



Universitat Pompeu Fabra

2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was very clear to me. I took quite a few weeks to prepare and write my motivation letter. I never went to a presentation at school, because I was not able to attend at the times. However, I don't feel as if I needed it
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling & Support was outstanding. Quick replies to all my questions and I was positively surprised that they informed if everything was okay considering the political unrest in Catalunya.
academic preparation
For academic preparation I did very little, except for checking which courses they were teaching
language preparation
I have had Spanish classes when I was younger so I had a basic knowledge, which I expanded while I was there
finances
I worked and saved up in the months in advance and made a calculation together with my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Many courses were already full when I arrived and the process of subscribing to classes was not ideal. I managed to get courses I was interested in, but many of my friends did not.
academic quality of education activities
I really enjoyed the way of teaching at Pompeu Fabra. It was very interactive and the teachers were really approachable. I felt however that the exams were too small and therefore not always representative of the level I achieved
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The office of mobility abroad was outstanding. I could go there with all my questions and they were extremely helpful whenever there was some sort of problem. Really do not have anything to say they could have done better
transfer of credits
not applicable yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I joined the ESN welcome program, but ended up only going a few times. However I felt that there were enough possibilities for everyone to join, also on the program that was organised by the university during the time I was there
accommodation



I took care of the accomodation myself, and the first apartment I stayed in was far from ideal because it was very small and across a big drugs house. I moved to el Born to a much better apartment which was both lovely and not too expensive. From there I could do anything by foot really.

leisure & culture

There is enough to do in Barcelona. Football, beaches, museums, music on the street. I liked all of it, however of course I had limited time and budget so was not able to do everything I want.

suggestions/tips

Go to Sitges for the day, buy a museum pass, and do Gaudi's houses!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, absolutely. I have fallen in love with this city, where you can combine the citylife, with beaches, good weather, nice parties, beautiful restaurants and cafes. So whatever it is that you are looking for, you can find it here. Apart from this, the people are nice, it is not too expensive and it has a beautiful language

do you have any additional advice or comments?

When you find an apartment beforehand, make sure you know what you are getting yourself into.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was clear and straightforward. I remember I firstly had to apply in my home university (UU) and then at UPF. What could be a "tricky" part is choosing the right subjects. You have to make sure that they fit your program and they have available spaces. Also, make sure you double check the language they are taught in!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The exchange office at UU is very helpful. They provided answers to every question I might have had and they did so very quickly.

academic preparation

In terms of academic preparation, I would advise students to carefully check the course manuals of the subjects they choose as some of them have pre-requisite mandatory courses which are not provided at our home university and might have a hard time "catching up" with all the extra material.

language preparation

I chose English courses so I can't say anything about the language preparation. However, they offer Spanish courses at UPF which I definitely recommend as it is very easy to learn the language while you're living in Barcelona.

finances

In my opinion Barcelona is a pretty affordable city if you skip the "touristy" places. Rent was cheaper than in Utrecht and also restaurants and bars didn't differ much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Besides the fact that they have a trimester and therefore more study load per week than in Utrecht, everything else was pretty much the same. I personally had a mix of relatively hard and relatively easy courses. My advice would be to attend every lecture as the professors provide quite some extra material which sometimes is not provided in the book.
academic quality of education activities
I was really satisfied with the academic quality at UPF. The professors which I had were all very qualified and really inspired me and made very difficult subject somehow easier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't have a lot of contact with the mobility office at the receiving institution besides for the needed signed documents which they always provided very quickly.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was very straightforward given that UPF also uses ECTS. A transcript was sent to me as soon as I arrived back in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
There were a lot of events such as introduction days and also parties which the university organised the first weeks. In addition, the ESN network also provided a lot of activities as well as tours around the city during the day.	
accommodation	
I found my accommodation via housinganywhere.com. I would recommend the same for anyone who is staying for a short period of time. The apartment was very central and quite affordable.	
leisure & culture	
Barcelona is a city bursting with culture. Every quarter that you visited had a monument or artwork worth checking out. A lot of places where you could see the city from the top which I definitely recommend. The beach is also very close by metro and given the very good weather you are able to go there very often (also in the winter).	
suggestions/tips	
My suggestion for future students would be to never spend a day at home. Barcelona is a city worth exploring. Even by just taking a stroll into the city you would come across awesome sights and places. In terms of academic activities, I would suggest to keep track by going to classes and depending on the subjects you have chosen not leave everything for the last moment as having more subjects than usual can be hard to adjust to!	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend Barcelona and UPF. The overall experience was really nice. The international environment made it very easy to adjust. For a semester abroad, it is the perfect place to take in some (very missed) sun rays.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	



2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
A lot of procedures have to be completed before going abroad. For example, choosing the right courses, have the right signatures, have a financial plan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange mobility office of Utrecht is really helpful. They help you with all the questions you have. Also the Website gives a clear view of what steps have to be done
academic preparation
In order to be able to apply for an exchange, you have to have enough courses, and you have to finish all your mandatory courses. For me, I already almost finished all of my courses in Utrecht. I choose the courses at UPF such that they would be additional to my studies so far.
language preparation
Because I went to an International University, which was in English, I did not prepare a lot. I did learn some Spanish during my time there, but it was not needed for my studies.
finances
I was still able to loan money from DUO. Also the grant helped a bit, even though it was not a lot. Barcelona was quite expensive. But in the end I made it, by having a cheap room and not spend too much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses I took at UPF was in a way the same as in Utrecht. The difficulty was quite the same. The only big difference was that there were a lot of tutorials and lectures for 4 courses I did in the week. Because they use a trimester system, this meant you had a lot of hours at the university per week.
academic quality of education activities
The level given at UPF was quite similar to that of Utrecht, in my experience. Also the courses given were not things I saw before at Utrecht. For example Business Logistics, I knew nothing of so far, which made these courses quite challenging
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The mobility office was very helpful, and always immediately responded to my E-mails
transfer of credits
For the regular subjects the transfer went quite well. However, for my retake I did later on, the transfer did not go as well (In fact, I still haven't received the transferred credits)

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The University really made us feel at home very fast by organising a lot of events for new students. Also ESN was really nice to meet people at the beginning
accommodation
I managed to rent a room in the center of Barcelona in advance. Because a friend I knew that studied there before was able to get me the room. I really liked it



leisure & culture
Barcelona was a very beautiful city. Also the weather was really nice. This meant we went to the beach very often. After a while I also started playing football 2 times in the week. The nightlife was very nice aswell
suggestions/tips
Try to look for accomodations in advance, it will really help!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
UPF is a really nice University, with a good level of education. The organisation of the university was sometimes not as good as in Holland. However, there are a lot of International students at UPF. Finally, Barcelona is a really nice city to be for a couple months!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
clear, did not have any problem with it
counselling & support at Utrecht University
perfect, Andrea from our study was very helpful with everything
academic preparation
good enough, did not prepare specifically before going but that also wasn't necessary
language preparation
small spanish course
finances
were all figured out before during the application so that was also fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
it was fine, there were some nice courses also the courses were pretty related to my study here at the uu
academic quality of education activities
in was very different, half of my courses were really bad. I also dropped out of one course just because the quality of that course what ridiculous. The way of learning, education and exams were also different. I would not say it was that academic. It reminded me more of secondary school. It was more usefull to study all the content by hard than really understanding it, which is not academic at all in my opinion. Therefore even though the courses were not hard and easier than im used to here, my grades weren't that good because of the exams were.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
not good, very slow. Sometimes i got an answer to my email a month after sending it. Also with problems they couldn't handle I was sent from one to another without anyone really helping me.
transfer of credits
trouble in the beginning, but after a lot of effort everything is fine.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
not very special, kind of what everyone would expect from it. So also not bad
accommodation
perfect, i found a room in the centre of barcelona for a reasonable price
leisure & culture
perfect, i love the country and especially barcelona
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
i would definitely recommend the destination but im not that sure about the university. It is supposed to be the best university in Barcelona but I though the way of teaching and exams was still pretty childish and reminded me of secondary school. I also really dont understand that UU picked UPF as a partner university since they are working in a trimester system. Even though of course i knew it before it is still a disadvantage with ects and less time abroad.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
tell already at the home university that the spanish people are really tranquilo so that if they need to get a signature or something like that. Ask for it a long time before de deadline otherwise you will get in trouble.