# YOUR ERASMUS SURVIVAL GUIDE

2026-2027

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!



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# PART 1

# PREPARE YOUR STAY

# 1. 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.



# II. 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.**

# III. 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!**

@erasmusplay_en




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.



# PART 2

# FIND ACCOMMODATION

# 1. 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

- [x] Cheap
- [x] Social life
- [x] Shared chores
- [x] Easy friendship

## PRIVATE STUDIO

- [x] Independent
- [ ] Expensive
- [ ] Less social life
- [ ] Few options

## STUDENT RESIDENCE

- [ ] Expensive
- [x] Social life
- [ ] Strict rules
- [x] Support

## HOMESTAY

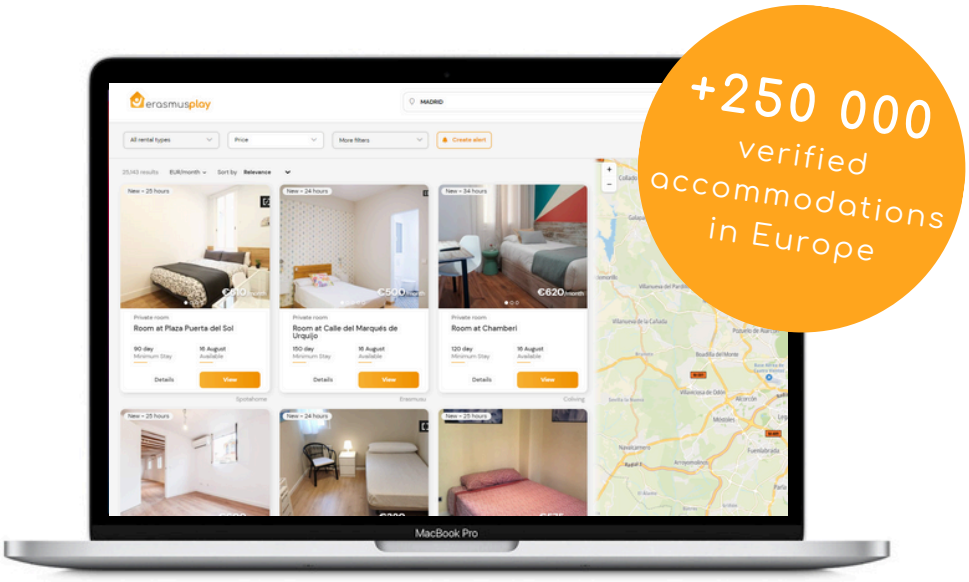
- [x] Cultural lessons
- [ ] Less freedom
- [ ] Strict rules
- [ ] Less social life



# II. WHERE TO SEARCH ?

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.

# III. 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.

# IV. 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

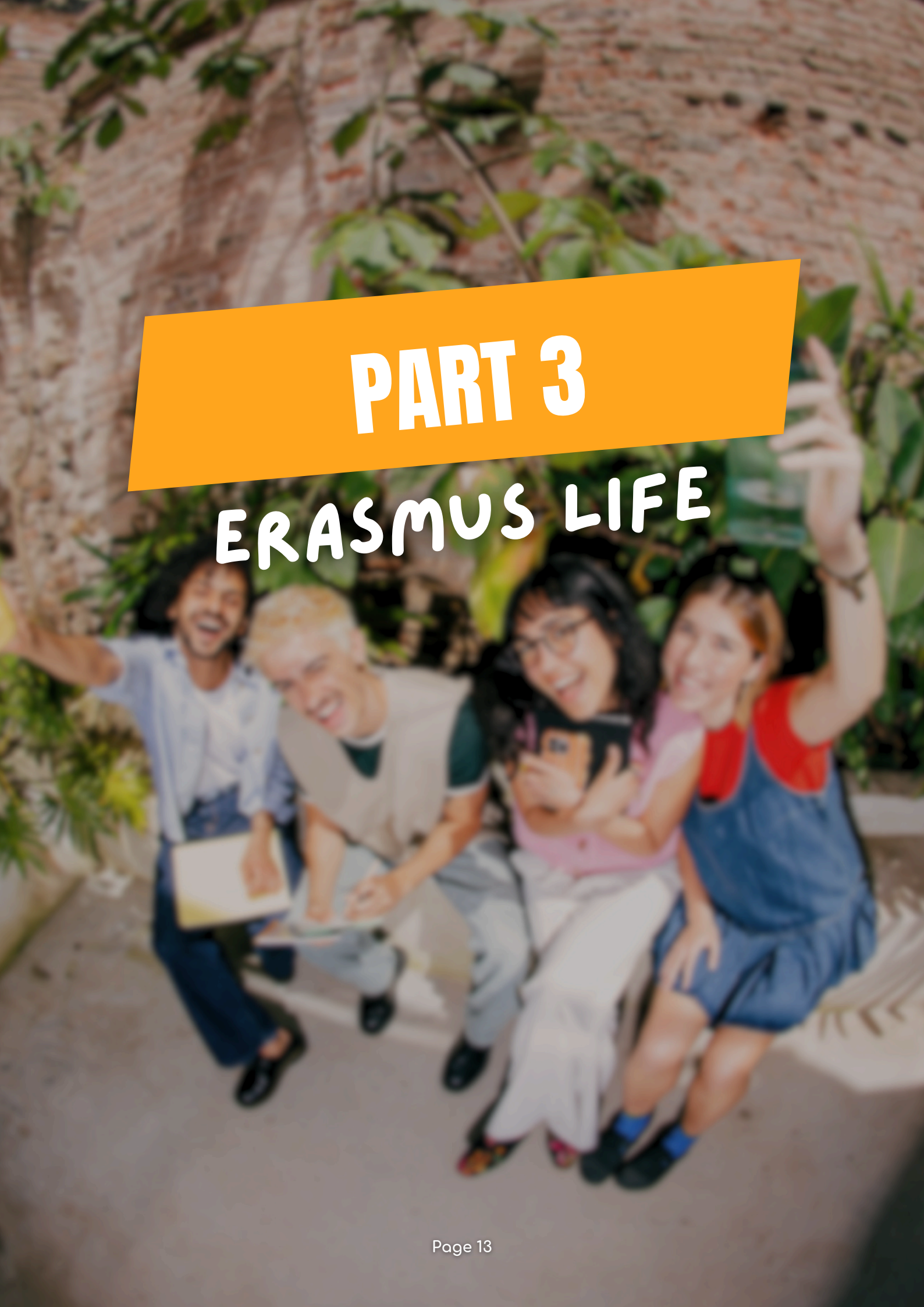
Know the rules of the accommodation by which you should abide.

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.



# PART 3

# ERASMUS LIFE

# 1. 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. Also, student associations often organise various events, workshops, parties, etc.

## STUDENT DISCOUNTS

As an Erasmus student, you can take advantage of **numerous discounts** designed specifically for young people and international students. Many museums, public transport systems, shops, and cultural venues offer reduced prices when you present a valid student or youth card. The **International Student Identity Card** (ISIC) is recognized worldwide and provides discounts on travel, accommodation, entertainment, and learning resources. Similarly, the **European Youth Card** (EYCA) gives you access to thousands of discounts across Europe, from cultural sites to local services. Having one of these cards can help you save money and make the most of your Erasmus experience.

Check out ISIC card

Check out EYCA card







# 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 COMISSION-FREE CARD

Many students use comission-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.

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. YOU MIGHT NEED...

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

## TRANSPORT

**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!



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

Compare flights!

## PACKAGES

Send parcels quickly, easily and for an affordable price to over 220 countries worldwide with **Eurosender**.

10% discount code: ERASMUSPLAY





# PART 4

## IF YOU GO TO...

# 1. 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.

## 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.

## MUST SEE PLACES

Spain is more diverse than many may think. From the historical architecture in **Catalonia** with such architetural 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.

Check out our guides and videos for your Erasmus in Spain!

@erasmusplay_en




**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 / APL

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.

## GARANT

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 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.

Get 1 month for free!

Check out our guides and videos for your Erasmus in France!

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**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.

# III. ITALY

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

## WHY 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

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.

**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, ...

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

Check out our guides and videos for your Erasmus in Italy!

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**Fun fact**, did you know that in Italy there is a free wine fountain, open 24/7? It's located in Caldari, in Abruzzo. It was created 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 ("**Kranken-versicherung**")! You will need to provide proof of this to enroll in university or obtain a visa.

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

Get a german visa and/or health insurance

## TRANSPORT

The Semesterticket is a coveted pass that grants students in Germany access to an extensive network of public transportation. Most universities have agreements with local transport companies. You can also get a **Deutschlandticket (**D-Ticket) to travel around the country.

Check out our guides and videos for your Erasmus in Germany!

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**Fun fact**, with over 7,000 different beers in the country, we can say that Germans love beer. 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.

## STUDENT RESIDENCES

In most cases, your university will have its own student residence. Rooms are usually shared (2 people) and the avarege 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.

Check out our guides and videos for your Erasmus in Poland!

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**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. OTHER DESTINATIONS

If you're going to study in another destination,
don't worry we have you covered too!

You will find on our Youtube channel A LOT of videos about erasmus cities: from Budapest, Porto, etc. to smaller cities such as Kaunas or Poznan.




And much more...

**CHECK IT OUT**

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# CONTACT

## EMAIL

communication@erasmusplay.com

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