

2016-2017

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	ENS Lyon
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I have experienced the exchange application process as quite stressful, because I find the application deadline of 1 decembre 2015 extremely early. The application process for the Erasmus grant is also quite lengthy and takes a lot of effort, but it's great that such a program exists.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office of the UU was very helpful and answered my questions quite quickly, especially compared to the IO in Lyon.
academic preparation	The first year of my Masters's has prepared me well to follow courses abroad in terms of content. The language courses in French I followed during my Bachelor program were indispensable in terms of language.
language preparation	During my Bachelor's, I followed three French language courses at the UU (French 1, 2, 3), and after that, I continued following courses in French literature, I wrote my Bachelor's thesis in French and followed courses in French during the first year of my master's program.
finances	My finances consisted of : a loan via DUO, the Erasmus grant and my own savings, which was enough.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed several courses in Modern literature and Comparative Literature at the ENS of Lyon and at Lyon 2. The courses at Lyon 2 were easier to follow for me, since I have a hearing loss and at Lyon 2 the teachers provided more visual aids (Powerpoint presentations, writing names on the board etc.) and their classes were a little bit more interactive, compared with the ENS.
academic quality of education activities	Good, but, in general, the French education system is more focused on the teacher as a source of knowledge

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than on texts as sources of knowledge. Therefore, it was not always possible to verify what the teachers told us.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good, I experienced great difficulties with my hearing loss in the beginning, which caused me more trouble in France than in the Netherlands because of the many lectures. But the International office of the ENS Lyon gave me permission to follow the majority of the courses at Lyon 2, as I'd found courses there that corresponded well to my academic program and were also easier to follow. I also had an excellent tutor at the ENS who acted as a mediator between me and the International Office of the ENS.

transfer of credits

I wanted to validate 25 credits, but I have not yet received the transcript, because not all my exams are graded yet. The IO of the ENS promised to email the transcript to me.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The IO of the ENS Lyon welcomed me with a bag full of brochures and information, which was helpful. I also got a great tutor, who helped me choosing my courses. There were two weeks of general and specific introductions, during which I had to go to a lot of informational meetings (about the ENS, the faculty etc.) and during which you could sign up for all kinds of student's organisations.

accommodation

I found a studio via Cardinal Campus, a student housing's organisation. The accomodation was good, quite and in the center. Yet, the process was lengthy (searching and finding a room, providing Cardinal Campus with all the information and documents they need, waiting for their appoval etc.). So, you should expect to have a lot of patience filing in a lot of forms.

leisure & culture

I loved Lyon. It's a calm city and has a good atmosphere. It's the second largest city of France, but it has the ambiance of a village, not of a grand metropole (maybe a little like Utrecht). There are some museums (not as much as in Paris) and there are a lot of bars that organise events and soirées (in literature, music, art).

suggestions/tips

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CONCLUSIONS

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

I would not recommend the ENS of Lyon to a literature student, because the majority of the courses were very hard to understand and/or not that interesting (not only for me because of my hearing loss, but also for other students I met and who told me of their experiences). I would rather recommend Lyon 2, because of the content of the courses and the teaching style (less authoritative, a little more focused on student's participation). In general, I should only go to France if you really love the language and/or culture and if you don't mind that almost all the courses consist of lectures, which means a quite passive and boring way of learning. Besides that, if you are a literary student that loves to study literature from the perspective of a theory/philosophy, then the ENS and Lyon 2 are not the universities to be. Almost all the lectures I followed started from the historical and literary context of a text and author and end with a short and quite superficial analysis and interpretation of the actual text.