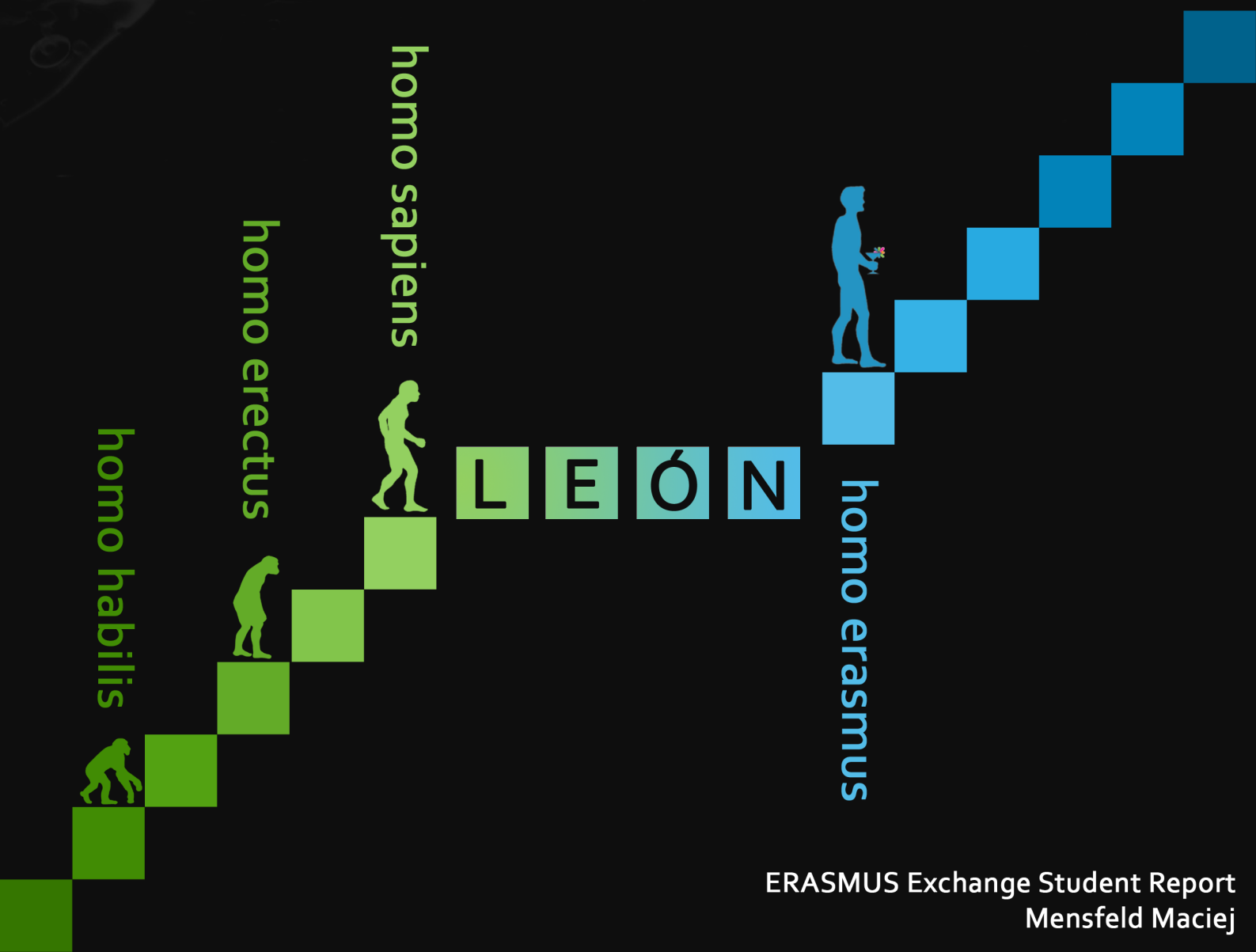


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HOW? WHEN? HOW MUCH?

Probably the best time is 2-3 weeks before classes start. You will have time to accommodate and find a flat. Also you will be able to sign in into AEGEE and go to a Erasmus welcome party.

To get to León you need to take two planes and one bus.

First you should find (try at [skyscanner.net](https://www.skyscanner.net)) cheap ticket to one of the European cities and next to Santander in Spain. If you are lucky you will buy them really cheap.

Remember to print your boarding pass and try not to lose it because it will cost you another 40 euros.

In Santander take the bus from the airport to the bus station.

Be aware of one thing: they **DON'T** speak english ;) - really, so you should better be prepared to buy ticket in Spanish language.



FIRST DAYS

How to survive first few days ;)

WHERE SHOULD I GO FIRST?

Albergues de Peregrinos. It is a hostel where you can stay until you find a flat or a room. It is quite cheap: 7 Euros per day. However, you can stay there only one week.

WHAT NEXT?

Next go to the International Students Office. It is on the other end of the town, but León is small so if you have a map or GPS you won't get lost.

You can always ask for a way to the University but (again) be prepared that they probably won't speak English at all.



When you get to León University Campus and International Students Office, sign all those crazy papers they give you.

After this, they will give you list of flats and rooms available for rent (including phone numbers, etc), both the map of León and the campus, some brochures about the town and ... a pen :)

Starting now, you have 4 weeks to pick up subjects (remember - you must collect 30 ECTS points). But no need to hurry, you need only one day to do it. Just ask someone from the University and they will help you pick some very interesting courses.

You will receive one more paper - list of padrinos, however if you go on a winter semester, you should not rely on them in 100% because they have exams and probably most of them is studying.



HOW TO STUDY?

Studying in León is a pleasure. Most of lectures are not mandatory. You just need to do a project on the selected subject. The good thing about projects is that you can do them in teams (3-5 people).

So you can go to Centro de Idiomas (University Language Center) and sign in for a Spanish course. It costs 150 Euros, but you will learn a lot of Spanish and also after finishing the semester, you will have 3,5 ECTS points for this course.

Probably you will have also exams on your courses but don't worry. Lectures are in Spanish, however exams for Erasmus students are held in English.

Here you have my subjects, and some additional notes about them:

Logica computational - it is one of the "mathematical" courses. Final exam is in English and if you study a bit, it is easy.

Sistemas de adquisicion de datos - don't pick this one. Really difficult and exam is in Spanish

Simulacion por computador - not so challenging. 50% of mark is for exam and 50% for project. If you select also visualizacion cientifica (it is with the same lecturer), you can do one bigger project for both subjects.

Visualizacion cientifica - rules are similar to the above. Our project was about Solar System (creating 3D working model), Endorphin, 3dsMax and Matlab.

Multimedia - 70% for project, 30% for exam. Exam in English. Our project was a CMS in Ruby on Rails framework.

If you have possibility to choose from the list above (except Sistemas de adquisicion de datos) do not hesitate. You won't regret this.



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LEISURE

Free time? Yeeah, a lot ;)

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Whatever you want! Really. You are an Erasmus so (probably) you should party ;)

But apart from the clubbing, there is a lot stuff to do in León. There are many places to see. Here you have a list with pictures of some of them (I won't describe them because it's a pleasure to learn about them):



Cathedral of León



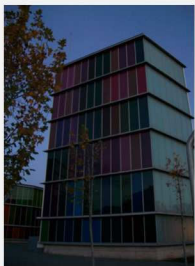
Hostal de San Marcos



Casa de los Botines



The Palacio
de los Guzmanes



Museo de Arte Contemporáneo
de Castilla y León



La Plaza Mayor



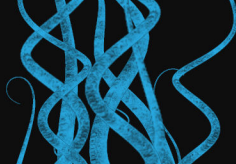
Biblical and eastern Museum



MAYBE SOME EXERCISES?

One of the benefits of studying in León is its Sport Center. There is a gym, volleyball court, basketball court, place for jogging and much more! The best is that it is all for free. You just make a reservation using your student card and you are good to go :).





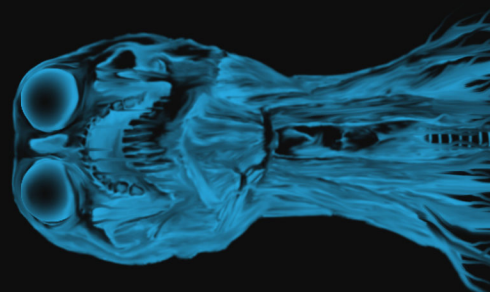
CLUBBING IN LEÓN?

Yes, definitely. Leon maybe is a small town comparing to Madrid or even Cracow, but it has its own vibe. This town basically belongs to students. There are thousands of places to go, when you want to party.

You won't be able to see all the places, and I think that you will pick your favourite ones and you will keep going there.

Spanish people have a different style of drinking. They first go to pubs and after a few tapas (or sometimes more) they go to clubs.

TAPAS?



The word 'tapas' is synonymous with Spanish cuisine and every visitor to Spain wants to 'go for tapas' even though most of them don't know what exactly tapas is nor where to get it.

Tapas is a plural term, so you should really be asking 'What are Tapas'. A 'tapa' is not a type of food, but a way of eating it.

A 'tapa' is a 'lid' or 'cover'. In the early days of tapas, a slice of cheese or ham was given with your drink and placed over your drink. Nowadays there is a really big assortment of tapas.

In Leon my favourite was **Authentica Sopa de trucha del Orbigo** (in place called **In-Situ**). It's kind of soup with bread. It's very spicie but extremely good.

It is worth mentioning that Leon is one of the few places in Spain, where tapas is free when you order beer (you pay only 1 euro for beer).

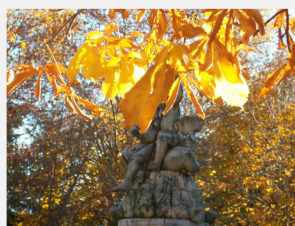


WEATHER

We are in Spain, so it should be extremely hot and sunny. And it is till November. From November weather in Leon is more like in Poland. Sometimes good and sometimes bad.

You should remember that Leon is in the northern part of Spain and its altitude is 838 m. You can experience temperature fluctuations and strong wind.

We have seen snow only one time, so don't worry, but take some warm clothes just in case.



FOOD

Food in Spain is really good. Eating in restaurants is expensive, but if you prepare your meals at home it costs same as in Poland. The one thing that is not so good is bread. You should buy baguettes rather than normal white bread because they taste almost as good as Polish bread.

If you want to buy vegetables and fruits, don't buy them in market. Every Saturday at Plaza Mayor is a morning market with products from local farmers. Fresh vegetables, fruits and meat - worth buying.

PRICES

Here you have some example prices:

baguette - 0,5 EUR

orange juice (1L) - 0,5 EUR

mineral water (1,5l) - 0,4 EUR

bottle of beer - 0,25 EUR - 0,75 EUR

wine - 0,7 EUR - 5 EUR

that's all,
good luck!





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