

**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	Spanish Language and Culture

destination city & country	Alcalá de Henares, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Alcalá
start date	12 / 09 / 2016      (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2017      (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I started the application process by doing some research on the possible cities I wanted to go to, but I wasn't accepted in any of the cities of my initial top three. Therefore, when I heard I was accepted at the University of Alcalá, I didn't quite know what to expect. After looking it up all I knew was that Alcalá was a small town close to Madrid. By the time I had to fill in the Learning Agreement for the University of Alcalá, they just had a new way of application for the university: they wanted us to apply online, but because it was the first time they used that program it didn't work. So basically we had to apply twice; once online, and once by mail.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office can help you out with your questions about studying abroad, but, you have to do a lot on your own. The International Office will let the receiving institution know that you're coming to their university, but apart from that you have to do everything yourself: find accomodation, fill in all the forms, watch the application deadlines and Erasmus Grant deadlines etc.
academic preparation	I already knew I wanted to take courses from the same study programme as I have in Utrecht, so I did not do any academic preparation.
language preparation	Since I already had a B2 level of Spanish, I did not do any language preparation either.
finances	Before going abroad, I calculated what my income would be during my study abroad period. I received 388 euros a month from the government (the grant and the public transport reimbursement) and the Erasmus grant for Spain is 210 euros a month. Besides, I made sure I had some personal savings and I received a monthly contribution from my parents. I found a room for 400 euros a month, so I knew with all my incomes there would be no financial problems and I could still do groceries and participate in all the fun activities.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

When I arrived in Alcalá I had a meeting with the International Coordinator from my faculty in Alcalá. During the meeting he looked at the courses I had chosen and he tried to sign me up for all of them. Unfortunately, 3 from 5 courses we're already full and I had to choose other courses. It was quite a struggle to make a fitting timetable, but after some puzzling I made a new timetable and we completed the inscription. Although eventually I was satisfied with the new courses I picked, I was quite disappointed that I didn't get to take all the courses I initially had in mind.

academic quality of education activities

I think the University of Alcalá has a good academic quality, but the way of teaching is quite different in comparison to the University of Utrecht. In my courses there were no group projects and hardly any presentations. It was just listening to the teachers and taking notes, followed by a final exam. For some courses I had to hand in exercises during the semester, but as I said, the classes were not really interactive: the teacher talks and you listen and take notes. Personally it didn't really bother me, I just realised that it was quite a big difference compared to the classes in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't have any problems during my stay abroad, just in the beginning with the unavailable courses, but once that was solved, I didn't go to the International Coordinator anymore because luckily everything went well for me. I do think that they were all very kind at the University of Alcalá and used to receiving many international students. Most of the teachers were helpful towards me, but there were also teachers who didn't really care whether or not Spanish is your native language; they treated the Erasmus students as if they were Spanish students, which I don't think is a fair treatment. I haven't had a lot of problems with that but I know some of my friends had a difficult time because some teacher just wouldn't cooperate and were quite rude to the Erasmus students.

transfer of credits

Since I'm still waiting for my results, I can't say anything about the transfer of credits. All I know is that they will send me a transcript of records in the beginning of March, and that I will receive 30 ECTS if I passed all my courses (the courses at the University of Alcalá are worth 6 ECTS each).

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Like many cities, Alcalá also has an Erasmus Student Network (ESN). The people from ESN Alcalá are really motivated, but sometimes there weren't a lot of students at the activities. ESN Alcalá organized a welcome week for all the Erasmus students, but they only published this in the ESN Alcalá facebook group. Since I didn't know this group existed, I found out quite late about the welcome days. They don't organise so many activities compared to for example the universities in Madrid, but that's because it's a younger and smaller ESN and I think they really put a lot of effort in everything they do. What I liked best were the trips they organised to Valencia, Lisbon etc.

accommodation

During my stay in Alcalá, I was living in a room I found on the website of Dunia Hall. Dunia Hall is a student residence and the photos looked fine online so I sent them an email. I initially wanted a single bedroom with my own bathroom, but since they only had shared bedrooms left, I emailed them back if they had any other options for me. It turned out they had another building, recently renovated, with a room available. It was slightly more expensive than a room in the residence, but I would have my own bedroom and share the bathroom with one girl. I shared the kitchen with just four people. Important is that they charge you extra money if your stay is shorter than 6 months, so I paid 409 euros a month for quite a small bedroom while my housemate had a much bigger bedroom and paid less because she was staying the whole year. Nevertheless I

was happy with my room and the clean renovated kitchen. I could recommend Dunia Hall (the apartment, I was not in the residence), but I also know that you can find much cheaper rooms in Alcalá.
leisure & culture
Alcalá is the city of the famous writer Miguel de Cervantes, so you will find a lot of things related to him and/or the <i>Quijote</i> , for example the house where he was born. The university buildings are beautiful and have a large and prestigious history. Most of the action takes place in the Calle Mayor, the main street. Here you will find shops, bars and (tapas) restaurants. However for some proper shopping you should go by bus to Alcalá Magna, the shopping centre. Also, Madrid is just 40 minutes by train, so I would really recommend going there to see its beautiful city centre, Retiro park, the museums, and for partying of course. Alcalá has a few nice places to go out, for example the Green (considered the Erasmus bar), an Irish pub. Also Hanoi is a nice lounge bar/club to have drinks and after 03h they open the dancefloor. Same goes for Casco Antiguo, another club only worth going to after 03h, because the nightlife starts really late in Spain. First you eat and you have drinks in a bar before you go dancing at 03h. Alcalá has nice restaurants and bars, as well as pretty square and main street, but it's not a lot so it's always nice to take the bus or train to Madrid for some more action.
suggestions/tips
Go to a lot of ESN activities and trips to get to know new people and enjoy your stay in Spain. It sounds super cliché but it really goes by so fast and if you like the Spanish culture and people you are going to love living there. Also, in the Calle Mayor is a super nice restaurant called the Rollerie, where you can go for breakfast/lunch/coffee/dinner etc. If you're there, order the 'rol de canela' (cinnamon roll) with white chocolate! I can't even remember how much of those I ate during my stay here...

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	In my opinion the University of Alcalá is a good university, with a lot of history and really familiar with receiving international students, so I would recommend this university. Alcalá is a good destination if you don't want to live in a big city. It's small and you will walk into people you know when going out or just walking in the city centre. Personally I like living in a smaller city, so for me it was perfectly fine, although I think that 5 months is enough time to see it all. Having a big city like Madrid close by was a big advantage, because you have the benefits of a big city but you don't have to live there. So yes, I can recommend Alcalá for a short period of studying there.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	It could be a problem if you don't speak Spanish, because basically everything is in Spanish (welcome day at the university, tours during the ESN trips, etc) and Spanish people hardly speak English in general. There is, however, a good language institute, Alcalingua, that offers a lot of Spanish courses on different levels. Also, most of the courses only allow a few Erasmus students, so make sure you make an appointment as soon as possible with the International Coordinator (who will sign you up for the courses), because first come, first get.

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Alcalá de Henares, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Alcalá
start date	12 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>We were told in advance that it would be quite a lot of waiting and quite a lot of work, and both those things were very true. Firstly, I did my research for what university I wanted to go to. Unlike the other two Erasmus students from the UU that went to Alcalá, I was the only one that actually had Alcalá as my first choice. For me, Alcalá seemed like a nice city, not too big like Madrid, but close enough that everything you need is still available within a short period of time. The application process, for as long as the UU was involved, went smoothly, but when it was time to let the UAH handle things, it became a little clumsy. They were trying out a new online application system, which wasn't working for me and some other Erasmus students. They solved this by sending the old application form from last year, and have us email that to them separately. We also had to send all our information by post to the UAH, which was interesting. In the end, it took a little while to fully complete the application process, but eventually everything was handed in and the process finished.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>I wouldn't say that there is a lot of counselling and support from the Utrecht University in the way of individual needs, but I would say that the International Office did a great job at helping future Erasmus students. They warn you ahead of time that it will be a lot of work and that you will need to work with certain set deadlines that are very important. They don't downplay the amount of work it will be, but they do their very best to show students that going on Erasmus abroad really is worth their time. They are also very helpful in answering questions via email, even if it's on very short notice, and they're always polite, which can really help settle the nerves, which will undoubtedly arise if you're applying for Erasmus.</p>
academic preparation
<p>There was little specific academic preparation. I had made sure in advance that all my courses would be in English, just like my courses at the UU. I was also not told before arriving here in Alcalá and talking to the head of the International Office here whether I would actually be following the courses that I applied for, so up until arrival, there really was nothing to be done for academic preparation.</p>
language preparation
<p>For my courses, there was no preparation necessary. I knew that my English would definitely be good enough to follow the courses here. For my daily life, however, it was a little more difficult. What I did in preparation for Spanish was to start learning it through several suggested websites and applications, so there would be a nice gradual shift upwards in learning. When I came here, I quickly realized that Spanish was a lot more important than I realized. Everything is in Spanish here, also the activities organized by the Erasmus Student Network. Even my 'buddy', whom they assured would speak English, spoke only a few words and was very uninterested in helping me. Even most other Erasmus students (who could speak English) would refuse to speak anything but Spanish to me. This caused me to be quite lost and quite dependent in the beginning of my Erasmus period, and I would definitely recommend that other students going to Alcalá, who aren't conversational yet to learn as quickly as they can (although I do figure that I am the odd duck out, and most people coming here from the UU will probably already speak Spanish).</p>

finances
I personally had no struggles with finances. I worked long days in the summer to build up a buffer, and combined with the Erasmus grant and the additional government funds (studiefinanciering uitwonend + OV-vergoeding), everything worked out for me. I would however definitely recommend people to not just rely on the grant and other funds, because while that will cover the basic expenses, I found it very relaxing knowing that I could also go on excursions and trips with the money I'd earned over the summer.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The big problem for me was that you were not told much in advance. I chose three literature courses (out of the four I did there), and I had a lot of reading to do, but I was never told when to read what book until the last moment. There is no clear course manual that tells you when what is due, which is really stressful, because you know that any moment you may be told that there's an exam next week. I also had the struggle that one teacher only send a message to the class president (about exams, classes being cancelled etc.), and the class president would send it to the rest of the class, but she didn't send it to Erasmus students. Overall, it was a bit messy, and could definitely be improved upon.
academic quality of education activities
I thought it was fine. All my courses were in English, so I knew that the accent and pronunciation of English from teachers wouldn't be as good as I'm used to at the UU, but despite that, the teachers still sounded very knowledgeable. It is of course a shame to listen to an interesting topic being told by a teacher in flawed English, because it makes it sound like the teacher doesn't know what they're talking about. But once you ignore the English, there's a lot to learn, and the academic quality was not too different than what I'm used to.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was a little non-existent. There was one man at the International Office for the whole Humanities department that was available to help, which sometimes meant that you had to wait a long time before you were able to make an appointment with him, or to receive a reply. I was lucky to have only needed him once (and I still had to wait over an hour after the actual time of our appointment due to the large amount of people that needed his help), but I have heard stories of other people who weren't so lucky. This is definitely something that would need to be improved.
transfer of credits
Both the UU and the UAH work with the normal ECTS system, and while at the moment of writing this I haven't received a Transcript of Records yet, I will assume that everything should continue smoothly.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There is a welcome week arranged by ESN Alcalá, which is mostly a tour through the city, tapas tours, and fun stuff like that, and there is a welcome day arranged by the university a week after the start of the semester. For me, again, the biggest problem was that there were no accommodations for non-Spanish speaking Erasmus students. On the university's welcome day, there was one speaker that spoke English, but everything else was in Spanish, and literally everything from ESN Alcalá was in Spanish. At first I was disappointed, of course, because I felt that Erasmus meant that it should be international, but it wasn't at all. Later I got used to being excluded all the time, but it wasn't until I spoke with a girl from one of the universities from Madrid, that I realized that it wasn't normal for ESN Alcalá to do everything in Spanish. Apparently the other ESNs from other

universities had mostly bilingual activities. So, that was my biggest disappointment, that there was very little to no effort done to include non-Spanish speakers.

accommodation

While the location was great, I would not recommend my accommodation to anyone else. I stayed in Dunia Hall, which was a rough five minute walk to the center of the city, which was my main reason for picking this accommodation, but it's not worth it. Firstly, it's heavily overpriced. They charge extra if you stay less than a whole year, and I had to pay 15% extra, because I was staying under 5 months, but that was only by a few days. A friend of mine also stayed under 5 months, and she was only charged 10% extra, because she arrived a few days earlier than I did. But regardless, the price is already expensive for Spanish standards and the 10 or 15% extra just makes it more ridiculous. Secondly, you have to sign a long contract full of rules that state you can't smoke inside, make noise after a certain hour etc., and that is completely disregarded. My room was near the kitchen, and often people would play music, scream, clap, sing, anything, way after curfew time. I understand that it was a student accommodation, but I figured that the contract would keep that from happening, but it didn't. So the first month I could hardly sleep. Thirdly, the only available room was a shared room for me, and my roommate was just awful, and I had to deal with her for three months, and they couldn't do anything about her, so I was just stuck with her. And fourthly, it claims that it's an international residence, and it's simply not. Three international students in an accommodation that houses like fifty of sixty Spanish students does not make it an international residence.

leisure & culture

I thought Alcalá was great for leisure and culture. It wasn't a very big city, but it had a lot of history and culture to explore. Its location was also great for easy access to Madrid, and therefore to the whole country. There were several malls in Alcalá, and also plenty of shopping opportunities a little further away, without immediately being in Madrid. There were also a lot of smaller cities nearby, such as Toledo and Segovia, which were easily accessible and great to explore.

suggestions/tips

Enjoy the sun in Alcalá, explore small streets and enjoy the utter Spanish atmosphere that lingers everywhere. Use its location to your advantage, if you want a quiet afternoon, you can relax on the Calle Mayor, and if you feel like going somewhere busy, you can be in Madrid very easily. Also, if you like exploring, check out where you can go with Alsa busses for example. I went to Granada for two days, and with Alsa you pay very little for a very comfortable bus trip. Especially if you don't like flying or are only going for a short period, the bus is a great way to go.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, I would recommend going to Alcalá for your Erasmus. I would however like to tell whoever is thinking of going to really be prepared. If you're like me, and think you'll be fine learning Spanish after you've arrived, that's not true. If I hadn't found friends who were willing to translate for me, I would have been very screwed. I would really recommend speaking Spanish on at least a conversational level before you go. Also, be prepared for the Spanish tempo: everything will happen very very slowly, that's just how it goes. Otherwise, yes, go for it. It's a lovely town with a lot of students, it's got plenty of opportunities to have a drink or a bite with friends, and especially when the sun is out (which is often) the whole place looks great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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**Report 3**

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

destination city & country	Alcalá de Henares, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Alcalá de Henares
start date	12 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>First I did some research on the possible cities I wanted to go to, but I wasn't accepted in any of the cities of my initial top three, so when I heard I was accepted at the University of Alcalá, I didn't know what to expect. All I knew was that Alcalá would be a nice small town to live in, with the perk that it was close to Madrid. The year I went to Alcalá, they just had a new way of application for the university, they wanted us to apply online, but because it was the first time they used that program, it didn't work, so basically we applied twice; once online, and once through the mail. It's also good to know that the courses from last year aren't necessarily available in your year, and there is a lot of overlap between the courses, which you will only notice when you're in Alcalá.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>When you are applying for your stay abroad, the University in Utrecht already tells you that you will have to do a lot yourself. You have to do more yourself than you can imagine, which is not a problem and understandable, because the International Office in Utrecht can't arrange everything for every student in Utrecht. Basically, the only thing the International Office does, is telling the university you're going to that you'll be coming there, the rest of the communication is up to you. Again, it is not a problem, just something you have to keep in mind.</p>
academic preparation
<p>In Utrecht I study Spanish, which was a good preparation, since all my courses would be in Spanish.</p>
language preparation
<p>Since learning Spanish is part of my study in Utrecht, I didn't have to prepare my language skills, but the University of Alcalá does require a Language Proficiency Form, stating that you're Spanish is at least at B2 level. Even though the University of Utrecht tells you you don't need it, you do, and if you don't give them the Language Proficiency Form, you have to do a test when you get there, so they can test you're level of Spanish.</p>
finances
<p>I lived in a very expensive room, in a residence close to the city center. It was nice, because it was so close to everything, but way too expensive compared to the other rooms in the city. Because of this I had to use my savings, because I didn't want to not travel with ESN for example. The grant can be enough, but if you want to live the Erasmus life to the fullest, it can be nice to have some extra money which you can use.</p>

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>Here in Alcalá the courses are not 7,5 ECTS like in Utrecht, most of the courses are 6 ECTS, and some are 8. Because you still have to earn 30 ECTS, I tried to do 5 courses, but it turned out to be too much work, so after a month I dropped one course, and followed 4 instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arabic (course dropped) - was a nice course, you learned the Arabic language at a nice pace, but the workload was just too much.</li> <li>- Didactic - also a nice course, the professor was understanding that it was more difficult for the Erasmus students than the natives, and tried to help us.</li> <li>- Morphology of the Spanish Language - for the native people it was a good course, but if you are not a native speaker, it is way too difficult, since one of the parts of morphology is to divide words into smaller words, which is impossible to do with a non-native vocabulary. Also, the professor did not want Erasmus students in his class, and did not want to help us.</li> <li>- Ancient Greek - a good course, you learn to translate ancient Greek, with a focus on the influence of Greek on the Spanish language. The professor was nice and tried to help everyone understand the Greek language.</li> <li>- History of the Spanish words - a nice course, the lectures were about the influence of Latin and Greek on the Spanish words nowadays.</li> </ul>
academic quality of education activities	<p>The quality was good, but very Spanish, in a way of unclarity. Sometimes, because of the language problem, I missed some information, like the exact content of an exam, and when I asked my fellow Spanish students, often they didn't know it either. But all in all, I think the quality is good.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>In Spain you also have to do things yourself, mostly they will not remind you about the things you have to do. The person in charge of the Erasmus students did speak English, which was good, since it was hard to find an English speaking person. When you have a problem, like I did with wanting to drop a course, he was very helpful.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>Since I am writing this while I am still in Alcalá, and do not yet have my credits, I have no idea, but the University will send me my marks via e-mail, and a hard copy to the International Office.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>I have the feeling that ESN here is quite a young organization, since there are a lot of small mistakes. For instance, the welcome programme was only communicated to us through a private Facebook group, from which we weren't a member the first days. The welcome week had some nice activities, like a tapas tour through Alcalá, and a tour to tell you more about the city in which you will be living for the next 5 months.</p>
accommodation	<p>As mentioned before, I lived in a residence (Dunia Hall), which was expensive compared to the rent that the other students had to pay (330 euros each month for Dunia, compared to 250 or 280 for other places). I shared my room and bathroom with another student from Canada, which was nice, because you already have to talk in the morning, because you both have to wake up to go to class. I shared the kitchen with all the people of my floor, roughly 20 people, which means that you can not leave your stuff around, because it will be stolen/used/broken. I would not recommend living here, because it is so expensive, and I think there are a lot of rooms available in Alcalá when you get here, so I don't think it's hard to go here without a place to stay. Also</p>

**Spain – Universidad de Alcalá**

ESN has a deal with a hotel, I think when you can say or show that you're an Erasmus student, you get 10% discount, so you have a place to stay before you have your own room.

leisure & culture

Alcalá is a small town, which means there is not much to do, except for the birth house of Cervantes, a really famous Spanish writer, and a church. But luckily, Madrid is only 40 minutes by train, so you can go there easily. When you like to shop, it's hard to do that in Alcalá, but again, Madrid is just around the corner. You can go party here, there are just not that many options, you have the Green Irish Pub, which is famous among Erasmus students, and a few other places to go. ESN organises some trips through Spain as well, which is a good way to meet new people from all around the world.

suggestions/tips

When you get here, don't forget to enjoy your stay here, it is different from your studies in Utrecht, probably you will never be in Spain for five months, so just enjoy! It's over faster than you can imagine...

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

If you like being in a small city, it's a nice place. It's nice to sit at a restaurant or walk through Alcalá and see and recognize the other Erasmus students and talk to them. I don't think it will be like that when you are in Madrid for example, just because there are so many people there. But if you want to do stuff, like going to the movies or something like that, that's nearly impossible in Alcalá, you're almost always forced to go to Madrid.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It is good to know that everything will be in Spanish, so if you can't speak Spanish, it can cause problems. The welcome day from the university will be in Spanish, all the trips from ESN will be in Spanish. There is a good language institute related to the university, Alcalingua, which can help you learn Spanish, and if I'm not mistaking, you can get ECTS for the course you take there, but I'm not sure.

Also, most of the courses only let in 4 or 5 Erasmus students, so when you have to talk to the person who will sign you up for the courses, make an appointment there as soon as possible, because first come, first get. The weather here is not as Spanish as you would think, in December and January most people here wore gloves outside.

If you want to live in a residence, be careful where it is located, there are 3 or 4 at the external campus, and as a Humanities student, I think all your classes will be in the city center, and there are nice rooms available in the center, so you do not have to live far away.

**2015-2016****Report 1**

faculty/college	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

I think I started 1 year before my depart with the application process. I had to write a motivation letter, a finance overview and I had to sort out the courses. In the beginning I thought it would be loads of work, but when you do it step by step it wasn't a problem at all.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University organised a lot of information meetings. No lack of support.
academic preparation
I studied a bit myself about the history of Spain and I wrote some papers about Spain related topics. This was very interesting and innovating for me.
language preparation
I did a lot of Spanish language courses in holland. The problem was that for me it would have been better if I applied for courses at the UU. This clashed with my timetable so I couldn't do it. It costs loads of money, but it was worth it. I was able to follow courses in spanish and I learned a lot.
finances
The Erasmus grant helped a lot. I have spent a lot of money abroad, but I opened another loaning as well and I don't regret the trips I made.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I had 3 courses and 1 language course: - history of the Spanish monarchy - history of Europe in the Modern Age - history of contemporary Spain - Alcalingua, language- course. This course was very useful. It was a special offer for Erasmusstudents. Although we had to pay 200eu (for free would be better) it was nice to learn a bit more and thanks to this course I met a lot of new people.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of some courses was really low. The spanish students weren't all motivated, the teacher didn't challenge the students to achieve the highest marks. And we didn't have to do so much work. Other courses were very intense and well organised. The teachers were all very helpful and nice to Erasmus students. I immediately felt comfortable at the University of Alcalá.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international officer was very kind. He was very busy as well but usually I received an answer within 2 days. They host univeristy organised a welcome day with a lot of information. The only thing is that this day was 2 weeks after the lessons started, so a bit earlier would be better.
transfer of credits
Before the deadline, everything good.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
As I said before, there was a well organised welcome day and they helped us to find our ways. Also the ESN organisation organised a lot of trips to get to know people.

accommodation
I found my accomodation easily, everyone I talked to found their housing easily and almost no-one had trouble finding housing.
leisure & culture
The spaninsh culture is great, open and interesting. We did a lot of things together such as citytrips, picknicking, a roadtrip, tapas nights, sport- events, movienights, dinners, nights out, hikes.. Especially in the first months ESN organised a lot, but later on the stopped organising things so we organised it ourselves.
suggestions/tips
ESN could organise a bit more in the last months as well.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would for sure recommend the University in Alcalá to others. It is only 40min by train from Madrid, so easy to travel to. Besides that, I believe that it is better to study and live in Alcalá, because it is smaller, cleaner and because of that easier to meet all the Erasmus students. It was also easy to meet them in one pub or one bar. Alcalá is very beautiful and well located. It was am amazing expierence and Alcalá is one of the best Erasmus cities!
do you have any additional advice or comments?