

**2018-2019**

**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 & Information studies

destination city & country	Nottingham, UK
name university abroad	Nottingham Trent University
start date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2019 (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 very clear. First you have to choose the university/universities you want to go to and apply for those writing a motivation letter and handing in your CV. After a while you will get to know if you are selected and whether you could go abroad. After hearing this, some forms need to be signed and you have to get in contact with your receiving university. With NTU this was all very clear and went smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I think it is really nice that you can always walk into the International Office at UU to ask a question about your exchange. They provided me with all the information I needed.
academic preparation	Because the modules I was going to do at NTU were totally different from the ones I already did at UU, there was not a lot of preparation needed. Also, at NTU you will only get most information in the first week of classes. So only then you really know what you are going to do and what you will need this semester.
language preparation	Because I went to an English speaking country, I did not need any language preparation.
finances	Apart from the Erasmus Grant, I saved a lot of money to pay for (among others) my rent and little trips in the country. For me, my savings, Erasmus Grant, and monthly financial support from my parents, were enough to finance my whole semester. However, it depends on what all your plans are. I liked to see as much of the country as possible, so I needed money. As long as you were just to stay in Nottingham, it could be a lot cheaper.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	At NTU I was enrolled in the Humanities department. This meant I could choose three modules from the list of

modules selected for International Students in Humanities. I chose two Journalism modules which were at the City Campus, and one Media modules which was at Clifton Campus, which originally is the base of the department of Humanities. For me it was a bit unclear at first whether I was in Humanities or Journalism, but things worked out along the way.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is really good at NTU. All the teachers are interested in the students and they want to help you out a lot, I really appreciated the spirit of the teachers at NTU. However, to be completely honest, the level of education at NTU is not at all comparable to the level of education at UU. Maybe it was because of the modules I was enrolled in, but most modules only had one essay due at the end of the semester, and that was all you got graded on. This meant that I had a lot of spare time to enjoy the city and the country!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At arrival at NTU there was a nice session with the people from the International Office at NTU. We discussed our expectations and they really cared about the organisational stuff, like a working timetable and they told us some facts and other things about living in the UK. This felt really welcoming and was helpful.

transfer of credits

At NTU, for every module you can receive 20 credits. However, 20 NTUcredits are equivalent to 10 ECTS.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week, before the lectures start, NTU organises a welcome event for erasmus students and postgraduates. Every day in the first month they also organise weekly recurring events like a movie night and a city walking tour.

accommodation

In Nottingham there is an organisation for international students and other internationals in Nottingham; Citylife. Citylife organises events like barcrawls, meeting nights, bowling, ice skating, etc. Especially in your first week in Nottingham it is really fun to meet a lot of other students at these activities. Citylife therefore also has a few accommodation options. I personally lived in one of their apartments with five other international students, which was great fun! I heard that there is also some accommodation from NTU available on either City, Clifton or Brackenhurst Campus.

leisure & culture

Nottingham is a really diverse city. Because there are two universities, there are a lot of students in the city. This means there are a lot of coffee shops and pubs and nightlife is a huge thing! A few little music venues and all other leisure sites are also present in the city. But Nottingham also has some museums and historic sites in and around the city which will teach you more about the history of the city, the county and the whole of England.

suggestions/tips

Once you're in Nottingham; Go see the caves under the city of Nottingham, go on a tour with the one and only Robin Hood, and check out some live music bars and other venues like Bodega and Rough Trade!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

**UK – Nottingham Trent Universiteit**

Yes, I would recommend NTU and Nottingham to other students. The city itself is great and well located within the country, so you can visit a lot of places around. NTU is a nice and open university where the workload is less than at UU, and their selection of modules is different than in Utrecht, so you can explore new subjects!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your time on your study abroad, because before you know it, it is over...!

**2017-2018**

**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Nottingham, UK
name university abroad	Nottingham Trent University
start date	28 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 01 / 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 proces needed some attention in sense of thinking about the destination and motivation for the exchange, but overall it was quite easy. It was also interesting to do some research to find out what kind of courses they offer on other universities in different countries. I applied for Portugal, but realised in time that it made more sense for me to go to the UK on my Erasmus exchange which turned out to be a very good choice!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I had a lot of support from the international office at Utrecht University. This was necessary since I switched from country. With the help of the international office I was still able to go to the UK.
academic preparation	I didn't need to do a lot of preparation in advance for my studies in the UK. I did prepare a plan for what I needed to do for my studies after my exchange. Which I recommend to everyone who thinks about going on an exchange.
language preparation	Before leaving to the UK I had to do a language proficiency test, which gave me insight in my English skills. Overall I didn't have to practice a lot on English, because my level of the English language was good enough.
finances	I saved a lot of money before going abroad. I had to pay the full rent of 1 semester for my room in Nottingham in advance. This was a large amount, but it is worth it not having to take care of the rent during the stay in another country. Also, it is very usefull to have enough money for your exchange so you don't have to worry about it when experiencing your semester abroad.

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

I chose three different modules. One module was in line with my bachelor and the other two were different from what I study, which was very interesting. Since the exchange is part of my free space in my bachelor I was able to do so. It was interesting to get more knowledge about politics and economics, which is not included in my bachelor. It was also hard because I was not familiar with the background of the content, but that made it challenging.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the lectures and seminars that I attended was equal to the ones in Utrecht. The difference was that I only had one graded assignment per module. An other difference was that the duration of the seminars was only 1 hour. Besides the lectures and seminars the university focused a lot on extracurricular educational activities concerning employability.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support for home students and erasmus students was similar. If you had problems concerning your studies than you were able to get the support that you needed. Some professors were interested in the background of the erasmus students and others weren't. But I didn't expect or want a different experience than the home student at the university.

transfer of credits

I haven't had my results back yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was a perfect start of the semester, because they have a fair with all kind of uni societies that you can join. Also, there were a lot of student sportclubs. There were a lot of activities organized for internationals in general to get to know the city.

accommodation

I got my room at a private organization that provide accommodation for internationals, 'Citylife Nottingham'. It was perfectly located in the city, so I was able to get everywhere by foot. The university itself also provides housing at the campus for students.

leisure & culture

Nottingham has a lot of traditional british pubs to explore and they are also active restoring the castle in Nottingham for the historical value. In general there is a lot to do and to see in and around Nottingham. You can find a lot of Robin Hood related things as well, because the story tells that he lived in Nottingham.

suggestions/tips

Nottingham has some beautiful parks that you can visit. Wollaton deer park is very nice, for example. Also, the variety in neighbourhoods in Nottingham is very nice to check out. The part of the city that is called 'Hockley' has a lot of nice (traditional) tea and coffee cafés. I can also suggest to travel to some other cities that are nearby, because Nottingham is very well located in the UK you can easily get to other places.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes definitely. Nottingham has a lot to offer for everyone. The city is not as massive as London but is just big enough to explore many new things. The destination is also only 1.5 hour by plane from Amsterdam which makes it easy for friends and family to visit as well!

do you have any additional advice or comments?
Get out of your comfort zone, try as many new things as possible and definitely engage with the other culture.

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Nottingham, United Kingdom
name university abroad	The Nottingham Trent University
start date	25 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 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	Utrecht University told me that it was hard to get into any university in English speaking countries since they are the most popular, so they suggested to apply for at least one university in another country. I didn't listen. I had to write an motivation letter, send my CV and they looked at my grades and I got my first choice: Nottingham Trent University.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	There are a lot of forms that you have to fill in which can be confusing but you can always email the international office and they reply rather quickly.
academic preparation	I did not prepare myself academically. I had already written my dissertation and I thought I was prepared enough.
language preparation	I did not have to prepare myself for the language. My level of English was high enough and the international office gave me a certificate. (This is for all Dutch students who did VWO.)
finances	I saved a lot of money (+/- 2000 euros) in the year before, eventhough I wasn't sure if I could go or not. I also got an Erasmus Grant which was 270 euros a month. I got it for four months. The Dutch government gave me money for my OV-card, since I was not travelling. This was 89 euros a month. My parents gave me 100 euros a month and I got the health insurance money which was 93 a month. You will get your Erasmus in advance which is nice and since I had to pay my complete rent in advance, I really needed it. I had more then enough money, I could pay for everything, I made several trips and I even had money to shop (a lot lol).

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The level of the modules offered by NTU is a bit below the average level of modules at Utrecht University. I thought that it would be quite hard, but it was a lot easier than I expected to be fair. I think Utrecht is a lot more research based than NTU. I think you can compare two of my modules (Client-Led Media Practice and Digital Journalism) with HBO modules but the British Cinema module was completely about research and similar to the modules that I have followed in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	As I said before, I think the academic quality is a bit lower than it is in Utrecht. However I would still recommend NTU since you can learn a lot of practical skills. Besides that, you can also choose more research based modules such as British Cinema.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The support at NTU was really good. I had email contact with Emma months before I arrived and I saw her in the Welcome Week. I could always email her with questions and she replied really fast.
transfer of credits	NTU credits are twice as much as the ECTS so you have to divide them through two. But the online site also tells you how many ECTS every module is. My grades aren't transferred to the Dutch system yet and the English system is completely different (you have enough points if you get a 3, than it goes up a 1 is the best).

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	I flew to London Heathrow because NTU could pick me up at the airport for free, you can find information on their site. This was really nice and I even made two Estonian friends in the coach with whom I stayed friends for my complete exchange. The welcome started on Monday and it was a complete week. International students, erasmus and non-erasmus and English students were all in the same Welcome week so you could really meet a lot of people. There were fresher's fairs at all campuses and you could check if you wanted to join a society (I joined the film society and the dance society, but there are also cocktail societies of Jewish societies, there's literally a society for everything and everyone and it's only 3 quid.) There were also a lot of activities for international students. This is were I met the girls from the bus again and were I made other friends. At night there were activities like bingo, pub quizzes and club nights. Make sure you'll get a wristband otherwise they're a bit grumpy lol. This first week was really nice and showed me a lot of the university, Nottingham and gave me a lot of free food haha.
accommodation	I rented my accomodation with Citylife Nottingham. It was not owned by the university but private halls. This is a bit cheaper. The cheapest option is probably a private house, which you share with a group of 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3th year students. You can check facebook for this. The rent is weekly instead of monthly but you will probably have to pay in advance since you're not English. I payed around 400-450 euros a month which is ok. The best area for students is Lenton. A lot of students life here and it's close to the center. (Not so close to the campuses except for the city campus, but it's worth it.)
leisure & culture	Nottingham is a really nice city for shopping. There are a lot of vintage stores and big companies such as Urban Outfitters. The center is compact (it makes it cosy). There are a lot of bars, so many that it is impossible to see them all haha. The cinema is really cheap, they have special prices for students it is around 4,50. Robin Hood is

'officially' from Nottingham and there is a big statue of him next to the Nottingham Castle. It is nice to go to the castle at least once. The oldest pub of England is here as well. The Old market square is nice and during the winter there are many activities on the square; there was a Christmas market for a month and with Halloween there was a market as well. There are also a lot of fairs at the forest recreational ground, these fairs are a big thing in Notts so you will probably know about it. English people are really nice and easy to connect with. Half of my friends were English and the other half were international. Just talk to them and - as I did - do a group project with only English people. It's good for your English, you will learn all the British slang haha and if you're lucky, you can see their hometown haha. Oooh and the pub is also a really big thing. Don't expect to hang out at your home with your English friends, you will probably meet in a pub for a drink.

suggestions/tips

Okay, I have a list of suggestions. The cheapest supermarkets are Lidl and Asda but Tesco is alright and Sainsbury's is expensive. Always show your student ID whilst shopping, most stores have student discount. The cheapest (and best) pubs are the wheaterspoons pubs. There are a lot in Nottingham and you can get food and a pint of beer or cider for 6 quid. Chicken kebab on naan is awesome. If you want to travel around the UK it's probably the best to use the coach, you can check on national express or megabus. If you want to go by train use east midland trains and book in advance, this is way cheaper. Sometimes it's better to buy two single tickets. My favorite pub/bar/dancing thing is the Bierkeller, you can go there every night of the week and people are dancing on tables or just drinking a beer on the middle floor. Get a student card here, it gives you a lot of discount. Rock city is the best club on Thursday. Pryzm is the best on Tuesday or Monday (Tuesday is Trent Night and Monday Uni Of, but you can go to both). Rescue Rooms is free on Tuesdays and there are a lot of facebook-things that gives you free entry on other days. I would recommend joining a society since it's super cheap and it is an easy way to make friends and go to the welcome week for sure. The Citylife Nottingham activities are cool as well, but I did not go on their trips very often.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend Nottingham to others. I absolutely loved it and Notts is a nice city. It is the same size as Utrecht, so you will get to know it easily. It's also a bit more North which makes it easy to travel to cities like Manchester (which is huge but cool) and York or even Scotland. But it is also close enough to London, I went there twice. There are a lot of bars with live music, which gives Nottingham a really relaxed vibe. There is always something going on but it still feels like a small city. You can even cycle there if you can manage the hills haha.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go to Nottingham if you like Utrecht.

**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 & information sciences

destination city & country	Nottingham, United Kingdom
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name university abroad	Nottingham Trent University
start date	06 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 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	
	The exchange application process requires a bit of work. You have to fill in all kinds of documents and you have to make sure that you make a really good motivation letter why you should be the one to study at that particular university. But in the end, when you have all filled in the documents and handed them in, you find out it was not that much work or it was not something that you hated to do. And what you get in return is definitely worth it!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The support from International Office is good, but make sure that you never start to late on a deadline. You need all kinds of signatures, and that requires some emailing with people, and that requires some time. Waiting for a response and missing a deadline because of that is just a waste. So make sure you start early enough! If you do not understand something, just go to International Office or email them, they are there to help you.
academic preparation	
	You have to prepare yourself for the courses you are going to follow abroad. Make sure it are not the same courses you (sort of) did at home. Prepare yourself to look into the courses. Make sure it is enough ECTS and that the level of hardness is good enough for you. Look, before you start with classes, what you have to prepare and make sure you got all the books and articles that you need to read.
language preparation	
	I went to the UK, so the English I already knew was good enough to go there. I only did the language test that I needed to do before you go abroad, and that was quite easy.
finances	
	Make sure you do your calculations! The area where you go to could be way more expensive than what you are used to (or way cheaper). Just make sure what the rent normally is there, what a beer normally costs or what you spend on groceries on average. If you know that you do not have enough money for the whole period abroad, just make sure you have a student loan, or something else, for that period. Be early enough to ask for a student loan. I needed one for my period abroad here in the UK. Nottingham is quite expensive...

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I really like the modules that I choosed from the list of modules that they offered for international students. NTU really has got some great teachers! They are all so motivational and it is all very clearly explained. I even liked making the essays!
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality and the system are really good. They have this NTU app where you can look at your email, where you can see all the changes in your schedule, where you can see deadlines etc. Teachers here are really loving what they are teaching, that is what I love! If you need any help, send them an email and they always respond within a day.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was a reception at the campus where I was studying, where I could always go with questions about my study abroad. The incoming exchange office here at NTU is really helpfull and they try to help you as fast as possible.
transfer of credits
I do not know something about this yet, because I don't have all my grades back yet. But the grades I already have back, are good grades if you would transfer it to Dutch grades. So the transfer of credits is, in my view, good arranged.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
They have terrific international students events! Every Tuesday and Thursday they have these free lunches at different campuses of NTU, where you can talk with other international students. The welcome event was also very big. They want to attract you with free food (free food for poor students, always good) so they know they can give everyone the opportunity to talk with eachother about your experiences. It is a good way to make friends. There is also a programm that you can follow where you get assigned to a person from a country where you want to learn the language or the culture from. You can talk and learn from eachother. There are some other oppotunities for international students to meet eachother and make friends, outside the university. There are really nice events from Citylife Nottingham and VIVA trips. They all have Facebookpages, if you want to check it out. I liked Citylife Nottingham the most...
accommodation
The NTU offers some great accommodations on their campuses. I always had classes at Clifton Campus, which is a little bit outside the city. It takes like 30 minutes to get to the city centre with a bus, and that is were all the fun bars and clubs and restaurants are! So I choose not to stay at a accommodation at Clifton Campus, and I think that was a good decision (hearing from some people who did live at Clifton Campus during their time abroad). I also didn't want to live at the campus in the city centre, just because it was so expensive! I looked for a room for myself. I found one on the facebookpage: Nottingham Housing for Internationals/ Erasmus, but there are also some other facebookpages. I am renting a room in a house full of English students, which is so much fun! The landlord is a company called Parrhouses, which is a really good company here in Nottingham, I heard. I live in the area Lenton, which is only a 15/20 minutes walk from the city centre, but you can also take the bus of course! I really like this area, and it is also full of students!
leisure & culture
Nottingham has some great bars, clubs and restaurants! The Robin Hood castle is really nice, and also the oldest Inn/ bar of England is in Nottingham, what is definitely worth to pay a visit. Also Wollaton park and Sherwood forrest are some great nature experiences! Nottingham has it all, the city centre is full of fun!
suggestions/tips
Before I went to Nottingham, people asked me questions like: 'Why Nottingham? What is there? What can you do there? Why not main capitals like Dublin or London?' I didn't know why, Nottingham just attracted me. And now that my time is almost over, I wish I could stay longer. Nottingham is an amazing city with lots of things that you can do and lots of things that you can see! The feeling that the city centre is not as big as in London gives a comfortable feeling, like you are home or that you know all the places to go. But still now, I have not seen everything from Nottingham yet, so I definitely want to come back one day!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! It is a well organized University with lots of modules to choose from. This city and all of its organizations give you so much opportunities to meet other internationals, that I made friends for life here. Nottingham and the Nottingham Trent University was an experience of a lifetime!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
When you are here, make sure you travel a lot too! Go to Liverpool, Snowdonia or Lake District for example! You are already in the area, so why not?

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Nottingham, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Nottingham Trent University
start date	06 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 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
Even though in the end it is totally worth it, the exchange application process is a lot of work! I almost drowned in everything I had to arrange. If you feel like you get overwhelmed by everything you have to do, then I could recommend to make "to do lists" and work down every task one by one. In this way you make sure you won't forget to do some tasks as well! Lastly, always remember that the International Office at Utrecht University is always willing to help you out. So don't be afraid to ask them anything you want!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
As I noted above, the staff from the International Office in Utrecht are always there for you. This whole experience abroad is a learning process, so you don't have to do everything alone. They are there for you. So if you are stuck with anything, just send them an email or visit their office if you are still in the Netherlands. They always helped me with everything!
academic preparation
To be honest, I did not do any academic preparation. The level of the classes at Nottingham Trent University were kind of below my level, so I could just follow the modules without any preparation. Always check if you have to prepare academically though, better to be safe than sorry!
language preparation
Make sure to participate in the language assesement online before you go (you get the email with this test before you depart to your host country). In my opinion, this test is a good indication of how good/bad your English actually is! I think our English in the Netherlands is pretty okay though, and even if you feel like you suck

at English, don't worry, I promise you will be fine in England! The people here are very open and polite and always willing to help you out with your English.
finances
This is an important one. Please make sure that you have enough savings before you go abroad. It would be such a shame if you will not have any money to actually explore the country while you are abroad! A lot of my friends here did not have enough money and they were really sad that they could not visit the places that they wanted to visit. England is a very expensive country, so just make sure you have more than enough money to go traveling, to go clubbing and all other good stuff!

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I was following three modules during my stay in England: Home and Cultural Identity, Philosophy and Media and Communications and Creativity Toolkit. The content was really interesting, I really enjoyed the classes. I did not really experience any organisational issues.
academic quality of education activities
If I can be honest, the level of classes are quite low compared to my classes in the Netherlands. You will have a lot of free time and it is quite easy to pass for the modules. So definitely don't worry about that!
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
My contact person abroad was Emma Buckley, she is definitely a kind person. You have to make sure that you ask for support if you think that you need it, it won't be there if you don't ask for it. So make sure you ask your teachers or Ms Buckley when you feel like you need some support in any way.
transfer of credits
I honestly don't know how my credits will be transferred, so I am not able to give you any advice on this particular topic I am afraid.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The Nottingham Trent University has such a great welcome programme! I arrived at the very beginning of the second semester, so I could not participate in the big welcome week in September. However, they had welcome events named "Winter Welcome Week" (or something like that). I really, really, REALLY recommend you going to these events! In this way, you will meet a lot of internationals, and you will make new friends from the beginning on! I loved the free lunches (I mean: free food, do I need to say more?) and I loved to get to know different cultures in this way! I met most of my friends at these events, so I really recommend them!
accommodation
I lived at Derby Road, in a neighbourhood called "Lenton". It was a really nice area to live, a lot of students of the other university live there. So I could recommend renting a private accommodation there. I lived with five English girls, which really gave me an insight in the English culture. It was weird sometimes to be the only Dutch/International girl in the house, but in the end I learned more about the culture of England than if I would have stayed at campus with only Internationals. I would want to give you one BIG TIP though: PLEASE, like really - PLEASE - do NOT stay at the campus in Clifton! Clifton campus is far away from the city, but I promise, you are so much better off in the city than on campus. Clifton is dead, there is nothing to do, so all my friends that lived there were bored all the time. And going out in the city centre would be a problem because you have to travel so far at night! Lenton is at walkable distance

from the city centre (20 minute walk) so you can even walk from the club to your accomodation, which is way nicer and more convenient than taking a bus! Plus getting from my house to class was an hour drive at most with the bus, which I think is quite okay. Better than living on Clifton Campus, for sure!

leisure & culture

There are a lot of fun things to do in Nottingham. It is a vibrant city with an amazing night life. You will not be bored for one second (if you don't live at Clifton Campus, that is).

For me, the most convenient way to meet new people and to visit other places than Nottingham was with City life Nottingham. This company organises meet and speaks every Thursday evening, where you can meet new internationals while drinking a nice gin and tonic (the standard drink here in Nottingham). They also arrange beer crawls every now and then, which are a very nice way to discover the city. Lastly, they organize these city trips, which were really good. They arrange hostel rooms, transfer, guides, and all that good stuff for a very decent price. So I would suggest you definitely checking them out!

suggestions/tips

Try to do a lot of traveling in the beginning of your stay. In the end you will be busy with deadlines and you will probably be out of money (and if not, most of your friends will be broke anyway). That being said, you may think that half a year is a long time to stay in a new country, but I promise, it will fly by sooooo fast! So make the most out of your stay from the beginning on. In this way you won't leave with any regrets!

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! Definitely! I had a great time in Nottingham and the whole experience changed me as a person. I know everybody is saying that Erasmus is changing you, but it is actually true! The university is nice, the city is amazing for students and ... you know what? Just go, and experience it yourself, you won't regret it for a second!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really, just go and enjoy your stay. You could always contact me if you have any questions! I wish you the best of luck abroad, have fun!

**2015-2016**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	History (International Relations)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The application process was pleasant. Nottingham Trent University (NTU) has a very clear website and helpful International Office, so any questions you have will be answered briefly. There are lots of Guides (accommodation and general) and the Study Choices Handbook was extensive.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The orientation for studying abroad was very helpful for me, and UU's website has an overview of steps to be taken. Just follow those steps, and everything will work out just fine. Just make sure you are aware of all deadlines (write them down on a piece of paper and stick it on your door so you won't forget them). In some cases it takes a bit longer to receive a signature (especially when you deliver the form just a week before the deadline). Make sure you do not procrastinate too much.

Most important is to make sure your chosen courses are approved by your faculty.

academic preparation

I found the course descriptions very similar to UU's. Worth mentioning is that in some of the descriptions a list of 10/20 books was given as 'course material'. Where at UU this means you'll read all of these books, this doesn't count for NTU. It's more an overview of the themes you will discuss during the course. In some cases you only read the introduction, if not only a summary in your lecture.

language preparation

I did not have any language preparation. Dutch students are quite good in English, especially compared to other Internationals, so I'm sure language won't be a problem for anyone from the Netherlands.

finances

Make sure you have some savings, since everything in the UK is slightly more expensive. Besides that, you want to see more of the UK than Nottingham, so you'll spend way more than you would do 'at home'. Note that accommodation is significantly more expensive than it is in Utrecht.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I especially liked the fact the academic year is divided in just two semesters (instead of the four terms we have at UU). In this way, you'll have just three courses for one semester, which enables you to plunge into the course and build a relation with both your co-students as teacher.

academic quality of education activities

The study burden is less than it is at UU. I don't necessarily think this is due to NTU, since many of my friends throughout the UK noticed this. I think this is important, since the excitement from 'being an international' takes up most of your time. Would you have too much workload, your Erasmus would be stressed all over. That's why, for me, NTU was perfect.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office of NTU is terrific. Whenever you have a problem, you are welcome, and even if you don't have a problem they will ask you how you are doing. On top of that, they organise lots of different activities (study and non-study related): FUN!

transfer of credits

No problems whatsoever. Just be aware that NTU uses a different credit-method (not ECTS).

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

I had never expected a welcome such as this. It was huge. Probably best week of the whole semester. The Welcome Week was as you were in an American film, but then England with British people of course. I can only say that you definitely do NOT want to miss this week, and make sure you enrol in as many activities as you can (and party!). There were some in particular for international students, I liked those. But this is also a great moment to get in contact with some English students.

### accommodation

Since I lived in Nottingham for only six months, I could not live in any of the University's accommodations (only available for students that stay the full year). In the end, I found one of the best places for internationals: a hall with more than 500 students, of which my flat (80 students) consisted of internationals only. Contact Danny Hughes for this, the organisation is called 'Quality4Students'. I took the Manor Villages accommodation, where I probably met half of the friends I made during the exchange.

### leisure & culture

- So. Many. Clubs. I have never seen this scale of nightlife, and it was great. Awesome. LOVED IT. Every single night there is a possibility to go to at least three different clubs, and in weekends this goes up to 10 to 20 different ones.
- Next to that there is a great music-scène, which I enjoyed a lot. There are lots of open mics and pub quizzes all around the city, and various venues with great concerts (I liked 'Bodega' most).
- My favourite thing to do was walk around the city centre. Aesthetically, Nottingham is not the most beautiful place to live. I compare it to Rotterdam. But if you start walking around, you'll discover more and more places to go to. Make sure you'll do this, because in this way you get the most out of the city.

### suggestions/tips

Make sure in the Welcome Week, you go to the Unions Market, where you can enlist for various sport clubs or other societies. This way you get in contact with English students more, which I liked best (you'll get in contact with Internationals without even trying, so you'll have them in any case).

## CONCLUSIONS

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

YES. The University is not particularly 'special', in a way of academic performances, but in social life it is extraordinary. I would recommend this destination for anyone who wants to have a good balance between study and social life, and is willing to invest in new friendships with people all over the world. Nottingham has a very large international students community, and thus has activities for everyone.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

**UK – Nottingham Trent Universiteit**

Don't hesitate to go out first month with people you barely know. No one knows each other, that's the fun part. And, even more important, don't stick to the people you met first week. Of course, you want to see them again, but maintain this open attitude during the whole exchange. Most of my best friends I made in the second or third month, after all the excitement and chaos settled down a bit. It is easy to stay with this group, but only after you orientated yourself a bit more it is easier to see which people you truly like, and which ones you 'just' like.

Last advice: Facebook is your best friend. When you arrive, make sure you check groups as 'Nottingham Internationals Students' or 'NTU Freshers /academic year/'. Especially in international Facebook-groups, there are many questions of random people who just arrived and want to go to a pub or walk around in the city. This is where I met lots of people.