

Report Winter Term ESAN Business School 2021-2022

Daria Parshina
Master MMT, 3d semester

- **Application Phase**

My application case was not standard – I did not get my choice in 1st and 2d round and in the “last call” list I saw one non-European option with south America which I found to be a great idea. For the last call I only had to provide the necessary language requirement (got extension to pass a fresh DAAD test) and work experience (got extra time to ask my employers for the documentation). Applying at host University was the same, plus short motivation.

- **Preparation (visa, journey, recognition of credits, language course, financing, search for accommodation)**

There is no visa to Peru for a stay less than 90 days, if your stay is longer you can apply for extension already there or pay some fees while exiting the country later. I did not have this problem, because I left Peru twice for Bolivia and Colombia which made my total amount of days in Peru under 90.

Journey is long, but if you get tickets in advance and can plan back and forth – Iberia and KLM have nice options. Though, there is a lot to see and many people extended their stay and had to change the tickets, may be deciding later on a one-way ticket is reasonable and possible to fly from a different country.

Unfortunately, I do not have any information on the language courses as I did not attend one, but I would say if you go there during your masters and your classes are in Spanish – you have to already have a decent level of Spanish and you will get casual speaking practice everywhere, so no point in doing an extra course.

- **arrival (welcome event/support, contact person, accommodation)**

There was an online welcome/info event, which was sadly scheduled last minute but luckily, they could also postpone it for us as we were few. The contact person was absolutely helpful at all times, from taxi from the airport recommendations, to visa questions or any course help! For accommodation they only suggested few links, but that was enough. It's either student housing (links can be found in other reports) with other international students (probably speaking English all the time, but great to travel around together) or a shared flat (Roommates Lima Facebook group) where I found my shared flat with locals and it was absolutely best experience. My flatmates were all great surfers, had all the necessary contacts around all of Peru, taught me a lot, we cooked a lot of local food together, they lent me a surfboard etc.

- **Studies (course choice, teaching exams)**

Please note that master courses are all in late evenings or on the weekends (It was hard for me to get used to it, but it allows for a lot of travelling or hiking during the day). ESAN master courses have compulsory attendance so note you won't be able to miss more than one class of your course! I must say that specializations of ESAN Masters are not that broad so I personally did not have a huge choice of courses and it was very limited by the fact I was not allowed to take a course if it overlaps with something even once. What I really liked is plenty of group work and how hardworking and ready to help Peruvians are – that helps you learn a lot and teammates are always ready to help you out, explain more about local specifics or provide you with the part of the task you prefer.

- **Student life/cultural experience (facilities, food, cost of living, cultural events)**

Life was amazing, but self-organized and I do not think university organizes anything. Student houses organize a lot, you either live there or meet anyone to get invited. My shared flat also had a lot of activities like cooking dinners, surfing together almost every day, going camping etc.

Foods are cheap to eat out but supermarket prices seem normal. Costs of living – could seem cheap, but you only want to live in Miraflores – which is the safest, nicest and most expensive district. On top of that surfing beach with great instructors can be just 5-15 walking minutes away from you. My room was approx. 240usd which seems to be average for a good place.

- **Online Teaching**

As stated above, apart from poor organization I liked the amount of group work (with its drawbacks – Peruvian master students all work and many have families, so group meetings are also late). Organizationwise – some courses got schedule published late and overlapping with other courses, many did not provide any info on examination until last moment, and canceled classes were also rescheduled last moment quite uncomfortably. So it is hard to plan, but the block structure of each course lasting a month or two is good, this way it's possible to focus on 2 courses at a time.

- **Online exams**

I only had one multiple choice, the rest were presentations of final group works presenting most of what we worked on for the whole semester so it was a lot of hours every week but no stress learning for exam last days.

If interested in any travel tips in the region, you can check my journal from my semester abroad <https://www.polarsteps.com/DashaTheExplorer/4394381-south-america> :)