



# Leyre Morgado

Leyre Morgado is a student of the Master's Programme in Archaeology at the UGR. She has recently completed a Twinning stay at the University of Padua, as part of the of the mobilities offered by the Arqus Alliance.

**Leyre, tell us about the activities you have been involved in during your Twinning mobility.**

They were numerous, and I hope this summary will be illustrative. All my activities had a strong cultural and archaeological character due to my career and the project we presented. During the first days, we visited the Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia and their facilities, the Museum of Archaeology, the laboratories, etc. with professors from the Department of Archaeology of the University of Padua. This immersion helped us to understand how the Archaeology degree is developed in Padua. They presented us their projects and explained us the operating of the Italian educational system, their work culture and how to develop a research career there. They showed us aspects of the university that are not open to the public and in a certain way, for a few days we were Padua students.

Additionally, we visited all the most outstanding cultural sites in Padua. Among them, the Archaeological Museum, the botanical garden, the famous Basilica of San Antonio, the beautiful square of Pratto Della Valle, etc. The University of Padua is the second oldest university in Italy. This year is its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we had the possibility to take a tour through the historic buildings with Padua students. We could see the chair of Galileo Galilei, one of the first anatomists ("Anatomical Kitchen"), where the first autopsies were performed and the first woman in the world obtained her university degree. Moreover, we quickly adapted to the Italian gastronomy and timetable.

Those typical cubed pizzas, Padua coffee with mint, pesto and i gelati left us with the best taste in our mouths.

Our experience was enriched by other archaeological and cultural activities outside Padua that complemented our knowledge about the Patavium (the Roman city of Padua) and the Veneto region. We visited the town of Montegrotto Terme, which stands

out for its continuous thermal activity since Roman times.

Two archaeological sites (where the staff of the Archaeology Department of Padua has carried out some excavations) were opened exclusively for us. Also, we enjoyed an organised visit by the Museum of Roman Thermalism. Another day we went to the Museum of the Roman Centuriation in Borgoricco. It was an exceptional opportunity as the director of the museum opened its doors to us and showed us one of the best known centuriation in Italy.

Finally, we finished with a beautiful cultural visit to Venezia and its three islands. The Venice and Padua's historical relationships are fundamental. We were able to know the authentic Venice, far beyond what a tourist can get access to. We toured it on foot, we visited all kinds of museums including the Correr Museum (home of the Archaeological Museum) and, of course, all the iconic cultural sites that this city offers. It was truly magical. In addition, the last day we took a city pass and we could visit the three islands (Burano, Murano and Torcello) by vaporetto.

None of us will never forget this turn in vaporetto along the Grand Canal. Undoubtedly, one of the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen in my life.



## **In your opinion, what is the impact of this stay on your academic training?**

I believe the impact is enormous. First of all, it allowed me to know how the archaeology degree is developed at Padua, the facilities of the university as well as the on-going research projects. This stay has been an excellent opportunity to establish professional contacts. I was able to talk to a professor of archaeology in Padua with whom I hope to work in the future. In fact, I plan to come back to this university for my PhD research stay.

## **What is the added value this international mobility can bring to your CV?**

This type of stay enriches our curriculum vitae due to its internalisation component. In our globalised world, languages and synergies among international students are essential. It doesn't matter what your field of study or your professional goals are, these types of activities will make your CV much more competitive. International mobility opens you up professionally to the world and gives you opportunities that would be more difficult to access without this experience.

## **On a personal level, how has this experience enriched you?**

It has also been a very special experience. In my case, languages have been one of my passions and hobbies since I was a child. I am an archaeologist and I wanted to make visible that the internalisation and mobility programmes are for all areas of knowledge. Like me, many students who are not "language students" have had the false belief that mobility and internalisation are not for them. This is not true at all. Mobility and these types of programmes are transversal and beneficial for any type of student.

As an undergraduate student, I already did a wonderful one-year mobility at the University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom) with the Erasmus+ programme. However, I thought that such opportunities did not exist for postgraduate students. It was clear to me that I wanted to do my Master's degree at the University of Granada for the full year and with that, I thought that I would not have access to any kind of international mobility. Therefore, when I was offered the opportunity to join a stay at Padua within the Twinning mobility programme, I was very excited. Moreover, it was my first trip to Italy. Visiting Italy was something I had wanted to do since I started my research on Roman Archaeology. Moreover, it motivated me to start studying Italian. This allowed me to speak Italian during my stay and soon I hope to obtain the Cambridge English Certificate B1.

Finally, I would like to highlight the special relationship between the students and the teacher participating in this activity. It is much more than a training stay; it is an unforgettable life experience.

## **Would you recommend a twinning mobility to other colleagues at the University of Granada? Why?**

Of course, I would recommend it without hesitation. I would recommend an international mobility to anyone; it opens your mind and contribute to your professional and personal growth. Twinning mobility is an excellent opportunity for all those students who unfortunately cannot afford a year or a few months studying/working abroad. It also has an important component: you are not alone. Not everyone dares to go alone to another country with a different language and to know that you are travelling with someone else helps.

The uniqueness of going with a teacher, although it may seem strange, is extremely beneficial. It gives you the possibility of learning in depth aspects of the university and the city you are visiting that would otherwise not be possible. The truth is that everything is tremendously positive, and I encourage you to live this experience first-hand. As someone told me once, your life starts outside your comfort zone. So, if you have the possibility to do an international mobility, do not hesitate.

