

2018-2019

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: j.i.dekruif@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	Spanish Language and Culture

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Granada
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 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 was afraid that the exchange application process was going to consume a lot of my time and that it was going to be very difficult to complete. But after all, it was not a difficult process at all! As long as you do all the steps that they ask you to do (of course), it is totally fine. Overall everything is clear!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I loved going to the pre-departure meeting to hear the stories from other students that did the Erasmus programme to get an idea about their experience and I also thought that the e-mails they sent regularly helped a lot to keep on track. If you have a question about something, they respond quickly as well.
academic preparation	I didn't prepare anything academically before my departure.
language preparation	I also didn't do any language preparations since I thought that my level of Spanish was already adequate.
finances	Since I had a job on the side ever since I was 13 years old, and because I still live with my parents I could save up a lot of money to spend in Granada. Of course the Erasmus grant helped me out a lot as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme is very different from what I was used to here in Utrecht. I think you could say that content-wise it was easier, but since, at the end of the semester, I had to study for 5 subjects at once, it was a little bit more stressful. You could also say that some teachers like to explain everything very slowly and thoroughly and will provide a lot of background information. In terms of the organisation of the classes, I thought that they were overall pretty well organised. Online you can find the studyguides of each subject with all the themes that the teacher is going to discuss and they might not explicitly say "I'm now moving on to the next theme" but it is clear that they follow this schedule. What I think they did very well is that in the first few weeks you are allowed to follow any class you want, from any subject, so you can try them out and see how you like it.
academic quality of education activities	Overall the academic quality of the classes was lower compared to the academic quality in Utrecht. In most of the classes, you were supposed to come in, listen to the teacher explaining certain themes and that's it. There was one subject where we also had to hand in a few "essays", but never got feed-back on those, though they counted for your grade. A lot of teachers also didn't use powerpoints or any other support, and there was hardly any information available on the online platform (like Blackboard).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Every teacher had his/her own office, where they held so-called "tutorías". They had certain office-hours sitting there, and during this time you could pass-by if you had a question or a comment. I thought all the teachers, but all the staff of UGR in general, were very friendly. I once couldn't find a classroom and asked someone at the student-office, and they immediately walked with me to show me the classroom. So please don't be afraid to ask!!
transfer of credits	Since I haven't received my transcript of records yet, I haven't done this yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	I arrived two weeks before the classes started and already the first evening I met some of my best friends in Granada! I went to a tapas evening organised by one of the Erasmus organisations called "Best Life Experience", and it was amazing. Everybody is open to meet new people and talk about their culture, or any subject at all. There are multiple Erasmus organisations but because I went to an evening of Best Life Experience the first evening, I went to all their parties, meetings, trips etc. The university also organised some introduction days (of course not to be compared with the ones from the Erasmus organisations), where they give you all the information about the university itself, and certain programmes they organise. It's important you go to these meetings since this is also where you have to matriculate.
accommodation	I got my room via the website "room-granada.com", where you can book a student accomodation. This was absolutely perfect. Even though it was very hot still in September (there was no Airco) it was perfect. My room was located right in the citycentre, it was 16 squared meters and I paid 285 euros per month. I had 3 female flatmates, one from France, one from Belgium and another girl from Italy. it was absolutely perfect. The office

was very close to our flat, and they respond to your e-mails very quickly. We also had a cleaner who came once a month.
leisure & culture
Granada is perfect for students but also amazing to visit as a tourist! Of course there is the amazing Alhambra, but you can also go shopping, there are innumerable tapas places, there is a little botanic garden, there is a beautiful cathedral, a beautiful old Moorish neighbourhood... you name it! The Moorish influence is still very present in the city wherefore there are also very nice shisha places/teterías. Also the nightlife in Granada is absolutely amazing, there are bars and clubs in all shapes and sizes. The miradors (especially San Miguel Alto) are also breathtaking, a must-go!!!
suggestions/tips
Rosario is one of the best places to go for a wine/bite in Granada! It's located in the neighbourhood called "Realejo". Do go there early though! It's almost always completely full. Also try Pub Continental where you can enjoy a beer and play boardgames. Chupiteria69 is the place to be to drink shots and collect points, if you get a certain amount of points you can get a sweater! Parabarap is a great club/bar to go for cheap drinks. Other amazing tapasbars are: Bar Babel and El Origen. Also, if you get any visitors and you want to go to the Alhambra, either book the tickets way in advance or go to one of the machines that are at some of the touristic spots such as Casa Árabe de Horno de Oro, Casa de Zafra or El Bañuelo for example.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
YES definitely! Granada has everything to offer, it is the perfect student city. It is not a very big city wherefore you can walk everywhere, it is a very cheap city, you get free tapas at every place where you have a drink, the people are very friendly and there are a lot of Erasmus students wherefore it's very easy to make friends!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Please enjoy every second because time flies!

2017-2018

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

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
name university abroad	University of Granada
start date	7 / 9 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 1 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It was quite easy to apply for this university as it is connected to the UU. As soon as I was admitted to the university (in february) I received my first messages, all in Spanish
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU was very supportive, although they didn't offer language courses. If you're abroad and have a problem you can always call or mail them and you will receive an answer in a day
academic preparation
To get enrolled for courses is quite a job , it took me more than a month to get enrolled for all the courses, also it is quite hard to find the courses and descriptions of the courses on the internet.
language preparation
if you want to study in Granada you should be able to speak spanish, there are no courses in english.
finances
Everything is cheap, monthly rent is around 200, detour flights Amsterdam malaga will cost you 60 and overall live here will cost you 600/700 a month

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The studyload is quite heavy, as one course is 4 hours a week and to get 30 ects in one semester you have to follow 5 courses. The academic level isn't too high, it's like going back to your first year
academic quality of education activities
As I mentioned above, the content isn't so difficult but the spanish is.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They were not supportive at all. In the office international they don't speak English and they're always too busy to help you
transfer of credits
will be fine

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Good fun, nice people, several organisations organise parties and trips for erasmus students
accommodation
easy to find and cheap, you can be picky
leisure & culture
Granada is a beautiful city with a nice culture and a good nightlife
suggestions/tips
go to a language exchange to meet people and improve your spanish

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
yes, especially if you speak Spanish and like to party, If you're a more serious student, Granada might be not the best destination. If you don't speak spanish, go to a city where there is more choice in courses in English

**2015-2016
 Report 1**

faculty/college	University of Utrecht
level	<u>bachelor's</u> master's PhD
name study programme	Spanish language and culture

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process for the Erasmus exchange was quite confusing, as the UU and the UGR require different documents. I would have liked to have one contact person that helped me out completing the required documents, and communicating between the two universities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
On the whole, every email I sent (and I sent quite a lot) was responded within a reasonable space of time. However, like I mentioned above, it was quite often very confusing as to who I had to contact with which question, and I had to repeat (the increasingly growing) story of, for example, the prolongation of my stay abroad, to various people, who all told me different things. So, on the whole, the counseling and support by the UU is very helpful, but the documentation for the Erasmus project would have been a lot easier if there would have been one person to help me out with various questions.
academic preparation
According to my own observations, the academic courses at the UGR were a lot easier than the courses at the UU. This also had to do with the distribution of the ECTS. At the UU, I followed two 7,5 ECTS courses per cuatrimestre, whilst at the UGR, I followed five 6 ECTS courses per semestre. Therefore, the courses here were easier, as there was less work to do per course. Obviously, the total amount of ECTS was the same.
language preparation
In the first part of the language assignment, I scored a C1 level in Spanish, I therefore consider that I was well prepared when I got here. I am expecting to score a C2 on the second part of the language assignment, seen as I have got even more fluent during my stay abroad.
finances

Seen as life in (the south of) Spain is a lot cheaper, I could manage easily with the Student Grant and the additional Erasmus Grant. My traveling costs were also covered by the Traveling Grant, that I received as I could not use my free travel card here (OV-vergoeding)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

On the whole I was very pleased with the subjects I chose, in some cases the course turned out to be very different than I'd expected, but this was (almost) always a turn for the better. The university is very very different here, but I found that this had a positive effect on my adaptational skills, as I had to adapt my working style and approach to fit in the University of Granada, I learnt how to think of and apply different learning approaches.

academic quality of education activities

When I first came here, I considered the university here to be easier. However, at the end of the semester, when I had five exams and various essays and projects to complete, I found this a lot harder than the two exams we had per cuatrimestre at the UU. It is absolutely essential to keep on track, elaborating and studying the course material as you go, seen as a semestre's worth of material is quite a lot to learn in one go.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I would like to repeat the comment mentioned above in the part *counselling & support at Utrecht university*, as the guidance I received was okay, but very chaotic at times. I sincerely think that the help of a mentor would have prevented a lot of stress on my behalf. Obviously, there would have to be a mentor for every language course, as in my case he/she would have to speak Dutch and Spanish, whereas in other cases the second language may have to be French or German.

transfer of credits

Seen as I still haven't completed all my exams (my last exam is on the 30th of June), I haven't been able to obtain my transcript of records yet, and therefore, I don't know how my credits will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the orientation week, I visited the orientation days organized by the UGR, and only one of the excursions organized by Erasmus (a walk up to the gardens Carmen de los Mártires). The excursions organized by Erasmus were a lot of fun and useful for meeting people, and I advise future Erasmus students to participate in the activities. The reason I didn't go is because group excursions have never really been my cup of tea, and I preferred to meet people in a different environment.

accommodation

During the whole academic year, I stayed in a brilliant house in Granada, with plenty of lively housemates from different nationalities and my wonderful landlord! it was a marvelous experience which I consider to have been vital in the acquisition of fluency in Spanish.
leisure & culture
What I most enjoyed about living in the house I stayed in, was the absolute submersion in the Spanish culture. My landlord, Andalusian as can be, taught me a lot about life, love, culture and many other life lessons, every single one of which I have experienced as a moment of personal growth.
suggestions/tips
(This suggestion is applicable in Granada, Spain, but may not be applicable in other cities or countries, so take care to find out what is the most common way to find yourself a house in the country/city where you're going before you make yourself a plan.) In my experience, looking for a place to stay in Granada when I was still in Holland, was absolutely impossible! In Spain, people tend to hang up the advertisements in the streets with phone numbers, and the easiest way to look for a room is when you get here and get to meet people! My advice, for people who are going to Granada, would be: when looking for a place to stay, opt for booking an Air B&B room for two weeks, and look for a place to stay when you get to the city of your university abroad. Try to submerge yourself in the culture immediately, meet new people from the country you're staying in and find out if there is a place to stay in (one of) the district(s) you like best.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Granada is so entirely, absolutely worth it!!!!!! It is a beautiful city, with wonderful places and an inspiring mixture of cultures and people!!	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Participate in the Erasmus project! It is a life-changing, wonderful experience that no one should miss out on!	

Report 2

faculty/college	Universiteit Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication & Information Sciences / Psychology

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
After having decided where I wanted to go, I wrote a motivation letter, a studyplan and a financial plan. When I heard I was accepted by the university of Granada, I had to fill in quite a lot of other forms. Going on Erasmus comes with some paperwork, but you'll forget all about it when you arrive in Granada...	

counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office helped me a lot; I could always email all my questions or go to the office for help. Without the people from the International Office, the whole process would have been a lot more chaotic.
academic preparation
I study Communication & Information Sciences, but decided to do a minor in Psychology. Before going to Granada I had never taken a Psychology course. I decided to only choose courses from the first year of Psychology in Granada; in case the other courses would be too hard (also... because all of the courses were in Spanish)
language preparation
I mostly learned my Spanish at home, using online apps like Duolingo and iTalki (an app where you can find people from a specific city, like Granada, with whom you can talk and exchange languages). I made some friends at the Language Cafe in Utrecht, which was really helpful for practising my speaking. I also took a conversation course at Fuentes and one Spanish course at the university. When I left, my level in Spanish was around B1.2/B2.1, which was just enough to 'survive'. It's really recommended to practice your Spanish as much as possible before going: this will not only help at the university, but also in your daily life. Try to get used to the Andalusian accent as well.
finances
I received an Erasmus grant and my usual DUO grant. Life in Spain is cheaper than in Holland, so this should be enough. If you want to travel a lot, or go out or go for tapas a lot, I would recommend saving some money as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Before going to Granada, you have to fill in a 'Learning Agreement'. This means you will have to search for courses on the internet, choose some courses and get an approval from the International Office both in the Netherlands as well as in Spain. Don't take this search for courses too seriously: 1. because the courses you find on the internet sometimes don't even exist anymore and 2. the process of registration of courses in Spain doesn't go as smoothly as it does in Holland. In Granada, during the first weeks of the semester, exchange students can go to every class they want, to check whether they like the class or not. During these weeks you'll probably discover that some of the courses you chose are harder than expected, different than expected or taught by a teacher with a really strong Andalusian accent. I would really recommend actually trying a lot of classes and choosing understandable teachers. Don't underestimate the Andalusian accent... When you finally know which classes you'd like to follow, you can go and register at the International Office. Try to go to as many classes as possible in the first week, so you can register as fast as possible, because otherwise it could be that the classes you chose are already full. Also, take a nice book... (the queue can be long :) This whole process wasn't the best thing ever, but at the end I could follow all the courses I wanted to follow, so I was happy.
academic quality of education activities
This depends on the courses you've chosen, and especially on the teachers. In general I think I could say that the academic level is a bit lower than in Holland; the focus lies more on learning information than on thinking deeper and forming an opinion. A good thing to know about the exams is that most of them, at least those of the first year psychology classes, consist only of really specific multiple choice questions. So the focus lies on remembering facts rather than having a good overview and being able to combine information. However, one of the courses I took, called 'Condicionamiento, Motivación y Emoción', was a bit more challenging. The teacher was really (seriously, extremely) enthusiastic and wanted only the best of his students. This is something to

think about in the first week: what kind of teacher do you want? And what kind of classes? (Also, if you don't like doing presentations, sometimes you can choose courses that have just exams, and no presentations/assignments/etc.). One last thing: I expected there to be a lot of Erasmus students in my classes, but this was not the case. Sometimes I was the only international student. Try to go to all your teachers in the first weeks, saying you're not from here. Also, if there's something you don't understand, you can always go to 'tutorias': most teachers will really appreciate it when they see you're interested in their course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The people at the International Office are really friendly, although a little bit chaotic.

transfer of credits

I will receive this at the end of July.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme of the university consisted of two lectures: one general and one psychology-specific, which were helpful. Also, you could choose to join activities like a language exchange or a guided visit of some parts of the city. I had been in Granada for two weeks when the introduction started, so I only went to the information sessions. However, I did join a lot of activities from the many Erasmus organizations. Whereas in a lot of countries there's only ESN, in Granada there are at least 4 more organizations that help students get to know the city and each other. I tried ESN, Erasmusgranada.com and Erasmus Granada Best Life Experience. I preferred the last one. I recommend joining some of the activities: they will help you learn a lot of nice people and tapas bars!

accommodation

I stayed in a house close to Plaza Nueva, with 9 roommates. It was a great mix of Spanish and International (French, German, Italian, Greek) students. It's really easy to find a place in Granada, since there are more rooms than students. Just join one of the facebook groups when you're still in Holland, or start looking for a room when you've arrived here. It won't be a problem! The prices vary from 150 outside of the city center to 200-300 in the center.

leisure & culture

Granada is amazing... the tapas bars, the relaxed people, the Alhambra, the amazing views from the Miradores.... I loved just walking through the streets, sitting down for some tapas, etc. The culture actually is really different. I realised when I was here that, for example, everything in Holland is extremely well organised, but the people are extremely stressed as well. I liked the Spanish mañana, mañana culture a lot and I hope to bring a bit of it with me, back to Holland.

suggestions/tips

Although it's really easy to find international friends, I would recommend looking for some Spanish friends as well! Otherwise it's easy to end up in the Erasmus bubble, which I did more than I hoped I would.

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! I honestly think it's one of the best cities to go to on Erasmus. It's small: you can go everywhere by foot. But it's not too small, there's a lot to see and do. The city is a great mix of cultures: from arabic influences, to

Spain - Universidad de Granada

the hippies in the Albaizin, to the many international students. Within half an hour you can go into the nature close to the city, for example to go skiing, hiking, or just to have a picknick with an amazing view over the city. Other beautiful Andalusian cities like Málaga and Sevilla are really close as well. Even though sometimes it can be a challenge living here, for example, sometimes the classes can be hard or the system can be so incomprehensibly slow, I'm looking back at five incredible months in which I've learned a lot about Spain and about myself. I got to know a lot of great people and I'm already looking forward to going back, although I'm still here...

do you have any additional advice or comments?

¡Que lo disfrutes!