

THE UNOFFICIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE: EUHT StPOL EDITION (2025/2026)

Everything you need to know about living, studying, and surviving on the Maresme Coast.

WELCOME TO THE COAST

So, you've been accepted into one of the best hospitality schools in the world. Congratulations. You are about to spend your days between kitchens, service classes, and the Mediterranean Sea.

But here is the reality check: Moving to a new country (or just a new town) is stressful. Where do I buy food? How does the train work? Should I live in the dorms or get an apartment?

This guide was written by people who know the area inside out. We want to save you time, money, and headaches.

PART 1: THE GEOGRAPHY (Calella vs. Sant Pol)

The most common mistake new students make is obsessing over "distance." You look at a map and think: *"I must live in Sant Pol de Mar because the school is there."*

Here is the insider truth:

- **Sant Pol de Mar** is a beautiful, charming, traditional fishing village. It is quiet. Very quiet. In winter, everything closes early. It sits on a hill. If you live here, you will walk up and down steep streets every day.
- **Calella** is the neighboring city (just 3km away). It is the "capital" of the area. It has the hospital, the big supermarkets, the cinemas, the gyms, and the train station that connects you to the world.

The Commute Reality: The train (Rodalies R1 Line) takes exactly **3 minutes** from Calella Station to Sant Pol Station. The EUHT StPOL campus is right above the Sant Pol station. Whether you live in Sant Pol or Calella, your commute is negligible.

PART 2: HOUSING (The Million Dollar Question)

You have three main options. Choose wisely based on your lifestyle.

Option A: The School Residence

- **The Vibe:** Like a hotel/dorm. You live with your classmates.
- **The Pros:** You are on campus. Zero commute.
- **The Cons:** It can be expensive. Rules are strict (curfews, guests, noise). You share a room or have a small space.
- **Verdict:** Good for first-year students who are scared of living alone, but you lose privacy.

Option B: Old Apartments in Sant Pol

- **The Vibe:** Traditional village houses.
- **The Cons:** Many are old. Insulation can be poor (cold in winter). Internet speed in the old town streets can sometimes be spotty (ADSL vs Fiber).
- **The Price:** Often inflated because of "tourist demand" in summer.

Option C: Modern Apartments in Calella (The Smart Choice)

Most Master's and senior students choose this.

- **The Vibe:** Real independence.
- **The Pros:** You get Fiber Optic Internet (essential for assignments and Netflix). You have A/C and heating. You have a full kitchen (crucial for Culinary Arts students who need to practice).
- **The Cost:** You often get a full apartment for the price of a room in the residence.
- **Where to find them:** Avoid big agencies that charge 1 month of commission + VAT. Look for direct owners.
 - *Recommended Resource:* santpolstudents.com (Verified apartments, student-friendly contracts, and high-speed WiFi included).



PART 3: MASTERING TRANSPORT

The train line is called **Rodalies de Catalunya (Line R1)**. It runs along the coast right next to the sea.

1. The Ticket Hack (Save Money!)

Do NOT buy single tickets ("Bitllet Senzill"). They cost €2.40 each way. That's €5 per day just to go to class.

- **Get the "T-Casual":** A card with 10 trips. Much cheaper.
- **Get the "Abono Recurrente":** If you are a resident, ask at the station window about the recurring pass. It requires a deposit (approx €10) but gives you unlimited travel for 4 months. If you use it enough, you get the deposit back. It's basically free travel.

2. The "Zones"

Calella and Sant Pol are in the same zone for short trips. But if you go to **Barcelona**, it is **Zone 4**. Make sure you buy the right zone ticket if you go to the city for the weekend, or the inspectors will fine you €100.

3. The Night Bus (N82)

Trains stop running around midnight. If you go partying in Barcelona on a Friday, how do you get back?

- Look for the **N82 Bus**. It runs all night from Barcelona (Passeig de Gràcia) to Calella. It takes longer (about 1h 15m), but it saves your life at 4 AM.
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PART 4: SHOPPING & FOOD

Spain has a specific schedule. Shops usually close from 13:30 to 17:00 (Siesta time is real in small businesses).

- **Groceries:** For big weekly shopping, do not go to the small expensive convenience stores. Go to the big chains in Calella: **Mercadona** (the favorite), **Aldi**, or **Lidl**. You will save about 30% on your food bill.
 - **Cooking Supplies:** If you are a culinary student, you need specific gear. There is a specialized shop in Calella, but Amazon Prime works perfectly here and delivers to your apartment door.
 - **Sunday Warning:** almost EVERYTHING is closed on Sundays. Buy your food on Saturday.
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PART 5: HEALTH & EMERGENCIES

We hope you don't need this, but bookmark it just in case.

- **The Hospital:** The *Hospital Comarcal Sant Jaume* is located in Calella. It is a major regional hospital with a 24/7 Emergency Room (Urgencias).
 - **The CAP (Doctor):** For non-emergencies (flu, fever), go to the CAP (Centro de Atención Primaria). You need your European Health Card (EHIC) or your private student insurance.
 - **Pharmacies:** In Spain, you can buy many medicines directly at the pharmacy (Green Cross sign). There is always one open 24h on rotation ("Farmacia de Guardia"). Google "Farmacia de Guardia Calella" to find the open one.
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PART 6: GETTING CONNECTED

- **SIM Cards:** Don't use your roaming data forever. Go to a phone shop in Calella (Vodafone, Orange, Movistar) or buy a prepaid SIM card at a "Locutorio" (internet cafe). It's cheap (approx €10-15/month for lots of data).

- **NIE / TIE:** As a student, you will hear these acronyms a lot. It's your ID number. You will likely need to go to the Police Station (Policía Nacional) in Mataró to process fingerprints. Book your appointment ("Cita Previa") months in advance; the system is slow.
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FINAL ADVICE FROM ALUMNI

Study hard, but enjoy the Mediterranean lifestyle. The years you spend at EUHT StPOL will be some of the best of your life.

If you are still looking for a place to call home—somewhere quiet enough to study, but close enough to the action—check out our recommended partners at santpolstudents.com.

See you on campus!