



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2015-2016

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be made available (anonymously) to UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

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

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> @
faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Human Geography & Planning

destination city & country	Berlin, Germany
name university abroad	Freie Universität Berlin
start date	07 / 03 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 07 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	Went pretty well, only I found it really hard to find the courses taught per semester. In the end i found out there were way more courses than I thought before.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Was sufficient. For questions they are always ready and reply quickly.
academic preparation	
	The level is similar as in the Netherlands. No big differences in acadamic structure.
language preparation	
	I would recommend doing a language course before leaving. I didn't and thought that the 6 week German course at the FU was sufficient, but it wasn't. Especially for Dutch students, who understand German and read it properly, i would recommend doing a language course before leaving with Dutch people only. Cause the problem of the FU's language course is that there are people from all over the world and the focus was more on reading and listening (where Dutch people are in general capable of) and less on grammar (in which we lack most of the time).



finances

The Erasmus grant helped a lot, expenses are abroad way higher than at home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I found it interesting that in Germany one also gets ECTS for attending, something which is not possible in the Netherlands. Furthermore I had interesting courses Berlin perspective and as well a course from my study, which was challenging but learned a lot. Furthermore the German course helped me to learn the language better.

academic quality of education activities

I would say the same as in the Netherlands. Big focus on discussion and presentation.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

All super well organized, can't name anything that I wasn't happy about.

transfer of credits

Not yet done, cause I haven't got all my notes back, but I know what I have to do and where to get it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I was already 6 weeks in Berlin before the semester started and done the language course provided by the FU, where I had met all my friends. So I didn't feel like participating in the events, but there were loads!

accommodation

I just found a room on my own. Worked out fine!

leisure & culture

Berlin is THE place for leisure and culture. I learned so much and the city is absolutely amazing.

suggestions/tips

Try to find a place to live with Germans, this helps you to learn the language better/quicker and you always have a home to come back to. Something that some of my friends here found a bit sad is that they lived with only Erasmus students and now they had no place to come back to.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely would, the FU is super organized and they are keen to help you with everything. Studywise, there are loads of topics you can do. And don't get me started about Berlin, oh my what a perfect place to live. I would recommend this to everyone!!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Semesters periods are different in Germany, this year I only have summer holidays in August. Think this through at the beginning of your stay, cause I had to cancel a lot of holiday plans.



Save this UU report for your own records and send it as attachment to verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!