



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES

### UU Report 2015-2016

|                      |                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| e-mail address       | <i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i><br>mark.coelen@gmail.com |
| faculty/college      | Betawetenschappen                                                                                                            |
| level                | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD                |
| name study programme | History and Philosophy of Science                                                                                            |

|                            |                                        |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| destination city & country | München, Germany                       |
| name university abroad     | ludwig maximilians universität münchen |
| start date                 | 01 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)            |
| end date                   | 31 / 03 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)            |

#### PREPARATION

##### exchange application process

With regard to the general part, everything was properly arranged. However, my field of study (philosophy and foundations of physics) is quite a niche, so in that sense I was forced to find out the procedure myself a little more (in comparison to more common fields of study like economics). All my courses were related to the Munich Centre of Mathematical Philosophy.

##### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Liesbeth Achterberg is a very friendly lady. She helped me to prepare my exchange in a very dedicated way.

##### academic preparation

In general, the level of LMU is comparable to the UU, so I did not experience any obstacles (as in: no knowledge disadvantage)

##### language preparation

Since my master program is already fully English based (with lots of international students), I did not experience any difficulties with regard to communication and the English language. I believe that at every decent university in Western Europe, most master level courses have English as working language.

##### finances

All fine, no problems.

#### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

The courses I was enrolled to were very interesting. Moreover, the structure of the Germany academic system, at least at LMU, is way more academic than the Dutch system. What I learned about culture with regard to this exchange is that Dutch people are in general more German than the Germans. Germans are less strict about facilities. There is more freedom because the system trusts on the responsibility of the students. That creates a better ambience.



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| academic quality of education activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Very good, the professors are well-informed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| My contact person was Mister Norbert Gratzl (Munich Centre of Mathematical Philosophy). He is a very nice man and he is very approachable. And, he is merged with the attitude of LMU: rules are guidelines and not rigid entities: stuff should be done, but there are several ways to Rome. I really liked that attitude. |
| transfer of credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| There are some troubles to receive te credits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STUDENT LIFE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| welcome & orientation programme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Was nice, although the communication could be better. But this is always a problem when you organize stuff for people you do not know.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| accommodation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| This is the only negative point of my exchange. At the end March 2015, LMU Munich sort of suggested, by means of an e-mail, that the accomodation was arranged by the university. Around the end of August they send me an e-mail that this was not possible. I only had about 4 weeks to find another place. Munich is with regard to prices comparable to Amsterdam ("binnen de ring"). So, it is not cheap, but it is also not London. If you do not mind where to life, then the S-Bahn or U-Bahn enable you to take a cheaper place in one of the suburbs. However, it is of course more fun to live reasonably nearby the University/City Centre. I understand that 18-20 minutes from door to door by the metro is in cities like Munich quite normal. If you are student in Munich, the public transport company offers you for a semester (1 october - 31 march) an unlimited ticket for only 150 euro's. You are then allowed to use the entire system that is truly massive. That's quite positive. |
| leisure & culture                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| There is lots of stuff to do, so do not worry about that! At first glance, Berlin appears to be the only cool place in Germany, but that is not entirely true. Indeed, Munich is smaller than Berlin, but still a global city. And, indeed Munich is more traditional with respect to cultural stuff, but if you are willing to have a more "underground" experience during your exhcange, then Munich could still help you: you basically need to know the spots.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| suggestions/tips                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The Deutsches Museum is really cool to see and only 4 euro's if you are a student. If you are there during a winter semester, please be aware of the fact that the Alpes are merely 100 km away, so small ski-trips are definitely a recommendation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| I would recommend the university and the city of Munich. If they would improve the housing facilities, then they would get a 9 out of 10, so now I would like to give my experiences 8+ out of 10.                                                                                                                             |
| do you have any additional advice or comments?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| If you are having a drink at (for example) Friday nights, check the schedule of the public transport system before. If your smartphone dies, you are lost and taxi's are not so cheap in Munich. Although I took my bike with me, the public transport system is in general fantastic, so I did not really made us of my bike. |