## Vienna University of Economics and Business

### 2018-2019

#### PREPARATION

**exchange application process**

The application process was time consuming but straightforward. You need to hand-in a motivation letter, CV, Study Plan and a Financial Plan at the international office at Utrecht. However as soon as the international office in Utrecht nominates you, things are easy. The WU will always accept the nomination and you’re good to go!

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

Oké, everything is described well at the student website. Furthermore I attended three information sessions regarding doing an exchange, writing a CV & motivation letter and final tips from my own faculty. I highly recommend visiting these information sessions as they are really inspiring to start preparations.

**academic preparation**

None as I did the same studies in Vienna as in Utrecht

**language preparation**

None as my bachelor was in English and so were most of the courses I followed.

**finances**

I spent approximately €500 extra a month compared to living in a studenthouse in Utrecht

#### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

**study programme (content and organisational issues)**

The study programme is explained well on the website of WU. Just as in Utrecht you have to be ready with your laptop as soon as the subscription to the courses start, otherwise you risk not getting your favourite courses. The subscription opened in the summer during my holliday which was a bit annoying. Luckily the airbnb had great wifi connection and I was able to get all the courses I wanted. I also chose one course in German, eventhough my level was only B2. I signed up for the course and then sent an email the the teacher explaining my situation. The teacher was totally okay with it and I received a good grade for the course(:). If the teacher would not be okay with it, the international office at WU offers great counselling and they will hapily arrange a different course for you. Make sure you email the teacher as soon as you are subscribed to the course in WU@learn (WU's blackboard) and know his/her email adress (in early September).

**academic quality of education activities**

Education is different in Vienna compared to Utrecht. There is no formal split between lectures and tutorials. Furthermore you have to mandatory attend all the lessons. This makes it feel a little bit like highschool. Unfortunately professors do not provide much practice excersises. For the economics courses just learning theory was okay for me. However for math and econometric courses this is highly annoying and therefore I highly recommend not to take exact beta courses at WU. I did not take any finance or business courses. I have heard that the finance courses are okay and that the business courses are rather easy.

**counselling & support at receiving university abroad**

The people at the international office at WU are very friendly and answers emails quickly!

**transfer of credits**

Not done yet so cannot comment
STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The number one reason to choose WU as your exchange destination!!! The Orientation & Cultural programme plus the German Courses are amazing. I highly recommend signing up for both. During three weeks in September (or March) you will get German classes during the mornings and fun activities to do during the afternoons. You will improve your German a lot, see lots of the beautiful city of Vienna and meet a lot of new people with whom you can hang out during the nights.

accommodation

I stayed at Gasgasse with the OeAD exchange students housing provider. I had my own bathroom, a furnished bedroom and a fully equipped kitchen as the common room. The best thing about living there were my three housemates. I highly recommend searching for an accommodation with house mates. We became best pals and had an amazing time together! Roommates will keep you accompanied also during times that you might miss home a little bit.

leisure & culture

Vienna is a beautiful city!! In Utrecht you can bike across the innercity in just fifteen minutes but in Vienna the innercity is gigantic and there are beautiful white buildings everywhere :). Going out is a little bit more expensive, but if you "pre-game" at home you can save money. I recommend Travelshack on Tuesdays, Volksgarten on Thursdays and PraterDome on Saturdays. Besides going out, there are also a lot of cool bars where you can have a cheap beer with friends. Even after living in Vienna for half a year I feel like I haven't even seen 10% of all the cool bars. There are also a lot of nice cheap restaurants which offer tastes from all over the world. Of course there are the touristy schnitzel restaurants and kaffeehouses but especially around the 7th district cheap hipster restaurants, lunchrooms, coffee places, second hand stores etc have been popping up. So if you think Vienna is conservative, you are surely mistaken!

suggestions/tips

Go see and explore all the nice 'old' Vienna has to offer! But don't think Vienna is conservative/old-fashioned. Behind the beautiful, white marble facades, a new city has emerged. There is much more to do than in Utrecht or even Amsterdam (except for electronic dance music parties). However, the single most important thing that is going to determine whether you are going to have a great or a not-so-great exchange, depends on the friends you make. During the Orientation & Culture programm you will meet a lot of new people. Personally I did not see many of them after the orientation was over. Make sure you have a nice fixed group of friends after that period to do fun activities with (diner parties, museums, kaffehouses, ice-skating, football matches, bars, restaurants, going-out, card games, christmas markets or showing your home to each other on google street-view :).)

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would surely recommend the destination to others! Vienna is a beautiful city and learning German is fun! The Orientation programm and the Erasmus Buddy Network makes it really easy to make new friends.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Most internationals you will meet in Vienna are from Europe, North- and South-America. It is really interesting to talk about cultural differences which will make sure that you never run out of topics to talk about. Check the student website for symptoms of culture shocks, because you will surely catch some. The site gives good tips about how to overcome them, don't worry about them too much. I highly recommend going on trips with the Erasmus Buddy Network! I went to Salzburg, Krawkow, Sell am See and the Oktoberfest (we went there with a
party train, absolute the highlight of my trip:). Best to do the trips with your new friends but don't be scared to sign up for them without friends. The subscription for these trips is quite early on, so you might not know who you will hang out with during the trips. Don't let this stop you! Furthermore don't choose too challenging courses and really enjoy the experience! Such an exchange will only happen once in your life. Now I am doing a internship at a pension fund and everyone here has done an exchange as well. They all look back at it with fond memories. So make new friends and enjoy, you won't regret it.

### 2017-2018

#### PREPARATION

**exchange application process**

The exchange application process is rather easy. As long as you provide the documents in time, there should be no problem for getting into Vienna University of Economics. Usually 4 spots are enough for the people that name the Uni as their first choice. To make sure you get it, provide all the documents in time and write a sound motivation letter.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

UU was always available for questions and usually the exchange desk responded fast enough to emails. If not, just write a reminder email. Visit the information sessions, because you might get insider knowledge about Universities or the application process.

**academic preparation**

Make sure that the courses you are planning to take at WU are accepted by the board of examinors in time. My advice would be to create a list with the top 10 favourite courses that are in the course catalogue of the WU, make sure they don't overlap in terms of schedule (if they do, be aware of that so that you don't book both of those two courses, but only one of them) and then once you have done that, check whether all of the courses are going to be accepted as level three courses by the board of examinors. You can do this the following way: You simply hand in two or three applications, with always different courses, and then see what the response is.

In the end you will have a list of courses that you know for sure are level three. In order to increase the probability that your courses are accepted as level three, send emails to the course coordinators at WU and ask whether the courses expect prior knowledge, or build on other courses, or on a scale from 1 to 3, how the coordinators themselves would assess the level of the course.

The last step is to apply for the courses at the WU. Really make sure to be ready at the exact time the website says the application opens. Also do not keep the tabs open for too long before you apply, otherwise the website might crash. Rank your selected courses by priority and open them all in separate tabs a few minutes before application opens. Then as soon as it opens (use an atomic clock), click on register AND THEN ALSO ON CONFIRM (!!!) (I forgot that and didn’t get into my two favourite courses... You will immediately be told whether you got into the course or if it is already full (some fill up within seconds, sometimes there is only one or two spots for exchange students).

In order to not run into problems regarding graduating with a minor, try to take courses related to your minor in order to get as close to 15 minor related credits as possible (I had 12 minor related credits and that was enough).

Be aware that you only have to work for 20 ects, but receive 30 (the credits that show for the respective courses are always inflated by 50%). Thus if you find so many interesting courses, you can actually think about doing 36ects.

Also it is better to register for more courses than possible, because you can afterwards easily unregister, without any consequences. There is also a waiting list where you can apply for courses you didn't get into.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>language preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s in English, but there are German language courses and also courses offered in German. In Vienna it depends, but you will get along with trying to speak German or just English.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>finances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vienna has about the same prices as here, but living is cheaper.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>study programme (content and organisational issues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will receive a comprehensive info session which you should attend. Most courses are with mandatory attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>academic quality of education activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The courses I took were very interesting and for almost all of them, participation and presentations were an important part. Also there are a lot of group works. The professors were about the same quality as in Utrecht and also the English level is comparable. The courses in general are maybe a bit easier, but that depends of course of the courses you pick and of the ects you take. The fact that 20 ects are worth 30 during your exchange reduced the workload either way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Except for IT related issues, I thought that there is always a desk that is eager to help you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transfer of credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The transfer of credits should be no problem if you have backed all your courses up with the board of examinors before going on exchange.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT LIFE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>welcome &amp; orientation programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did the programme. It was fun, great to get to know people and see some parts of Austria/Vienna that you wouldn’t see otherwise. You get a lot of insider knowledge and always have someone to ask small questions to (your coach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will get great help for finding student accommodation in one of the student houses. If you want to experience the proper exchange student life you should go there. It costs about 460E. If you have somewhat higher expectations for your accommodation and also want to have a quiet/private space sometimes, then you should look for accommodation yourself through websites. Prices in Vienna are good, there is more supply and it is easier to find something than in the Netherlands. I found a place for 470E in a good location through housinganywhere. If you don’t find something you can still go with the student accommodation. just make sure you don’t miss the deadline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leisure &amp; culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is so much to do in Vienna. A lot of variety with regard to everything. Great parties, even though most clubs suck, but you will find some that are your type and the erasmus parties are fun anyways, no matter where they are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suggestions/tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let vienna surprise you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, see my explanations above. Also there is just so much to do, the city is really big but your are very flexible and mobile with public transport. The city is very pretty, has a lot of culture and history and you find a lot of good food (Austrian and foreign) for acceptable prices (try Schnitzelwirt for a huuuuge Schnitzel with fries for less than 8E).

**do you have any additional advice or comments?**

you can always ask the student desk for email addresses if you have further questions.

---

**PREPARATION**

**exchange application process**

The exchange application process is obviously the most important thing to do if you want to go on exchange. It might be time-consuming but is definitely something you should take your time for and do not underestimate. I am happy I started early with the preparations and it really helps if you make an overview for yourself with all the deadlines and all the documents that you have to hand in/ get signed.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

The exchange office of U.S.E. is very kind and friendly. They were able to answers all my questions and concerns regarding my exchange. They respond quick to all your e-mails, which is nice so you never have to wait long before you can hand in a document on Osiris or send it to the receiving institution.

**academic preparation**

I knew that I was going to follow only economic and business economics course at WU, these courses all build on the courses I already did here in Utrecht. With regard to academic preparation I was not worried at all.

**language preparation**

Since the bachelor program I do here in Utrecht is an English program, I did not prepare myself extra with regard to the language since I already spoke/write academic English for two years.

**finances**

I was able to finance my exchange through the Erasmus student grant, my regular DUO student grant and through financial support of my parents and money earned through previous jobs I had. This was for me enough. I would say that everything is just as expensive in Austria as it is in the Netherlands. Only some supermarket products, especially meat, chicken, vegetables and fruit, are slightly higher priced than here.

---

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

**study programme (content and organisational issues)**

I personally did 5 course each worth 6 ECTS, so a total of 30 ECTS. There are enough courses offered to choose from. I would say the university is more orientated on business than on economics, however they do offer enough economic and socioeconomics courses to choose from. What I also find interesting to mention is that they have some course on sustainability, and these courses I found particularly interesting.

**academic quality of education activities**

I would say that the difficulty of the courses is slightly lower than here in Utrecht. However, since you are on exchange this is quite nice, you also have enough time for other activities. Also, the difficulty really depends from course to course. I had one really easy course, 3 intermediate and one advanced course.
### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The exchange office and support were great. They respond quickly and give you all the information that you need. I would say that the quality of counselling & support is of the same level as in Utrecht.

### transfer of credits

I have not yet received all my grades back, so I cannot comment on this yet.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

I would definitely recommend the Culture & Orientation programme that WU offers. It is a great way to meet new people and get to know the city at the same time. It is a 3 weeks program and even includes trips to other cities in Austria.

#### accommodation

The OeAd housing accommodation is set up for exchange students. You can rent here a room with or without roommates and even includes weekly cleaning of your room. What is especially nice is that you are in a building with only exchange students, this way you make soon new friends with which you can easily hangout with since you live in the same building. I lived in Gasgasse, and can recommend this one since you have your own bedroom and bathroom, and you share your kitchen with 2 or 3 others.

#### leisure & culture

Vienna is definitely an amazing city to spend a semester in. The city is really big and offers lots of activities to do. There are lots of museums, cafes and bars to go to. Especially the time around Christmas is nice since Vienna is famous for their Christmas markets, which attracts tons of tourists every year.

### suggestions/tips

I would suggest doing all the activities as soon as possible, if you postpone them to later on in the semester you might be too busy with school, while in the beginning of the semester you have more than enough time.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Vienna. It is a beautiful city, especially if you are interested in art and classical music. Vienna is also a good city to go to if you like coffee and cake because of the Viennese café culture. I would also recommend WU since it is a really good, well organized university. It is similar to Utrecht and located on a beautiful campus, full of architecture, that is well connected with the underground. I had an amazing semester abroad and definitely will come back to Vienna.

#### do you have any additional advice or comments?

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

There was a lot of bureaucracy you have to go through in order to go onto an exchange, even though the amount is not that much the process gets dragged to unnecessary lengths due to slow response times of competent authorities.
# Counselling & Support at Utrecht University

The study advisor and international office was happy to help with any questions I had, however the board of examiners was slow to respond to anything and was not available on the contact hours where they should be available. The study advisor and international office could also not help me with questions I had for the board of examiners and approval of courses making the process extremely long and frustrating.

# Academic Preparation

Choosing courses was not a problem, asking for approval was not either. However, the board of examiners took months to respond to any proposed courses and did not respond to any tries to contact them about it.

# Language Preparation

None

# Finances

The process for applying for grants is long but self explanatory.

---

## Study Abroad Period

### Study Programme (Content and Organisational Issues)

The content was extremely interesting taking a different approach of teaching and requiring much more participation in classes and less pressure on performing well on exams.

### Academic Quality of Education Activities

Quality of teaching was great, however the exams were generally easier than the ones in Utrecht.

### Counselling & Support at Receiving University Abroad

Did not have any problems when trying to contact them.

### Transfer of Credits

Even though grades work much different, transfer of credits is not a problem.

---

## Student Life

### Welcome & Orientation Programme

Smoothly organized and an amazing experience.

### Accommodation

Great location however the building itself sometimes had problems with the fire-alarm being too sensitive and giving an false alarm multiple times a week as well as malfunctioning elevators and too busy laundry rooms.

### Leisure & Culture

The student organisation organizes amazing trips for students, international or native, and there are truly no words to describe the beauty of the city of Vienna.

### Suggestions/Tips

Location of your accommodation influences the quality of life a lot due to travel times, make sure to pick a great location with good public transport connections!

---

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

Yes, the university was everything you expect a good quality university to be. And the destination, Vienna, is an amazing city with a rich, beautiful and unique atmosphere. Centrally located in Europe it also offers the ability to travel to almost anywhere. The whole experience was truly amazing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I doubted whether to do the Erasmus exchange because I did not directly see the added benefit over an already intentionally oriented city as Utrecht. However, the whole experience of going on an exchange is unforgettable and definitely something everyone should do!

---

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process went smoothly as most documents are provided online. Sometimes it was unclear what exactly should be submitted on specific dates.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling and support at Utrecht University went well since they responded to all my questions and troubles. Sometimes it took them very long to sign some documents.

academic preparation

The courses that I took at Utrecht University prepared me for all courses with a prerequisite. This way I did not need any extra academic preparation for the courses that I took in Vienna.

language preparation

All my courses in Vienna were taught in English and the language test from Erasmus informed me that I have a C2 level for English. This way I did not need any extra language preparation before starting the exchange semester.

finances

The Erasmus+ grant provided me with €270 euros every month. I further borrow money from the Dutch government and I received a public transportation compensation for studying abroad. My parents also supported me. This was all described in the financial statement that I prepared before the exchange semester.

---

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

WU provided exchange students with a list of various different courses, without being attached to a specific study program. As a result I was able to choose a variety of interesting courses. One organizational issue is the registration process in which courses get filled up within several minutes. This way getting the courses that you want is very stressful and very hard.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is a little lower than in the Netherlands. Many courses cannot be considered level 3 courses at Utrecht University. So this way you need to find prerequisite courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at WU is very helpful regarding questions and problems. This way the counselling and support is very good.
**Transfer of Credits**

The university in Vienna worked with ECTS credits, which is also used at Utrecht University.

### STUDENT LIFE

**Welcome & Orientation Programme**

Before the start of the semester in October in Vienna, there is a three week long orientation program in which you explore the culture of Vienna and Austria. During these three weeks there is also a pre-semester German course in which you can learn or refresh your German language skills. The orientation program was very fun and interesting and I would recommend it to everyone. There are also two Welcome Days, one for those who want to follow the orientation program and one for those that don't. During these welcome days you get all the information you need before starting your exchange semester.

**Accommodation**

While there are two ways of finding accommodation in Vienna, either via OEAD (student dorms) or arranging it yourself, I stayed at the student dorms. Here you'll live with mostly exchange students which is a lot of fun as you meet many different people from different nationalities.

**Leisure & Culture**

Vienna has a lot of culture and places to explore. The Erasmus Buddy Network (EBN) organizes many weekly parties and trips. This way you never have to get bored. Vienna is also really close to Prague, Budapest and Poland which makes going on trips there very easy. There are also enough cafes to explore and spend your afternoons in.

**Suggestions/Tips**

I would recommend taking part in the cultural orientation program. Here is when you meet many new people with whom you will stay close during the semester.

It's also important to start organizing everything related to accommodation, courses, and financing early. The earlier the better. This gives you less stress at the end.

### CONCLUSIONS

**Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain**

Yes I would definitely recommend doing your exchange semester at WU in Vienna. The university is very well organized and provides many interesting English courses. There is also a wide variety of courses so as long as it fits in your schedule you have many options. The WU campus is also very new and modern, which makes it a great place to study.

In addition, Vienna as a city is a great place to live in as a student. The U-Bahn makes everything very accessible and makes exploring the city very easy. The city consists of many historical buildings and palaces while also having many hip student areas. During the day you can visit the Hofburg Palace, Schönbrunn or Rathaus. While these places are also nicely lit up at night, there are enough bars and parties to have a great night life as well. Many trips are organized by EBN.

**Do you have any additional advice or comments?**

Please start early planning everything out, especially regarding the course that you want to take as the registration system makes it hard to get into everything that you would like. It is also very important that you look at the requirements for graduating on time for your bachelor. This makes creating a good study plan beforehand crucial because you'll need some plan B courses.
**2016-2017**

## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The exchange application process was at first very difficult and inconvenient. However, when you start preparing all the required documents it becomes more easy. Almost every step of the process is described online and the presentation about studying abroad was very helpful as well.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling and support was pretty good at Utrecht University. They replied to all my emails and I have had no troubles. However, keep in mind that it takes them quite some time to respond in some cases.

### academic preparation

The courses I followed during my stay abroad did not require me to follow extra courses. All the prerequisite courses they required, were already in my program in Utrecht. Therefore, I did not had to do any academic preparation.

### language preparation

As I did not participate in courses which required other language skills than English, I did not do anything for language preparation. If you are in an English bachelor, you may assume that your English is good enough to travel abroad.

### finances

For my finances, I prepared a financial statement. This statement showed all my income (loan, student and my income from working) and I estimated all my expenses while living abroad.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did not follow any specific program and I was allowed to choose any course at the WU I wished to follow. I followed quite some interesting and exciting courses. The content of the courses offered at the WU was sufficient and good, however the level was not as hard as I expected it to be. The only disadvantage of the courses at the WU was the registration in my opinion. Their registration system opens at a certain time and day for everyone at the same time. Hence, if you were one minute late, the courses were filled up.

### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is a little bit lower compared to the Netherlands, in my opinion. Not all of my courses are being regarded as level 3 courses back in the Netherlands for example.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at the WU was very good, the International Office always responds very quickly and is very willing to help you with any troubles.

### transfer of credits

This is not yet applicable.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The Welcome Day organized by the WU was very helpful. There are two welcome days, which is very practical, as not everyone arrives in Vienna at the same moment. At this day, we got presentations and a folder,
informing us all about the university, Vienna and everything we had to arrange. I did not participate in the orientation program of the university, so I cannot recommend it myself. However, I have heard good stories about this program. In this programme, you are being showed around in Vienna and you learn a whole lot about Austria and its culture.

### accommodation

In Vienna, there are two ways of finding yourself a place to stay. Either you apply for one of the student dorms, via Oead, or you arrange an accommodation for yourself. I did the latter, which was very easy to arrange. I found an accommodation via Housinganywhere.com and I lived with two other people, who were locals, which was a lot of fun.

### leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Vienna, there is enough culture to see and explore. And with the international organisations, like EBN, there are a lot of parties organized. You will never be bored in this city, that is for sure. Also Vienna is really close to Eastern Europe and it is normally very cheap and easy to make a trip to Budapest, Krakow or Prague for example. And of course, Austria has a lot of skiing areas which is especially attractive during the winter season.

### suggestions/tips

Start early with arranging everything, like accommodation, study plans and financing. That saves you a lot of time while being abroad. Try to come early to Vienna, before the semester starts. It is easy to find your way around the city and the university beforehand. Lots of activities, like a welcome week for internationals, already start before the semester even begins.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this destination abroad to others. At first, the university is very good, the WU is recently renovated and everything is very new and works perfectly. This makes it a nice place to study and in addition, there are enough courses provided in English and these courses are pretty good and interesting.

Next to the university, Vienna is a very beautiful city. It has all the old cultural atmosphere, but it also has a lot of new, hip places. There is enough to do in Vienna during the day, like visiting the Hofburg or one of the many palaces build by Franz Joseph. By night, Vienna has enough places to go to as well, there are many clubs, parties and bars in Vienna. Also, the international organizations, will provided a lot of activities, trips and parties. So, you will never be bored.

**do you have any additional advice or comments?**

Start early with arranging everything, the earlier, the better. That saves a lot of time and stress. Also, be on time with registering for your courses in Vienna. As their register system opens at the same time for everyone, a lot of courses will be filled up very quickly (sometimes even within minutes).
## 2016-2017

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

The exchange application process was pretty straightforward. After the information session I made up my mind and finally decided on two different universities in Europe. I did not get into the university of my first choice, but I did get into my second choice, the WU.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was pretty good at the UU. Since there where a few unclear things, they had sent me a mail that the students a year before me had gotten from the WU, which helped me in the beginning.

#### academic preparation

Due to the good and clear WU site, it was fairly easy the skim through the offered courses and make a plan regarding the courses I would want to follow at the WU.

#### language preparation

Since there are many courses in English, and since my study in Utrecht is also taught in English, I did not have to prepare much for it. Furthermore, through high school I were already able to speak a bit of German which has eventually helped me most in day-to-day life.

#### finances

Austria, and especially Vienna is a country which is not too expensive but it is to my experience more expensive than it is in Utrecht. Both rent and groceries are a bit more expensive then in the Netherlands. I think rent is in most cases around 400-550 euros for a decent room in a student dorm. Groceries are also a bit more expensive but there are also plenty of supermarkets which have more or less 'Dutch' prices (Hofer for example).

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

The WU offers a wide variety of courses in both English and German. Therefore there is I did not have any organisational issues with the WU. Everything was handled very well.

#### academic quality of education activities

The WU is a very good university with great teachers and profossors from all over Europe. The levels of the courses are comparable to the courses in Utrecht, although it was sometimes depends on whether you already have some previous knowledge on the subject or not.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Since I did not need much support or counselling I can not tell much about this matter. However, the questions I did have were answered very adequately.

#### transfer of credits

Most courses consist of 6 ECTS, which means that you have to take five courses in a semester. And since it is ECTS I expect the transfer of credits to go smoothly.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme, which is kicked of by the welcome on the first day, is a great way to start your exchange semester. You get to know a lot of people, and you start to get familiar with the city and Austria as well.
### accommodation
I paid 470 euros per month for my room in a student dorm near the WU and 10-15 minutes away from the city centre.

### leisure & culture
If it comes to culture, Vienna is one of the best places to go to in Europe. But also for going out, enjoying your free time in the sun, and so on, Vienna is the place to go to.

### suggestions/tips
I don't have specific tips for now.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend going to Vienna and studying at the WU. Vienna itself is a very beautiful city with a high diversity of things to do in your free time. Furthermore, the WU has a good name in Europe and the level of education is also more than satisfactory. Overall, it has been a great semester abroad for me and while I was in Vienna I have never regretted taking the opportunity.

**do you have any additional advice or comments?**
For now I do not have any additional advice or comments.

### PREPARATION

**exchange application process**
The biggest challenge was to compose a fitting study plan. Especially if you want to sign up for courses, but the courses you want to follow appear to be full.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**
This was fine, they answer all your questions and the study advisor is willing to plan a meeting to discuss your study plan.

**academic preparation**
Not applicable. The UU provided a good base to follow the courses.

**language preparation**
I had German in high school. I just followed courses in English, but it was nice to speak some German. It is not necessary since almost all Austrians speak English.

**finances**
Nothing special. Living expenditures are about as high as in Utrecht. You receive an Erasmus grant which is quite high.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

**study programme (content and organisational issues)**
There is a lot of choice in the courses which you can follow. However, there are not many choices in Law courses, which might get complicated if you follow a law minor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>academic quality of education activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The academic quality of the curriculum and the lectures was pretty much the same as in Utrecht. Only the group assignments were not really academic, those were more practical assignments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is great. They offer a very complete information packet. If you mail the international office, you got a mail back in one day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>transfer of credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is still happening. WU is sending them to UU international office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STUDENT LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>welcome &amp; orientation programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was a little bit disappointing. There was a formal introduction at the university, but no activities to get to know other exchange students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>accommodation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My accommodation was in the student building Donaubase. It was a mini-appartment (for 1 person) which was fine with nice facilities. The only problem was the organisation. They try to earn extra money in every possible way. I had to pay cleaning costs, but they never came to clean my room. Furthermore they were not helpful if I had some problems. I have heard a lot of exchange students about this. The living circumstances are fine, but the organisation is terrible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>leisure &amp; culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I had a lot of spare time to do some trips and to discover Vienna. The culture is pretty much the same as in the Netherlands. Only different I noticed, was that people in Vienna are more polite. It looks like they never break any rule.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>suggestions/tips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Make some friends as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Use your time useful. You got a lot of spare time to do trips to other countries/cities. If you like to see a lot, start in the first month. I started too late, so did not visit all places I wanted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Try to find a private room, not via the student housing organisations. They are after you're money all the time. I am still waiting for my deposit, which they refuse to pay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONCLUSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, the university is really good with good facilities. There is a lot to discover in Vienna and to discover some interesting places in Eastern Europe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>do you have any additional advice or comments?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Try to sign up for courses directly when the application period starts. I was not able to follow all the courses I wanted since I was 15 minutes later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015-2016

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The procedure was rather straightforward. As all of the students, I had carefully to prepare my study plan, as well as to write an essay on my motivation why particular country and university. In general, rather straightforward and not too complicated.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think university could improve on this. To provide the valuation of courses took ages and there was no advice which courses should I take abroad. Also, international office takes its time to write responses.

academic preparation

Nothing specific.

language preparation

Most of my classes were in English, thus no preparation as well.

finances

In my opinion, the Netherlands are comparable to Austria in terms of prices. Hence, you do not need to break a bank in order to manage to go an exchange to Austria.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Content wise, Vienna offers way more courses than Utrecht! You can take them in various areas and I would advise everybody to take at least one course that the home university could not offer.

academic quality of education activities

In general, the classes are slightly easier than in Utrecht. They are not as intensive home-assignments wise and the examinations are slightly easier. Having said that, however, courses in Vienna are worth at most 6 ECTS, thus you are likely to need to take more classes. I for example, at the end of November had 6 courses ongoing and I really had the most intense period of my bachelor years.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not had too much of interaction with them, yet when I did, they were quick to respond and helpful.

transfer of credits

At the moment of writing (22, February), my credits have not still been transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Definately advise everybody to take part in it. Firstly, because you will get to know how beautiul the city is and how to get around it, and secondly, because you are going to meet friends that will stay with you for the coming half a year.

accommodation

Good, nothing too much to say.

leisure & culture
Comparable to the Dutch culture, however, if you know the language the people really open up for you.

Suggestions/Tips

- 

**CONCLUSIONS**

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain

Definitely! After this exchange, I had an opportunity to get to know amazingly rich culture of Austria, I have learned a great deal about the things I would have not had an opportunity to study in Utrecht and finally, I have met many outstanding individuals who at the end of the day I can call friends.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

- 

**PREPARATION**

Exchange application process

I had chosen to apply for one of the U.S.E. partners since it gave some certainty that they had a good economics department. After I chose to apply for the Vienna University of Economics and Business I needed to write a motivation letter, study plan, financial plan and send my curriculum vitae.

Counselling & support at Utrecht University

I missed the information session but all the information was also on the website. For questions I went to the exchange office (only open twice a week) or mailed Andrea Naylor. She replied quickly most of the times.

Academic preparation

Language preparation

I went to Malta to do a English language course for one week.

Finances

The financial plan gave me a good insight in how much it would cost me; though I spent more than I had expected; especially because I made some trips.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

Study programme (content and organisational issues)

There is a wide range of courses you can subscribe for, though some popular courses are full within 30 seconds after the registration process has started. I have a minor in law so I also registered for two law courses which were very interesting. Don’t forget to read the course manuals about them before you register because some (or at least one I know) are focused on regular Law students and they are very hard to follow (at least for economic students).

One main thing about the courses is that they focus on participation in class. We needed to do a lot of presentations and there were class discussions all the time. Most of the time regular class participation counted
for 10% and presentation & projects for 40%. I appreciated the active participation because the groups were very international mixed and everybody had a (slightly) different point of view/ interesting opinion about the topics based on the country they came from.

academic quality of education activities

For none of the 7 courses I did, was a book really necessary. Everything you needed to know for the exam was in the slides. Most of the courses were not very hard, most of the times it were just things to memorize and learn by heart.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The university has a new building and is very well organised. Changing of courses is possible and does not cost you much effort. It was also easy to attain advice: the counsellors were very accessible.

transfer of credits

42 --> you are allowed to register for 6 courses of 6 ECTS each + 1 business german course which also counts for 6 ECTS at the UU. The host university automatically sends my results to the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Voluntary orientation programme in the month September. You can choose to take german classes on your own level in the morning (from 9-12) and in the afternoon you have an activity to meet other exchange students and explore Vienna and surroundings. Sometimes the 9 o'clock in the morning is a bit early after a night partying. All in all it was well organised and good to follow.

accommodation

I had arranged a room via the university (OeAD) but would actually not recommend it. I stayed at the dorm called Kandlgasse where the common room and the party room had never been open during the whole semester. You could 'rent' the party room but nobody did it since everybody was too afraid that you wouldn't get the 200,- deposit back you needed to pay for it. The rooms were well-equipped and a little bit boring, but there were only 2 burners in the kitchen which made it hard to cook for a even a small group of friends.

leisure & culture

Vienna is a beautiful city with various cultural things to do. Many students visited the opera-house and especially the overseas students made a lot of trips. I also made a road trip through Austria and really enjoyed it. The landscape is really attractive. There are also some really good clubs in Vienna; the only problem with them was that you always needed to pay an entrance fee around 15eu and the drinks were expensive too. However, in the first month everybody goes to the Erasmus parties in a club that has low prices.

suggestions/tips

Since OeAD is overpriced I would recommend to try to find a room by yourself. The dorm from OeAD that everybody liked though was Gasgasse, also known as the party dorm. Most of the pregames were there, and the location is also good (but expensive too).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would definitely recommend Vienna and the Vienna university of economics and business. The city and the university are both really well-organised and easy going. The orientation programme gives you a warm welcome in a way that you feel like home as soon as you arrive!
| | 
|---|---|
| **do you have any additional advice or comments?** | 
| **Try to find a room in the beautiful city centre.** |