

2018-2019

Report 1

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

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: sarahherforth5@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Instagram: Sarahherforth
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	LiberalArtsand Sciences

destination city & country	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	5 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The actual application letter is not that much work, but selecting one or two universities takes up a lot of time. I would recommend making a list of things you find important. For me, that was: an English native speaking country, with interesting courses and close to nature.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I sat down with one of the student advisors from my department to check if the courses would fit in my curriculum and to see what semester would be best to go abroad
academic preparation	
	Zero
language preparation	
	I did not need to, my English level was high enough.
finances	
	I worked for a few months but it is actually not that more expensive than living on your own in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I was lucky; I was able to take all three courses I chose prior to going abroad. However, many others had to switch one of their courses. It is in my opinion a bit ridiculous that you have to pick your courses before december and than wait till the second week of september to get them finalised and get your schedule. I was a bit afraid I had to pick other courses but it worked out in the end.
academic quality of education activities
I would say that the level is lower than in Utrecht, but you see this mostly in the attitude students have. A lot of students do not prepare for their lectures. The literature is often far less than I am used to, but still interesting. It was not the level I was used to, but my course in theology was very academically challenging!
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really contact them much.
transfer of credits
It worked out okay, but they initially changed a level 3 course to a level 1 course. Since they sent this to my home adress in the Netherlands, I was not able to respond in time.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Freshers week was very intense with a LOT of activities! This can be a bit overwhelming but it is also a lot of fun.
accommodation
I lived at hillhead campus, which was provided by the university. Do note that you will probably live with first year students here, which can be a bit of an adjustment if you are in your first year. But some Erasmus students also lived there.
leisure & culture
Scotland is a beautiful country! Aberdeen itself has its charm, even though it is not like the bigger cities Glasgow and Edinburgh. My favorite thing about Aberdeen was that you can walk to the beach in 10-15 minutes: that was an absolute gift and I enjoyed walking or cycling there so much. I do recommend getting a cycle to get around the city since buses are not very dependable.
suggestions/tips
If you go the first semester, you will have december/january free to travel. I travelled from 17 dec till 10 january and it was AMAZING, I highly recommend spending some time travelling before or afterwards!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would 100% recommend it. The people are very friendly, it is close to the beach and to other places in nature and the city has some great hotspots such as secondhand stores and restaurants.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions

Report 2

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

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: ferikejanse@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en cultuurstudies (Language and Culture studies)

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland (United Kingdom)
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process of application might seem rather complicated at first, but if you stay on top of things from the very beginning, it is really not that bad. Make sure you save all of your emails related to your exchange in one file, and keep track of all deadlines. It also helps to get in contact with other students that are planning on going on exchange, so you can help each other with finding the information that you need.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Attending the information session is a must, and make sure to take some notes of all the information that will be poured out over you. Even though I payed attention during the sessions, I sometimes struggled to remember the exact details about certain steps in the process of applications when I actually needed them.
academic preparation	I did read up on my British history, since I had very little knowledge about that and I was sure I would need it in some of the history/religion courses that I was planning on taking.
language preparation	None. I expected my level of English to be sufficient.
finances	I knew that life in the U.K is not that cheap, so a few months before I left I raised my monthly student loans to the maximum. I ended up not using all of that money, but in that way I was sure I would not end up with a cash-flow problem during my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The Aberdeen University course catalogue for the new academic year was only uploaded somewhere during the summer break. This way, I did not know for sure whether or not the courses that I intended on taking (and had put on my learning agreement) would actually be available. It turned out that indeed quite some changes had been made in the catalogue, and I couldn't take any of the courses I intended to pick. My go abroad tutor at Aberdeen university helped me pick new courses, and these turned out to be really interesting as well.
academic quality of education activities
Overall the level of education at Aberdeen University is quite similar to that of Utrecht University. The main difference in teaching is that for most of the courses, the focus is really on the lectures. For two of my courses, I only had a one-hour seminar/tutorial each week, while I did have two two-hour lectures weekly for those courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
As soon as I got my acceptance letter from Aberdeen, they assigned me to an exchange tutor. This is someone who teaches at the university in courses relating to your own degree. My exchange tutor could therefore really help me in selecting courses that would suit my wishes, as she was familiar with all of the courses. For questions other than those relating to the courses themselves, I always send emails to the Erasmus team of Aberdeen University. They could often answer them for me, and if this wasn't the case they would provide me with the contact details of people who could answer my questions. Replies always came quite quickly, so I am pretty satisfied with support at Aberdeen University.
transfer of credits
I am currently still in the process of getting my credits from Aberdeen University transferred to my degree here in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university organises a 'freshers week' at the first week of the year (the first week of September, and they do a similar but slightly smaller event at the start of the second semester). This week is mainly marketed towards the new first-year students, but exchange students are also invited to these events, as they provide lots of opportunities to get to know the university, the city and student life in Aberdeen.
accommodation
The university offers accommodation to all first-year and exchange students. All of these buildings are in one place, called the Hillhead student village. I lived here, and I found this quite convenient. It is quite close to uni (about a 20 minute walk or 10 minute bike-ride) and a lot of activities are organised at Hillhead. And since most other exchange students live at Hillhead, it is the easiest option if you want to hang out with other students. The downside of it is that it is a bit more expensive than private accommodation. But on the other hand, it can be quite complicated to find something by yourself, especially for students that are only staying for one semester.
leisure & culture
Aberdeen University has over 140 societies, which can be compared to the Dutch system of 'studie- en studentenverenigingen'. I strongly recommend joining one or two, as this is the perfect way to get to know other students, Scottish and international. During Freshers week, there's a societies fayre where all of the societies present themselves and where you can easily sign up for them.

Aberdeen also has plenty of nice pubs to go to, and you can get to some very nice places in the Highlands or coastal towns by train and bus. I made trips to Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Loch Ness, Stonehaven and lots of other places pretty much every Saturday/weekend, and in this way I got to see a lot of Scotland.

suggestions/tips

Aberdeen University has over 140 societies, which can be compared to the Dutch system of 'studie- en studentenverenigingen'. I strongly recommend joining one or two, as this is the perfect way to get to know other students, Scottish and international. During Freshers week, there's a societies fayre where all of the societies present themselves and where you can easily sign up for them.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had a great time here. If you don't handle cold and rain very well I recommend going somewhere else, as the weather can be pretty rough. But the university (which has some pretty beautiful old buildings) and student life in Aberdeen are definitely to be recommended.

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	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Scotland
start date	07 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I found the application process hard as many documents and forms were required all with their own deadline. However both University of Aberdeen and Utrecht University had helpful guides ready and were quick and effective when answering questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was very helpful in their counseling and support. I had made a mistake in my application for my exchange and they were very understanding and helpful in correcting my error.

academic preparation

I had a hard time with preparing for my courses in Aberdeen as almost all the courses I wanted to follow were either full or not available to me. Even when I had decided on courses to follow it took a long time to finalize as there was a waiting list.
language preparation
I am already a native English speaker.
finances
Applying for the Erasmus Grant was hard and has a lot of steps that are all conditional. Keeping up with all these steps was challenging but the Erasmus Grant was very helpful.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content of the courses was very interesting. I followed the courses The Tragedy of Knowledge and The Country House in England and Scotland. Both courses were well organised and had interesting content. The professors were knowledgeable about their field and knew how to transfer that knowledge.
academic quality of education activities
Quality of education activities was good. With one of my courses I got to go on field trips and those were fantastic, however both tutorials and seminars were very short. Most were only an hour long and at the most two. I do not feel like this amount of time is suitable to have a good class debate and exchange information.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support of University of Aberdeen was good. It was easy to reach the appropriate people if I needed counselling or support.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits is a bit complicated. At University of Aberdeen 7.5 ECTS translates 15 credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome & orientation programme was nice. It was a bit odd because the international students arrived a week earlier than all the other students. So for a week you were living in a ghetto town. But it was nice and easy to bond with fellow international students.
accommodation
The accommodation was not good. We were put on a campus with all the first years and international students about a half an hour away from the city centre. But a really nice 15 minute walk from university campus. The accommodations were impersonal and I got bedbugs my first month in. Also you could feel the springs of the mattress digging into your back. The nice thing was that all your friends were around you and nearby.
leisure & culture
Aberdeen is not the most interesting town. But its drinking culture is amazing, there are pubs everywhere. The students have made Aberdeen a fun place to live, as they put on lots of activities. The nature is the most exciting thing here in Scotland. It is very beautiful and there are a lot of walks and activities to do in the many nature sites and parks.
suggestions/tips

Consider living outside of campus if you are fussy about where you live. Another important thing is to bring a massive coat.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. It has a high quality of education and the surrounding nature is beautiful. It is also very different from Utrecht and it was interesting and fun to experience that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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**2017-2018
 Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> brittva@live.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Celtic Languages and Culture

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	02 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	There is of course a lot to prepare, to hand in and to fix in general. It is a process that sometimes made me confused, because at times I lost my bearings. However, there was help!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	If I had a question, I could email either my tutor, or even better, the International Office. Generally, they were able to provide me with answers. They also sent plenty of emails to make sure you knew what to do.
academic preparation	
	I chose three courses here that are not directly related to my studies, apart from one (Scottish Gaelic). I did not have to really prepare academically.
language preparation	
	I did not really have to prepare language-wise either. There is a language test you are supposed to do at the beginning of the semester and at the end, which is nice. It shows you your level and it will show you if you've become better at the language.
finances	
	I made a table for myself so that I could calculate my finances. You also have to hand in a financial plan, which I thought was a good thing because it helps you get an overview of the costs (and incomes!).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	My courses were really great. I took an English course on Shakespeare, an Archaeological course and a course in Scottish Gaelic. There were no organisational issues for me.
academic quality of education activities	

The courses were well organized, my Archaeology course also had some practicals to get you working with what you've been learning. The tests are also very fitting. The reading that has to be done for the courses is in proportion to the courses themselves. The assignments that you might have to take during a course also work in that course's context (and not every course requires assignments other than a final test/essay).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was always someone to help if I had questions, be it teachers if the questions were about a particular subject, or the Accommodation- or Erasmus team in Aberdeen. I have not needed much counseling though.

transfer of credits

I was informed in Aberdeen that the Transcript of Credits would be sent to me by post. I received an email on the 1st of February with my Transcript attached as a PDF, and in that email they said it was also sent to me by post that same day. So I think they handled this pretty well: they make sure you know what is going on and they send it both electronically and 'normally', which is nice too.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme started the weekend of the 2nd of September and lasted that first week. There was an official event (speeches and things), which was informative. There were also lots of non-official things, like a Societies Fayre, Sports Fayre and Food Fayre (free pizza!). These were quite fun and also very informative. There were plenty of opportunities to get to know the city and to get to know new people.

accommodation

The accommodation I had was slightly expensive, however I did have my own bathroom (many people had a shared one). If you are thinking about paying extra for your own bathroom, I would definitely recommend it. It did mean that I had to clean it myself of course, but there were people cleaning the flat in general. Your kitchen and living room etc. are of course your and your flatmates own responsibility. Having my own bathroom however, provided me with more privacy and more of a feeling of really living somewhere. Accommodation on a campus was something I initially did not want, but I am happy that I did end up there. There was a main building which had a little shop, there was a restaurant there, a computer room where i could print things, and they organized activities in the building (yoga, cooking workshops, dog cuddling!).

leisure & culture

There are many fun things to do abroad. I would recommend becoming a member of some societies. At home I don't do that much, sports-wise. In Scotland however, I did yoga, horse riding and Scottish Dance. It's a nice way to be active, go out, and meet new people. It also makes your time abroad feel even more active and makes you feel like you have truly done everything there that you could ever want. I would also recommend traveling around. I have seen quite a lot and am happy that I did! This is the best chance to see another environment, so make sure you see it!

suggestions/tips

Enjoy your time abroad! Don't worry too much about all the stuff to be arranged, it will all fall into place. Enjoy your time, do new things. Explore!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! I liked Aberdeen though it is not a city for everyone. If you're not willing to go out and explore the city, it might not look like much (as I heard from some people anyway). It has a lot of hidden gems though and is a

good base for exploring this part of Scotland. I enjoyed the uni as well, it was well arranged and my teachers were all very nice, which, let's be honest, helps a bunch. All in all, I would definitely recommend Aberdeen because I truly did love the city, the university and the parts of Scotland around it that I could easily travel to as a day trip.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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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	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 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 can be quite daunting; it is a lot of important paperwork. Luckily, the international office offers great help and guides that explain what to do step by step. If you are unsure of how or when to do something, just ask! It might be nice to find people that are going through the same process, as you will be able to help each other. I researched the universities that I wanted to go to and the exchange possibilities very thoroughly before I applied, which I would definitely recommend doing as it helped me write my motivation letter. The key is, I feel, to make sure that everything is handed in as early as possible, which prevents you from forgetting to hand in documents.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There is plenty of counselling and help available at UU, but they cannot help you if you do not go and talk to them. The university is very supportive of your decision to go abroad and they will do very much to help you get there, as long as you give them time to look into things and you make sure your paperwork is all up to date.

academic preparation

Before going on Erasmus exchange, I knew exactly what courses I wanted to take. Unfortunately, two out of three of my courses were full and the backup courses that I had picked did not fit in my timetable. I would therefore advise to make a list of the courses that you can and want to take, to avoid being put on the spot when it is time to officially enroll.

language preparation

I feel lucky that I was already used to writing all my papers in English, as well as taking classes in English. However, plenty of other international students struggled with this. It is therefore useful to make sure you are comfortable with both speaking and writing in English all the time.

finances

When they say that certain countries are expensive, they mean it; do not underestimate how much going abroad will actually cost you. Personally, I saved up a lot of money to be able to take part in everything I could possibly want, and there were a lot of weekend trips to other places in the country that were much more expensive than I had expected them to be. Because I prepared my trip so well, I did not have to say 'no' to any of them.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As I previously mentioned, timetabling turned out to be far more complicated than I expected and many other students had this issue too. This caused many students to miss classes during their first week of the semester, as schedules changed until the second week of teaching.

It has been very interesting to see how other universities organise their teaching and how other exchange students feel about this. Some content of the courses may overlap slightly with what you have already done, but it is still very interesting to experience how other professors and students influence the way topics are discussed.

academic quality of education activities

I personally prefer the way students are taught in Utrecht. My exchange university had semesters that took twelve weeks, which is not much longer than the length of one block in Utrecht. I therefore expected the workload to be much heavier, but instead it is distributed differently. Throughout the semester, I would not say that I was much busier with homework than I usually am in Utrecht, or that I felt that it was more work in general. It was only during exam periods that you notice the difference.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The way other universities focus on their students' mental health has amazed me. This does not only include my receiving university, but I have also discussed it with other exchange students a lot. Not only during freshers' week, but throughout the semester, the university and their residence assistants regularly organise events that help students to deal with stress, talk about their issues, or simply relax. In addition, the university's counsellors are very easy to contact and there are no long waiting lists if you need help.

transfer of credits

My credits have yet to be transferred, but so far I have learned that both universities are very willing to do their best to transfer my marks in time for me to graduate early.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university had many volunteers that welcomed incoming students at the airport and help them get to their accommodation. Freshers' week was a busy week that allowed everybody to get to know the university and each other a bit, which was great fun and an exciting start of the semester.

accommodation

My university guaranteed all new students an offer of accommodation, which I accepted. This made it very easy to get from the airport to the student village and to meet new people, as everybody in your house will be new to the university as well. My halls were relatively cheap, there are about forty people on my floor and I share my kitchen with four other girls. I did not feel a reason to be picky about this, as it is, after all, only for a couple

of months. I loved my time in halls because of the people I have met and the facilities the university offered, which have been amazing.
leisure & culture
I joined a sports team and I went to weekly music jams and cooking workshops that were organised by the residence assistants because they were great fun. Besides this, I had plenty of time to meet or go out with friends and to discover the country during the weekends as much as I could.
suggestions/tips
Find as many ways to meet new people as possible; join different groups or teams, meet friends' friends and actually do stuff that you like. After all, the people you meet and the things you see or do make the best memories!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would recommend the University of Aberdeen if you like a cozy but ambitious university. If you do not mind a relatively small city with a lovely beach and great (public) transport to the Highlands of Scotland, this is definitely the place for you!	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
When you go on weekend trips, try to go with small societies or a group of friends instead of paying an actual company (like Viva) that organises trips. Yes, they take care of and organise everything for you, but they are very commercial. If you put in a little more effort, you can plan trips that suit your personal interests, which might even be cheaper too!	

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	04 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 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 was a lot easier than expected. I had heard all kinds of stories from other exchange students about all the paperwork you have to fill in. Certainly, it is quite a lot, but the university provides you with a file of deadlines and explanations on what to do with each part of your application.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	

As mentioned above, the university provides exchange students with quite a lot of help. There is a schedule with deadlines, explanation files and meetings on the exchange process.
academic preparation
I chose to go abroad instead of taking a minor at the home university.
language preparation
In order to test whether my English was good enough, I had to do an online language test. The results were high enough, so I didn't need extra language preparation.
finances
Before applying I made a financial plan to see whether I could afford studying abroad for a semester. The combination of the Erasmus grant, my student loan and my savings from my job provided an acceptable basis for living abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I chose three different subjects; Gaelic, Swedish and a Celtic course. Not all these courses I had planned in advance, because I couldn't register my courses in advance. Once in Aberdeen, some of the courses I had planned were already full.
academic quality of education activities
I am very satisfied with the academic qualities of the University of Aberdeen. The courses were not that different from the courses at Utrecht University, and I managed to get quite high grades due to the high quality of teaching.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university provided student support for special needs, but I didn't have need of it.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was smoothly done, there was a file which specified how the Aberdeen points linked to Dutch grades. The same was done for ECTS/credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The University of Aberdeen put a lot of effort into making new students feel welcome. There was an entire week for freshers, showing them around the university and the city, explaining how everything works.
accommodation
There was a special student village which housed international students. All exchange students could get university accommodation.
leisure & culture
There was quite a lot of leisure activities available. A lot of societies held activities which you could sign up for and if you wanted to do anything outside university, Scotland is a perfect place to just book day trips and such.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, I would recommend this university and this destination. First of all, Scotland is such a beautiful country with a lot of amazing sight-seeing options. I would also recommend the University of Aberdeen, since its academic skills are great, and they put a lot of effort in students' wellbeing.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

Report 4

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> m.p.m.scholtealbers@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's master's PhD
name study programme	Communication and information sciences
destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	06/01/2018
end date	30/06/2018

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I mistook the deadline for the learning agreement, so I was kinda stressed and e-mailed Aberdeen a lot. They weren't very quick in responding and it took me three or four mails before I finally received my learning agreement. In the end my e-mails weren't that urgent, so that could also be an explanation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Every e-mail I sent to Utrecht was quick responded to and very helpful.
academic preparation	None
language preparation	None
finances	None.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Originally I wanted to do two English courses. Upon arriving I heard that one of those wasn't possible, and during an English pre-test I found out that I didn't know enough about English literature to do the other course. So in the end I ended up with a first year course French and a third year course Management.
academic quality of education activities	
	Disappointing. For the French course only the oral classes and the PowerPoint slides were helpful. Furthermore it was mainly 30-40 people in a lecture room repeating the lecturer and making homework by copying the powerpoint slides. For management I can't really say a lot. During my stay there was a strike for 5 weeks in which there were no classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Especially during the strike I sent a lot of e-mails. The only response I got was that I had to wait until the end of the strike. So the support I got wasn't very helpful, but this is a very specific situation not likely to happen again very soon. The uni made a Facebook group for exchange students where a lot of fun stuff to do and see was shared, that was nice.
transfer of credits	
	Can't tell yet
STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The welcoming day was very nice and it was where I met all my friends. Further there was a day for all the societies. But because I arrived the second semester instead of the first, a lot of societies weren't very welcoming towards new members.
accommodation	

I ended up in Spring Gardens by Unite Students. It's one of the cheapest accommodations and it is pretty nice for what you pay. It's in between the city centre and uni. I lived in a 7 persons apartment with a large kitchen, two toilets, two bathrooms (don't expect a lot of water pressure from the showerheads) and huge plus: a double bed.

Although when I got there I wished I knew more about all my options, so here are some tips: - Unite students has three accommodations between the city centre and uni. There are mainly first years. If you don't like that you can send an e-mail that you would like to be placed with older students. Another option is to place a message in the Erasmus Facebook group and ask if there are more students there who want to share an accommodation. That way you are sure you will be placed with other exchange students

-Hillhead is the university accommodation for first years and exchange students. It is really pricy and it will take you almost an hour to walk to the city centre. The location however is very nice near a park and the community over there organises a lot of events to meet new people or meet up with your friends.

-There are a lot of housing options. If you want private housing you can also book a hostel for the first week and look around. A friend of mine found a location next to uni this way.

-Ausa, the student society, has a webpage where they post a lot of cheap available rooms.

leisure & culture

I was a bit disappointed by Aberdeen itself. If you're used to Utrecht, Aberdeen seems very grey and gloomy. The university however is beautiful and Seaton park is a very big place to explore. Aberdeen is also a great starting point to explore Scotland.

suggestions/tips

Don't be afraid to spend money. Also the lonely planet guide to Scotland proved very helpful in organizing a trip to the Isle of Skye with public transport.

And if you go to Inverness, try the Mustard Seed for lunch. It's the first place where I tried haggis. They made little bitterballen out of it on a very fancy plate, so definitely worth a try.

CONCLUSIONS

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

No, but because of the strike my experience was a unique one. I was very dependent on what was happening in the city and at uni and that wasn't much.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take your time to choose a city and if possible book a weekend to make sure that you can enjoy yourself worst case scenario.

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 studies

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	03 / 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
<p>Ever since I started my degree at Utrecht University I had known that I wanted to study abroad for one semester. In fall 2015 I started orientating myself in the available destinations. Soon I found out that I wanted to apply for a university in the United Kingdom. My first choice in Universities was the Nottingham Trent University. I prepared the required documents (CV, study plan, financial plan and motivation letter) and applied. After a couple of weeks I got an email saying that I unfortunately could not be placed at my first choice in Universities. I could apply again for a left over place at another University. I chose to apply for the University of Aberdeen and happily a couple of weeks later I received another email telling me I could go and study there for one semester.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>Utrecht University provided good guidance in the application process. I regularly got emails saying what steps I had to take in order to complete the application process. Furthermore, before leaving two information meetings were organized that were very helpful to me.</p>
academic preparation
<p>To be honest I do not remember preparing myself academically for my semester abroad.</p>
language preparation
<p>Since I had chosen to go to an English speaking country it was not necessary to do extra language preparation before my stay in Aberdeen.</p>
finances
<p>I have used 1000 euros of my savings because Aberdeen is quite an expensive place to go to but it was totally worth it. Besides that, the Erasmus Grant was really helpful to me.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>Spanish Language 1 (7,5 ECTS) Europe in the Twentieth Century (7,5 ECTS) Introduction to Art History (7,5 ECTS) Introduction to Politics and International Relations (7,5 ECTS)</p> <p>I chose to do some courses in Aberdeen that had not much to do with my degree in Utrecht. I did an introduction to Spanish Language, which was a nice course with good tutors. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course was less well organized and the lecturers were not as inspiring. On the contrary, the Art History tutors were very enthusiastic and made me really enjoy the course. The politics course was interesting but a bit boring from time to time.</p>

The level of the courses was in general all right but not too challenging.
academic quality of education activities
In general I have experienced a good academic quality of education activities. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course however, was different than I had expected since the main focus was philosophical debate of historical events. There was a slight difference in academic quality between the courses I did. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course was less structured and more chaotic than the other courses I have taken but in general I can say that the overall quality of the courses was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The University of Aberdeen organized welcome and goodbye events for all Erasmus students and provided support where needed during my stay. They quickly answered my questions via email and the staff was very helpful.
transfer of credits
My credits have not yet been transefered so I cannot yet say anything about the translation of the Scottish grading system (A-F) to the Dutch grading system (1-10).

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I stayed in Aberdeen during the first semester which means that I arrived together with all new students. A 'Freshers week' was organised during the week before University started. I would strongly recommend new students to attend to this week since it is very much fun and it is a very easy way to meet new people. During that week, events are organized to get to know other new students, the University and it's societies.
accommodation
In Aberdeen I stayed in Hillhead student village. The student residences in Hillhead are University owned and from there it is just about a twenty minutes walk to the University campus through beautiful Seaton Park. Despite of the fact that it is a quite expensive place to stay, I would strongly recommend exchange students to choose for a stay in Hillhead since it is quite close to Uni and again an easy way to meet new people.
leisure & culture
At the University of Aberdeen there are a lot of activities you can do besides your studies. For example, there are about a hundred different societies to join. Societies are groups of people with the same interests that meet up a couple of times a month. I have joined the Whiskey society, the Unicef on Campus society, the International exchange society and the Volleyball society. Joining a society is again a good way to get to know some people and to spend some time with people that share your interests. Futhermore, there is a brand new Sports Centre (The Aberdeen Sports Village) close to campus with cheap student membership deals.
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try to do some sightseeing in the weekends! Scotland is a beautiful country and it is defenitely worth it to do some travelling in the area. A nice place to visit is Stonehaven; try the best fish and chips of the UK after a walk to Dunnotar castle. - Go to the try-outs of as many societies as possible and join at least one of them. It is a good way to enjoy University life in Aberdeen to the fullest. - Stay in Hillhead. - Make sure you always have enough cash for the bus (busdrivers don't do change in Aberdeen). - Go to the Bobbin (a nice pub near Uni). - Do not walk through Seaton Park at night.

- Bring your Credit Card with you. You do need it for your laundry and for printing.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the University of Aberdeen to others. To begin with, the University campus is very pretty as well as the library (with sea view!). The people in Aberdeen are very friendly and helpful and the courses I enrolled in were very well organized. Furthermore, the societies make it much easier to get to know new people. The city centre of Aberdeen might be not the most beautiful one you have ever seen, but the atmosphere definitely makes up for that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?