

# My Cádiz Experience

My name is Lea and I came to Cádiz for a 3-month traineeship at SEA-EU. When my home university in Split first shared this opportunity on their website, I immediately knew I would forever regret it if I didn't apply. The global covid-19 pandemic didn't stop me; quite the opposite, it was the main driving force behind my application. It had been a horrible year, full of fear, anxiety and loss, and I wanted to turn things around by doing something positive and useful. Were the administrative processes, flight combinations, and waiting for covid-19 test results stressful? Absolutely. Did it all pay off in the end? A thousand times yes.

I arrived at the beginning of March, realizing quickly I packed the wrong clothes. Although Cádiz has 330 days of sun per year, note that early March is still early March – and it gets cold and windy! Nevertheless, the first time I walked down to the beach I was mesmerized. The roaring of the waves mixed with excited voices coming from groups of young people everywhere creates an atmosphere that makes you forget the world is facing a pandemic. In Spain, it is mandatory to wear masks everywhere to keep yourself and others safe from the virus, and I really missed seeing people smiling, which is why I was excited to visit bars and restaurants. Because of the circumstances, it took a lot more effort than it normally would to meet other Erasmus students, but where there's a will there's a way! I've met wonderful people from all over Europe, and even some from my hometown. We went on travels together, tried the delicious local food and exchanged our everyday experiences with each other, with a lot more to come.



At SEA-EU, I'm beyond happy to have a chance to work with such welcoming and knowledgeable colleagues. I get to create content, help out with administrative tasks, and teach English. As a language assistant, I've been provided with a wonderful opportunity to help a group of adult language learners improve their conversation and presentation skills. What's most important is, while I help them learn, I learn so much from them at the same time. I've learned all about the values promoted at SEA-EU, and I now know more about sustainability and the importance of the role education plays in saving our planet. I'm honoured to be a part of a project that values us students and acknowledges that we will be the ones tasked with protecting and shaping the future.

When my traineeship is over, I will leave Cádiz with a new sense of responsibility to the world around me, countless new friendships, and an overall experience that I'll cherish for a lifetime.