

2018-2019

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

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Nederlandse Literatuur en Cultuur (research)

destination city & country	Antwerp, Belgium
name university abroad	Universiteit Antwerpen
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Everything was clear. The deadline is too early in my opinion.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Okay.
academic preparation	No special preparation.
language preparation	Not necessary because of attended courses in Dutch.
finances	Living in Antwerp was much more expensive than I thought and I nearly had enough savings. The rent wasn't the problem, but groceries were more expensive than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed two courses: one on second world war literature in Flanders and one on 'counter stories' (racism, representation, the story of migrants). They were both 6 ECTS. There were some small assignments, like a presentation, and a paper for most of the points at the end. Both courses had one class of two hours a week. A course takes one semester which seems long, but actually it just starts at the end of september and the classes are finished before the christmas break. In January there is exam month. Besides these courses I did a research internship at the university for 3 days in a week.
academic quality of education activities	The topics were interesting, the teachers were good but I missed challenge. In one of the courses there was barely any interaction between teacher and student. Also I was used to studying secondary literature (articles), but I did not have to read anything myself; the teacher just explained it. I feel like students in Flanders are

treated like they cannot handle a lot. I would not recommend anyone to study in Antwerp over Utrecht. The internship was on the other hand very challenging and I learned to apply new research methods and got to meet a lot of researchers.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There were introduction days for all Erasmus students, which was helpful and fun. Then there was a mandatory information session organised by the faculty about registering for courses, which was quite useless because I already did. One of the strange things was that the receiving institution did not want to sign my Changed Learning Agreement in September because they said that I could still change my mind about the courses.. I convinced them to do so eitherway.
transfer of credits
I did not receive any grades or credits yet, but I guess it will arranged.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
It was nice. They gave some basic information about the city and showed us around. I met some other Erasmus students, which was nice because it turned out to be quite hard to get social with local students.
accommodation
Probably the nicest house I will ever live in. It was an old building in the best part of town and I shared it with four Flemish girls and one other Dutch girl. It was also very cheap (385 euros for my room of 18m2, shared spaces and everything included.. 5 minutes walk from the Grote Markt)
leisure & culture
I subscribed to this sports deal called PlusPass. For only 25 euro you can attend every sport class you like, arranged by university and higher education, for the entire year. I attended yoga classes every week. In the weekends I enjoyed to explore the city, I visited lots of museums. Antwerp is just perfect for having lunch/dinner, shopping, having a drink or just wandering around..
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to look for accomodation in the center or close to it. Most international students live in the Student Quarter and they don't see anything of the city. You can easily find a room via Facebook. PlusPass is recommended for cheap sporting. I would recommend combining internship and courses to keep it challenging. Making friends with other Erasmus students is recommended because even if you speak Dutch, it is very hard to make friends with Flemish students. They are nice but they don't invite you to hang out after class (and never have time if you ask them). And don't think Antwerp is bike friendly, its NOT. I did often use my bike, but avoided the city center.. there are lots of dangerous crossings with cars and trams and often there is no space for bikes (so you have to move to the pavement). So be careful..

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend it because it is an amazing place to live. I enjoyed the city so much. On the other hand the level of education in my study programma was not as high as in Utrecht. This may be also due to the fact that I attend a research master in Utrecht. However, for me this period was mostly important to be on my own, to

Belgium – University of Antwerp

think about the future, to think about myself in another context.. So it is not a big problem that the education wasn't as challenging as I'm used to.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have the chance to go abroad, go for it! I was skeptic first, but it really helped me to gain confidence about my ability to live somewhere else and be more independent.

2017-2018

e-mail address	t.schroot@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Antwerpen, Belgium
name university abroad	University of Antwerp
start date	17 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	During the application process everything I had to arrange went smoothly. Even though the application process started more than one year in advance, which made things sometimes going slowly, the application process was oke.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	During the preparation period beforehand I really appreciated the support offered by the International Office in Utrecht. If you have any doubts or questions it is really easy to reach them and to get good advice from them.
academic preparation	I didn't prepare any academic things specifically
language preparation	Since I went to a Dutch speaking university, I didn't have to take any forms of language preparation. However, most of the courses I followed were taught in English, but the level was similar to the level of English used at Utrecht University.
finances	Living in Antwerp is similar to living in Utrecht in terms of living costs. But during the Erasmus semester you want to ofcourse do some more things, so it could be wise to save some extra money in advance for going on trips etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	At first, I was a little sceptical about the study programme offered by the University of Antwerp since the History department is really small and they do not offer that much variety of courses as in Utrecht. After a while, however, I figured out that the level of education is really good, both in terms of content as the professors. So, in the end I was pleased with the study programme

academic quality of education activities
As mentioned above, the level of education is really good at the University of Antwerp. In the courses I followed, they use different kinds of evaluation methods, for instance: debates, presentations (group and individual), written exams and oral exams.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
One of the nicest things I noticed after arriving in Antwerp, concerned the support at the University of Antwerp. Their International Office is really helpful, supportive and easy to get in contact with. They can help you with almost everything and they offered as well two amazing days of introduction at the beginning of my stay.
transfer of credits
While writing this, I still have to wait for my grades from the University of Antwerp (since the exams finish quite late).

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
As mentioned before, the orientation programme at the University of Antwerp was really well organised. Two days full of useful presentations, information markets and guided tours through the city and campus. The International Office has also good contacts with ESN Antwerp. The introduction period of ESN (1 week) started directly after the two orientation days.
accommodation
It is really easy to find a room in Antwerp. The University of Antwerp offered me a perfect room, I lived at the Stadscampus of walking distance of all the university buildings (library included). The student residence was mixed with Erasmus students and Belgian students, which made the cultural exchange even better.
leisure & culture
Antwerp offers you a lot of rich culture, it is a really nice city to just walk around of to discover it by bike or to visit museums. Famous because of its Belgian beers and food (fries), leisure can be spent really nice. ESN Antwerp organized a lot of joyful activities like beer tasting, parties, city tours, trips abroad (Paris). So, there is enough to do in and around the city.
suggestions/tips
My most important would be: meet people, don't be shy, people will appreciate it if you want to talk with them. Ofcourse, this is very easy to do with other Erasmus students who mostly think the same. But in order to meet some of the Belgians students this works good as well.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
In short, I would really recommend to go to Antwerp. Maybe you think at first why should I go as being Dutch to Belgium for my Erasmus exchange, this is nothing to worry about, it offers you actually more: on the hand you live in an international environment anyway, with a lot of other Erasmus students (like in every Erasmus city), and on the other hand it is easy to meet local people and discover life in Belgium. Besides the fun, the university is really good as well, and the courses won't disappoint you.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Do as much as you can during your Erasmus, in terms of studying and doing fun stuff with new friends, before you know the 5 months are over.

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	RMA Medieval Studies

destination city & country	Antwerp, Belgium
name university abroad	Antwerp University
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application went fine.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Fine	
academic preparation	
Not quite needed for me.	
language preparation	
Not needed.	
finances	
Clear and good organised. Received the grant in time.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
Went fine, although it is always a bit difficult to get to know the organisational structures of a new university. However, everyone reacted fast and it was okay.	
academic quality of education activities	
Okay. However, the masters in Antwerp are not as specialised as they are here, which meant that some (parts) of the courses were quite simple for me.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
Perfect!	

transfer of credits
Still to wait for, but will hopefully be fine.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Clear, although not so necessary for me as a Dutch student.
accommodation
I haven't lived there, travelling back and forth was fine.
leisure & culture
Antwerp is a great city!
suggestions/tips
Visit the museums!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would! Antwerp is a great city and I found the teachers and professors at the University of Antwerp very kind, helpful and enthousiastic!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Religious Studies

destination city & country	Antwerp, Belgium
name university abroad	University of Antwerp
start date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process

When I started the exchange application process I got nervous, very nervous. All these documents you have to sign and things you have to figure out, it seems like a lot, and actually it is. But, with all the good support from the university, and documents which tell you step by step what you have to do: you can do it!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Sometimes when things weren't as clear as they should have been, I was always welcome to email my questions about anything. I really appreciated that and thus the support was needed, but also very good.
academic preparation
This wasn't necessarily for me.
language preparation
I studied abroad in Belgium, in Dutch which is my mother language.
finances
It is good to be aware of everything you have to pay abroad, and whether you have the money for this.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed a few history related courses here in Antwerp, which were all quite interesting. In Antwerp you have only two semesters, whereas in the Netherlands there are 4. This is a huge difference, because now I had to follow 6 courses instead of 2.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was quite the same as in Holland, maybe a bit easier actually because at the University of Utrecht I was used to write a lot of papers and essays, something I didn't have to do at the university of Antwerp.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was good, I could always email my questions and got a quick response back.
transfer of credits
30 ects

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first day at the university was well organized, we met all the exchange students and had a guide tour through the city which was a lot of fun. I didn't join the orientation programme, or any of the welcome parties. But I heard it was great:)
accommodation
I stayed in one of the student rooms offered by Xior, a good organisation with great accommodations.
leisure & culture
I love Antwerp, but it is not very different from the Netherlands. I really enjoyed living on my own and meeting other people, but the 'being abroad' experience is not something you get if you go to Antwerp when you're from the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! Antwerp is a beautiful, peaceful city. People are very helpful and the university offers a great scala of interesting courses you can follow.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

faculty/college	Universiteit Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Antwerpen, Belgie
name university abroad	Universiteit van Antwerpen
start date	22 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
De aanvraag om in Antwerpen te studeren is erg goed verlopen. Er is vrij snel contact met mij opgenomen dat ik aan de Universiteit van Antwerpen mocht studeren.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Vanuit de Universiteit van Antwerpen kreeg ik binnen enkele weken een contact persoon aangewezen gekregen. Hierbij kon ik terecht voor al mijn vragen betreffende de universiteit, administratie en verblijf.
academic preparation
De voorbereiding voor de universiteit verliep ook goed. Over het inschrijven voor vakken in Antwerpen kon ik contact opnemen met mijn contactpersoon per mail. Daarnaast werden de activiteiten en informatie over de introductieperiode ook per email uitgewisseld. Hierdoor was ik goed op de hoogte over wat me te wachten stond.
language preparation
In Antwerpen spreken /schrijven ze de Nederlandse taal. Hier hoefde ik me niet op voor te bereiden.
finances
Het aanvragen van de erasmusbeurs verliep goed. Echter ontving ik deze vrij laat, in oktober.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Sommige vakken die ik graag had willen volgen kon niet doen omdat deze in een ander semester gegeven werden. Echter heb ik uiteindelijk een mooi vakkenpakket kunnen samenstellen van verschillende domeinen waaronder geschiedenis, restauratie & conservatie en architectuur.
academic quality of education activities
Het academische niveau was vergelijkbaar met dat in Utrecht. De toetsing was wel verschillend van de wijze in Nederland. Zo werd er bij de geschiedenis vakken erg 'schools' tentamens afgenomen. Veel informatie moest letterlijk in 'het hoofd gestampt' worden. In utrecht wordt wat dat betreft vaker ingespeeld op 'inzichtsvragen'. Daarnaast kreeg ik ook een mondeling tentamen, wat ik in Utrecht nog niet eerder heb gehad.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
De begeleiding via de contactpersoon verliep erg vlot. Andere administratieve problemen verliepen soms wat stroever. Dan werd je van de ene naar de andere persoon doorgewezen, die allemaal het probleem niet konden oplossen. Op dit gebied vond ik de website van de Unviersiteit ook niet erg overzichtelijk.
transfer of credits
De studiepunten van de vakken in Antwerpen verschillen van die in Nederland. Dit was wat puzzelen in het begin. Doordat ik extra vakken heb gevolgd binnen mijn bachelor zorgde dit verschillende puntensysteem niet niet voor problemen in het aantal studiepunten.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
De eerste weken is er veel georganiseerd voor nieuwe, buitenlandse studenten. Ik ben lid geworden van ESN (Erasmus studenten vereniging) die ontzettend veel leuke activiteiten organiseerde voor Erasmus studenten. Hierdoor voelde ik me al snel thuis in de stad met nieuwe mensen om me heen.
accommodation
Ik heb me via de Universiteit van Antwerpen ingeschreven om in aanmerking te komen voor een kamer in Antwerpen. Hier heb ik echter niets van gehoord, waarna ik zelf ben gaan zoeken naar een kamer. Dit is vrij snel gelukt. Ik zat in een studentenhuus middenin de studentenbuurt met 2 vlaamse, 1 nederlandse en 1 duitse meid.
leisure & culture
Naast de lessen was er veel vrije tijd voor andere dingen. Zo heb ik geregeld uitstapjes gemaakt naar andere steden in België, van het Belgische bier geproefd en de stad verkent. Soms werden cultuurverschillen tussen Nederlanders en Vlamingen zichtbaar in de communicatie en gedragingen.
suggestions/tips
Naast dat mijn verblijf onzettend goed is bevallen zou ik kunnen aanraden om het tweede semester naar Antwerpen te gaan. Door de komst van het betere weer zijn er veel meer mogelijkheden binnen de stad.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Ja, ik zou deze stad en unviersiteit zeker aanraden. De kwaliteit van de universiteit is gemiddeld, de hoogleraren zijn goed en naast een aantal verschillen sluit het schoolsysteem goed aan op dat in Utrecht. Daarnaast is de

Belgium – University of Antwerp

stad ontzettend leuk voor studenten(vele uitgaansmogelijkheden) en is er veel te ontdekken op het gebied van cultuur, geschiedenis en natuur.

do you have any additional advice or comments?