

Aarhus University, Denmark

2018-2019

Report 1

ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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 **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform 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**.

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	optional ; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: femme_biedie@hotmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Femme van der Vlist other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: FemmeVonVoyage on Instagram or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Media en Cultuur

destination city & country	Aarhus, Denmark
name university abroad	Aarhus Universitet
start date	15 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 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 went fine, even though at the beginning there was a slight mistake. When I got accepted they sent me a link for the first semester, when I was going there the second semester. But this was easily solved. Otherwise everything went well and it was easy to do the process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support at Utrecht University was very good. When I had some last minute questions they responded right away. It was also very clear what I had to do before and during my stay in Aarhus.
academic preparation	

I was not that prepared before I went to Aarhus Universitet. I did a course on Central Europe and two courses about Vikings. I had never done anything on these topics before. Despite no prior knowledge, I got through it easily with the help of the teachers.

language preparation

I didn't have a lot of language preparation because the Danes all speak perfect English. I did do a Danish course with LaerDansk for eight weeks. Being Dutch also makes it easy to read Danish, but understanding them when they speak is hard. But I could make it through easily with only English.

finances

Denmark is more expensive than the Netherlands, I think that is a known thing. But it is not as bad as I expected. The food and clothes are more expensive, but transport is not that expensive. You can make it through with the grand and just looking at what you're spending.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I didn't have any issues with my study programme. I did three courses who are all worth 10 ECTS. They have less contact hours than in Utrecht (if you do a study at the Arts faculty). I didn't have any overlap either.

I did one course on Central Europe, which was only six weeks long. This course was pretty intense seeing that I also had two other courses at the same time. In this course I learned a lot about Communism and the Second World War in these countries. I met a lot of Danes in this class because me and another girls were the only internationals. We had to do a thirty minute presentation as the exam.

I also took two courses about Vikings. They took the full sixteen weeks. I took one about religion in the Viking period. This was really interesting, because I didn't know a lot about the Vikings. The teacher made it even more fun. I met a lot of internationals here, there were only four Danes in the class. We did an oral examination as the exam, which was new for me.

The other one I took was about the representation and reception of Vikings in the modern culture. The teacher on this course was very clear and taught me a lot. In this course there were also a lot of internationals. We had to write a paper as the exam.

academic quality of education activities

I think that the academic quality is the same as at Utrecht University. They expect around the same from you. I didn't have a lot of contact hours, just like at home. But we didn't have any seminars, which is different from Utrecht, but it still worked out fine. The exams were also kind of the same, only the oral exam was different for me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I think that mostly the mentor programme helped me. My mentor always wanted to help and was really good at explaining how everything worked. I didn't have any other problems so I didn't need to ask anyone else. If you do need more counselling you can go to different people, from the university or outside.

transfer of credits

I think the transfer of credits will go down easily. I haven't yet seen exactly how this will go because I haven't been able to hand in my grades yet to the university at home. But they have the same credit system as we do, but their grading system is different. They go from -2 to 13. So be sure to look up how that works!

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We had a very nice welcome at the university. There were a few days of introduction (where you get free food). They introduce you to the Danish way of life, to how the university works. You also get a mentor and a mentor

group, so you have a group of international friends right away. The mentor will show you around the university and explain things to you.

accommodation

I was in a house with twelve others. We shared our kitchen with eight and our bathroom with four. The house itself was on a good location, which was next to the university. But the landlord didn't do his part by keeping the house clean and save and that's why the university has now stopped using the house. So the accomodation was fine, but not that save. It was fun to be in a house with only internationals.

leisure & culture

The culture is really close to the culture in the Netherlands. The people are the same as Dutch people and also the way of life is almost the same. There are a lot of bikes everywhere (even though there are a lot of hills), they wear shorts outside when it is fifteen degrees, it is all the same. However, they are way more relaxed and nice than the Dutch (I think). They don't rush as much as we do. They also think family is more important than work and they give you a lot more breaks.

suggestions/tips

There are a lot of things to do in Aarhus. Go to ARoS, Moesgaard, Den Gamle By and the Infinity Bridge. Near the Infinity Bridge there is also a deer park where you can feed some deer, which is nice. Also just walking around through the nature is nice. For food I would recommend going to Street Food near Dokk1 or Mackie's Pizza. If you study at Aarhus Universitet during the second semester, go volunteer at NorthSide festival!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university/destination to others because overall I had an amazing experience. The people there were very helpful, in the university and outside. They also have an amazing team at the studenthouse. They organise a lot for the international students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Like I said above, I did a course at LaerDansk. I would really recommend doing this, because you will meet more internationals and get to know the language and Denmark itself better. Otherwise I would recommend getting signing up at the Studenterhuset, because there you will meet a lot of other people and you can go on trips through Denmark with them. The last thing I recommend is going to Friday bars! Every Friday from 4 until 12 or 2 there are bars in the university! Go there!

2017-2018

Report 1

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> lieke.waenink@gmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communicatie- en Informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	Aarhus, Denmark
name university abroad	Aarhus University

start date	22 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 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	In the beginning the application process for the exchange seemed like a lot of work but once you start organising it, it is not all that bad. However, I would highly recommend starting on time and making little checklists for yourself so you can easily keep track of what you already have done and what is still left to be done.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Luckily I did not need too much counselling from Utrecht University, but whenever I had any questions regarding my exchange, they were very quick to reply to my e-mails.
academic preparation	The academic preparation was not a lot of work since I only needed to upload my grades and some proof of my language skills. I would recommend checking the requirements right in time so you have plenty of time to collect the right documents and upload them all before the due dates. You don't want to stress over the last couple of dates because you can't find the documents you need or you don't know how to upload something.
language preparation	Since the academic language that is used at Aarhus University is English, I did not need to do too much preparation. I needed to complete an OLS language test for the Erasmus grant, which fortunately did not take a lot of time.
finances	Since Denmark is on the rather expensive side compared to the Netherlands, it is wise to prepare your finances. I saved up quite a lot of money and I also decided to increase my student-loan for the time being.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The programme was a little different than what I'm used to at UU, since in Aarhus the university works with a semester programme instead of the different "blocks" that are used in Utrecht. I did not mind the semester system though, since you get a whole semester to dive into a subject and prepare for your exams and essays, instead of only a few weeks as we have here in Utrecht. I also quite liked the courses that I signed up for, which is obviously always a little uncertain. I signed up for two courses which were both divided into two sub-courses. Because of this I was practically following four courses. Not all of these four courses were my favourite courses ever, but they were still very interesting and the academic level of the teachers were good.
academic quality of education activities	As stated above already, I thought the academic quality of the teachers and the study programme to be of very decent quality. The teachers were professional and the study programmes were set up very clear and well.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not need a lot of counselling nor support from my receiving university, but I did know who to go to would that situation ever change. It is very important to have someone you can talk to, especially when you're far away from home and everything is already so different than you're used to. I highly recommend to make sure you know who your go-to-person is, even if you think you don't need it.
transfer of credits	

My credits have not been transferred yet, so I can't tell too much about this. It will definitely be necessary to transfer the credits though, since the Danish credit system is quite different from the system that is used in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The University offers a few days of a so called introduction program, where you can meet other exchange as well as Danish students. However, these introduction days were more concerned, obviously, with the university and university life such as studying and using the library. The local so called "Student house" did however organise some introduction things too, and they kept up with organising "international nights" throughout the whole semester. These nights were really fun and useful for meeting other international students! I made a lot of close friends during these nights.

accommodation

I have been very satisfied with my accommodation. It was available to me starting from the first of January, even though I only arrived at my destination at the 19th. I needed to pay a little extra for this, but it was so worth it since I could immediately move into my student dorm, whereas some other students had to move into a hostel for the first few nights or even weeks. I would definitely recommend starting your contract, if possible, as soon as possible. Further, I lived with 13 other students: the majority of them was Danish but there were also a couple of other foreign students (for example from Germany or the United States). I think it's important to not just make with other exchange-students, but also with the people you live with. That's why I really tried to connect with my dorm-mates too and it really paid off. We had a nice bond and I felt really at home at my dorm.

leisure & culture

The culture in Denmark is quite similar to the Dutch culture. However, as you may (or may not) know, the concept of "Hygge" is very important in Denmark. Hygge comes close to the Dutch concept of "gezelligheid" but it's a little more than that. It's more a lifestyle kind of thing where people appreciate the little things in life and spending time with loved ones. I really liked this kind of attitude towards life, especially in winter, since it gives you a very cozy feeling. I did notice though, that the Danes are a little more private and introvert, compared to the Dutch. They wouldn't easily talk to strangers on the bus or in the streets. However, as soon as you ask for help they are very willing to do so! They also speak English very well, also including people of older age.

suggestions/tips

Don't be afraid to ask people for help, because they might seem distant at first. They are very willing to offer you help, especially with language problems. When you can speak Dutch, German and English, the Danish language is not too hard to read, but listening to it is a whole other matter. So don't be afraid to tell them you don't speak Danish (tip: you can tell them "Jeg taler ikke dansk" [Dutch pronunciation: Jij teler ieke dansk]), because they will easily switch to English to make you understand.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend going to Aarhus University. I think it's a decent university and they are very helpful towards international students. The Danish students are also very used to having internationals around and they don't mind switching to the English language if necessary. Besides this, I think Aarhus is an amazing city. It has been awarded as the "cultural capital of Europe" in 2017 and that's for a reason. There are a lot of art and just cultural elements to be found in and around the city. Besides this, I think the city offers the perfect mixture of a city feeling and a more village-like vibe. If you enter the city centre you'll find yourself in a truly city-like environment with people, shops, restaurants, bars and museums. However, if you go a little outside of

the city centre you can find wonderful forests and beaches, which are beautiful and calming and are definitely worth a visit (or more).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even though your exchange period might start off a little uncertain and overwhelming, make sure to go out and meet new people. I know it can be hard sometimes because it feels safe to stay in your own little student room or with your roommates, but you will regret missing out on amazing people and events if you do that too often. I was very nervous on the first night I attended an event where I didn't know anyone, but I'm so glad that I went since I got to meet a girl who I now call my best friend from my exchange period. Trust me, it is so worth it!

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	Communication- and Information Sciences

destination city & country	Aarhus, Denmark
name university abroad	Aarhus University
start date	23 / 01 / 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	The application process required some effort, but was not that hard. I think the most important part was the motivation letter, but the International Office offered some useful writing tips regarding what to include in the letter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office at Utrecht University offered help wherever needed, and they were always very quick with replying to questions or forms that needed to be signed.
academic preparation	I didn't do any academic preparation. I had to sign up for courses a few months before, but they did not require any preparation before the start of the courses.
language preparation	I didn't do any language preparation, apart from the Erasmus Language test. I chose English courses instead of Danish courses, and I knew my level of English was sufficient enough to make my way around.
finances	I applied for the Erasmus scholarship and I still receive money from DUO on a monthly basis. Finances were not a problem for me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
My study programme was really well organized. I took courses from different faculties, but never had a problem since my coordinator guided us through every step.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education was high. Content of the subjects was well structured and interesting. Teachers were very friendly and enthusiastic about their subjects, and they were always happy to help with any questions/problems. I feel like they really want everyone to pass, and therefore it's pretty hard to fail a subject.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at the university was great. We were all assigned a coordinator, who helped us with everything and reminded us of what to do. She also pointed out social events which we shouldn't miss at the university.
transfer of credits
The Danish grading system is different from the Dutch system, but they make the transferring of credits easy by also giving grades according to the A-F system.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The Faculty of Arts at the university didn't offer a big orientation programme. We had a few introduction days at the university where they provided us with a lot of information, but they didn't organize any fun activities.
accommodation
I got accommodation through university, which was really good. They gave options as to whether you preferred a private bathroom or a cheap room, and they gave you one offer per person, which you could accept or decline. I was very happy with the dorm I lived in.
leisure & culture
Aarhus is 2017's European Capital of Culture, making it a city full of cultural events and art on the streets. There are a lot of students in the city, and there's always life on the streets, especially in the weekends.
suggestions/tips
Denmark has a very high quality of food and drinks. It is definitely expensive, but a lot of cafes and restaurants only provide ecological products, and you can definitely taste the difference. You should make sure you have enough money before going to Denmark, so you can fully enjoy the great lifestyle the Danes have to offer. Also make sure that if you go to Denmark, visit Skagen, the most Northern tip of Denmark. Plus a lot of other beautiful Danish cities of course, to fully experience the Danish culture.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I definitely recommend Aarhus and its university to others. The university is very well organized with high quality education, and the city itself is more than wonderful. It's small but not too small, it has a lot of art, cafes, unique stores and fun to offer, and the quality of Danish lifestyle is very high.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Of course I really recommend Aarhus as an abroad destination, I had such a great time there. But I think it doesn't really matter where you go, as long as you go. Exchange is a great experience, which really helps to define you as a person and makes you more independent and confident to go wherever you want.

Report 1

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is going to take a bit of time. Just make sure you take your time filling everything out and don't hesitate to ask questions. It gives you a more tranquil and comfortable feeling before departure.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Whenever I had a question, I got a quick response, which was nice. Helpful support.

academic preparation

I have not done any academic preparation

language preparation

Neither have I done any language preparation.

finances

I have certainly miscalculated my expenses. I had expected to have enough money on me, but of course, you cannot estimate how many social activities you will attend in your host country. These social activities (like drinking coffee - 6 euros per cup in Denmark - or trips to see more of the country), well.. you still want to attend them, but that way it's just going to be more expensive than initially expected. Besides that I had not expected coffees and ice creams would be that expensive. And yes, ice cream is around 5,5 - 6 euros for two scoops, too.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed courses within anthropology, South Asia studies and East European studies.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is not as high as I have experienced it to be at Utrecht University. I base this experience mostly on the quality in teaching when it comes to writing academic papers and when it comes to professionalism of the teachers. However, I have enjoyed going to class more in Aarhus than in Utrecht - the classes were more interactive.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support I received at Aarhus University was very good.

transfer of credits

As Aarhus University maintains the '7-trinsskalaen' the rating system for your grades is different from the system Utrecht University maintains. Thus it may take awhile until your credits are transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the orientation programme I have met many students, some of which are still good friends of mine now.

The programme really invited me to learn more about Denmark and Danish student life and to make contact with other internationals easily.

accommodation

The university provides housing for every exchange student. You are able to accept or turn down the offer. I accepted mine, however, I was not as much satisfied with my housing as I would have wished to. Besides, I was only able to move into my apartment one week after the exchange programme had already started.

leisure & culture

As Aarhus will be the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2017, we were able to attend cultural activities every week (think of cultural festivals, music festivals, food festivals, markets). Also, the city offers a nice amount of interesting museums to visit.

suggestions/tips

Go to fridaybars on fridays! Starting at three o' clock in the afternoon, it is the most convenient way to meet fellow Danish and international students at campus or just to meet your friends once your classes are done. As every faculty has its own fridaybar, you don't have to stick with your own faculty's fridaybar.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, if you're looking for a town comparable to Utrecht but still different in terms of culture and its inhabitants, and if you'd like to stick with Europe, then Aarhus might be a good option for you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The most important words to know once you have arrived in Denmark: skål! (cheers!), tysind tak (thank you very much) and undskyld (excuse me).

Report 2

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was quite a hassle to get everything done, I thought the information could've been better organised in a short handbook for the exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling at the University was very personal and I had a good experience with the counselling members.

academic preparation

Academic preparation was fine

language preparation

Language preparation was something we did by ourselves and my English was good enough before i went abroad.

finances

We were asked to think about how we were going to arrange our finances and this helped me get them in order. Everything was fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Everything was fine, good to see how university's work in Denmark.

academic quality of education activities

I would say apart from the different approach they take, which is a lot more personal and student friendly than the Dutch one, the academic quality was on par with that of the Dutch system.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Counselling and support in Aarhus was good.

transfer of credits

The credits in ECTS were the same as in the Netherlands so no trouble there.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme was mediocre, they could've put more effort into having a nice introduction. I felt like the students were not supported enough in finding social contacts. They should think about expanding the introduction activities.

accommodation

Accommodation was very nice apart from the fact that there was very little interaction with the other students living in the appartement.

leisure & culture

The culture was fine, similar to the Dutch one so I didn't have any trouble.

suggestions/tips

For the Aarhus board I would suggest to put more effort into the introduction week, go out drinking with the students or organise a few parties.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes but it depends on what you're looking for, the destination was great for learning and meeting new people and having a good time. The thing that was a little bit dissapointing for me was that there was little night life in the city and if you're really looking to party a lot I would perhaps visit a bigger city. Other than that the destination was great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2014-2015

Report 1

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process for Aarhus University was straightforward. It required the student to create a self-service account through which courses and housing could be arranged. This account also enabled you to track your application and contact the university with any questions you might have. I do not recall this stage to be eventful and/or time consuming.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I have had minimal contact with the UU counselling system. Therefore, I feel ill equipped to pass judgement on their performance.

academic preparation

Perhaps because I was a bit further along with my BA degree, I did not feel compelled to prepare much in terms of being able to keep up with the academic level. Hence I did not take preparatory courses to start my exchange.

language preparation

The language of instruction in the courses I was allowed to choose from was English. As far as I am aware students were not required to take any language test. In addition to English, I made it a personal priority to enroll in a programme offered by the Danish authorities called 'Lær Dansk' which aims to teach foreign nationals the Danish language.

finances

Denmark is expensive and the Erasmus + scholarship does not cover many of the expenses you will have to make. You are likely to need either a government loan or some other funds to afford your stay in Denmark.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme I was able to choose from was quite limited in terms that it forced me to select courses from within one department. The organisation of the courses was very good and the content was often interesting. The only downside I can think of concerns the online communication servers that the courses used to communicate with the students. Out of the four courses I have taken, three of them used a different digital system which was confusing, unpractical and sometimes a source of frustration when particular programmes did not seem to function as they were supposed to.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses was generally quite alright and inter-active. It was great to experience the different academic culture and I enjoyed the informal dynamic of the lectures. Besides the fixed course materials many extra services were offered by the course professors, ranging from extra lectures, visits to the cultural film festival and guest lectures by prominent scholars.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Helpful.

transfer of credits

As far as I am aware at this point the transfer of credits will be done by the receiving institution with minimal involvement of the students, which is nice.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was absolutely amazing. It appeared as if no expenses were spared to welcome incoming students. Both the informative, administrative and social activities were superbly organised and gave me a great start to the academic year.

accommodation

The university arranged my accommodation which was great because it turned out to be difficult to find an affordable room once students arrived in Aarhus. My room was nice and situated near the university. The rent was fair and relatively cheap in comparison to regular rooms in the city.

leisure & culture

Aarhus and its surroundings has a lot to offer in terms of bars, cafes, clubs, sport facilities and other relaxing activities you might want to do. But to get the most out of it, it's easiest to make friends with the locals who will take you to places you would otherwise not think of going to.

suggestions/tips

Godsbanen, Fridaybar and ARØs Museum are 'must go to' places.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university to others because the experience is really unique. Never have I heard of other places that have Fridaybars (every Friday each faculty opens a bar in a classroom and they just start drinking/socializing with students and professors). Every student can go to any bar and it is generally the most fun. Academically I would say the university is easy-going and not too demanding in comparison to other UU courses that I have taken. In other words, perfect for a laid-back exchange experience with plenty of room for extra/social curricular events.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

Report 2

PREPARATION

exchange application process

When I applied for studying abroad, I applied for Canada (Toronto), Denmark (Aarhus) and Finland (Helsinki), because I really looked for good facilities and a high level of education. These universities were ranked pretty good. I got my second option: Aarhus, Denmark. Unfortunately, I didn't get my first choice, but I think I can now say it was the best for me (Denmark was a good and somewhat tinier step to a living abroad experience than Canada). I had never been in Scandinavia, so that is why I also applied for Denmark and Finland (and I also like their free social democratic culture). I thought it was really weird to make the decision to go abroad so early: you just start filling in the forms and do everything you are supposed to do and then in the end you actually are going abroad, something you decided on a year beforehand. Preparing for everything was less work than I thought it would be, because people told me it would be a enormous pile of paperwork. Of course, there a lot of things to work out, but it is definitely manageable. So just for the people that are not sure to go abroad because of the paperwork, do not let this stop you. I do think it is less work to go abroad with Erasmus (in Europe) than in the rest of the world. The most important thing about the application process is to watch the deadlines that the International Office summarized on one page (a timeline, I think you can find it online and at the International Office desk at the Drift). It gives you more peace as you have an overview of what you have to do and cross what you already have done. Besides this, please make a copy of everything you have to hand in. The employees of the International Office are really nice and willing to help you with your process, but during my process my course

applications got lost. It is just so much more practical that you have copies of it ready when something happens to it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international coordinator was easy to reach per email and at the international office. They were also open to making appointments if you wanted to discuss something.

academic preparation

The academic skills I required in my bachelor years in Utrecht were enough to participate in the courses at Aarhus University (AU). I must say the danish students in my courses were a bit more actively participating than I was used to and I learned a lot from their critiquial perspective and analyzing skills. I do recommend to talk with your study advisor about the courses you are taking abroad. I didn't do this and send the international coordinator emails to ask what the courses where really about to see if the courses fitted in my programme, but it is quite practical, so you know what kind of consequences the period abroad will have for the rest for your study. To check if the UU accepted my chosen courses at AU, I filled in the form for the examination commission and they approved my courses (so they appear at my grade list and have no overlap etc). It is practical to do this beforehand.

language preparation

When I did high school, there was a English course called Anglia, which got me my certificate for English Language Competence (second highest level) that I also used to apply for AU. Furthermore, my English was good enough to participate in the english courses I did at AU. I also got the highest level at the Erasmus English test (at the first and second test). I wasn't the best English speaker before I went to Aarhus, but when you have to talk English everyday for a half year, you will get pretty good at it, so no worries. I also had to do a lot of presentations in English and I am so glad I was able to develop my presenting skills and English. In Aarhus I also did a free Danish course offered by Laerdansk, which was really nice. They have really nice teachers and good facilities. I just got more involved in the Danish culture because of this danish course.

finances

Living in Aarhus is pretty expensive and I used a lot of my savings besides the study loan (DUO) and the public transportation resitution (OV) I got. But if you know where to go, you can really save money. For example: doing a drink downtown is really expensive, but look out for student discounts or happy hours. Or just get together at someone's place or -of course- at the amazing Friday bars at the University. The supermarkets can also be quite expensive, but you can save money if you first get most of your stuff at shops like Lidl, Aldi or Netto and look at the websites for good deals and discounts. As for trips, the Studenthouse offers some trips that are really nice and are cheaper than if you would go by your own. But, you can't save on everyting, sometimes just accept it and enjoy Aarhus!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did three courses, which were all 10 ECTS: Sociolinguistics, Cognition and Semiotics 2 and Morphology and Syntax. Although AU has a very practical course catalogue online, it was hard to find the right courses. It took me some time to find the courses of my semester, so I first picked some that were taught the semester or year before. AU was a bit late with updating the course catalogue. Furthermore, there were some organisational issues with the courses on Blackboard in the beginning (first year AU used this program), what made me a bit unsecure if I could follow my courses, but in the end the teachers approached me via the student mail. I could also ask the international office anything, so everything turned out all right and I could follow the courses I chose. Sociolinguistics and Morphology and Syntax were both active participation classes, what means that I had to follow a certain amount of classes and make a couple small assignments (do presentations, write summaries, answer questions about literature). I really liked this way of education, because it kept me motivated and secure about passing the courses. The other course was unfortunately only in the other week, so there were not that many lectures. Thus it was harder to keep op with the work. In general, the education is

informal and you have to do a lot of work on your own.
academic quality of education activities
The level of education is high: the teachers are enthusiastic and involve the students and the facilities are great. If you keep your eyes open en check the AU facebook page and website, you can even find extra symposiums and lectures. I attended one and really got me more involved in my subjects.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The employees of the international office and housing office are really keen on helping you and reply never really took look. Only before going to Denmark, sometimes it took a while for someone to answer your email (holiday) and find the right contact person. So please start one time contacting them.
transfer of credits
My credits will be transferred in July and I expect it will cause no problems. I had the option to have the transcript directly send to your organisation or to have it posted to your house (and then you'll have to scan and send it again to your international office). I recommend to send it directly to the UU's international office, because all the important Erasmus files have to be turned in before the 1st of July and it just saves you time. I only come home five days for the deadline, so imagine the have less stress you will have. As for the active participation courses, these courses will not influence your GPA and you will only get the ECTS points. The courses will appear at your diploma as pass/fail. The course with a number grade will be transferred to the dutch system. I asked beforehand how this will turn out, but apparently this is something the examination commission always will look at seperately, so the UU has no general translation scale for the transferring of grades. This was a bit annoying, since I could choose for one active participation subject to also get a number grade. But I didn't know if it would benefit my GPA, because I didn't know for example if a danish 10 would be a 7 or 8.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The AU introduction week was both practical and fun. The practical part was very well organised, and helped me with everything that would have been difficult otherwise, such as getting your citizen card (CPR card) and signing up for a doctor. The fun part made me feel welcome, even though it was freezing and a snow blizzard was going on. There were not that many activities, but the ones the AU organised were fun and a good opportunity to meet people. You also get a bag with stuff to find your way around Aarhus. In this week I met the people I came to see as my best friends in Aarhus. Just take the courage to approach people that seem fun, don't hesitate.
accommodation
You get one housing offer from the AU and if you decline you can also find housing on your own. You get the offer on basis of your preference you gave them. You can choose from a couple of things like having your own bathroom, a cheap room and a room not far from the university. I chose the preference a cheap room which got me a room was 336 euros per month. It was in the North of Aarhus (Skejbo) and you have to bike up a hill, but I am glad I didn't have to pay that much as my friends had to do. It was a shared facility, with one other girl (they always put the same gender together) and a shared kitchen and bathroom, little cute garden and quite a big room for my own. With half of the common space, I had 25m ² of space, which was lovely. The room is part of a student complex which made me feel at home. The nature was close, but also the supermarkets. There was also a commonroom where the students held their parties. I do miss sometimes that I wasn't living in a bigger dorm with more people, as the common rooms are a great way to get involved in (danish) student life (as I experienced in the common rooms of my friends).
leisure & culture
In the evenings I spend a lot of time at the student house, which has a student discount and almost 200 beers to try. The Friday bars (only on Friday at the University complexes) are also really cheap, as they often have

deals or happy hours. So I spent a lot of time at the Esperanto, Komma and Medicin bar. It is also fun to go down town, but more expensive, so make sure you go on discount days (such as the cocktail bar Herr Bartells on Thursdays). During the day, we did the most known attractions such as Aros, the beautiful beaches (Den Permanente) and forests (Risskov), the deer park and the botanical gardens. It is also easy to go to other cities with the bus or train (such as Odense or Gotenborg). Furthermore, I signed up for a student volleybal team. This was a great opportunity to hang around with Danes.

suggestions/tips

There is a lot to do in Aarhus. Enjoy sightseeing, student life and don't forget to get in touch with the locals, sometimes it takes a while to really get to them, but it is totally worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Aarhus was maybe hilly, cold and windy, but they got it together: the health system is fast and free (which I used and was very good), the university facilities were great, the education is of a high level, the nature is great and there are a lot of things to do. But most of all, wherever you are, it is about the people you meet. It was such a amazing and undescrivable experience to get in touch with people from different countries, make friends and establish a second life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It may not be always that easy, but you will learn a lot and will experience the best moments of your life too. Enjoy the time you have, it's over before you know it.