

To the marker,

I'm fully aware that this is well over the 500 word limit, however, I really wanted to create something that was helpful and interesting and actually felt like a real magazine. I couldn't really do this under the word limit, so If you want to mark both the **POEM (BETWEEN TWO GROUNDS)** and the **FALLAS FACT FILE** as my piece of work and simply have the rest as extra, that is absolutely fine.

TOTAL WORD COUNT: 3,032

POEM & FACT FILE WORD COUNT: 546

MAY.2019



NO.1

# ASUNDER

VALENCIA. ESPAÑA.

## 10 TOP TIPS FOR YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Insider knowledge reveals  
secrets for success | p. 04

## VOYAGE TO VALENCIA

Top secret hideaways  
and must-see places | p. 06

## TO STUDY OR TEACH ABROAD?

Insights into the world of a  
Language Assistant | p. 08

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# ASUNDER

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*asunder*

(ə'sʌndə )

adverb, adjective

(postpositive)

in or into parts or pieces; apart

to tear asunder

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

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*Bienvenido* to the first edition of Asunder! Now first, you're probably wondering, why the weird name? Well, as I was creating this piece, I was trying to find a word that represented the duality of spending your year abroad; on one hand you find yourself missing home, yet on the other, you don't want to leave! You don't feel like a foreigner however, you don't feel like a true local. When in Spain, you miss having a good old Sunday roast, but when you're back home, you find yourself craving *patatas bravas*! It is, in this sense that you are indeed torn asunder, your whole self feels like it has become split into pieces - in this case, an English part and a Spanish part. As the year passes, these two pieces once again become a whole, forming a different and more experienced version of yourself! Hopefully, with the information provided in this magazine, you'll be able to understand that this process is completely normal and nothing to be afraid of. I believe that after reading this, some of the questions you may have, will be answered. And some of the worries that are causing you stress will soon be *olvidados*!

*besos*

**R.W**



# TOP TEN TIPS FOR YOUR YEAR ABROAD

1

Join local Facebook groups once you know the area you will be going. Put yourself out there and ask any questions you may have, remember, everyone is in the same situation!

2

As soon as you know the **contact details** of the school you have been placed at, or the university you will be attending- **make contact** with your supervisor or tutor. They can help with any specific **questions** or **problems** you may have!

5

Make some good **memories** with **family and friends** from home **before** you go. These will get you through the bad days.

6

**Pack** any **snacks** or **treats** that you particularly **love** and will remind you of home! If you like to **cook**, pack some of your favourite **spices** as these can often be hard to come by!

9

Make sure you take time to look after your **mental health** and **well-being**. Never underestimate the power of a takeaway and film night! Sometimes you just need to take a **few days** out just to **relax**.

10

Enjoy everything your year throws at you! It's going to be great!

3

Start looking for somewhere to stay before you come. Form a group with people from the facebook pages. Email landlords on websites like **idealista** to explain your situation and express interest. Beware of sites like **spotahome** and **beroomers** which are often more **expensive** and you **don't** get a **choice** of **roommates**!

4

**Don't** pack too many **clothes/shoes/things** that can be easily bought abroad! **Do** pack lots of sentimental things like photos!

7

**Push** yourself out of your **comfort zone** and **explore** the area you are living in. **Engage** in group activities through Erasmus or the facebook pages. It's at these type of events where you'll find your friends!

8

Organise for **friends/family** to come and **visit**. Book **solo/group trips** with your new friends! This will give you something to **look forward to**.

# BETWEEN TWO GROUNDS

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*your* heart starts to tremble,  
your nerves start to ache  
everything seems amiss,  
a feeling you can't shake.

*place* is a word that you knew before,  
where? you just don't know anymore.  
is it here in the heat and the burning sun,  
in a land where you came without anyone?

*shall* the sun come up,  
or forever come down?  
stuck in a cycle,  
of a smile then a frown.

*be* grateful they say you're young and free,  
and how you're devoid of responsibility.  
but that's not true, don't they know?  
the strength it takes, how you miss them so.

*found* is your rhythm,  
your daily life's song  
a new group of friends,  
who help the journey along.

*between* the dinners and the parties and the days in the park,  
something seems to click and you've reignited your spark.  
but like all flames, sometimes it goes out,  
when you think for a moment of those you're without.

*two* versions of you,  
now there are  
the girl from home,  
and the girl born afar.

*grounds* become familiar but never the same,  
as the ones you left when you got on that plane.



Nestled on the Mediterranean coastline, lies the region of Valencia; Spain's third largest metropolitan area and home to its third biggest city. However, don't let this deceive you as the region also boasts lots of natural attractions including the Albufera Natural Park, the *Jardín de Túria* and over 518km of beaches! Here's some recommendations to get into the *vivir sin dormir* Valencian spirit!

**CIUDAD DE LAS ARTES Y CIENCIAS**

Situated at the eastern end of the old Túria riverbed is the City of Arts and Sciences. Housing the Reina Sofia Opera House, a Science Museum, an IMAX cinema and planetarium, a covered tropical walkway and Europe's largest Aquarium. This area cannot be missed. It is something completely unique to the city and transports you to a futuristic world. In fact this area was used in the filming of *Tomorrowland* (2015) and an episode of *Doctor Who* ("Smile", 2017).

*TIP: L'Umbracle is home to two nightclubs, Mya, which is open all year round and is situated below. And L'Umbracle, an open-air venue with palm trees galore, which is open from around May-Oct!*



**RUSSAFA**

This area is the "cool" *barrio* of the city. Here you'll find an array of different restaurants, bars and clubs: Go to *La Bella De Cadiz* if you want to have a few drinks in what feels like a prop-designer's storage space! Or go to *La Más Bonita* to grab some lunch or even just a yummy piece of cake. If you're all about the nightlife, it's definitely the area to be; Piccadilly is a good place to try, it has a number of rooms but the most popular is the Silent Disco- you give over a piece of ID in return for some wireless headphones, then you're free to switch between three channels all playing different music! It's great for going out with a group of friends who don't have the same music taste. Russafa is also home to loads of interesting boutiques, gallery spaces and shops, so grab a drink and just peruse the lanes of this lively neighbourhood!

**NATURAL AREAS**

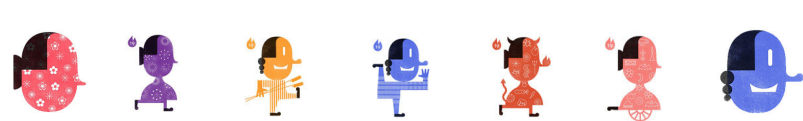
Walk or bike through the stunning Túria Gardens. In here you'll find everything; fountains and water features, different varieties of flowers and trees, lots of good picnic spots, a playground built on-top of a Giant Man (Parc Gulliver), and last but definitely not least an amazing Zoo (BIOPARC)! Visit some of the beautiful beaches like El Saler and Malvarosa. Why not journey outside the city and see what the region has to offer! Take a train to Xativa and see it's hilltop castle, take a bus to Albufera and explore the lake, take a metro to Serra and do the mountain hikes.

**CIUTAT VELLA & EL CARMEN**

This is the oldest part of Valencia City and displays some beautiful architecture. Walk the winding streets, many exhibiting intricate street art. Visit the Cathedral and the surroundings Plazas to experience the true beauty of the old city. Go up the Miguelete Tower (€3 p.p) to get a good view of the entire city and the mountains in the distance. Make sure to see both the Torres de Serranos and Quart, these mark the old gateways to the city. Go shopping and get some food from an array of establishments. Go to the Mirador del Ateneo- a rooftop bar- in the main square (Plaza de Ayuntamiento) to have a drink and watch the sunset.

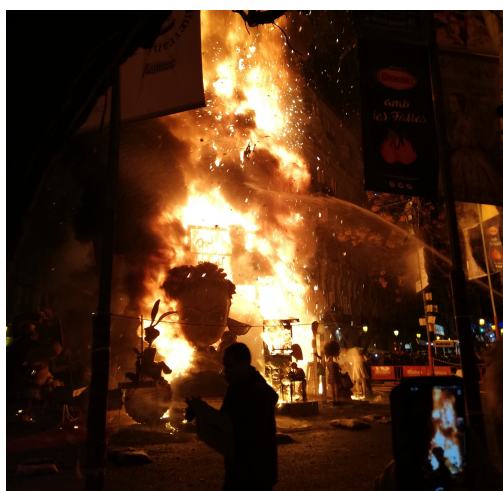
*TIP: Go to the Centre del Carme Cultura Contemporània for free entry to exhibitions. Go to nearby Convent Carmen for a drink or some food, situated in an old convent and it's courtyard.*





# FALLAS FACT FILE

**What?**  
*Las Fallas* is a celebration completely unique to Valencia which marks the arrival of Spring. It's a party for all the senses, with food stands galore, firework shows almost every-night as well as a midday fireworks explosion (Mascleta), traditional and religious parades, streets that transform into outside fiestas, and last but not least, the actual fallas. These are sculptures which are built over a year, each having their own theme with many satirising contemporary social, political and economic situations. They are presented on the streets for four days, then they are burnt on "The Night of Fire." *Falleras* are seen throughout the city, these are women in traditional dress. Each year a competition is held to select the so-called "queens" of Fallas, two winners are chosen; one being an adult, *Fallera Mayor* and one being a child, *Fallera Mayor Infantil*. They play an important role in many of the events, including giving the order to start the Mascleta everyday! Most of the city has this time off work, so there's a real sense of community party spirit!



## Where?

Throughout the Valencia region, but the biggest celebrations take place within the streets of Valencia City. Make sure you invest in ear plugs and be prepared for very little sleep as the party never stops, especially closer to the city centre. But you know that they say, if you can't beat them, join them!

**When?**  
 Every year between March 15th-19th. However, preparations begin before this: a fireworks show, light projection and empowering speech from the winning child and Adult *Falleras* at *Las Torres de Serranos* called "*La crida*" takes place on the last Sunday of February, inviting Valencian citizens and tourists alike to join in with the festivities. The first *Mascleta* takes place on 1st March and continues everyday until the end of Fallas. This is a daytime fireworks show, that takes place in the Plaza de Ayuntamiento at 2pm. However, the point of the show is not to see the fireworks, it is rather to hear them, it's probably one of the loudest noises you'll ever hear, there's nothing like it!





# advice from amigos

The living cost in Valencia is cheap, there's loads of cafes and restaurants. There is also a large community of language assistants so settling in is no problem. I would say go on hikes, there are loads of beautiful mountains to explore. Eat lots of patatas bravas, they are so good! Have an open mind and a positive attitude, that will get you a long way!

Jacob, 21



I would recommend living in Valencia, the city isn't too big so you can get around pretty easily and there's always something going on. Being a Lang. Assistant is great, it's pretty flexible so you can have enough time to explore. Make use of your weekends to travel to different cities. The kids make the job so easy because they're so friendly and eager to learn! Also, say yes to as many opportunities as possible. Don't expect to be settled from day one, it's normal to be homesick. It takes time to get used to a new country and culture. Since coming to Valencia I've also learnt that Paella comes from here!



Emma, 21

Valencia has a bit of everything; the beach and the city. It's not too overwhelming nor saturated with tourists and each neighbourhood boasts its own unique charm, But , if you come here to learn Spanish, you may find yourself surrounded by more Valencian. However, saying that, being a Language Assistant has enabled me to really hone in on my language skills (both English & Spanish). It has presented new and exciting challenges because whilst teaching teenagers, no one day is ever the same. Be in as many Erasmus groups as possible. Try and reach out before you arrive, ask your colleagues or other international students if they know anywhere or anyone who could host you when you arrive. I really enjoyed learning about the origins of Fallas- being able to experience it here as a resident rather than a tourist was very special for me. Definitely visit Barcelona and Madrid aswell. Visiting different towns during their festive periods is also exciting as you get to see how they celebrate. Make the most of your time here. Don't just sit around, get up and about and have as many experiences as you can!

Tash, 21



Valencia is great! It has amazing beaches, is well situated in the country (near Madrid) and is not too far away from the UK, so it's easy to go home for a few days. It's interesting being a language assistant as I love working with the kids, and the school is a friendly environment. However, I think it really depends on the teacher you get assigned to and how they teach and how much they involve you. Sometimes it's hard being a different age to the teachers as you don't have much in common. Spanish people are way more relaxed than Brits and they don't take things personally. The real "no pasa nada" attitude. It's really hard to find Spanish housemates. I used Facebook and idealista. Adopt a relaxed approach, talk to flatmates if something is wrong instead of sending a passive aggressive message on whatsapp. Try and make friends with locals, but have friends you can speak your native language with as it's exhausting speaking a second language all the time.



Lizzie, 23

There's many good things about living in Valencian such as the large amount of people here who are in the same boat, so it's easier to make friends. I also love all the parks and especially the Túria because there's loads of places to chill, take photos and hang with friends. Although Fallas was good culturally, I didn't like all the smoke fumes, the litter in the streets and how dirty it got. I really enjoyed my time being a language assistant for many reasons; its a super easy way to get teaching experience, and it's very easy to practice your understanding level of Spanish because more often than not the kids don't speak in English so you have to be able to understand what they're asking. I eat so much later now, when I was at home I would have dinner at 5:30 but now I have it at around 9! Also I have discovered that if someone says let's meet at 15:00 they mean 15:15 or 15:30. I would recommend doing everything; go to festivals, go for drinks, try surfing or paddle boarding, go exploring when you get the chance, play beach volley ball, play bananagrams, and go on erasmus or language exchange organised trips. Don't be scared about moving abroad. Yeah it's a big change and you have so many doubts, but here I am, 8 months in to my time here in Valencia and I do not for the life of me want to go home. So don't be too nervous because it'll be amazing and just say yes to every opportunity you get because you didn't come abroad to sit in your room and do nothing.

Neave, 21



# useful links and blogs

## Lifestyle

<https://www.ouisiyes.co.uk/>

An insightful look into the Year Abroad Experience in Paris and Spain. Covers everything from movie reviews, travel guides, self reflection and the importance of being "woke."

<https://www.idealista.com/en/>

Use this website to look for accomodation. They have rooms for rent, or whole apartments. Choose your area in Spain, your price range, and off you go!

<https://xceed.me/es/>

If you like going out to bars or nightclubs, you need to download this app. It tells you what events are on, where and when, it also gives you the opportunity to get on the guest list for free or reduced tickets! It covers lots of places throughout Spain, even including Ibiza! If you know you're going to go out, have a look at this app in the day, sign up for tickets for you and your friends, it will honestly save so much money!

<https://www.visitvalencia.com/en/events-valencia>

This is such a good website for just seeing whats happening. Fancy meeting up with your friends at the weekend but you're bored of just going to the beach? Look on here and there's sure to be something cool going on!

## Teaching

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/>

British council is really the place to go for any teaching resources. Follow this link for learning aimed towards adults, search "word on the street", for material more appropriate for teenagers, and "learn English Kids" for a more game based primary school level experience.

<https://eslbrains.com/esl-lesson-plans/c1-advanced/>

Here lesson plans are focused around a short video and corresponding activities. Topics are relevant and aimed at a higher level audience (B1+), each lesson clearly states which level it is aimed at.

[https://teflpedia.com/Category:Conversation\\_questions](https://teflpedia.com/Category:Conversation_questions)

An extensive library of conversation questions, ranging from environmental to existential questions. A good resource for speaking practice and building on debate skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SuperSimpleSongs/videos> or  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/DreamEnglishKids>

These are both youtube channels which create learning English content through song, this is aimed at younger kids (Grade 1-4) and they love it! I've found their favourites are the "Hello Song", the "Weather Song", and the "What do you see? Transport" which features their new favourite thing; a banana car!