



Universitat Pompeu Fabra

2019 – 2020

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I went to the information session about the Erasmus Exchange. I looked into the list of universities and Barcelona approached to me. I had to prepare a study plan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support and counseling at Utrecht University is great. I talked to my studyadvisor a couple of times and the mobility office always responded quickly to my emails about application forms.
academic preparation	I had to prepare a studyplan. I looked into the course catalogue of my exchange university. I had to choose courses at a sufficient level. I had to get my studyplan signed by the studyadvisor.
language preparation	Before I went to Spain I did duolingo. Duolingo is a website at which you can learn a different language. So when I arrived in Spain I could already say a few words.
finances	I received a erasmus grant, which was great. I couldn't work in Spain because I didn't have the time for it. So you better make sure you save enough money before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	It is important to subscribe for the courses in time. If you don't do this courses might be full. Furthermore I really advise to take the spanish language course.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of the courses differes a lot. I had for example an econometrics course which was quite difficult, while the course 'business logistics' was very easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The mobility office is great, they respond quick to your emails. I didn't have any major problems so I never visited them. However at the beginning of the year there were long lines for the office.
transfer of credits	not applicable yet

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	I joined the ESN welcome porgramme. It was very nice, I met a lot of people and joined the activities of the welcome week.
accommodation	I took care of the accomodation myself. I first found an apartment in El Raval, but it was in a really bad part of El Raval so I had to move. I moved to a different part of El Raval, which was way bettter.



leisure & culture

Barcelona is a really nice city. There is a lot to do, the beach, football games, party's, great sightseeing and good shopping. However, there are a lot of protests, sometimes they block public transport for instance.

suggestions/tips

Visit some beaches around Barcelona like Garraf and Sitges. Go to the bunkers and enjoy a beer/glass of wine there. Furthermore, enjoy the sun!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this university/destination. Barcelona is a great city with many things to do. Moreover, the weather is great. I also liked the university, especially the Spanish language course was great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure your apartment is in a good area of the city. Don't choose the most difficult courses because it takes too much of your time.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Was really easy. The only thing what took a lot of time was filling in all the documents for the Erasmus grant

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The exchange office explained everything very well and gave several presentations with all the steps that you have to perform. Also, if you need support, you can just email them and they reply within one day.

academic preparation

I did not do anything for the academic preparation, however just check your mailbox everyday because the university sends an email with the important information about the introduction days etc. You will get the information very late so don't stress when you still did not receive a email with all the information.

language preparation

In Barcelona almost everybody can speak english but it is very useful if you learn a bit spanish. If you already just prepare the basic words, it will help you a lot in Barcelona.

finances

You will spend a lot of money abroad. So my tip is: Save up a lot of money before you go abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was all fine. However, make sure you directly sign up for the courses when the registration opens. The courses are quickly full so make sure you are on time when you register for the courses and also pay attention to the timeslots. Make sure you don't choose courses that are in the same timeslot.

academic quality of education activities

the academic quality at UPF is the same the academic quality of Utrecht university. The teachers are on time and a 80% attendance is required

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The counselling & support at UPF is also fine. If you email them sometimes they reply the same day but sometimes they forget and it can take weeks. But you can always visit the office, they will then you there.

transfer of credits

The university sends the transfer of credits to your university.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was also very good organized. There were 10 welcome days with a lot of parties and activities where you can meet a lot of people.

accommodation

Try to find a room in the center, close to plaza catalunya and jaume. I got lucky because I took over the room who was from a friend of mine who was also studying in barcelona.

leisure & culture

The best parties and festivals are in Barcelona! Every Sunday there is 'brunch in the park/city' festival. This is so much fun! Also 'la terrazza' is a very good party. On Wednesday you have to go to Razzmatazz to party, Thursday you have to go to Apollo and if you like techno, then input is the best club! la fira is the best spanish club!

suggestions/tips

Enjoy and fall in love with the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! The university is very well organized and the city Barcelona has everything! Very nice weather, the beach, best parties, nice people, good restaurants and the best cocktails!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

ENJOY!

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 accommodation myself, and the first apartment I stayed in was far from ideal because it was very small and across a big drug 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 accomodation via housinganywhere.com. I woul 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 that usual can be hard to adjust to!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recomment 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 mandoty 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 as well

suggestions/tips

Try to look for accommodations 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 moth 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, king 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.