



LUISS (Rome)

2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I decided late that I wanted to do an exchange. This was no problem whatsoever and fortunately I could go to Rome and had a wonderful time there
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Sometimes the receiving university was vague. University Utrecht was always there to answer my questions. They made it easy for me to get all the documents in order before I went to Rome.
academic preparation
The courses taught at University Utrecht are harder compared to the courses I took at LUISS. Therefore I did not struggle to keep up with the tempo and the material where other students of different countries did.
language preparation
My bachelors in english made it easy to follow the courses in Italy that were taught in English. In my opinion a English taught bachelor in the Netherlands is sufficient to obtain the necessary level of english.
finances
Duo + erasmus scholarship is not sufficient, save up some money. Or get a job while you are there. Maybe loan some of your parents/family.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took courses related to my bachelors. You can also choose to do unrelated courses, but for me it did not make sense since I know what I want to learn.
academic quality of education activities
Average, the courses taught at University Utrecht are more difficult. Also the attendance is not mandatory, which is nice if you can manage that.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Not that good. I had a hard time finding out who to contact whenever i had questions. It also took them a long time to get back in touch with me.
transfer of credits
I think the ECTS transfer directly, but I am not sure. The grading system is slightly different, you get a xx out of 30. Where 18/30 equals our 6. So divide it by 3 I guess

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Really good to meet your fellow students, new friends. I recommend doing this even though it is not an obligation. Almost all the friends I made I met in the welcome week.
accommodation
Did it myself, was pretty easy to find a nice apartment. I never heard of someone who did it through LUISS. The rent is slightly higher than in Utrecht so keep that in mind.



leisure & culture

Enjoy the city and meet up with friends for trips. Also, Rome is like an open-air museum. There is plenty of stuff to see so you won't get bored easily.

suggestions/tips

Go with the flow, see what others do and just say YES to everything.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, the city is really nice and University has a lot to offer. It is a little bit pricy, but you just have to accept that. Furthermore you can arrange a lot of trips trough the country, so it depends on your own effort how much fun you will have.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

not really, I believe sudents should figure out for themselves what to do while they are there.

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is straightforward. The deadlines are clear, but it is your own responsibility to be on time and prepare well. However, I think this is a good thing, since you have to arrange things yourself throughout your Erasmus period. Furthermore, if you have questions, both the Utrecht and Rome Exchange offices will help you with your questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support is good and the USE Exchange office is always willing to help you.

academic preparation

It is recommendable to look closely at the courses you can follow and how they will be integrated in your study program. Therefore, I made an appointment with the academic counselor.

language preparation

LUISS offers a lot of academic courses in English, but learning (a bit of) Italian before you go will really help you with integrating and living in Italy.

finances

Living in Rome is not cheap. Especially housing is quite expensive (around €500 a month). I had a small buffer before I left and used the Erasmus grant, public transport compensation, government grant and government loan to finance my living. However, expect to spend a lot, since most of the time you feel like being on a holiday.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The offer of (English) courses at LUISS is fine, but there is not as much choice as at the Utrecht University.



However, in the end I followed quite interesting courses in my opinion. It is recommendable to pay attention when choosing your courses: they should not overlap with other courses you already followed in Utrecht and for me, most of them had to be level 3 courses. Making an appointment with the academic counselor to check these requirements is definitely recommendable.

academic quality of education activities

I think almost every Dutch student that went to the LUISS University will tell you that the academic level there is easier than in The Netherlands. However, it must be admitted that it depends on the courses you follow. Also, compared to other Italian private universities, LUISS is one of the best. The teaching method consists mainly of following lectures and not so much of doing projects.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not need the help of the International Office very often, but when I did (most of the time for getting the right signatures), they responded very quickly (via e-mail).

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was completely transparent and I got my grade list right on time (I finished my exams in December).

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme offered by ESN (Erasmus Student Network) is really nice. In the beginning there are a lot of activities organised for you to meet fellow Erasmus students and explore the life in Italy and the city of Rome. My advise is to participate as much as you can in the first weeks, since you will be able to make so many new friends in that period.

accommodation

I arranged my room via CTS and got a reasonable place to stay at a great location. It is my advise to try to get a room close to the university, because public transport in Rome is not reliable. Also, be as quickly as possible in arranging a room, because when you are late it is not very easy to still get a good spot in Rome.

leisure & culture

Of course, Rome is the city of culture! It is not strange Rome is called an open-air museum, it has so many beautiful buildings, ruins, museums and churches. Every weekend I tried to do a cultural activity and do some sight-seeing, but at the end of my Erasmus period I still felt like I had not seen everything. Also, leisure is a big part of the Italian culture (they even have a saying for it: 'il dolce far niente', which means 'sweet doing nothing'). Good to mention: when the weather is still good, the beach is not far away (45 minutes approximately).

suggestions/tips

- Stand open for the Italian culture, mentality and lifestyle. Experiencing a different culture is really valuable and in my view an important part of going on an Erasmus. Learning (a bit of) Italian could be really helpful with this.
- Be on time with arranging a room.
- Participate in the ESN activities. A great way to quickly meet fellow Erasmus students from all over the world and do fun trips and parties.
- Time flies when your having fun! Make the most of your Erasmus months and also try to see some other parts of Italy besides Rome.



CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. Although the academic level at LUISS might be a bit easier, the university has nice buildings and good facilities. The city of Rome is simply beautiful and will never get you bored. Living on my own in a different country with great people, food, weather and a lot more was really amazing and something that I will not forget!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't be scared going on an Erasmus! In the beginning things might be new, but you will manage to find your way and you will definitely have a great time!

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It is important to start in time. Let some friends or family read your motivation letter, they will detect errors you will probably miss yourself.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Is alright.
academic preparation
Didn't do any academic preparation.
language preparation
Didn't do any language preparation.
finances
Apply for an Erasmus grant and don't forget to apply for your public transport compensation in time (2 months in advance).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Economics and management courses on bachelor and masters level.
academic quality of education activities
Academic quality is a little lower than in Utrecht. But the teachers are, especially for the master courses, more experienced in the international business environment.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Great.
transfer of credits
Still waiting.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Organized by ESN, was a lot of fun. You get to know many new people.
accommodation
Ask people who studied in the same city the semester before you.
leisure & culture
Rome is of course the best city for cultural activities.
suggestions/tips
I don't think that's necessary.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, this will be an experience like no other in your life. You meet people from all around the world. And being able to study and live in such an amazing city as Rome is something you will cherish forever.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
My first choice was the University of Lund, Sweden. But I got selected to go to my second choice: LUISS University in Rome and I am very happy with that.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I was counselled by the exchange office at the economics department. Andrea Nylor helped me very well to prepare for the exchange.
academic preparation
The selection of courses went smooth at home. But when I arrived, I had to change 3 out of 4 of my courses. Which was not very convenient.
language preparation
I took individual Italian lessons to help me prepare for my stay in Italy.
finances
The erasmus grant helped me a lot to finance the expenses during my exchange. Furthermore, my family supported me financially.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Economics



academic quality of education activities
The quality of the education activities was good and there was enough personal attention. But the exams weren't very hard. I scored high grades with not my maximum effort.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
At any moment during my exchange I had the opportunity to visit the exchange office at the university and they were very open for me.
transfer of credits
The credits have yet to be transferred and converted to my bachelor record in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The ESN organization of LUISS gave me a very warm welcome and that was very much appreciated to get me started.	
accommodation	
It was expensive but the location was very good.	
leisure & culture	
I had time to do whatever I wanted and I did. I learned about the culture by travelling through all of Italy and hanging out with Italians.	
suggestions/tips	
Live close to Piazza Bologna and in a house with 5+ people to maximize social activities.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, everything is very well organized, since it's a private university. And I felt very involved thanks to the ESN activities.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Join ESN	

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
All by all it does take quite some time, you should be aware of this.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
There is help if you need it, but in the end you are supposed to arrange mostly all by yourself.	
academic preparation	
I just did some minor research but that is all.	
language preparation	



I did learn some Italian beforehand, which was really useful

finances

The semester abroad is more expensive than it would be at home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Note that universities abroad might be organized very differently, or not organized at all.

academic quality of education activities

It was of a lower level compared to the Netherlands

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Good!

transfer of credits

I do not know yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Great!

accommodation

Arrange accommodation by yourself, this is perfectly doable!

leisure & culture

Great!

suggestions/tips

The ESN activities are a great opportunity to get to know people

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, the perfect combination of nice weather, a beautiful city, a great historic culture and a good university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



PREPARATION

exchange application process

We had to submit our first three choices by the first of december. After some orientation I was sure I wanted to go to Rome, I was happy to hear I could go.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

After some meetings with my study advisor I could make the right decisions in terms of my study plan, etc. The meetings were very helpful.

academic preparation

I didn't need any academic preparation for the courses I was going to follow here.

language preparation

As my courses were in English I didn't need any preparation. I wanted to learn some basic Italian before I went to Rome but unfortunately I didn't succeed.

finances

I financed my stay abroad mainly with my Erasmus grant, public transportation grant and savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed five courses in this semester. Financial markets and institutions, money and banking, tourism management, fashion management and an Italian language course. This was my plan from the beginning and was in my first learning agreement. I was lucky I didn't have any course schedule clashes.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education is lower than in the Netherlands. There was some overlap between the courses and some things were very basic. Now that I have had my exams I have to say that although I thought it was all very easy at the beginning, I really learned some new things and I enjoyed the courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support of Luiss was really good, their exchange office was open every day and they were really friendly and helpful.

transfer of credits

Luiss will transfer our credits in the coming month.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was very well organized. It was a two week programme with a lot of different activities, from parties to cultural activities.

accommodation

I was very lucky with my apartment, I lived with one dutch girl, also from Utrecht. We lived in a nice neighbourhood not too far from the university. I would suggest to ask people from previous years about good neighbourhoods and tips, this is very helpful.

leisure & culture

Rome is an amazing city, there is so much to see and to do. I think four months is even too short to get to know



everything.
suggestions/tips
Bologna and Policlinico are good areas to find an apartment, they are pretty close to university and very lively.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Luiss and Rome. Luiss is an amazing (private) university, everything is very well organized. I think public universities in Italy are very different. Rome is a great city, it was amazing to be here for such a long time and really get to know the city and the Italian lifestyle.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy your erasmus, it doesn't matter where you go, it is all about the experience.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process is not difficult but takes allot of time since everything has to be signed by both parties.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Good support, took some time though
academic preparation
None
language preparation
I have done some Italian before leaving to Rome. (The Basics)
finances
I worked allot before leaving. Rome is really cool but also expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study program is different than in Utrecht. You get 4 courses at the same time.
academic quality of education activities
The level of education is good but lower than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Really cool introduction week and fun activities also good support and counselling.
transfer of credits
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STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Really nice welcome and organisation program! If you join ESN you will have the time of your life. Allot of parties and fun activities in the first week.
accommodation
I lived in Parioli, the expensive neighbourhood of Rome. TOTALLY worth it! I lived 2 minutes from the University and had really quick connection to the city center. I paid 800 a month but my room was really nice with a doublebed, balcony etc.
leisure & culture
Awesome
suggestions/tips
Try to find a place close to uni. You will be spending most of your time their. The city is easy to reach. I would not like to live in Bologna. It has allot of fun parties but is not a nice neighbourhood and for the parties there are much better places in Rome. Try: Nice Club or Bosco Della Fragolle. Also I would recommend you ZUMA terrace above Fendi store. It's not cheap but it's a cool experience. And just go to every party!!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, It is such a nice University and the people are also super nice and ofcourse the food is amazing.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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