

Ankara University

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
my application process was ok. When the Utrecht University accepted that I want to study in Ankara, the application in Ankara started. Keep in mind that processes in Turkey are very slow, so send your applications as soon as possible. After a couple mails I send the coordinator of Ankara University send me an email with that I was accepted at the university.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support of my home university was very good. I want to thank especially Hester van der Ven, because she answer my mails very fast and helped me with everything. During my stay in Ankara a bom exploded and Hester sent me a mail to ask how I am.
academic preparation
The academic preparation of the University in Ankara was a disaster. I'm a law student and the law faculty has only 1 year courses. The courses and the faculty are so not prepared for Erasmus students! As a result the coordinator gave me a couple chose-courses of a half year. But there was a problem.. All the courses were on the same time.
language preparation
I took 2 Turkish courses and 5 English courses. The english courses were very easy if you compare with the English courses at Utrecht University. The Turkish courses were a little bit harder but it was ok.
finances
Before going to Ankara I had some savings and I had my Erasmus grant. Turkey is a place that depends on how you want to live. If you want to spend less money you can live in a flat for 300liras a month. I lived in a dormitory, where I had unlimited security, food, television and wifi for 1500 tl a month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme was so bad!! If you want a good study programma don't go to Ankara. Ankara University (especially law faculty) is not prepared for Erasmus! My coordinator at the law faculty said the same. There is no study programme for eramus students or students for 1 semester. Before I went to Ankara I choice a couple courses. I thought I could follow all the courses. But unfortunately that was not possible. All the courses were at the same time! The coordinator said that I need to go every week to another course. This is not possible! How can I pass a course if I can not follow courses?
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the Turkish courses were very well. Ankara University is one of the best universities in Turkey. I need to admit that the foreign students study very hard for their study.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Even my mother language is Turkish it was very hard to solve some problems. Everything is very hard to get (student metro card, LA, GA, student agreement) and you need to do everthing by your own. Nobody use internet so to fix these things you need to go everywhere.
transfer of credits
The University use also ECTS so it was easy to choose some course for my 30 ECTS. At this moment I'm waiting for my transcript of records.

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STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was ok. It was organised by ESN and a couple mentors. Because my name and looking is Turkish the mentors thought that I'm from Turkey so they did not talk to me. But the touristic locations were ok.
accommodation
The university does not help you with finding a accomodation. Before the erasmus period there was a facebook group for all the students. Some students rent a flat together. I chose for a dormitory. Because it's safer and easy because you have breakfast and dinner everyday.
leisure & culture
I got a museum card. ESN organised a couple trips to: kusadasi, denizli, kapadokya. But most of the time I went to trips with 2 friends of me. There are a lot of organisers of trips.
suggestions/tips
Think very good before you go to Turkey. Especially if you don't speak Turkish. Expect not the same structure and rules as in the Netherlands!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
No, even my coordinator said that Ankara University is not able to have Erasmus students. There is no organisation or programme for them. It would be better if Utrecht University warned me before I leaved to Ankara. The school and study programma was a disaster. But if you can handle stress and you're going only for the adventure than is Ankara a good city.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No, you can mail me if you have..

PREPARATION
exchange application process
As for any exchange I suppose. It went surprisingly smooth, especially, since I did not apply via my own faculty.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Because my case was specific (I did not go using the application system of my own faculty), it turned out to be a bit complicated, but everything turned out fine.
academic preparation
Since I wanted to follow courses that are not in my domain, my case is somewhat specific. I am a Literature student and I have always wanted to follow courses on political philosophy and theory. It is my personal interest so it worked out fine. I also followed courses in Sociology, which did not turn out to be my forte, but teachers will mostly respect it and take it into account if you want to follow courses outside your domain. They are actually likely to encourage it. Considering Bogaziçi is a University that pretty much uses a Liberal arts and sciences model a lot of courses are open for everyone.. so make use of it!
language preparation

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I took an online language course in Turkish on babbel.com. I highly recommend their language courses. I also wanted to follow a course in the last blok at the babbel language center in Utrecht, but it turned out there weren't enough applications, so it was cancelled. On the other hand, all courses at Bogaziçi are taught in English. It is only in rare cases that the teacher will sometimes say something in Turkish. In Istanbul you can get around fine while only speaking English. If you would like to learn Turkish though, the University has very good language courses. They will send you an email saying that you are not allowed to take them without having any academic purpose for it. This actually turns out to be much more flexible and most Erasmus students take the class. It is pretty intense, unlike most language courses offered by universities to Erasmus students. Quality really changes in terms of teachers. Just send me an email if you want to know which classes to pick!

finances

Turkey is a relatively cheap country to live. I already knew people in Istanbul before going so I had an idea what it costs. Just make sure that you do not rent a place before going. Always visit and do not pay too much! Excluding rent you can easily get around with your Erasmus grant, but for travelling you surely need some money on the side.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Political Science, Sociology and Western languages and literature (courses followed from these departments)

academic quality of education activities

Quite high level of teacher and reading material. Mostly primary literature, which can appear quite difficult at first. On the other hand, teachers take it into account that they assigned difficult reading material.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Perfect. The International Office helped me out with many things a number of times. It is open every day and you can walk in any time you want with questions about any problems you encounter. This year they also started a blog to have some posts about things people encounter, including small things such as: "I lost something where do I need to go?"

transfer of credits

For the first semester this went fine. I was afraid that my grades would drop immensely because I am studying in Turkey. With my university, Bogaziçi, being a former American institute, they just took into account the American transfer grid that you can find on the UU website.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Great welcome, good orientation programme. Everything you need to do for your residence permit (which is true hell), is well guided by the university. You get all the steps for all the administration you need to carry out on a powerpoint.

accommodation

I recommend not renting the rooms the university offers on campus. They are excessively expensive as they try to reserve them for local students. In any case, for the same price you can have a much nicer place to live in Istanbul. Also, you might want to consider living in a different district altogether. If you want to integrate university & campus life as on an American campus you should of course rent a place nearby. Otherwise, if you would prefer to enjoy cultural life and the city center google the different districts. It makes a huge difference in

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your Istanbul experience. I moved three times. Just make sure you are in Istanbul one or two weeks in advance. Take a hostel or couchsurf and look for a place. It is fairly easy to find rooms and people are used to moving around quite a bit. It is very flexible and if you want to move out, saying it three weeks in advance generally suffices. Whenever you have a contact, it might not really be one. You can have this checked by the International Office.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is an amazing city for culture and leisure. An enormous amount of free events are organized. Every night you will have at least three events on your agenda. A lot of events are, of course, in Turkish, but I wouldn't be able to attend all those in English. If you are into the arts, culture, like to go to conferences or like to do some yoga in the park do not hesitate contacting me! In any case, everything goes via facebook in Istanbul and you will very quickly find a lot of events of your interest.

suggestions/tips

Do not freak out regarding the paperwork for the residence permit. They look a bit strict, but it turns out fine. Know in which area you want to live before hand, but do not rent a place without having visited and do not transfer any money whatsoever! There are a lot of Erasmus students in Istanbul and a whole business around them has been established, so sometimes when you think you have a housemate you do not. Also, it is normal that you pay in cash and that there are no contracts. This is really to your advantage.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university. The social community is great and vibrant. Whatever you might think about Turkey is likely to be completely changed by this university. They have a great offer in courses and a lot of activities on campus. There's a cinema you can attend for less than one euro, painting classes you can follow and you can make use of their beach on the black sea or indoor swimmingpool.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The courses that are announced on the internet from previous semesters are likely to change when you apply. It even happened to me that a course was added (a new one) during the second week of the semester.

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2012-2013

preparation

exchange/placement application process

For me the application process was quite fast. Ankara University (AU) was a so called 'restplaats'. And I was the first one that asks for it. After I was accepted by Utrecht University (UU) to go study in Ankara, my application process at AU started. By chance I was in Ankara when I have got to hear that I was allowed to study in Ankara. So that is why I immediately paid a visit at the AU and asked about my Turkish. The lessons that I should follow in Ankara should I follow in Turkish. So I ask them how they think about my Turkish and whether it is sufficient to follow the lessons there. The Erasmus Office coordinator has talked about three hours with me about daily things to know how my Turkish is. After the conversation, the coordinator said to me that my Turkish is very well and I can follow their lessons in Ankara.

counselling/support at home university

The support of my home university was good. Keep in mind that the office will be busy when the time of application come closer. You can expect that you don't always receive immediately an answer to you e-mails.

academic preparation

.I came in semester two to AU. Each course consisted of two exams. I must make the midterm exams (about two months in May) and a final (begin June). Because I had choice, choice-courses all exams (midterm and finals) where on the same data. So I must take contact with the course coordinator to change the date of my exams. AU doesn't account for Erasmus students that follow choice-courses. I think, that I was the only one that comes as an Erasmus student at semester two. I was also thinking that I the lessons should hard for me because I learn Turkish in The Netherlands from my parents. But my Turkish was not as bad as I thought. I could follow the lessons well although sometimes I had trouble with the law-terms that were used, but that is very normal.

language preparation

The lessons were given in Turkish. Because I am bilingual (I learned Dutch and Turkish at the same time) and AU found that my Turkish was sufficient to follow the lessons, it was not a problem to follow the lessons. As I mentioned above it was sometimes difficult to understand (especially in the first weeks) some law terms but after a few weeks I could get used it.

finances

During my stay in Ankara I was funded by my parents and had a loan. I have made tours within Turkey. So I went to Istanbul, Trabzon and Alanya. I recommend everyone to travel around because there is so much to see in Turkey!.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

Before I go to AU I choice six courses. I thought I could follow all the courses. But unfortunately that was not possible. The courses that I could follow went once a week given by one teacher and all my lessons started at 15:00 hour. Because there are five days in a week I could not follow one course. So I have contacted the relevant lecturer to ask her how I can follow their lessons. We agreed with the lecturer that I would write some reports about the objects of the course. I was very happy with this solution.

academic quality of education/placement activities

Although AU is one of the prestigious universities of Turkey when you have it about Law. It is very hard to come to Law faculty of AU. But also it is for AU an honor to have an Erasmus student from UU. AU sends the best two students to UU (average of students is important herby). So AU received me very well. For one courses I need a

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background from year one of AU. I wished that AU had told me earlier that I need a background of year one. It was very hard for me to understand that course. But my results were not too bad.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The International Office of AU is located at Kecioren. The law faculty is in Cebeci. So it is not at the same location. It takes 25-30 minutes from Cebeci to go to Kecioren with the bus. They are very friendly and helpful at the Office. But they didn't answered all time to your questions via e-mail. You must call them to have an answer to your question.

transfer of credits

I knew before I went to AU how much ECTS the courses are worth. It was explicit indicated before my departure to Ankara. Now I am waiting for my final results. So my transcript can only be obtained when the results are known. In my forecast I will get my final results after two weeks.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The orientation-day programme was fine. All students from different countries were present. The environment was nice and it was nice to meet them. The Erasmus was very active. They have organized tours in Turkey who is worth to see. For example they go to Cappadocia, Pamukkale and Istanbul. They have also a Facebook group where you can follow their activities and can ask questions.

accommodation

I stayed at the hostel near the university. It was very expensive but I didn't have another choice. Staying at the university campus was eliminating. The Erasmus coordinator at the law faculty told me that the university campus is not clean enough and recommended me to stay with this Erasmus assistant, which is also a law student at the university. I was happy with this proposal but the house was far away from the university. Because I did not know the area I have chosen for the hostel.

leisure/culture

You can get a museum card for 10 TL. With this card you can go to all museums in Turkey. You need it if you go to travel with the Erasmus office with their tour.

suggestions/tips

No, but if you have a question you can e-mail me.

conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Ankara University is not available to give you a good academic education. The courses that I take where choice courses. The other lessons start in September and during a year. Choice courses start in February and ends in July. I heard from friends that the lessons that during a year given very seriously and are very hard. But I can't say this about the choice lessons that where given.

So go to the law faculty of AU if you know good Turkish. Their lessons were not given in daily Turkish. It is hard to study if you don't know good Turkish.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

No, but if you have a question you can e-mail me. .

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preparation

exchange/placement application process

When I was thinking about an exchange destination, I made a quick selection by choosing Turkey. I was born in The Netherlands, but my parents are from Turkey, so my origin is Turkish. Until now I had only been in Turkey for holiday and for visiting my family. I had no idea about the academic life in Turkey. I love Turkey and I want to learn more about this country by going on exchange to Ankara, the capital of Turkey.

First of all I went to International Office to sign up for the exchange program. After that I start doing research about Ankara University and their faculty of law. The contact with the faculty was good; I get an information package of them about the courses so I had chosen my courses at an early time.

counselling/support at home university

The support at home university was very good, the contact with the International Office was very good, everything was clear and Hester van der Ven and her colleagues were very helpful!

academic preparation

I need no academic preparation

language preparation

I had no problems with contacting Ankara University, because I can speak Turkish very well. That's also why I'm not enrolled in language courses before I went to Ankara. If you cant speak Turkish I really advice you to do language course before your departure, because almost everything is in Turkish at the university.

finances

While doing research about Ankara University I also signed up for a Erasmus grant. It is very important to do this on time! Otherwise there is a risk that you don't receive your grant on time.. I also changed my DUO grant on time and I also apply for a public transport compensation (OV vergoeding) because you cant use your studenten OV-chipkaart in Turkey.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

When I arrived in Ankara, I changed my learning agreement. I spoke with some students and teachers and I choose other courses. I took the following courses: Health Law, Organization of Judiciary, Private International Aspects of Civil Aviation, Intellectual Property Law and Comparative Law. I learned very much new things by taking these courses, because in my bachelor period in Utrecht I don't learned much about these topics. All of these courses were optional courses. It was not possible for me to chose compulsory courses, because I went to Ankara for 1 semester and the compulsory courses are just for 1 whole year. So if you want to follow compulsory courses like Turkish Private Law, Public Law, etcetera, I advice you to go for a whole year.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of the courses was good, it was not difficult for me because I finished my bachelors degree when I went to Ankara and I really see the advantages of this.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The contact with the lecturers and other staff was good, they were very friendly, especially when you tell them that you are an exchange student! In general Turkish people is very friendly and you can see and feel this also at the university. The students were also very friendly, when you have any problems they will help you solve these problems. When I had any problems, I always went to mr. Sedat Sirmen; he was always friendly and helps all

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the Erasmus students with their problems and he supports us very much.

transfer of credits

There were no problems with the transfer of credits because Ankara University also works with ECTS-system just like Utrecht University.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

Student life in Ankara was great! I love it so much and I really want to go back! The students were very friendly and it was very easy to make new contacts. ESN Turkey has organized very much events for Erasmus students, from the beginning of the period till the end. First of all there was a welcome- and information meeting.

accommodation

Students of ESN helped Erasmus students finding accommodation for those who doesn't settled yet. I regulate my accommodation before I went to Turkey, it was a private dormitory and I liked it very much. But there are also much apartments where Erasmus students can settle. ESN helped much with these things.

leisure/culture

In your free time you can do much things in Ankara. There are lot of cultural places you must see, for example the Mausoleum of Ataturk (the founder of the republic of Turkey), Atakule, Ankara Kalesi, Hamamönü and much more other places! There also much nice and cheap restaurants and cafes in Ankara, nice places to hang out are Tunali, Bahcelievler and Kizilay. You can find at these places much more other (Erasmus) students!

suggestions/tips

Go to the ESN meetings, you can get more information, it's fun and you meet a lot of new people!

conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

All in all I really advice people to go Ankara for a Erasmus period. It is a very nice country with friendly people and nice wheatear. Turkish food is delicious and its very cheap when you compare it with The Netherlands! In general life is more cheap in Turkey than in Europe. You can do a lot of things in Ankara and I'm sure you will never regret that you have been in Ankara!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you can't speak Turkish, I advice you to take a language course before your departure.