

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)**2018-2019****Report 1**

permission to publish contact details** <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: dienderb@gmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Linguistics

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 02 / 2019 (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 process was very straightforward. Once you've picked two or three destinations you'd like to go to, you hand in a study plan and a financial plan, a motivation letter, and your CV. What each of these documents should contain is explained extensively by the UU, which I found very helpful. One specific problem for Prague is the study plan, as their online course catalog took some getting used to: there appear to be over a hundred different faculties, exams and courses often (but certainly not always) have separate course codes, and once you arrive in Prague you may find that none of the courses you put in your study plan are actually available to you. Luckily, this only turned out to be a minor annoyance rather than an actual problem for the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Although the paperwork may get increasingly overwhelming as the exchange progresses, the IO in Utrecht always responded rather quickly to my questions with clearly-written, helpful responses.
academic preparation	I don't think any academic preparation is really necessary for courses at Charles University, but that probably depends on the courses you end up following. Almost all of the courses had the materials provided to the students, so I never had to buy any books in advance.
language preparation	The only course I took that was not in English was a Czech language course, so if you decide not to put that in your study program, no language preparation is required. However, Charles University does offer a free intensive Czech course in the weeks leading up to the semester, which I cannot recommend enough to foreign

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

students who choose this university. Not only do you learn some Czech, which is obviously very useful when living in Prague, but you also get a three week head start on meeting the other Erasmus students.

finances

Groceries and rent are not necessarily cheaper in Prague than they are here; but otherwise, Prague is a relatively cheap city to live in. Were you to pick Prague, you should be able to get an Erasmus grant. In addition to that, Charles University also gave a grant to Erasmus students halfway through the semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

During the first month of the semester, you can enroll and sign out of any course you want, however superficial your reasons may be. How this works exactly is explained at length during a presentation on the first day of the semester. There are a ton of interesting courses available to incoming students (although whether or not the examination is compatible with your home university is a bit unclear sometimes) and Charles University frequently lets students know when there are new options to choose from, which is how I found most of the courses I ended up following.

academic quality of education activities

I got the impression that teachers have a lot more freedom in managing their courses than they do here. This means that it is entirely possible that things like homework and exams work completely differently in each course you take. Because of this, the level of the courses varied a lot: some were markedly easier than the courses I'd take in Utrecht, whereas others were of the same level if not a bit more difficult. Overall, I'd say the classes are of the same level as they are here, while exams are often a bit easier.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office in Prague is very helpful and responds very quickly to any questions you may have. That was also true for all teachers I had, but some of the other Erasmus students did have stories about teachers not being helpful at all. Regardless, communication between teachers and students is a bit more informal than it is here, which does make it easier to ask them for help to begin with.

transfer of credits

I haven't yet finished this process in Utrecht. However, the teachers in Prague were very quick to publish the grades and the IO in Prague had my transcript of records ready before I left.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is an orientation week in Prague. However, the spaces are limited and there are a lot of Erasmus students, so I wasn't able to sign up to any of them in time. This ended up not being a problem at all because the Erasmus community in Prague is very big and active: there are many Erasmus students and activities for those students organized by both the university and separate organizations.

accommodation

The university has very cheap dormitories which also houses many of the Erasmus students, which makes it a great place to meet new people. Depending on your standards, however, it might be better to find a place elsewhere. You share a bedroom, there is a single kitchen for all people living there, the showers are unisex and do not lock, nor do the toilets, and the place can get very noisy. Rumor has it northern and western Europeans are put in a significantly better dormitory, but I never went there myself so I don't know what it is like. If you decide to rent your own place, finding one is not at all difficult in Prague. However, you will not necessarily pay less rent than you would in Utrecht.

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

leisure & culture

Prague is an amazing city to live in. The nightlife is unlike anything you'd find in the Netherlands, it is very close to many other major European cities and the Erasmus community is very active. There are tons of theatres, musea and historical sites scattered throughout the city.

suggestions/tips

The Czech Republic is a gorgeous country with many nature reserves (Český Raj, České Švýcarsko, Krkonoše) and towns (Český Krumlov, Karlovy Vary, Kutná Hora) well worth a visit. My go-to places to eat or drink were Sladkovský, A Maze In Tchaiovna, Hajnovka, Vzorkovna and the entire neighborhood of Holešovice. The university offers cultural trips within Prague, and there are a couple of organizations which offer parties and trips abroad for international students (the biggest one being Oh My Prague, as far as I know), all of which I would recommend.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this city and university to others. There are lots of events for international students, making it very easy to meet new people. Culture-wise, Prague has got to be one of the most interesting cities in Europe. The university gets many Erasmus students each year and they put in a lot of effort to make sure they have the most memorable semester of their studies while in Prague.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Regardless of where you end up going, it is very insightful to experience not just studying, but also living in a place where things may go just a bit or even completely differently from how they would in the country you grew up in. Although Prague was fantastic, you will have an amazing experience wherever you decide to go if you decide to study abroad.

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)**2017-2018****Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> j.h.vandebeld@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Faculty of Arts
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	09 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>From the beginning, I knew I wanted to study abroad. But where? To find the perfect location, I basically went through the list provided through Utrecht University of all the possible destinations. There, I stumbled upon Prague, which I never thought of before, but which turned out to be the best choice I could have made. I applied for this university through writing a motivation letter and heard I was accepted! Then I had to do some paperwork and get some signatures from the International Office in Utrecht. This might have felt like a lot at the time, but looking back I know it was more than worth it.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The International Office from Utrecht University has been very helpful in the process. For example, when I had to meet a deadline of my exchange university at the very last minute, they agreed to sign the paper outside of their office hours and give it back to me within two hours. This was very kind and extremely helpful. Other than that, I think the support was well done. However, the office hours of the International Office are very restricted, making it sometimes hard to hand in documents on time.</p>
academic preparation	<p>My academic preparation at Utrecht University was more than enough. Since the academic level of the courses taught is very high, the courses in Prague were reasonably easy to follow and pass. Even though I studied in a different field in Prague, I am convinced that my education in Utrecht had been enough to prepare me for it.</p>
language preparation	<p>Since I did a bilingual program in high school, my English level was quite good already before I left for my exchange. Erasmus offered us to do a language assessment though, to check what our level of English was and whether we would improve it during the exchange. This helped me feel confident about my level of English.</p>
finances	<p>Prague is of course a destination within Europe, making it possible to receive an Erasmus grant. Next to this, I also got a reimbursement from the Dutch government. And since Prague is a cheap city compared to the Netherlands, this turned out to be more than fine. I did not need to have a job next to my studies abroad.</p>

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
	study programme (content and organisational issues)
	Because of the fact that I studied in the Faculty of Arts, almost all of the courses I followed were related to history and political sciences. When you arrive on the Orientation Day of Charles University, they explain everything surrounding the online Student Information System which they use to apply for courses, check your schedule and see your final results. This was all very well organized and clear from the beginning, although the Student Information System was very unclear sometimes, the people from the International Office were often able to help you with these problems.
	academic quality of education activities
	The quality of the courses compared to the Dutch standard was very low. Even though I was on exchange while I was finishing up my Bachelor, I followed two courses which were supposedly on a masters level. These courses, however, were even easier than the Bachelor courses I followed in Utrecht. Therefore, I was able to follow seven courses at the same time and therefore earn more than 30 ECTS without considerable effort.
	counselling & support at receiving university abroad
	The Charles University had an International Office which was very helpful. They were always kind and ready to help. Also, the communication was quite informal, making it easier to approach the people when you needed them. The teachers of the courses itself were not very helpful however. The language barrier and the fact that the relationship between teachers and students is very formal in the Czech Republic made it quite difficult at times to communicate with them.
	transfer of credits
	All of my courses were graded with an A, except for one B. Although the process is not fully done yet, all of the final results of the courses were uploaded within a week, most of them even on the same day. This made the process very fast, I even had my Transcript of Records before I left the city of Prague.

STUDENT LIFE	
	welcome & orientation programme
	From the very first moment, I felt welcome at Charles University. The Orientation Day included a lot of waiting, but it was all very well organized so it wasn't for nothing. The Orientation Week was also a lot of fun, including a Street Rally, tasting Czech food and visiting a city in the Czech Republic other than Prague. Not only did we get to know the city, the country and the culture, it was also a great opportunity to meet a lot of people and make friends for the rest of the semester.
	accommodation
	I stayed at one of the accommodations provided by Charles University. This was of a very poor quality compared to the Dutch standard of student housing. I shared a double room with a roommate from England, who I met only on the first day of the stay. Luckily we got along very well, making it easier to share a room. However, I also heard stories about people moving out of the room because they could not get along with their roommate. Even though the building I stayed in (Hostivar), was very old and communist-like, it was a lot of fun to share the corridor with other international students. Also considering the very low amount of rent we had to pay each month, the stay was quite good.
	leisure & culture
	Prague is one of the best cities in Europe to go to if you are into culture. Not only is every building on every corner of the street very beautiful, the costs for a student to e.g. go to the theatre are so low that you can easily go six or seven times in a semester. The student life is also very good, there are a lot of pubs for the winter and parks for the summer. Also, there are several organizations which organize activities for international students,

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

making the leisure time during the semester a lot of fun. It is also possible to visit other cities in the country quite easily and cheaply by train.

suggestions/tips

Since Prague is at 'the heart of Europe', it is one of the best places to go to if you want to travel a little bit through Europe as well. In my semester, I visited six new countries within five months!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this destination to others. Not only are the courses in the university a lot of fun, most importantly the cultural life of Prague is something I had never experienced before. Since the prices are very good as well, it is possible to do a lot of cultural things without paying the highest price.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The experiences of my semester abroad are going to stay with me for the rest of my life, so I strongly recommend anyone to study abroad for (at least) one semester.

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> ken.van.nunen@gmail.com
faculty/college	faculty of humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Hlstory

destination city & country	Prague, Czech republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	09 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

the information about the application process was fine, at the predeparture meeting they give you the right information, you have to do research about the courses you are planning to take and fill in the learning agreement. Also you write your letter of motivation and submit your financial plan, all these documents together will be checked by your home University after this you will be presented as a potential student for Charles University, It can take a while for them to respond, it's also possible that a particular faculty is handling your application, in this case it wouldn't hurt to contact the faculty directly for a status update

counselling & support at Utrecht University

enough opportunities to contact the international office and pre departure meeting was helpful. You can always mail the international office or drop by during the office opening hours. there is also the possibility to speak to former Erasmus students

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

academic preparation
The courses work about the same in Charles University as in Utrecht University, so your preparation should not be any different as in Utrecht.
language preparation
none, but you have to take a language assessment for your erasmus grant, if you want to practice your English in a more intense way. Charles University offers different kind of language courses, also for credits.
Finances
Utrecht University asks you to hand in a budget form before you go on exchange, it is wisely to arrange your grants in time for additional financial support during your stay abroad. you should apply for the erasmus grant and if you still have right for free transportation through your OV card, you can ask for additional compensation for the month you stay abroad

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
you get one or two weeks to try out your courses and pick new ones. There were some interesting courses but it is difficult to fix them before you arrive at Charles University because they change some courses over the years, but don't worry there are always some interesting courses to follow in your subject. in my year they offered additional courses through the ECES program which are mainly with English native speakers, these courses are more advanced but the subject are amazing and you really learn a lot
academic quality of education activities
really divers, some are quit easy to pass and others are more challenging. In most cases you can read the syllabus online and get an idea about the level of the course
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
there is a international office with really helpful staff, they are open allmost every day in the orientation week you will get a lot of information about practical issues and help with your stay in a different country
transfer of credits
during your stay you send your final plan of study and information about the courses to the exam commission in Utrecht and wait for them to accept the courses into you bachelor degree. when you finished your courses and received all of your grades you will ask for a transcript of records at Charles University. the transcript is also to be handed in to the exam commission and they will make a transfer of the credits to your degree.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
really good, there was a program of the faculty itself and a special student club, next to this there are different organizations who plan things for the students. If you are looking for a lot of social interaction, Charles University definitely is the right choice
accommodation
you can choose to go to a dorm or a flatshare, if you choose for a flatshare start organizing it on time, a tip is to look for other students(international) online who are also looking for a flat in Prague. if you choos to live in the dorms you will be assigned to one of them. Prague has a lot of dorms so don't worry for no place to stay.
leisure & culture
Prague really is a dynamic city with a lot to offer. there are a lot of parcs with nice views on the city and a big

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

culture for live music. Prague is a modern city with everything to offer, this is not an exaggeration, and has about the same population as Amsterdam .

suggestions/tips

through Charles University we were able to go to the opera (which is a big deal in Czech Republic), for a fair price you should definitely go for this experience. for transportation you can get a ticket for multiple months(bus,tram,metro, train(in prague)) you can use them all with one ticket. If you are planning to take the taxi, don't install Uber instead they are must cheaper and the drivers are nicer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Charles University is a decent University and the city is amazing so I would really recommend it. Also if you are planning to make some trips during the weekends and you will have time for this Prague has an ideal central position in Europe. within 6 hours you will be able to visit cities like, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, Munchen, Bratislava and Dresden

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make some domestic travels as well. it is nice to learn about Czech culture and they have some interesting spots to visit.

2016 – 2017**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	26 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 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

The preparation actually took less time than I expected, though it still took quite some time. One thing that helped me, was that I did the Erasmus exchange for extra credit points, apart from my normal study load, so I didn't have to worry about the courses that much; I could basically get any class I wanted, which made it a whole lot easier

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office at Utrecht University was very helpful. First of all, there was a powerpoint presentation for everyone who went abroad, where they explained what to do, which documents to fill in and which deadlines to keep in mind. After that, they helped with the preparation, and you can always contact them with

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

questions.
academic preparation
I didn't really do any academic preparation. The classes I were to follow in Prague were extra courses, as I did the necessary courses for my study in Utrecht already. Therefore I could choose classes in different domains and didn't need to prepare anything.
language preparation
The classes I followed were all in English. Beforehand, I had to prove that my level in English was sufficient. Since I have done some English language courses in the past, I only had to upload the certificate that I got from there. I also had to do an English test online. After returning home, I had to do the same test again, to see if my level has improved. The results did not have any consequences, it was just to measure your improvement.
finances
I received the Erasmus grant, and besides that I used my own resources. Luckily, Prague is not that expensive! Plus, halfway of my stay there, all Erasmus students received an accommodation scholarship from the Charles University itself, which was great ;)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The classes I ended up taking were quite different from the classes I wanted to take beforehand. Some classes were full, and one class appeared to be taught in Czech instead of English. There were plenty of interesting classes to choose from, though I was still quite disappointed, since I spent quite some time picking my courses during the preparation process. On the university website, the course description did not always include a schedule, so it happened that some classes appeared to be at the same time, so I had to choose one.
academic quality of education activities
There were a lot of activities organised for students; movie night, international dinners, parties, pub quizzes and a lot of other things. Charles University really makes an effort to make the semester enjoyable for the students; there were several activities per week The level of the classes were quite ok, though depended greatly on the subject. The teachers were very easygoing and friendly. For most classes you only had one point of examination, either an exam or an essay
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling at the Charles University was very good. You can always go to the International Office for any kinds of questions. In the beginning, when I had to choose my classes, they were a great help. When sending an e-mail with a question or a request, they respond very fast. Erasmus students could enroll in a buddy programme, where they were coupled with a Czech student. It is a great way to see Prague from a different perspective, because you see a lot of local, real Czech places that you normally wouldn't see
transfer of credits
The grading in Czech Republic is different than that in the Netherlands; grades go from 1 (highest) to 4 (lowest). So the credits have to be transferred to the Dutch system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme went on for a week. The very first thing was a welcoming presentation at the university, where all the students received a lot of documents with all kinds of information about the city, the

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

public transport, the student life, the activities and so on. Very nice activities were organised by the uni, but because there were much more students than available places, the activities were full very quickly, and I was not able to participate in everything.

accommodation

I was lucky enough to find accommodation before I arrived in Prague. I had a very nice apartment in one of the most popular neighbourhoods of Prague and great housemates. There were quite some students who arrived in Prague without having an apartment, but they all managed to get something pretty quick. Looking for accommodation is a lot easier there than it is in Utrecht.

leisure & culture

Prague is an amazing city with an even better nightlife! There is always something to do there, no matter the day of the week or the time of the day! There are plenty of museums, parks, shops, restaurants, bars and the buildings there are just incredibly beautiful. The only thing I was very disappointed by were the local Czech people. They were not just detached, they were flat out rude and unfriendly, especially when they know you are not Czech. This is mostly the people that work in shops, bars, nightclubs and the like.

suggestions/tips

Vzorkovna is a great alternative underground bar, perfect to start a night of party. James Dean bar is a restaurant completely in the style of the 50s. Also, check out Zizkov. It is an alternative neighbourhood with lots of little cafés and restaurants

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely! Prague is a fantastic city, and the Charles University is a great university, offering interesting classes and helping students wherever they can.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	13 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

We were provided with a very useful checklist of all the documents we needed to submit in order to apply for the exchange. There was a lot to take care of, but for me there was almost a year between the moment I heard I was accepted at the university and my actual departure. However, some things could only be arranged a short time before leaving, so keeping a checklist around was definitely useful.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The general information day a couple of months before the departures was very useful. I also participated in the course on Intercultural Communication which made me feel more prepared for my departure. In my experience the employees from the International Office were always helpful and replied very quick.

academic preparation

In the process of putting together my initial learning agreement, I had already found out that there would be enough courses on offer that suited my academic background and interests. They were all in English as well, so no specific academic preparation was needed.

language preparation

There were plenty of courses available in English, so I didn't need to prepare for that. The university offered a 3 week Czech course before the start of the semester. I did not make use of this opportunity, but from the people who did I heard it was a good experience.

finances

With the OV compensation, student grant and Erasmus grant I was perfectly able to support myself financially. However, I'd recommend having some savings for expenses in the beginning of the semester (additional study materials, maybe some Ikea things for your room) and for weekend trips

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The 4 week period at the beginning of the semester in which students could try out courses and later resign was very welcome. As a non-czech person I didn't always know what to expect from a course and from the teachers, and sometimes my expectations didn't match up to reality. Furthermore, I tried out many courses and later picked the ones I liked most. I found that for a literature student there were a lot of options, especially in English language literature from Ireland, Canada and other countries. We could also participate in the American exchange programme, where I took a course on Czech literature.

academic quality of education activities

I was able to participate in master's courses, which I found were of the same level as the level 3 bachelor's courses in Utrecht. They required a lot of reading, so I felt sufficiently challenged. The bachelor's courses I took were also of good quality and the only difference with Utrecht I experienced was the lessened amount of reading material

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Every semester, Charles University receives many incoming students, so the supply of information was very generous and organized. The international office always informed us about adjusted office hours and upcoming deadlines. Furthermore, they quickly responded to emails and were always friendly. Coordinator Ivana Herglová frequently sent emails to inform us about extracurricular opportunities and student life in Prague, which was also very welcome.

transfer of credits

At the time that I submit this report, I still have to complete a research paper. The transfer of credits will take place over the summer break, with a deadline from Charles University at September 1st.

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The orientation programme consisted of an entire welcome week, containing both social and academic meetings. In the afternoon there were informative lectures, the first being mandatory and the others optional. In the mandatory meeting we got all the information we needed for subscribing to courses, university life, et cetera. There were additional library tours and building tours available. In the afternoons and evenings there was a variety of social activities to choose from, such as a film screening, a pub crawl, a welcome party and a city rally. Some of the people I met during the first weeks stayed my friends until the end of the semester. However, I also met many more people when the orientation programme had already ended.
accommodation	The university offered the option of sharing a room in the dorms for the low price of around 100 euros per month. However, the dorms were quite far from the city centre and I preferred not to share a room, so I looked for private accommodation. I ended up renting a room in a student flat through the agency Fifty Five. This was a good experience, because it was very easy to rent, I shared a flat with other Erasmus students and the flat itself was modern, clean and in a good location. However, the price I paid for Prague standards was very high. I would advise other students looking for private accommodation to sign a contract for only the first month or rent an Airbnb for the first days, and look for rooms while already in Prague. The people I knew who did this ended up getting the best deals and were able to share flats with friends they made during their first weeks abroad.
leisure & culture	Prague offers a perfect mix of culture, arts, nature and nightlife, so I never felt bored. The university offered free sports courses so I took a yoga course on Friday mornings. In my free time I often went to museums and concerts and I made some friends who liked literature as well, so we often went to poetry events together. The thing I remember most was just going for a coffee or a beer with some friends and trying out new places. In this way, we also got to know the city in the beginning. Around every other weekend I went on a trip to a nearby city or I went hiking in Czech nature. Public transport in Czech Republic is very inexpensive and easy to use, so we never had any trouble doing this.
suggestions/tips	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I would recommend this university to anyone who wants a traditional Erasmus exchange experience. The university is of high academic quality but offers a lot of freedom, and Prague and the Czech Republic offer many opportunities to not get bored in your free time. However, I never experienced anything close to a culture shock and often found life in Prague pretty similar to my life back home. So to anyone who really wants to experience another culture, I would recommend choosing another destination.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

Report 3

faculty/college	Faculty of Arts
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

name study programme	Linguistics
destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	26 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 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	<p>When applying for studying abroad there is a lot to take in consideration. First, you have to search for a top three Universities that you like the most. For me, the most important factor was the course offer of the receiving institutions. I really wanted to follow courses that are in line with courses I followed at home. Linguistics, in my case, is not a very popular topic at a lot of Universities abroad, so this made my choice easier. Also you have to think about the location, do you want to stay in Europe or go further away? From that point you can go select your top three. After figuring that out, you can start by collecting your paperwork for the application. Design your motivation letter, figure out your Learning Agreement by looking at the courses on the website of the Universities and put together your financial plan. When you submitted all this on osiris, it is time to wait for a reaction from the University about if you got accepted at one of your top three Universities. When you get accepted, you have to wait for an e-mail (in my case) from your receiving institution about your application form. After sending the application form, you will get more information about the status of your exchange and maybe some information from the receiving University. From this moment on, your exchange has really begun!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I didn't need much help from Utrecht University, but if I did have a question I could always e-mail or step by the International Office. They always informed the exchange students really well through e-mails. Also for signing all the paperwork, they were always really friendly and helpful. I had some trouble finding the right courses at several Universities so I arranged a meeting with one of the International Office employees. This really helped me! If you have some doubts or troubles, I would recommend a meeting with one of them.</p>
academic preparation	<p>There was not a lot to prepare for academical reasons. This was mostly enrolling in courses and changing the Learning Agreement if necessary. It's also important that you look at the material you will need for the courses you're going to follow so you're well prepared when the lectures start.</p>
language preparation	<p>I didn't prepare much for learning the language of my receiving country (Czech) because the language is really difficult. I did buy a small guidebook to learn some basic words, this turned out to be very useful. I already knew that I wanted to follow a Czech language course during the semester so this was another reason for me to not learn more of the language in advance.</p>
finances	<p>For preparing your finances, the financial plan is really useful. With this, you can make a schedule of all your incoming and outgoing finances during your stay abroad. Another important finance-related issue is the application for the Erasmus Grant. Make sure you go through all the steps to receive the Grant. You will really need the Erasmus Grant at the beginning of your exchange, because this will be the time where you will have unexpected expenses, for example the deposit of your accommodation. The last important arrangement</p>

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

considering finances, is the payment for public transport abroad. It is important that you submit a file about this at the public transport organisation and that you stop your public transport card before your departure.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

On the first day of the semester abroad, there's always a registration day. On this day you get information about signing up for courses and you get your ID for the online student system. After this registration you have to pick up the ISIC card with the remaining information to sign up at the student system. Once you got your ID and password you can enter the student system and register for courses. It is important that you do this on time, because a lot of the English speaking courses are full quickly. Half of the courses I chose for my Learning Agreement were full before I had the chance to sign up for them. Also, always double check if the courses are taught in English and if half of your courses are from the Faculty you study at. On top of that, make sure you have 30 ECTS in total, this is really important too. I enrolled in seven courses, which seems a lot but it was quite okay. Some of them were 3 ECTS and others 4 or 5, it differs a lot per course and University. More than half of the courses I enrolled in were about linguistics, but I also had some totally different courses like Anthropology of Food and Eating and Czech Survival Skills. Additionally, discuss on time with the teachers when the exams will take place, so there will be no trouble when you're leaving at the end of your semester.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality at Charles University is probably very different than that of your home University. In my opinion, the courses were less demanding and strict. Most of the teachers were really enthusiastic, that was really motivational, but the content of the courses was not that spectacular. It really depends on the credits you get from the courses, how difficult the course is. One of the courses I enrolled in was seven credits, this was the hardest course and also the most demanding. Another course was only three credits and I only had to give a presentation at the end. It really differs and it will be very different than you're used to, but fun if you choose wisely!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

If you have questions or problems, you can always go to the International Club. The students there are really nice and helpful. You can also e-mail the Faculty Coordinator or visit him/her, but that's more formal. There is one coordinator especially for Erasmus students who is willing to help you with the most of your problems.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits depends on the exam committee at your home university. It's obligated to have your courses and grades looked at so you can add them to your degree. If you passed everything, you got 30 ECTS and you also get 30 credits for your degree at home.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The receiving institution organised a registration day where they informed all the Erasmus students about Prague, the University and the Charles University International Club. Everyone also received an envelope with a lot of information about studying abroad and the Czech Republic. The International Club also gave a speech and they informed us about the introductory activities. There was a whole week with activities that you could join and meet other international students. These activities were sightseeing activities, parties, museums, presentations about Prague and a whole lot more. It was necessary to register for these activities so I would recommend everyone to register in time since almost all the activities were full when I filled in the registration forms. During the semester the International Club was really active and organised a lot of trips and parties.

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

accommodation
<p>There are multiple ways to find accommodation. The most obvious ones are the student dormitories. You have to sign up for them when you apply for the receiving university. The dorms are not that clean and/or nice but the most advantage of it are the social network you build up by living there. I did not live there, but a lot of my friends did and they got really close with everyone who lived with them in the flat building. I found myself accommodation through Facebook. There are a lot of Facebook pages for flatshare in Prague. It was a risk, but I found a really perfect apartment which I shared with two Spanish girls and a Spanish guy. The apartment was arranged by the organisation called Erasmus in Prague. This organisation was a mediator between us and the owners (who didn't speak English). This often was irritating because you couldn't communicate with the owners and you had to trust the mediating organisation fully. I have a lot of negative feelings about that organisation, but in the end the apartment where I stayed was perfect.</p> <p>In Prague there are districts which are numbered. Prague 1 is the most central one and the higher the number the further away from the centre it is. For accommodation it is wise to look at the following districts: Prague 2, Prague 3, Prague 5, Prague 6 and Prague 7. I stayed in Prague 5 and it was absolutely amazing, sort of a second centre of Prague with a lot of bars/restaurants/shopping malls/parks/shops and metro station around the corner.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>If I had spare time, I would just walk through Prague. Everything is just so beautiful and I loved finding new wonderful places all the time. Almost everyday there was a beautiful sunset so I would watch it on the most famous bridge of Prague, Charles Bridge. Prague has a lot to offer when it comes to spare time. It has a lot of museums, galleries, shops, bars and restaurants you will love. Also during the night, Prague is not boring at all. There are a great number of nice clubs and bars where you can spend your evening/night. Walking through the city during the day or night, you will never get bored!</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>As for sightseeing in Prague, you shouldn't miss the castle on top of the hill, Charles Bridge, Petrin Tower, Strahov Monastery (with a beautiful library), Old Town Square, Vysehrad, Astronomical Clock (Tower), Jeruzalem Synagogue, Spanish Synagogue and the Jewish Quarter. These are just the places I would think of right now, there is a lot more to Prague! There are a lot of parks and hills where you can enjoy the view. There also is a small bay next to Charles Bridge where a lot of swans gather, that is impressive too. Prague has a lot to offer. Out of Prague, there are also some other nice and/or cute villages I would recommend visiting: Olomouc, Karlovy Vary, Bruno, Kutna Hora and in the winter you can go skiing in the north of the Czech Republic.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend Charles University, but especially Prague. It is now my number one favorite city in Europe. I'm still in shock of all the beauty I found in the warm city. My passion for photography blossomed there, so that says a lot. The buildings of the University are all through the city so it is really nice to have different courses at different buildings, this way you will see different parts of Prague. If you love architecture, art and culture, Prague is a really good idea. I really love the city and I'm sure everyone will!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be scared to go abroad, everything will work out! Just go.

2015-2016

Report 1

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Communicatie en Informatiewetenschappen

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process may take more time than you'd actually expect, so make sure to start orientating early and collect your needed documents. Luckily, Prague was my first choice and everything went relatively smooth. Even though some e-mails to Charles University weren't answered very fast, they did provide me with all the necessary signatures and information.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office in Utrecht has been very helpful with my application for Erasmus in Prague. They always answered my questions in time and were there to help me with small issues.

academic preparation

No special academic preparation is needed for your studies in Prague. You choose your courses from the website of the Charles University, but make sure to have back-ups since some classes might not be taught (which you'll read more about later).

language preparation

No language preparation is needed: all classes are in English.

finances

The Czech Republic is a relatively cheap country. I decided to stay in a dormitory so I would save a lot of money for leisure and travels. The rent for a room in Hostivar is around 120kC a day (130 euros a month). Food is cheaper than in the Netherlands, but all the money you are "saving" you will most likely spend on activities and trips, like I did. I turned out to be spending more money than I initially planned, but this was not really a problem since I had an Erasmus grant, regular grant and OV compensation.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

The courses are rather easy to find in a system similar to Osiris, with course codes and descriptions. However, I did have some small organizational and content issues. At home I already chose the subjects I'd like to take and got them approved on my learning agreement by both universities. When I arrived in Prague it turned out that I couldn't take most of them, since they were either taught at another university, taught in a different semester or didn't contain enough ECTS. Therefore I had to change my learning agreement and choose new courses. Because the amount of offered courses was so little, I was supposed to take master courses as well and even stay at a different faculty (Social Sciences). Charles University has a so-called "add/drop period" in which you can follow courses and decide to add or drop ones, after which you'll have a definite schedule of classes.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality varies from one subject to another. The title "bachelor" or "master" doesn't say anything about the difficulty about the course. Most of my subjects were of master level and I'd say it was more or less similar to my courses in Utrecht, though two of them were clearly of lower difficulty. The overall English of the teachers was good and understandable. The courses take 80 min per week each and attendance is highly valued.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't need much counseling nor support since I figured everything out myself, but the general orientation period was well organized and the teachers are easy to communicate with when you have questions regarding their courses.

transfer of credits

I do not know anything about this yet. The grading system in Prague is different from the Netherlands, though. It uses a scale from 1 (excellent) to 4 (failed).

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week, the international club of the Charles University organized many events you could sign up for. For example there are day trips to different cities in the Czech Republic, several tours, a pub crawl, quiz nights and a welcoming party. Many students attend these activities and you'll meet people you'll keep on seeing during your exchange.

accommodation

Like I said, I decided to stay in the dormitory because it would save me a lot of money for travels and other activities. Because the dorms are so cheap, you shouldn't expect too much from it. The room is shared with another student but this allows you to meet many new people. Even though it is far from the center (about 35 min by tram), you'll have everything you need. If you are willing to spend a little more money, maybe it's better finding a shared apartment in the center, though I really didn't regret staying at Hostivar.

leisure & culture

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

Prague is in my opinion one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and has a lot to offer, I haven't been bored for a moment. Prague is relatively cheap so eating out was a pretty common activity for me, just as going on (day) trips. Since the Czech Republic is so central in Europe, there are many possibilities for countries and other places to visit when you feel like getting out from time to time. But Prague itself has a lot of cultural sides as well (no wonder it is on the UNESCO list) and the possibilities for night life are endless.

suggestions/tips

Take it easy, discover Prague and simply enjoy this amazing time of your life.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Even though some classes won't fully contribute to your academic development, I would definitely recommend studying at Charles University and staying in Prague. The lifestyle is very relaxed, if you are lucky you will have a lot of free time for travels (something many Erasmus students do), it is not expensive and you will never be bored because of the huge amount of international students and activities.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication and Information Sciences

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application (especially for my Erasmus Grant) was a bit delayed because the office at Charles University Prague was too late (for the Utrecht University Grant deadlines) in sending me their approval about my learning agreement. Luckily everything did end well after some stressful moments and last minute calls with the international office of Utrecht University. Therefore, my advice is to start the application process on time so you still have some space left for possible delays of paper work.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office of humanities was very helpful and fast in signing and stamping the needed documents - like my Grant Agreement, Learning Agreement and Application for Public Transport (OV) compensation. They were even prepared to send me some of the stamped and signed documents by e-mail which was very nice.

academic preparation

None.

language preparation

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

Regarding language I didn't prepare myself at all in advance, since all of my chosen classes were given in English.

finances

As an income I monthly received stufi (285 euros), public transport compensation (100 euros) and my Erasmus grant (210 euros). Also my parents monthly transferred me some money for food etc. Because I decided to rent a room in one of the Charles University Dorms the rent was very cheap: like 140 euros per month - so I saved a lot of money of which I could make a lot of fun trips and excursions. Prague isn't a very expensive place to live and therefore I didn't need to save a lot of money myself (but of course it is smart to save some in case you're planning on making a lot of trips like I did).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Faculty: Social Sciences, where I followed a couple of courses from the Journalism and Media Studies department:

- Context of Television - JJB165 (4 ECTS credits)
- Popular Culture - JJM120 (6 ECTS credits)
- Intercultural Communication Management - JJM233 (6 ECTS credits)
- Memory, History and Cinema - JJM238 (6 ECTS credits)
- Media and Technical Images - JJM298 (6 ECTS credits)

It was very easy to subscribe for the courses (after receiving my student number and password) since Charles University has a clear SIS system which is quite similar to Blackboard and Osiris. The whole registration process was explained in a very clear way during the orientation week. Since my faculty didn't offer many bachelor courses in English four out of the five courses I took were master courses - but this was no problem for me at all (the subjects and classes weren't so hard to follow).

academic quality of education activities

Most of the courses were way more easy than the courses I used to follow back home at Utrecht University. Only the course Popular Culture seemed a bit harder because our American teacher tried to scare us with some very difficult articles. In the end I finished the course with a high grade anyway so all my worries about the course have been unnecessary. Something else I noticed was that attendance and active participation were seen as very important during classes (while in Utrecht it was often okay to just listen and stay quiet).

Because the semester existed of only one period I had to take several courses to get enough ECTS credits (instead of the normal amount of two courses at the same time at Utrecht University). Classes started at the end of February and ended at the beginning of May, after which we had an exam period existing of several exams and assignments. Because my last deadline was on the 31th of May my summer holidays started one month earlier than expected, which was great.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office of the faculty Social Sciences at Charles University was very helpful since they answered all my questions in a clear way. Everything was very well organized at the University itself and I have experienced no problems at all.

transfer of credits

Charles University also uses the ECTS credits system, and therefore it was really easy to choose my classes based on the displayed ECTS credits of each course. Only the grading system of Charles University was a bit different (you could get a 1, 2, 3 or 4 - with a 1 being the highest grade possible and a 4 being the worst).

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>Charles University send me a lot of information about the orientation programme of my faculty (Social Sciences) by e-mail so I was quite aware of what to expect. Via a website of the introduction committee you could easily subscribe yourself in advance for the activities you liked to do during the orientation week, like for example city tours, introduction games, movie nights, pub crawls, introduction parties and day trips to several cities in Czech Republic. Some of these activities were free while others (like the day trips) did cost a bit of money. Since I already knew the tourist highlights of Prague I chose to do the Pub crawl and went to the introduction party and on a day trip to Olomouc (where I met so many nice people and most of my exchange friends). All together the introduction period (and registration for classes etc.) at Charles University was really nice and well arranged. The orientation program was perfect for getting to know the other students.</p>
accommodation
<p>During my time in Prague I stayed at Hostivar, which is a dormitory of Charles University Prague. There were only twin rooms available, but since a good friend of mine from Utrecht University was also studying at Charles University during the semester we decided to share a room together since it was really cheap (140 euros rent per month) - this way we saved a lot of money for activities and travels. Staying at the dormitory was a very easy way to meet a lot of other international students at Charles University. Although the rooms were small and Hostivar was located quite far from the city centre (30 minutes travel by public transport) it was totally fine to stay here during my four months abroad. My friend/roomie and I definitely have had a lot of fun during our time at Hostivar. Though, if I had been on my own I don't think I would have chosen for a room at the dormitory since you simply don't have any privacy because of the shared rooms. But if you don't mind at all about your privacy I would totally recommend it since you'll easily get to meet so many new people in short time and save lots of money.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>The Czech Culture itself isn't really my thing - a lot of older people working in supermarkets were really unfriendly and sometimes even rude to foreigners (I think the reason behind this lies in the fact that they couldn't speak any word in English) and I especially didn't like the Czech Cuisine (in which they think you only need potatoes and huge amounts of meat and sauce instead of fish and vegetables). Luckily Prague also offered a lot of other great kitchens and restaurants like Italian, Mexican and Japanese ones. So, if my friends and I went out for dinner we preferred to visit one of these foreign ones instead of the traditional Czech restaurants. They were often a bit more expensive but still quite affordable if you compare them to Dutch restaurant prices. Prague also offers an exciting night life (including a lot of organized Erasmus parties), of which club Roxy was one of my favourites. I deliberately planned all my courses on Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday so I would have long weekends and plenty of time for activities and trips. In my free time I spent a lot of time travelling, exploring the city and discovering new (food) hotspots.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Prague is located on a very central spot in Europe, from which it is very easy to visit a lot of other places. I for example made trips to Krakow, Vienna, Berlin, Olomouc (Czech Republic), Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic), and the island Malta (to visit a friend of mine from Utrecht University who was studying there). Bus connections to all of these nearby cities were very cheap and it took only a few hours to get there. Making long weekend and day trips is really something I would recommend because these trips were definitely the highlights of my period abroad.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

Czech Republic - Charles University (Prague)

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

Yes I would. Charles University was a very pleasant host university with beautiful locations all over the city. My faculty building was located at the riverside - and we could see the pretty Prague Castle and Charles bridge when looking outside the windows, which was really unique. Second I would also really recommend Prague as a city because the atmosphere is simply great, both in cold and warmer months. The city has lots of parks to relax in, great restaurants and a lively nightlife (perfect for students) - it offers a various amount of fun bars/pubs and music clubs to dance the night away. Third, the location of Prague in central Europe is perfect to make a lot of inexpensive day- and weekendtrips to nearby cities and other countries. And last but not least: life in Prague is quite cheap in comparison to life in The Netherlands so you won't have to save a lot of money for your period abroad.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My main advice is to explore instantly and make as many trips as possible during your time abroad. Now you simply have the time and these experiences will make you more rich than ever!