

**2018-2019**

**Report 1**

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	yes:	evazuring@live.nl
	other (social) media	yes:	@evazuring on Instagram
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<b>bachelor's</b>	master's	PhD
name study programme	French language and culture		
destination city & country	Lille , France		
name university abroad	Lille 3		
start date	06 /09/ 2018	(dd/mm/yyyy)	
end date	15 /01/ 2019	(dd/mm/yyyy)	

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
I doubted for a long time whether I wanted to go on an exchange or not because the thought of being away from home for such a long time suddenly seemed very daunting. However, well in time before the first applications I did attend to certain information meetings where my interest was sparked in time for me to do the necessary research and preparation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I received counseling and support at Utrecht University with regards to my choices of which French university to attend, as well as what I needed to do in order to get accepted.
academic preparation
I did not necessarily compare myself academically for the exchange in particular, I think. But I had all the skills that the mobility abroad required of me.

language preparation
In terms of language I was well prepared as all of my courses at Utrecht University were already in French and largely taught by French teachers and there was thus no need for any extra language preparation.
finances
Any preparations of finance I did on my own. However, largely basing my plans on what I had heard of other erasmus students sharing their experiences.
<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
My study programme largely changed after I arrived in Lille because the courses I initially wished to follow were not always compatible in terms of my timetable. This was rather difficult a puzzle during the first few weeks. The different timetables for different years were not available online, but put on an information board at the university. Since I took courses in every 3 years of the field of studies, it was a very chaotic process to find what I could follow without overlap. I made the error to follow too many courses at the start, in fact, due to the inclarities on the timetables put on the boards. However, after asking quite a number of questions on this matter I did sort out a timetable that suited me and once this was established I felt a lot better going to class.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was of a high standard but notably of very different nature than that of Utrecht University. I had the chance to follow quite a number of practical subjects where I would have not been able to do so in Utrecht University. Such as the practice of filmmaking, and the writing of scripts.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Any counselling and support was available after I asked for it, but there was no guidance on itself. No one checked up on me or took me under their wing. I did not experience this as a negative thing until the later weeks of my mobility, where I discovered that this had been the case in other fields of studies. No one checked up on me as an international student, which was fine, except for one course where I did have struggles with a teacher that were related to me being foreign.
transfer of credits
I'm afraid I'm not in the position yet to write about this matter, as I don't have enough information on this at the moment.
<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There was a very warm welcome at the receiving institution and thanks to it, I immediately made some contacts in my new city. This later led to some amazing friendships.
accommodation

I did not stay in an accommodation provided by the university, but decided to find an accommodation myself. I did this via a website called 'Erasmusu' and I visited my arranged accommodation in the summer so that I knew where I would end up living. I know this is not an option for everyone, but since Lille is so close to the Netherlands it was rather easily done. In the house that I selected I lived together with three other French people with whom I had a little bit of contact but not as much as I had expected. However, this was simply because we weren't very compatible as people.

#### leisure & culture

I signed up and joined many clubs to enjoy my Erasmus experience to the fullest. I have experienced the French culture thanks to organised nights by Ulysses, a lovely student organisation and café at the university that also arranges trips for a very good price. With this association I went on a weekend trip to Mont St. Michel and Etretat which was one of my favourite experiences during my exchange. There were also plenty of activities organised by ESN in Lille, thanks to which I met a group of friends for life.

#### suggestions/tips

I really recommend anyone who comes to Lille to get a membership at Ulysses at Lille 3 since it's very cheap and offers a very warm little 'home' at the university in between your classes. If ever you feel a bit down during your exchange, you will certainly find your smile again in this little hidden café at the university campus. The association is led by a very enthusiastic man that adores getting to know new international students and helping them find new people to get along with. It all goes very naturally. Besides that, they provide a very large number of trips for very small prices. I now wish I had taken advantage of it more.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would very much recommend this university and this destination to others. Lille is a very welcoming place for international students of any sort since it is such an internationally oriented metropole. I have learned so much during one single semester in Lille 3, I am very satisfied with my exchange. You will never be bored in Lille, there is always something to do. Especially if you are like me and you are interested in cultural events. One festival follows up the other, always plays to see in the theatre, always good films to watch in the large number of cinemas, always new expositions to discover.. I will be coming back there a lot.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My final advice would be to ask for help in the creation of your timetable. I did not and had some very exhausting first weeks as a result of following way too many courses, or the wrong ones. If I had asked for a bit of help I think I could have prevented this.

## Report 2

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.r.somsen@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Nederlandse taal en cultuur/Dutch language and literature

destination city & country	Lille, France
name university abroad	Université Lille
start date	06 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I started this process quite late, but it wasn't very hard to prepare everything just on time. The instructions on the website of Utrecht University are very clear for an exchange application. I did ask for some help from a friend from France because I needed to choose my classes on the site of the university of Lille and I had some difficulties with understanding all of the french. But she helped me really good. So that was the only obstacle I had.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Really good. Months before the exchange, we had a meeting with information for students going on an exchange and this was very helpful. And you can always go to the International Office if you need help with anything. Or send them an e-mail, they reply really quick.
academic preparation	Because I wanted to take theatre classes in Lille, I took a theatre class in Dutch at Utrecht University to prepare myself.
language preparation	I took an extra french course outside of Utrecht University, at Alliance Française. This was very helpful, because it had been a really long time since I spoke french. They offer short courses with a duration of approximately 10 weeks.
finances	I saved some extra money, and applied for an Erasmus grant.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I only took classes from the first year of theatre studies in Lille, so it was really easy for me to organise my study programme as they were all in the same department and same study in Lille. I can really recommend doing this, because you won't be worrying that much about organizing all different classes from different departments.
academic quality of education activities	The way of teaching is very different in France compared to the Netherlands. Here in Utrecht, I am used to discuss with my professor about, for example, literature but in France there is no discussion. The professor tells you exactly what you need to know and you have to trust them that it is the truth. I needed a couple of weeks to get used to this, because I like discussions. But in the end it was fine.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The people at the International Office in Lille were really nice. They were always there for you when you needed help. With the professors it was difficult sometimes, because they barely speak English. But the people from the International Office did help me with this issue. And after a few weeks, I was used to speaking French all the time but in the beginning it was a bit hard.
transfer of credits	I was told to receive my credits at the end of January, but it turned out to be the end of February. I did send an e-mail at the end of January asking if they were ready yet, and they replied really fast that this wasn't the case. But when I received the document with my credits, it was all clear and everything was in English so that was really nice too.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	For international students, it is possible to take 'stage extensif' at the beginning of the semester. These are extra french lessons where they also give you some information about the life in Lille and at the university. These lessons were really helpful. And there is an international student association called 'Ulysee' and they offered some welcome activities. This was really nice to get to know other international students. And there also is the student association ESN (Erasmus Student Network) who organised a week of welcome activities.
accommodation	I stayed at a student residence really close to the university. I had my own little kitchen and little bathroom, so this was really nice. But the people at the student residence barely spoke English so the communication was a bit hard sometimes. And when something was broken in my room, it took them a really long time to fix it, even when I asked it multiple times. But it was really close to my university, so I was really happy about this. At the International Office was able to help me if I had a question the people from the residence couldn't answer.
leisure & culture	Lille has a really rich culture. There are multiple cinemas, theatres and museums and a lot of other cultural activities. ESN organised multiple cultural activities and I really loved this.
suggestions/tips	My biggest tip would be to join the student associations Ulysee and ESN. You will meet so many nice people here. And take the extensive classes at the university to improve your french and to receive extra information about the life and the student life in Lille.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would. Lille is a beautiful city and it is also really close to some other beautiful places for example Brussels and Paris. The people are really nice and you can always ask for help at the International Office if you experience difficulties with your french. Going on an exchange is a great experience and I would recommend it to everyone.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No I don't. You can read my advice in the 'suggestions/tips' section.

**2015 - 2016**

**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French Language and Culture

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	First I had to apply at the Utrecht University, I had to upload (in Osiris), a financial plan, study plan, motivation letter and a cv. When I heard I was accepted in Lille, I had to apply for that university (send an application form, Learning Agreement, demand for a room).
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I had a counselor from my department in Utrecht, and for questions I could go to the International Office.
academic preparation	My academic preparation was my study in Utrecht.
language preparation	My language preparation was my study of the French language in Utrecht.
finances	I made a financial plan, that was very helpful. I had my scholarship, Erasmus grant, grant for the OV (transports in the Netherlands) and my personal savings.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed 10 courses, because I needed 30 ECTS and every single course had a value of 3 ECTS. I studied in 4 departments: Lettres Modernes, Sciences du Langage, DEFI and Dutch. The organisation was very different from that in Utrecht. There is no such thing like Osiris, there is only paper. The schedules of the courses were on paper in a hall on the wall, so you had to search yourself for a good combination of the courses. Luckily there was a guide with the descriptions of the courses online.
academic quality of education activities	That depends on what you choose of course. I followed courses of the first, second and third year. There was a great difference on the academic quality of those courses. Those from the third year that I followed were too difficult, so I don't recommend to do that.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There was an International Office where you could go for answers to your questions. Only disadvantage: I had to wait at least 1 hour before I could ask my question. You had to write your name on a list, and then wait until your turn.
transfer of credits	

In France they also work with ECTS, so that's easy. Within 5 weeks after your return you receive your Transcript of records.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a welcome in the university and there was an organisation, ESN, for Erasmus activities.

accommodation

I lived in a student residence 10 minutes away from the university. It was very nice, clean, there was a reception for questions etc. My room was not very big, but that was not necessary, because you are there only to sleep.

leisure & culture

In Lille there were lot's of activity's! It's a great culture city. In september there was a great market (braderie de Lille), and all semester there was a theme in Lille: the renaissance. There were a lot of festivities, expositions etc.

suggestions/tips

I highly recommend a room in a residence if you have the chance, because it's very good for your contacts/network. Also, it's very important to participe in activites to meet people.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this university. Sometimes there's a lack of organisation and you have to look for all the things yourself, but that is France. The courses in Lille are very interesting, because many of them are not given in Utrecht. The support for the Erasmus students is good, only inconvenient is the waiting time in the International Office. But on the other side, it's a good way to meet new people. ;-)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Studying abroad is the best experience ever, it's a great opportunity and you have grab it with both hands!