

2018-2019

Report 1

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	History

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	24 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The International office in Utrecht provided enough support and information on the application process. They responded quickly to all the emails and were always available to answer questions.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	At the beginning of the application process, I had an appointment with Monique Hanrath about writing a motivation letter. She gave useful tips and helped me to improve my chances of getting accepted into the University of my choice.
academic preparation	The first year of my Master's program was my academic preparation and this was sufficient.
language preparation	The first year of my Master's was in English. This was enough preparation.
finances	My own savings and a DUO loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The History department has excellent communication with their students. There is one central person who emails when something changes and you can always contact this person. The content of my study programme was very clear. The syllabus was available before the classes started, so that everyone could come prepared to the first class. Further, all the professors were open to additions to their study programme and they welcomed input from students.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic quality of the discussions in class was high. They were challenging and the lecturers always supported the discussion. The history department organised several seminars every week as educational activities.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Luckily, I did not need any counselling or support. At the beginning of the semester, we were given email addresses and contact information of the people that were in charge of counselling.
transfer of credits
My credits have yet to be transferred. The University of Sheffield will provide an electronic transcript of my records and then I can email this transcript to the International office here in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I doubted whether I should join the International orientation programme because I was scared that I would be one of the oldest or the oldest Postgraduate. Eventually, I was really glad I did go to the international orientation week because it was amazing! There were enough Master students. During the week there are lots of activities, parties and information meetings. There are activities for everyone, whether you like sports, board games, history, socialising or philanthropy. I met most of my friends at the international orientation week. After the international orientation week, every study programme has its own orientation. These are more centred around information and practicalities. I would definitely recommend everyone to join the international orientation week because it is the best way to meet people, get to know Sheffield and be able to get all your questions answered.
accommodation
I stayed in Allen Court. Allen Court is especially for international students. My flat was completely international and I lived with five other from all over the world. The location of Allen Court is amazing, because it is near the city centre and 5 minutes from almost all the university buildings. There are multiple grocery shops nearby and each week Allen Court organises activities which you can join. The downside is that it is crazy expensive for what you get. Personally, I did not choose private accommodation because I was afraid I would not find anything. In hindsight, this would not have been true. The university has special agencies to help students look for private accommodation and there are several Facebook groups where people post if they need roommates. If you want private accommodation, you can certainly find it and it is a lot cheaper than university accommodation. An advantage of living in University accommodation is your 'residence life card'. With this card, you have access to free gym classes and you get a discount on trips that the University organises. A downside of Allen Court was that almost all my friends lived in Endcliffe (which is about a 25-minute walk). Still, I would prefer to live in Allen Court compared to Encliffe because there are mostly first years living in Encliffe.
leisure & culture
Compared to my Master's programme at Utrecht, the courses in Sheffield were less intense. I had fewer assignments, but the reading load was about the same. My study programme thus allowed me to have enough spare time. The Student Union organises a tremendous number of events. If you want there is something you can do every day. Further, the Student Union has more than 100 Societies you can join. Whether you like sports, gaming or cooking, there is a society for everything. I filled my leisure time with sports, which the university also offers. The peak district which is only about a 20-minute bus drive from the University is perfect for hiking and climbing. For me, the proximity of the national park was a big plus. The English pub culture is something which I really appreciated. A lot of people spend their Friday afternoons in pubs with friends. Something I had to get used to is the politeness of the English people.

suggestions/tips
Really think about what you want from your accommodation. If you want something that is cheap, go for private housing. Do you want a party atmosphere and a campus feeling go to Encliffe. Do you want to be close to the city centre and all the pubs choose Allen Court. Lastly, I would recommend joining a society. They do not have many obligations and it is a great way to meet new people.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Sheffield! It has the best of England because it has nature, great student life and it is way cheaper than the southern part of England. Moreover, because it is in the middle of the UK, you can easily travel to other cities for sightseeing and trips.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
At first, I was a bit hesitant to go to Sheffield because I had never heard of the city. The city is not that well-known in the Netherlands, but this is really a shame! Whether you want to go for the academics, British culture, party or nature, Sheffield has everything.

Report 2

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

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

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom.
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	24 / 09 / 2018
end date	01 / 02 / 2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process is a hassle (Erasmus+ grant etc.), so start on time to save yourself some stress. It is not difficult or hard to do, it's just a lot!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Ask for help if anything is unclear because the International office is very willing to answer any questions you might have.
academic preparation
I didn't undergo any academic preparation before leaving for my period abroad and I encountered no issues regarding this subject.
language preparation
I didn't prepare myself for my period abroad since English is my second language. I did take the OLS Language test which is a requirement for the Erasmus+ grant.

finances
I topped my student loan (DUO) and applied for the Erasmus+ grant. I also received compensation from DUO for public transport (vergoeding studentenreisproduct).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed two modules: introduction to global political economy in the politics department and cultural encounters in the history department. I also interned as a language assistant at the Dutch department.
academic quality of education activities
The academic level is fine but you receive more guidance than in Utrecht which gives it an easier feel. The amount of assessments for a semester in Sheffield equalled the amount for the half of the period in Utrecht.
selling & support at receiving university abroad
Initially I was not allowed to follow level 3 modules as an Erasmus but after discussing this with a teacher I did get permission to do so in the history department. Both the teachers and administrative staff are very willing to help you and do so in a friendly manner.
transfer of credits
I don't expect any issues.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I only attended the introduction week, which practically just gave me an extra week to get used to a new city and university. If you want to attend any activities I would recommend participating in the orientation week.
accommodation
Applying for university accommodation is fairly easy and saves you a lot of stress. It is quite pricey so keep this in mind. My accommodation was quite bad, but all the other university accommodation I saw was way better.
leisure & culture
Sheffield is a great city to live in and go out in. It also has a few (free!) museums and the students union offers fun activities. The beautiful Peak District is also just a bus ride away.
suggestions/tips
It is very easy to travel around, so I would really recommend this. Make sure you visit the Peak District and the Millenium Gallery.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! The university is a very warm and welcoming environment and the city (or the country) has got plenty to offer.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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Report 3

faculty/college	Utrecht university
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and culture studies

destination city & country	Sheffield, England
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	04 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	One of the reasons I've chosen to come to Sheffield is because I could teach Dutch conversation classes to English students. Firstly, I applied for the traineeship here in Utrecht. I wrote a motivation letter and uploaded my curriculum vitae. After I got accepted I followed the steps described at the Utrecht University website (including getting the signs for the learning agreement etc). The International office in Utrecht provided enough support and information on the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office sended me structured emails with instructions for applying to study abroad. They got you the signs you needed and provided loads of information. You could always ask them for help/information and they will help you out.
academic preparation	In the last period before I went to Sheffield I followed a preparational course. The name of the course was: Nederlands als tweede taal, and it helped me with teaching Dutch to second language learners.
language preparation	There was no need for an extra language preparation, but I made the OLS test before I left and afterwards when I came back.
finances	Luckily I got a Erasmus grant and I had enough money in my savings account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Dutch conversation class teaching, three times a week. Also a lot of organisational work. The sociology of Crime and Deviance, one lecture and one seminar a week. Learned about changing theories about crime. English as a foreign language, 2 classes a week. This was an Erasmus English course.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic quality of education activities was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at the University of Sheffield was very good. Got emails every week about what to do and what was going on in Sheffield that particular week. Also, the staff was very friendly and always offered help.
transfer of credits
I followed three courses for 60 Sheffield credits, this is similar to 30 ECTS. I haven't got my final grades back yet, therefor

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
In the beginning of February there were two orientation days. Local students showed us around Sheffield, the University buildings and other fab places.
accommodation
<p>For five months I lived in a student house on Schoolroad. It was a very nice house (with a big garden!) and I lived together with 5 other British girls. They were all Uni and Hallam students and they became my new best friends. We always cooked diner together and went to the gym almost every day. Some of them had a car which came in handy for doing groceries.</p> <p>I found this house on the webiste 'sparerroom', it is easy to find a house in Sheffield - less stressfull than it would be in Utrecht. Most of the other international students stayed in University accomodations, but I prefered living in a 'real' house with local people.</p> <p>It was a 15 minute walk to the University, 25 minutes to the city centre and 20 minutes to West Street (party street).</p>
leisure & culture
<p>There are loads of pub's, so you can always go for a pint. Also, there are loads of activities organised for Uni students which are nice to join.</p> <p>Near by is the Peak District where you can go for a lovely hike.</p> <p>Also I did a couple of trips with my international friends to Ireland (Galway and Dublin), Schotland (Edinburgh) and within England (Oxford/Manchester/York/Somerset/Newcastle).</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Party tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poptarts (Saturday night in the Students Union) - Code (Tuesday and Thursday 90 pence party) - Tigerworks (5 pound round and every night is nice) - West street life (every night is fun) <p>Do as many trips as possible! Make new friends as soon as possible, don't miss out on anything!</p>

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

I definitely recommend Sheffield for staying abroad! These last five months were the best time of my life. The modules I followed at the Uni were very interesting, the professors were super friendly and they (and all of the Uni staff members) respond your emails quickly.

Sheffield is a lovely city, everything is walkable, but don't underestimate the hills! The weather was amazing, only had 3 rainy days in the last 5 months!

The (local) people are friendly and it is amazing to meet so many new people from different cultures! Manchester airport/Doncaster airport aren't that far, so it is easy for travelling.

Party life is really exciting in Sheffield!

It's very nice to live in another country for a couple of months. It's so different from your 'normal' life in Utrecht. Because of all the new friends I made and all the trips I did I really had the best time. Wish I could stay longer or even do my master's in Sheffield.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Join every activity you can and don't be scared - everyone is looking for new friends!

2017-2018
Report 1

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

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	After I structured the to do's for myself concerning the application process, it was clear to me. I wrote the data in my agenda and that helped me to remember the do's. And keep checking your email!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I wrote a few e-mails to the Univeristy of Utrecht with questions about the application and Erasmus grant. They always helped me in a clear way, however, I think the process of application could be less bureaucratic.
academic preparation	I registered for a course: Onderwijs in het Nederlands: van traditionele grammatica tot NT2 (NE3V14301) and gained experience as a teacher for my internship in the UK.
language preparation	I did the language test and watched a lot of movies without subtitles or with english subtitles.
finances	I have made a financial plan for the semester from september 2017 till februari 2018 and saved enough money by working and due a loan from the government (DUO).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Before I came to sheffield I did some research about which courses the university of Sheffield offers. I checked the amount of ECTS and if the courses would have clashes in the schedule. I started with the courses 'Language, culture and identity' and 'English as a foreign speaker'. The first course I mentioned I dropped because it was not that interesting as I expected. I registered for the course 'being a Teachier' instead. The switch expired fluently and everything was clear and well organised.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic level of both courses were high enough. At the University of Sheffield the students have to write more essays than making exams. So If you think writing essays is easier than making an exam, I recommend to register for that kind of course. It is possible.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Eventhough registering for courses is a little bit old-fashioned (due to writing your choice on a paper), the support and counselling is good and clear.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits went well.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first days in sheffield were a warm welcome, especially due the opening/introduction week provided by the university of Sheffield. The information and events were relevant and informative.
accommodation
The accommodation, Stephenson Hall, is an old building on the student campus (Endcliff) in Sheffield. I had 14 students in my corridor from all nationalities and all Erasmus or International students. The only thing i had to do to get a room in Sheffield, was to apply for a room online. Well organised!
leisure & culture
In Sheffield 'give it a go' offers a lot of a acitivties and sports for students. Also trips to other cities or sights are possible.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to go to Lincoln and Edingburgh, they are the most beautiful cities I visited. Besides that it is useful to register for one course at the English language teaching centre; they offer a lot of courses and it definitely helps to improve our English.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, i would really recommend to study in Sheffield. The University has a lot to offer and everything is really well organised.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy your time, before the adventure is over!

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> m.a.jansen3@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	Dutch Language and Culture

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	05 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Start early with preparations. It went fine, but you have to wait sometimes to get answers from the university.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	This was good. You can get in touch with International Office and they will help you with anything.
academic preparation	I had some meetings with my supervisor in Utrecht because of my internship. This was a good preparation for the semester. I also took some courses as a preparation for my internship.
language preparation	I took the English test (required). Further, you will see that Dutch people are pretty good in English compared to other international students.
finances	I saved money, got a grant, a loan and a contribution from my parents. This all worked out well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The University of Sheffield organizes everything during the orientation. You need to be there to sign up for courses. The courses are very interesting, but sometimes it can be more superficial compared to courses in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	I had a lot of contact ours, but I also had that because of my internship. The teachers are very helpful and you can always email them with questions. As I already described, sometimes the lectures did not have as much depth as I expected.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	My supervisors were very good. This was also because of my internship. I saw them every week at least twice.
transfer of credits	-

STUDENT LIFE	
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welcome & orientation programme
This was very useful to learn more about Sheffield and to meet new people. I basically made all my friends during this orientation programme. It was very helpful as well to get to know the university.
accommodation
Endcliffe Campus, this was a great experience and very well-organized. I stayed at Rivelin Apartments. Very clean and cosy with other international roommates.
leisure & culture
English people are very kind and calm. I could ask anything and they would help me. I would definitely get in touch with the people from there, since they are so nice.
suggestions/tips
Join a club at the University and do sports. It is all very well-organized by the residence life. I met a lot of people because of doing sports in Sheffield.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend this university to others. It is a very nice city in the centre of England, which is nice if you would like to visit other places in the UK. Sheffield is a typical city for students and the University offers a lot to students. I was such a wonderful experience and I met a lot of nice people here. Sheffield is a perfect city to do a semester abroad, because of the nice University and people here.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If you get the chance to go study abroad, do not hesitate! It is an experience you will never forget.	

Report 3

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
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	Sheffield , United Kingdom
name university abroad	The university of Sheffield
start date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 06 / 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 application process was a bit different for me seeing as I only decided last minute to go abroad. Because of that I could only choose from the places that were left and still available, Sheffield was one of them. Therefore,	

the application process was fairly easy and quick because I was guaranteed the spot if I handed in my motivation letter and other documents before the deadline.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The help from UU was pretty good because they were able to answer all my questions quickly and help me with the preparations. However, it is good to stay on top of all the deadlines (to hand stuff in) yourself because it sometimes becomes a bit chaotic and there are not reminders.
academic preparation
There was not so much academic preparation needed in my case because I choose to do courses which were on my level and on topics I had already have some knowledge about.
language preparation
I did not do any preparation for the language because my English is fairly good. The only thing I did do, which is required, was the language test from Erasmus and I scored a C2 which means no extra preparation, such as English classes, was needed.
finances
To be able to go abroad I had saved some money from my job, leant the maximum amount from DUO and borrowed some money from my parents. This was more than enough to stay, live and travel through Sheffield and the rest of England.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took three sociology courses which were very interesting and well thought. The content was good and it was exactly what I expected from it when I choose the courses. However, there was a big strike going on when we were there which meant that I didn't have classes for a month. The teachers were not available during this time so it was all a bit unclear when the strikes would end, what we had to study or if we even had to study at all.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the seminars was good, although I thought it was a bit easier compared to the UU. Moreover, because of the strike we got 'seen exams' which meant that we got to see the questions two weeks in advance to prepare. This was to compensate for the missed classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at Sheffield University was good. They have an entire department dedicated to student support at the Student Union and also online so they were easy to reach and knew could help quickly with everything.
transfer of credits
As if now I still haven't gotten my grades from the exams so I don't know how the transfer will go.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I wasn't there during the orientation programme so I don't know anything about that but when I did get there they were really nice and welcoming and helped me with everything.
accommodation

<p>I stayed at the Birchen apartment which were fairly decent. The rooms were mostly in good condition and the bathrooms too, although they did have a bit of mold. But overall the location was great, it was a 20 minutes walk from the Student Union and most of the university buildings. Also, most of the exchange students stayed at these apartments (or nearby) so it was nice to be so close and hang out.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>The city is pretty big so there is enough to do. Lots of bars, clubs, cinema's, options to go hiking in the nearby Peak District and to go shopping in the shopping mall. Moreover, the Student Union organises lots of activities during the days and weekends, like sports, learning certain skills and daytrips to other cities. The culture is typical British and the people are really nice.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>If you decide to go to Sheffield I would recommend to stay at the campus instead of finding a place yourself. It may be a bit more expensive but the general location is good and you are with so many other students which is really nice. Also, the Pean District is definitely worth multiple trips!</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
<p>Yes! The university is overall good organised and the classes are interesting. The city is nice too and definitely a place I would go again</p>	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
No	

Report 4

e-mail address	<p><i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> l.m.lammertink@students.uu.nl</p>
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Research Master History

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	25 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	3 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
<p>The application progress went okay. One problem was that I had missed the 1 December deadline, due to a miscommunication. Luckily the International office was very helpful and I could apply within the second round of applications. From then on, it went all as planned.</p>	

counselling & support at Utrecht University
This was good. As said above, the International Office was very helpful in making sure that I could go on an exchange, despite that I had missed the initial deadline.
academic preparation
I was well prepared. The website of Sheffield University is clear. I was able to find a list of possible courses quite easily. When I was there I felt that the level of education was compatible with what I had been doing in Utrecht.
language preparation
I did no language preparation. My masters degree at Utrecht is in English, so I was also prepared for writing, speaking and listening in English.
finances
I made a financial plan. That was very useful.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I am satisfied with the content and organisational issues of the study programme that I followed. the courses were organised very well and the level of education was comparable to Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	This was good as well. We had made discussions in the seminars. Eassay writing and examining primary sources were all part of the education activities, and were of good academic quality. Sheffield offered the possibility to go to extracurricular seminars and lectures as well, which were of great academic value and added greatly to my appreciation of the exchange experience.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Very good. The international office in Sheffield was extremely helpful as well. they replied very quickly to my e-mails and seemed genuinly interested in by well-being while studying there.
transfer of credits	This is still in progress. As it is not completed yet, I find it hard to comment on it.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Sheffield organises an orientation week for international students and an introduction week for all new students. This results in a warm welcome. These weeks were a great opportunity to getting to know other international and Sheffield students, and to getting to know the city and university.
accommodation	I stayed in private accomodation, with an agency that is a private partner of the university (PropertywithUS). I paid less than I had expected beforehand, so that was great. The university also offers housing at a campus, but if you are only for one semester on exchange you are not garantueed a place there. You can still apply for it, but you hear relatively late if you are placed in an accomodation. Be aware also that some university accomodation does not have a kitchen. As for private accomodation, there are many agencies that offer accomodation to students (e.g. Shefflets and the one mentioned above).

leisure & culture
The city of Sheffield offers many bars and pubs. It is proud of its music culture: there is many live music in bars, and open mic's are a weekly thing. The Student Union of the University has many societies. You are able to join any society that you want, and there is literally something for everyone. Another great thing about Sheffield is it's geographical proximity to the Peak District. Within half an hour you are able to hike in this great area.
suggestions/tips
Orientation week and societies are a great opportunity to build a social life.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, as might be clear from what is said above: the University of Sheffield is a university that offers good quality education, and makes a great effort to make you feel welcome and at home.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	School Liberal Arts
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies: Linguistics major

destination city & country	Sheffield, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Sheffield
start date	18 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
A few weeks before the application deadline (December 1 st), I decided to go abroad for a semester. I managed to hand in all of my required documents on time. It was all explained during the "going abroad" meeting.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The process was explained really well by the people from the International Office and when I had additional questions, I emailed them and received an answer within a week. After applying, the preparation went pretty slow because I opted out of my first choice and a few months later applied again during the second selection procedure. Even then, I still found enough support to submit all of my required documents in the right format and on time. This was really helpful because otherwise I wouldn't have been able to go abroad at all.

academic preparation
I prepared myself by looking at what kind of classes I was going to attend (lectures and seminars) and how the grading system works in Sheffield. For my placement, I read some texts on how to stand in front of a class.
language preparation
I did the Erasmus language test, but aside from that I did not take any extra lessons in English.
finances
The Erasmus grant for the United Kingdom was quite high so that helped me a lot. Aside from the grant, I also received my monthly students financial aid (from DUO) and an additional sum from the public transport company in the Netherlands, since you cannot use you public transport card in the UK. I had worked two jobs in the summer and managed to pay for everything, also for trips and social events, without taking on a loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The registration process is quite different from Utrecht. You have to apply with a sheet of paper and write down your module title and code. Then you have to get these modules signed by the administrators of that particular faculty/school, and then have them registered in your programme. It is quite a show to see so many students queueing up behind the table for the School of English (very popular for obvious reasons), so be prepared during the first two weeks of your stay in Sheffield. Find out which modules you can choose as an exchange student and email the professors of the faculties if you are interested in any other modules. You can find their email addresses on the website of that particular school/faculty. After classes start, within 2 to 3 weeks of the semester you have the choice to drop a module and add another one instead (as long as it's not full).
academic quality of education activities
The professors are very skilled educators and not just specialists in their field: they encourage you to engage in a topic by having you work together on projects and statements. They also gave me and my fellow students ways in which my academic background can help me gain access to different domains of society. As an example, because I took a module on contrastive Germanic linguistics I am invited to a conference in Germany with my class. My other module on Language Politics contained real-life cases. My professors gave me a realistic view on what I had to read and write about, so the assignments felt like support for myself.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There were loads of times when I was told that if there was something I needed to discuss, like my health or academic skills or anything else, I could go to certain people who would be able to help me. Even though I did not need this during my stay abroad, it was very assuring to know that there was always a way to find help.
transfer of credits
I have not yet received my transcript, so I won't be able to explain anything about this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I skipped the orientation for international students and arrived in the week before the first week of the semester. I came by myself but was helped by so many different people from the university: two people even carried my luggage to my accommodation. I picked up a welcome package (containing information on the university's facilities, free food, advertisement goods, my card to pay for food, my laundry card and my room

key). There is this event called "Freshers week" which is for first-year and international students to learn more on the university and to get to know other students. There was a societies fair, freebees fair, and so on.
accommodation
I lived in quite an old building, because I signed up for student accommodation quite late. This building was occupied by international students only but there were also loads of buildings with both international and local students. I had an ensuite room, meaning that I had a bedroom and a whole bathroom to myself (which was great). I shared the kitchen with 29 other people on my floor. There was unfortunately no communal area.
leisure & culture
The culture is not very different from the Netherlands (it was custom to shake hands and you can be informal with teachers and most people you have just met), but there were some differences I discovered after a few weeks. Aside from the different currency and the fact that people drive on the left side of the road, there was a thing about queueing: people take bigger gaps than what I was used to, so they would probably intrude someone's personal space. Also, they can sometimes go to greater lengths to avoid insulting or hurting you. By saying "I have not looked at it that way" instead of "I think you're wrong", they try to tell you what they wanted to without coming across as rude. Also, I have been blessed to experience the sarcasm people use on a daily basis. The sense of humour people tend to have here is dark but expressed in a light-hearted way, which is very funny to me. Also, the politeness by saying please, thank you and sorry a lot was quite sweet; same goes for the terms of endearment used in Sheffield (love, poppy, duck). In general, students like to go out a lot and in the evening you will see loads of them take the bus or a taxi to the city centre. People dress more for style than function, so oftentimes I saw them without a coat. Also, the parties at the Students' Union were very popular (I attended a few of them and had a good time). I often went to a pub and drank ale or cider with other local and international students, and we celebrated Halloween. We tried local foods like the traditional English breakfast, pies at the Nottingham House, beers from different pubs and jacket potato.
suggestions/tips
Here, I will provide you with a list of different activities or places to visit which were great: - The Peak District (a huge national park) - Meadowhall (a shopping centre which you can go to by tram from the university's tram stop) - The Leadmill (a nightclub/concert hall with fun club nights such as the silent disco and Arctic Monkeys nights) - The Students' Union's Give It A Go (GIAG) events (with day trips to cities, sports and other activities) - A visit to Endcliffe Park, Winter Gardens and Peace Gardens - Nottingham House, Broomhill Tavern, The Cavendish and the Graduate for food and drinks

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I can absolutely recommend Sheffield to anyone interested in the full student experience. The city has a lot to offer when it comes to nights out, social events, nature and city life. I was very lucky to have been to Sheffield during Brexit, because it gives you different perspectives on what effect identity has on your everyday life. By getting to know local people, I have gained insight on how life in the UK differs from life in the Netherlands.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Even though Brexit is going to happen in the future, it is still good to choose a place you really would like to go to if that is somewhere in the UK. When it is separated from the EU, make sure you have informed yourself on what kinds of funds you can apply for to support yourself financially if you don't like to borrow large sums of money. Other advice I can give you is to try out new things when they don't seem too interesting to you at first: you will be surprised by all of the hidden gems/events you will discover when you give a new place a visit. Be

open to new things and try almost everything out at least once (within your physical boundaries). If there is one thing you should get rid of, it is the idea that your comfort zone is something you will cherish.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Engelse taal en Cultuur

destination city & country	Sheffield, UK
name university abroad	Sheffield University
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Everything ran very smoothly, UU's and Sheffield University's websites provided me with all the information that I needed to apply for the programme I wanted. The personnel of the International Office were very helpful, in case I needed their help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	As mentioned before, the personnel of the International office were very helpful and clearly knew what they were doing. No matter the problem at hand, they would know what to do.
academic preparation	More than sufficient, overall the level of the erasmus courses, as provided by the guest University, was a bit lower than that of my regular courses of my studies in Utrecht.
language preparation	Fine, but then again I study English.
finances	Student loan + savings + erasmus fund = was more than enough.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	3 courses --> Victorian Literature, Language Culture and Identity in England and Germanic studies. I was enrolled in the former 2 courses as a student and they were quite comparable to the courses in Utrecht. For the third course I was a teacher assistant, which allowed me to prepare and teach my own seminars. Furthermore, the course allowed me to communicate directly with English students, which definitely was an asset during my stay abroad.
academic quality of education activities	

More than sufficient.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International office in Sheffield was very helpful as well, and I would dare to say that the facilities, which are founded to support students were better than here in Utrecht.
transfer of credits
60

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I had a great time during my orientation programma. Met loads of people, and the University organised a great amount of activities to get to know other students. Moreover, the University used the orientation programma to show you around the campus and city as well.
accommodation
I had one of the many rooms on a corridor The room was clean, I had all the facilities that I needed--including my own bathroom-- and the kitchen served as a common space to meet other people.
leisure & culture
Great, the University provided acces to an bizarre amount of sports and activities. Whatever sport or activity you can think of, you can do it in Sheffield.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely, it has been a very educational and great experience. Couldn't have wished for more with regard to University and accomodation facilities. Met loads of people, improved my language, worked together with people from different social and cultural backgrounds.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just do it, you won't regret it.