



## STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty:

**Philosophischer Fakultät III**

Field of study:

**Erziehungswissenschaften BA180**

Home university:

**Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg**

Nationality:

**Deutsch**

Duration of traineeship (from ...to...):

**24.6-24.08.22**

## **TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION**

Country: **Catalunya, Spain**

Name of traineeship institution: **Arcàdia**

Web page: **<https://arcadiacb.info>**

Address: **Can Batlló  
C/Constitució 19, Bloc 13, Nau 3  
08014 Barcelona**

Contact person:

Telephone / E-Mail: **93 625 40 71 / [arcadiacanbatllo@gmail.com](mailto:arcadiacanbatllo@gmail.com)**

## **EXPERIENCE REPORT** (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

### **1) Traineeship institution**

*Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.*

Arcadia de Can Batlló brings together a group of education professionals as well as around fifty associates and twenty collaborating organisations that carry out extensive community and activist education work in the Sants-Montjuïc district.

Created in 2009 as a collective and constituted in 2018 as an association, its activity revolves around the achievement of biopsychosocial health, starting with the primary and educational prevention of people, from childhood to old age. It acts in various fields such as childhood, care for the elderly, training of professionals, facilitation of collective processes, LGTBI education, generation of educational spaces and materials and socio-community development through talks, publications, organisations and the organisation of events.

### **2) Searching for a traineeship**

*How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

To find an internship in a popular city like Barcelona, I highly recommend searching locally. Most connections can be found through contacts. I asked around and just went for it. Language skills are an advantage, although even necessary. Castellano is usually enough, though. Basic knowledge of Catalan proves very helpful and is all the more welcome.

### **3) Preparation**

*How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

I went straight to a free Catalan course. But that wasn't absolutely necessary. I also read up a bit on the history of the libertarian movement in Catalonia, but this was more out of personal interest.

### **4) Accommodation**

*How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

As far as my accommodation was concerned, I guess I was just very lucky. The housing situation in Barcelona is miserable. I recommend asking around here as well. The city is on the move and there are some social centres that offer all kinds of services. The more people who know you're looking for a room, the better. You can also find something via idealista.com, but it will definitely be expensive and probably not very nice.

## 5) Traineeship

*Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?*

A normal working day starts at 8.30 am and ends at around 4 pm. Depending on the target group (babies, middle group (2-3) or older group (3.5-5) the daily schedule and activities change.

The children are cared for and supported. Every day there is an activity. In addition, assemblies are held from the age of 2.5 years. There, the children learn that with the freedom they experience at Arcadia also comes responsibility. They will also discuss what they want to do, Work such as washing dishes, sweeping etc. is distributed and there is room for emotional concerns. Partly, there are also activities at the weekend. Places are made into play words. Reunions of the staff take place regularly, as well as with the parents of the children, who are all part of the collective.

The work has been very enriching. However, there should be a strong interest in practical work with young children. The work is very physically and mentally demanding. With the target group of slightly older children, the ideals of libertarian pedagogy come to the fore more strongly. As an educationalist, I found this particularly instructive and inspiring. I especially enjoyed dancing with the children;)

Since it is a collective work, all the reproductive work (although the separation does not really make sense here, since there is no direct productive work due to the solidarity-based form of financing) is also done by the staff. After a full day and at 33 degrees, mopping up in the afternoon can be quite exhausting. In this respect, I do not recommend to do the internship in high summer. If you are not used to working a lot with children, you can be prepared to get infected frequently.

All in all, the work has brought me great joy and inspiration.

## 6) Acquired qualifications

*Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?*

Besides language skills (which are certainly a big part of it, since I also learned some Catalan during that time), I think that empathy skills in particular were strengthened. I was also able to learn and apply conflict resolution strategies for young children. In addition, it is exciting to see how the work works in a team.

## 7) Country-specific features

*Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

## 8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

*Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

Barcelona is in Catalonia and the language spoken here is Catalan. It is not essential to know the language. However, if there are intentions to experience a deeper cultural exchange, it is definitely recommended! Depending on the location, you may encounter people who prefer to speak English instead of Castellano.

## 9) Other

*Is there anything else you want to let other students know?*

Don't stress so much about planning everything in advance. I came to Barcelona with three backpacks and nothing. I found both the internship and a shared flat within 10 days. Everything is possible once you get going.

Besides, two months is really short. I'm quite sad right now that I can't stay longer. I recommend at least 3 months and maybe just as long as possible, because these experiences are really golden on so many levels.

## 10) Conclusion

*What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?*

It was a colourful time with many physical and mental ups and downs. I learned a lot on both a practical and theoretical level. The city of Barcelona was already close to my heart beforehand, because I studied here at UAB in 2017. I will certainly come back and hopefully soon!

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### Declaration of consent

I hereby agree to the publication of this report on the website of the Leonardo Office Saxony-Anhalt.

I assure that the photos used in this report do not violate the rights of other persons or companies (personal rights, copyrights etc.).

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Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].