

**2018-2019**

**Report 1**

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

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: helga.hdg@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en cultuurstudies (Taalkunde)

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	4 / 9 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (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	The application process was fine. It wasn't easy to find classes I could take, as the requirements are not given. But I found several modules I liked. It was inconvenient that the list of modules available to Erasmus students cannot be found before you actually have to register for your classes. I had chosen a few classes which I was not allowed to do, but it was resolved fairly quickly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I received sufficient counselling and support.
academic preparation	I did not have to do any academic preparation.
language preparation	I did not have to do any language preparation as my English is at a native speaker level.
finances	I had been saving to study abroad for a few years and when making the financial plan I found that I had just enough money. I ended up spending a lot less than expected, because I found relatively cheap off-campus accommodation. Which meant that I ended up spending 560 euro less a month on rent.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It is not easy to find good linguistics classes abroad, but I managed to create a nice programme. Although I did end up doing two first year modules, which were pretty simple. I could have chosen modules outside of linguistics, but I could not really find anything I liked. But there were a lot of different modules to pick from.

academic quality of education activities

I was very surprised by the low quality and standards at UCD. The teachers didn't really expect us to know anything, one even had to explain how to do a presentation. She had to tell people not to read of the slides and not to put a massive amount of text on the powerpoint, and still people did it. The teachers were really good, they knew a lot. They were very chaotic though. They constantly forgot to upload slides and give comments and grades.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I got a lot of help from UCD in setting up my classes. It was very easy to contact people about signing documents and other important stuff.

transfer of credits

I have no idea how this is going to go yet. I got my results in January, but my transcript of records will not be released until later in February. It should all go fine, but I cannot know for sure.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

UCD has a very intensive welcome programme. There is a introduction week before classes start where you can set up your travel card, student card etc. A few weeks later they have Freshers' week. Here you can join societies and eat free food (very important of course).

accommodation

I got my accommodation through Hostingpower. I ended up renting a room in the house of a 76-year-old lady. There was another international student in the house, which was a lot of fun. I would recommend living off-campus, as it is a lot cheaper. On-campus housing is insanely expensive and not worth it. You only live on campus and don't get to know the city and the country the way you do when you live among the ordinary people. I learned a lot from my host and my housemate. It is VERY important to get your accommodation early!! A lot of rooms will be taken before you know it!

leisure & culture

Dublin is a wonderful city and Ireland a beautiful country. The people are very kind, but get a bit aggressive when drunk. I am a nerd so I spend a lot of time studying (also because I was doing my thesis in my spare time), but I still went on a few trips. There is plenty to do for everyone, no matter what your interests are. I ended up going to the park to read at least once a week.

suggestions/tips

Travel outside of Dublin too, I would recommend Galway. The international student society does trips there too.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would. UCD is a very welcoming and kind place to study and has something for everyone. You can spread your interest in your classes, because you take six instead of two.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

## Report 2

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

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Comparative Literary Studies
destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (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	There's a lot of paperwork to be taken care of, but as long as you keep an eye on the deadlines it shouldn't be a problem at all. I found the International Office to be helpful, and they emailed signed documents back quickly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The coordinator of my study programme was enthusiastic and signed my documents for me without any hassle, as did the International Office. I didn't require any further counselling or support.
academic preparation	I didn't specifically prepare anything academically, but I tried to ensure that the modules for which I enrolled at University College Dublin would be both doable and challenging for me.
language preparation	My English was sufficient before I left so I didn't really prepare or study any languages before I left. I was already interested in Irish and I explored options to take Irish classes at UCD, which turned out to be possible.
finances	I applied for an Erasmus+ grant and I made sure that I had enough money saved in case of any emergency. I had a part-time job while I was in Dublin. I found living in Dublin (accommodation aside) comparable to the Netherlands, perhaps slightly more expensive.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
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study programme (content and organisational issues)
I'm in a Master's degree, and this proved to be quite the hassle in signing up for modules at UCD. I emailed UCD's International Office before course registration started but they just told me that, as Erasmus student, I wouldn't be allowed to enrol in Master's level courses, which was quite problematic. Luckily, eventually I found someone who was able to help me (this was during course registration so that was late August or early September, so by then I was very stressed) and allowed me to enrol for Master's level courses.
academic quality of education activities
After the administrative hassle, fortunately the courses themselves were great; the classes were small, which was nice, and I found the teachers at UCD to be competent and friendly, and willing to put up with me as international student.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't require specific personal counselling, I only needed to visit the international office when I arrived and before I left to get my certificate of attendance signed and stamped, but the people working there were very friendly.
transfer of credits
I should expect to receive a transcript at the end of February from what I gather, which is perhaps a little late? Seeing as I haven't received my credits yet, I can't say whether it went well or not, but I anticipate no problems.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There wasn't an 'orientation week' as such, as e.g. the UU has, so the first week I was there I felt a bit lost. There were a few activities oriented towards new students, but not many (if any) for international students specifically. There was one information meeting quite late in the semester I felt, and it wasn't clear for me whether attendance for that was compulsory. I'm very glad I went to the meeting because it was informative and helpful, but I only found out about it one day in advance. It would've been good if we'd been emailed about it, I think.
accommodation
UCD has some accommodation for international/Erasmus students on campus. I was lucky enough to be allotted a room on campus (all of them are a few bedrooms with shared living room/kitchen, some of the more expensive ones have their own en-suite bathroom, and there's one accommodation with meals included), and lucky enough to be able to afford it - the least expensive option is roughly 1000 euro a month. Despite the <u>very</u> high rent (from a Dutch perspective - from what I gather from other internationals living in Dublin, expect to pay at least 700/750 a month or 150 a week, if you're living with a family), I'm still glad I got the on-campus accommodation, because it would've been quite difficult finding a (shared) flat elsewhere in the city. The downside of living on campus is that it's pretty far away from the city centre - it takes at least half an hour on the bus to get there, and while I considered buying a bike and cycling there, I found cycling to be very dangerous in the city.
leisure & culture
Plenty to do in Dublin - many (free) museums, cinemas, theatres, many of which have discounts for students. There's a sort of mini town centre quite near UCD (Dundrum) which has everything you need, otherwise of course there's enough shopping to be done in the city centre. The campus has a decent pub, and of course there're plenty of pubs and restaurants to be found in the city. From Dublin there are tours to literally everywhere else in the country, such as Galway, Wicklow, Cork, etc. Apparently a day trip to Northern Ireland is also doable, although I haven't done that myself.

suggestions/tips
Get a leap card (basically the equivalent of OV chipkaart), which has a cap of 20 euro (I think) per week so you'll never spend more than 20 euro a week on public transport.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely. Dublin is a lovely city, with a rich history, rich culture - there's enough to do. Overall I loved living in Ireland (and they have the Euro!), and everyone I met was really friendly. Although it's culturally different from the Netherlands, it's not as different as to lead to a massive culture shock (for me). UCD was a nice university - my impression of the (teaching) staff is favourable.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

### Report 3

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

faculty/college	University Utrecht
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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (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
Forms upon forms, upon forms. It can be hard and very stressful to keep track of what you need to hand in and where. For your own sanity, make a planning or spreadsheet. The international office in Dublin is very helpful and definitely don't hesitate to email them any questions about applying.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
You get a very quick reply to all inquiries via email.
academic preparation
I had a lot of courses within my specialization. But I do recommend also taking some courses on Irish culture/language/literature. They are very fun, UCD offers them and provides more information about them in the intro week.

language preparation
English is all you need, although if you want to be able to read street signs or are generally interested in Irish culture you might want to consider taking a look at the basics of Irish (duolingo offers Irish). UCD also offers an Irish for beginners course.
finances
Dublin is Expensive!! Make a spreadsheet of your finances and definitely leave some flexibility in your budget.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
UCD offers a wide range of English language courses. You can still change courses after the semester has started. The site on which you have to look up courses can be a bit of a struggle. Pay attention to which level the courses have, it might impair how many of one level you can take.
academic quality of education activities
UCD has a comparable academic quality of education activities to UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling at UCD is very extensive for international students. There is an international lounge where you are always welcome with any issues you might encounter.
transfer of credits
You need to take 6 courses in order to get the mandatory 30 credits, which is a bit much but doable.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There is an introduction week in which you can sign up for societies. There is also a formal introduction ceremony which is quite funny, they give you a scarf, but all well organised. Definitely do not skip the intro week.
accommodation
Really expensive. There is a housing in Dublin crisis and it's no joke. Unless you are willing and able to pay around €1000 a month for a room, you might have to consider a host family. My host family turned out to be real nice and I heard similar things from other students in host families. The Irish are a very inviting people so a host family is a good (and affordable) way to go. Start with looking for a room early on and consider all possibilities. This is definitely a downside of Dublin.
leisure & culture
UCD offers a lot of societies. It only costs 2€ to sign up for one and it is worth it. There is a big drinking culture and going out to pubs and clubs is a customary way of making friends. Dublin has a lot of culture and it is quite easy to travel to other cultural places in Ireland.
suggestions/tips
Join the facebook page for UCD international students and post something about yourself. It is a guaranteed way to make friends with people who are in a similar situation.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend UCD. It is a very international university with a pleasant atmosphere. They offer a variety of courses and a lot of support. The student societies make it easy to make contact with other students and make friends. There are a lot of activities for international students and you are guaranteed to make a lot of international friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Do the prep work. Then, once you have landed you just enjoy the ride :)

**2017-2018  
 Report 1**

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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	04 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 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	I thought the application process was fun because I really enjoyed searching through the modules offered at different universities and deciding which university I'd like to go to most and what courses I'd like to do at that university. When picking a university to go on Erasmus to, I'd really recommend looking for vlogs by current students at universities you're considering because those give a whole other feel of the uni than university websites tend to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	My application process went pretty smooth so the support and counseling I got was sufficient.
academic preparation	I didn't have to do any accademic preparation.
language preparation	I study English and went to an English speaking country so no language preparation was necessary.
finances	I though it was a good thing we had to make a financial plan in preparation for the exchange. Because I prepared for the worst in my financial plan but ended up having cheaper living costs due to not living on campus and getting a bike instead of a daily bus I ended up spending much less than I initially thought and that feels pretty great.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I think it was relatively easy for me to create a nice study programme at UCD because I went on Erasmus in addition to the normal content of my bachelor degrees so there weren't a lot of strict requirements for my programme that I had to base my choice of modules on. On top of that, UCD has quite a lot of humanities courses to choose from so I got to learn things that I never would have found in the humanities course catalogue at the UU, like website programming.

<p>One organisational issue I did come across was that students get divided into two different slots in which they can choose their modules and I was in the second slot so some of the courses I planned to do were already full. But because at UCD you do six courses per semester instead of two per block, I'm pretty sure you'll always be able to get some of your favourite courses in your programme. And because I have some pretty broad interests it gave me the opportunity to try some new things I never would have thought of doing otherwise.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The overall academic quality of the courses is a bit lower than here at the UU. I really liked the teachers. Both their own research and their teaching skills were very good and very interesting overall. But the courses themselves required less academic skills from students than what I'm used to in Utrecht.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>Everyone at the university was very kind and even after leaving it's still very easy to contact people about documents and signatures etc.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>Seems to be going well. UCD started sending out all Erasmus students' transcripts at the end of February.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>
<p>UCD does quite an extensive welcome and orientation programme for first years and international students. The first week of the first semester is Freshers' Week. In freshers' week there are no classes yet and there are an enormous amount of activities organised by societies, the Students Union, the international office etc. Freshers' week was a great time to get to know the campus and the study facilities, learn about the many possible extracurricular activities organised by societies or the sports clubs, and mainly to get to know new people. At Freshers' week I met the people I ended up spending almost all my free time with during my semester in Dublin and I think I will be friends with some of these people for many years to come. The third week of the semester is Orientation week. In this week there are even more orientation events organised by the societies and sports clubs and you get to sign up for as many clubs and societies as you want and you receive a lot of fun goodies when you do so. I've had a lot of fun in both weeks and would recommend joining clubs and societies to everyone.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>I thought the amount of on-campus accommodation places reserved for one semester Erasmus students was a bit on the low side. There were about forty of these. On-campus accommodation gets appointed on a randomised waiting list basis. This means that you can be the eighth person to sign up for on-campus accommodation but still end up number eighty on the waiting list. This is what happened to me. I hoped there would be around a hundred on-campus accommodations available for Erasmus students so I didn't think to ask UCD what my chances were of getting accommodation until well into the summer holiday. This left me with about five weeks to find off-campus accommodation of my own. I eventually found something via Housing Anywhere. I would recommend students going to Dublin to prepare for very high rent, a very competitive housing market, sharing rooms with other students to share the costs, maybe staying in a hostel or AirB&amp;B for the first few weeks before you find more permanent accommodation, and reading up on Irish rules of the road because the housing you will find could end up quite a bit from the UCD campus and I found that the quickest, cheapest, and ofcourse the most Dutch way to get around the city is on a bike.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>
<p>Amazing. Dublin is in a beautiful location so it only takes about twenty minutes on public transport to get from the city to the cliffs of Howth or the beaches of Bray and Greystones. I managed to go on weekend trips with</p>

my friends almost every weekend and we had the best time. Even if you don't get out of the city on a weekend it's still super easy to see nature in the huge park that is Phoenix park (it has loads of deer, ponds, and hills). Several UCD societies and clubs also organise pretty frequent weekend or day trips, like the International Students Society, ESN, or the Canoe Club. Culture wise Dublin is pretty great too. All over the city you can see traces of Dublin's history of Celts, Vikings, English colonisation, potato famines, rebellions, and a very rich literary history. Dublin also has my favourite gay bar in the world: The George. I'd definitely recommend catching a drag show there (there's a show almost every day of the week, but Davina's Thirsty Thursdays are especially good).

suggestions/tips

Learn the lyrics to some of the classic Irish pub songs to impress your new friends (if you manage The Rattlin Bog you'll be sure to get yourself a few free pints from admirers).

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. UCD is a very welcoming and friendly place to spend your time abroad. The modules offered are pretty different from the courses you can take at the UU and because you can fill your 30 ects for a semester with six courses instead of four it mainly offers you a chance to add some extra width to your study programme. The campus also offers some pretty comfortable study facilities and a great range of activities for socialising. The on-campus pub is also pretty grand.

Overall, Dublin is not the most Irish city in the country but it's a great central place where you find all the facilities and entertainment you need and have access to public transport to all of the more traditionally Irish areas. Dublin is also the tech capital of Europe, so if you have a special interest in tech companies it is the place to be. Have a look out for free events hosted by companies like Google, so you can have a look inside their amazing futuristic offices and network with professionals in the field.

Irish people are some of the friendliest people I have ever met and the country is beautiful so I would definitely recommend this destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

### **Report 2**

faculty/college	University Utrecht
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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 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
Everything was very well organised and explained. It is a lot of paperwork that needs to be done, but nothing too much and there is plenty of time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office was of great help to me. They usually respond to any email within a few hours, which is great if you're a bit stressed or working against some deadline.
academic preparation
Because I was allowed to do all of the courses in my 'free of choice' of my bachelor, I had no difficulty with finding courses I would like to follow. The hardest part was getting used to the way UCD is organized, and how their application process works.
language preparation
As I write most of my essays already in English, I did not prepare too much for this language exchange.
finances
I could have prepared a bit better for this, as I did save a lot of money for Ireland, but the country is more expensive than I thought it would be. The more savings the happier. But that is something I learned for the next time.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Arts and Humanities
academic quality of education activities
UCD is a very good university with really good lectures. The teachers are passionate about their subjects, which makes me as a student more passionate and eager to learn.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office at UCD was always open and ready to answer any question. In the first few weeks they were open everyday, which was a relief as I could ask any question that bothered me.
transfer of credits
The system they use in Ireland is completely different from the one in the Netherlands. That did give me some struggle with finding out how well I scored for my essays.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
UCD gave various opportunities to meet new people and to make you feel welcome. I ended up meeting a group of people from all different places that I spend most of my time with. The orientation programme was good, although I did not participate for most of it, as I wandered off with my group into town. UCD has so many different societies you can join; this is absolutely great to meet new people, to get involved and to get to know the country and its people.
accommodation

It is hard to find accomodation in Dublin, especially if you don't want to pay too much rent. This is a difficult thing, but there are enough options to find housing, it just takes a lot of effort.
leisure & culture
The pubs in dublin are amazing. It is in the pubs you meet most of the people and get to know the culture and history of Ireland. However, the trips i made to the West and the countryside made me fall in love with Ireland. It is a stunning country, absolutely beautiful. But the best part about the country is its people.
suggestions/tips
Be prepared to pay too much rent, save money for that. Explore the city, join societies and get out of the city if you can.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I fell in love with Ireland, and I will be moving here in a couple of months. UCD is a fantastic, well organised university. I am going to do my Master at UCD as well.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't be afraid of the paperwork. It is only a few days work, but it gives you months or even years of new experiences, friendships and laughs.

**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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2016 (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
As easy and as complicated as for other universities I guess.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Our Master Coordinator was very helpful in finding the right spot for the right student
academic preparation
The level and topics of teaching were enough the same in both countries to not be a concern.

language preparation
Language of instruction and communication in Utrecht is also English, so this was not a problem.
finances
Dublin is expensive. Especially housing, but also food. So Liddl was my best friend, albeit it not being authentic Irish ;).

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Officially I was an 'Occasional Arts and Celtic Student' but I followed courses from different masters in the English Department.
academic quality of education activities
The classes were very interesting and thought-provoking, I was really happy with the high standard of education.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Well, since we were the first master-students in this department, it was a bit chaotic sometimes. Especially which courses were open for erasmus-students turned out to be a complicated search-process. It took me and my supervisor till halfway through the semester before we had a scheme with courses I could (still) do (as I was put out of a course after the third week, it turned out to be for after your masters). This will probably change for coming years, since they will probably make a list with available courses.
transfer of credits
not experienced yet (don't know the grades)

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Very full programme, and met a lot of people. I did not join ESN or similar groups, but I understood that they had a full programme of sight-seeing activities (with the only disadvantage being that they only put on weekends away the Thursday beforehand, so quite short notice).
accommodation
UCD does not provide housing for EU students. They offer a platform on which people can put up rooms but for this to work you have to be in Dublin already. This means that all the hostels in Dublin are filled with international students looking for rooms... and this also means expensive housing. Most likely you will end up in a host family (which is not bad, but just different from Utrecht).
leisure & culture
UCD really offers a lot of sportsclubs and societies. There is something for everybody. And the best thing is: it is cheap! Sports school on campus is free, and sportsclubs and societies are easy to join and providing a lot of joy and opportunities to see the country.
suggestions/tips
Join a sportsclub! The people are friendly, sports is healthy, it is cheap, and most sports clubs go away for some weekends, so fun and sightseeing is easy!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes! It is a stimulating environment. Good for english skills, interesting courses and very friendly people!	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Go there in advance to search for a room. It would be a pity if this was a worry during your courses.	

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2016(dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 12 / 2016(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	Clear trajectory. Well guided.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office was always at your disposal in times of questions, problems etc. They know what they are doing.
academic preparation	Reading plays, but that was all.
language preparation	A language test, but nothing else is required. I have been studying in English since the age of 12.
finances	I managed, but Dublin was more expensive than expected. But, with funds from the government, Erasmus and savings I made it.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Great courses! Very knowledgeable professors in an informal, yet academic atmosphere. My course registration went well, despite us three (Barbara, Elisabeth and I) being the MA pioneers. They did not have a system set up for the registration for MA students, yet, they were lenient and welcoming. The registration process there,

where hundreds of international students had to draw tickets and wait in line for hours, could have been dealt with more efficiently. The professors were clear and the guidelines/programme structure were proper.
academic quality of education activities
Despite its informal character, a high quality of education is provided. Discussion is stimulated and the workload is doable, and enjoyable. I got to read and see lots of plays, and writing assignments each week kept me up to date with classes and content. One of the courses ended with a study trip to London which was really nice.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very welcoming. Despite their busy schedules they found time to reply to questions (although it sometimes took some time)
transfer of credits
Still in progress. Got all credits from UCD, UCD grades still need to be converted to UU grades.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
I did not really indulge in this, but I got by..	
accommodation	
Campus is ridiculously expensive, I managed to find a great place downtown though (with a bit of luck). I have heard of multiple students really struggling finding affordable accommodation.	
leisure & culture	
Dublin is a great cultural city. UCD offers a lot too, but I invested more time outside the campus exploring Dublin's cultural vibrancy.	
suggestions/tips	
Try to get a house soon, even if you have to pay a month before your arrival. A good way for a short period of time and to easily get to know locals is to try to get a house through Camelot, which is a company which places guardians in properties which are for sale. (anti-squatting)	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, definitely. Dublin and Ireland are great, beautiful, and have a lot to offer on all sorts of platforms. Culturally very high standards and lots to do and see. Make sure you save some money though. UCD was a fine university which has a great amount of courses and a staff which is highly knowledgeable, definitely worth it! I was even happier to there than for example the more famous Trinity College, I think UCD offers a more flexible academic learning. The Irish are really kind, helpful and will always go their ways to make sure you are comfortable.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Choose for UCD!	

**Report 3**

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

name study programme	Comperative Literary Studies
destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 12 / 2016 (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	
	Easy and well supported. It simply involves a couple of forms and a lot of waiting.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	You get an official going abroad meeting which is neat to attend because it gives you some extra tips on the grand and everything. Defintely useful.
academic preparation	
	I didn't really have to prepare for my stay abroad, but I didn't feel like I was behind in any way when I was there.
language preparation	
	You are obliged to take a language test which is fine albeit slightly stupid for when you are going to an English speaking country and you are following an English master. I didn't have to do any other language preparation.
finances	
	I spend a couple of months ahead of time saving up so I had some back up there.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Content was amazing, but the organisation was less good. This was the first year University College Dublin was taking Humanities master students and they had no idea how to handle it. I got thrown out of a course that I had already started and that I had already written for because it suddenly wasn't available for me anymore. They were very nice though and tried to solve it as quick as possible, which turned out not to be that quick, which was annoying.
academic quality of education activities	
	Definitely good quality. They had a lot of things to do inside and outside your study and you were encouraged to go to all the things in a very friendly manner.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	People were very nice, but had a tendency to reply slow.
transfer of credits	
	I'm working on it at the moment. But UCD works with ECTS as well so it shouldn't be a problem.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Very nice. They hired lots of students to help you out when you got there which was good because the campus is big and overwhelming in the beginning. Orientation program was very nice with lots of introductions of clubs, sports, and other explanations. It was really nice to have an orientation program that actually helped me out this much.
accommodation
I had to look for housing myself. The campus accomodation is INSANELY expensive and has huge waiting lists so I opted out of that. I spend the first week in Dublin looking for a room by myself. The university actually helped out with that too by providing a site for students to search for their own rooms in the area. Rooms are expensive, all of them, unless you are really lucky. I ended up with a host family who where very nice, but it is difficult to find something actually spacious for a decent price.
leisure & culture
UCD provides an enormous amount of cultural activities to take part of in your free time. And if you didn't want to attend to that there was always Dublin which is a really nice city to go out to. Pubs are great. Food is great. People are great.
suggestions/tips
Be sure you start searching for houses on time and when you do, call the people instead of emailing them. These people get tons of emails because everyone is looking for a room, if you call them you get a much faster answer.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. Ireland is a wonderful country and Dublin is a great city despite being ridiculously expensive at times. UCD is a university that I wish I could attend longer. The sense of community that they have created here is vastly different from the sense of community we have in Utrecht, a community I hadn't realized I missed. The clubs and societies make it so easy to make friends and meet people from all kinds of studies and places because you share a common interest. Everyone there wants to help you out with everything. So definitely worth your time!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Do make sure to keep in good direct contact with the office of staff over there because you will need them for your courses, definitely in a master study.