

**2018-2019**

**Report 1**

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

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b> <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: betzybarco@gmail.com
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes: betzying on instagram
faculty/college	Faculty of Humanities		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spaanse Taal en Cultuur		

destination city & country	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de Valencia
start date	11 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 02 / 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	Applying for my exchange was quite simple. Some documents to my university and the University of Valencia. In Valencia, things flows really different, slower, but at the end everything went good.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	All the doubts and questions were answer by the exchange coordinator.
academic preparation	I didn't prepare much since I am studying spanish and already know what I wanted to do in Valencia.
language preparation	I didn't need any preparation since I already know Spanish but I met a lot of students whom didn't know any spanish and manage to communicate and survive in Spain.
finances	Since I am living alone in the netherlands I had to save some money and think about subrenting my room. Spain is cheaper but being an erasmus student you would like to experience that to the max (trips, flights,night life). Save some money before coming.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took all my courses in Spanish but selecting them in Valencia was more complicated that I expected it. The first week you can go and try some of the courses you are interested in. After 3 weeks you are no longer allowed to change. The university is quite easy with changes but the Erasmus office is often crowded. Keep in mind that you can go to other faculties and find courses you may like. I took Chinese 1 and German 1 and learned a lot.

academic quality of education activities
I thought the courses will be easier than in the Netherlands but I was completely wrong. The professors always want more and more of exchange students and the workload was even more than in Utrecht (only in some courses). In others I was always lost of what was happening and there was a lot of lack of information.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't need any counselling but my coordinator was available to talk two days a week
transfer of credits
I haven't gotten my transcript yet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The first day wasn't as informative as I would have like it to be but at the end everything went okay. They also gave some info about the city, sports and Valencian language courses.
accommodation
I was clueless about how to get one. I looked on facebook groups but since you don't know the people you can easily get scammed. I found my room through amigoflats.com and even though the site looks quite old it was okay (but overpriced). I recommend you to find an airbnb or hostel on the first week and look for a room while in Valencia. It's cheaper and you can see what you get. There is plenty of rooms to choose. I lived in Padre Alegre (Benimaclet) and it was 15 mins from my faculty.
leisure & culture
There is a lot of activities especially made for Erasmus students. In the first weeks I booked some daytrips and got to know amazing people. It was really easy to find friends even by being an asocial myself.
suggestions/tips
My erasmus was a great experience to get myself out there, find new friends and experience living abroad with a diverse group of people from all around the world. If you decide to choose Spain, keep in mind that this is not The Netherlands and things work totally different than here. Relax and enjoy.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, Valencia is a nice city with beaches and sunny days all year around. People are really kind and always ready to help you. I loved all the day trips and long trips to other cities in Spain and because of the location, Valencia is perfect.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No matter which city you choose, your erasmus will always be an amazing experience.

**Report 2**

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

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b> <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: l.voskuilen@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	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de Valencia
start date	11 / `09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 01 / 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	There is a lot involved in the application process at the university of Utrecht. You have to make a study plan, financial plan and write a motivational letter. This is because sometimes there are not enough places at an university for everyone so they have to make the right decision. It is a lot but if you start on time you will be okay.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I went to a powerpoint presentation about the application process and also went to a workshop on how to write a motivational letter, which was very helpful as I've never wrote one before. The international office was also very helpful if you had any further questions via email.
academic preparation	I had to make a studyplan so I had to choose which courses I wanted to take abroad. Further than that I didn't do a lot of academic preparation.
language preparation	I was already at an adequate level of Spanish before leaving so I didn't do any preparations.
finances	I had to apply for an erasmus grant and make a financial plan

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There are a lot of interesting courses to take at the university of Valencia. It's a shame that it turned out that a lot of them were given in the second semester. But I took some interesting courses anyway, and some less interesting courses.

academic quality of education activities
The academic quality vary per course. Some were very well-organised and some were weren't. There weren't a lot of educational activities I took part in.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university of Valencia gave me a student buddy and a mentor. The student buddy I saw only one time but it was still nice they gave ypu one. My mentor I saw when I had to change my learning agreement.
transfer of credits
I wouldn't know. It's been a month since my last exam but I still haven't seen my transcript of records.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	It was clear when and where you had to be. They gave a presentation on how the application process would go. After that day you could just start going to classes so you can put together your classes, the weird thing only was that if you wanted to take a course that started before the welcome presentation that would mean you already missed 1 or 2 classes. Furthermore they gave me the chance to take a workshop about Valencia, which was nice.
accommodation	The university doesn't provide accomodation so you have to find that yourself. It was very easy to find accomodations because there are a lot of organisations that provide housing for erasmus students in Valencia. I would recommend Universal Students
leisure & culture	There are a lot of activities organised for erasmus students bu a lot of diferent organisations. From beerpong tournaments to pub crawls, and from one day trips to the mountains to hike to weekend trips to other spanish cities.
suggestions/tips	I would recommend checking out all the diferent erasmus organisations in your city. You can meet a lot of diferent erasmus students there from all over the world and make new friends easily. I would also recommend being a member of all the diferent erasmus valencia facebook groups. Here you will find information about activities, buy and sell stuff, meet new people and this is also where I put a message that I was looking for a room and in 24 hours I got a lot of messages back with useful information, including one from my future roommate.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes, the university offers a lot of interesting courses and it's a beautiful and vibrant city. It stays summer until december, you can go to the beach, you can visit museums or enjoy the view from one of the many rooftop terraces. There are a lot of activities or trips organised. It is very easy meet other erasmus students and make new friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

**2017-2018**  
**Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> e.gulikers@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	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de València
start date	11 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 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	Everything went well and the International Office explains what you need to do, you just have to make sure you get your signatures in time and follow the instructions step by step. The most important thing is to check your e-mail carefully and read all the information you get.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office helps you immediately in case you have any questions or doubts. You can contact them by e-mail, phone or you can visit them at the office which was really helpful. You also receive a lot of information and tips at the pre-departure meetings or you can have a look on the website.
academic preparation	I had enough academic preparation before going to Valencia, since I was already studying Spanish language and culture for 2 years, so I was already used to follow courses taught in Spanish.
language preparation	I was already studying Spanish for 2 years so this was obviously a good preparation to go to Spain. It's the best if you have a minimum B1 level, otherwise it could be difficult for you to do the courses and also the locals don't speak English very well.
finances	You have to make sure you will make it financially; that's why you have to hand in a financial plan with your application which is really helpful. You also receive an Erasmus grant and in general, Valencia is cheaper than Holland, but make sure you also save some money for your Erasmus, just in case.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	You will already have an idea about which courses you will follow because of your study plan, but you can obviously change some courses (sometimes you have to because it turns out courses or exams overlap). In the

<p>first week you can try every course you like (also from other faculties) and after that you will permanently choose for which courses you want to enrol (take into account that 50% of your courses have to be within Hispanic Studies and besides of that some courses are already full, so make sure you will have 'back-up courses'). In general, it's quite different than in Holland, because there is less interaction, you're with big groups of students so there's not really personal contact with the teachers and overall, in my experience, it was a bit easier.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>It didn't really feel academic, at least the level is lower than in Utrecht. I didn't do any research, for example.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>I didn't really have had problems during my Erasmus, so I actually don't know a lot about the counselling and support.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>They haven't transferred my credits yet, but the process is quite easy, the University of Valencia will send your transcript of records to the University of Utrecht. If you want to check your grades before receiving the transcript of records, you can find them in the Secretaría Virtual.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>
<p>The week before the lectures started, all Erasmus students could attend a Valencian course/workshop which was really nice to learn something about Valencian culture, traditions, gastronomy, etc. and meet new people. On the first day you will get all the information (how to choose/enrol for courses, who's your coordinator, etc.) but also about other things like the possibility to do a Valencian/Catalan/Spanish language course, sport facilities, etc.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>It was quite easy to find an accommodation, you can find rooms on Facebook, spotahome.com and also through organizations like Happy Erasmus or Erasmus Life. I would recommend finding a room near Avenida de Blasco Ibañez: most students are living there and its close to your faculty.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>
<p>Valencia has a lot to offer; you can visit museums, the city of arts and sciences, mercado central, etc. I would also recommend to get the free card at the Happy Erasmus and the Erasmus Life office; these organisations also offer a lot of activities (city trips, hiking, skiing, beerpong &amp; paella events, etc.). You can also go on trips organised by the University of Valencia (4 trips each semester) but you will receive an e-mail about this.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p> </p>

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>
<p>I would definitely recommend going on Erasmus in Valencia, people are very open and relaxed (also the locals!), you will get in an international network so you will also learn a lot about other cultures beside the Spanish one. The city itself offers everything: culture, shops, the beach, Turia park, nice food, good parties, etc. You can get everywhere easily by bike or public transport which is quite cheap. Also the university offers a lot apart from</p>

the courses, the teachers are really friendly and you can ask them anything. There is also beautiful nature in the surroundings (Chulilla, Albufera).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would also definitely recommend to enter as many Facebook groups as possible, especially groups like "Valencia Language Exchange"; here you can find people who get together and can help you better your Spanish so you can meet new people and have a nice chat. I would also recommend to immediately start doing fun activities to prevent you will feel homesick and obviously it's the perfect chance to meet new people.

## **Report 2**

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

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> r.habets@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	History

destination city & country	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de Valencia
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 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	It was kind of difficult to sort out the courses and look what to choose.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support was really good. They were always kind to help you and they responded fast on emails or phone calls.
academic preparation	I can not really say anything about this.
language preparation	I already studies Spanisch before and I did an extra month of preparing before the starting of my semester in Valencia. During my stay I continued to follow spanisch lessons.
finances	I have always worked so I saved some money.

## **STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organization in Valencia was really different then in Utrecht. It was kind of chaotic. There were a lot of international students and only a small international office.
academic quality of education activities
The teaching and academic quality was really different. I had way more contact hours and I had to do way more practical stuff like presentations and excersises.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I think the international office had to less people working from them.
transfer of credits
I have not received my transcript of records yet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
They had a super nice welcome and orientation programme. All the people were super open and helpful.	
accommodation	
I stayed in a super nice house with three other girls in a student area. The house was clean, just renovated and the house-owner was a nice lady.	
leisure & culture	
There is a lot to do in Valencia: beach, culture, nice city, building and a lot of restaurants and bars.	
suggestions/tips	
Find your accomodiation with the help of Facebook!	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, it is a great city to live in. There are a lot of activities to do and the weather is great. The academis program was not really difficult or challenging. However, working together with people from other countries is really good for your own development. This exchange also really improved my Spanish.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Follow at least 1 or 2 courses in Spanisch, otherwise it is harder to practice and find people to talk Spanish with, and you will end up speaking only English with other international students.	

**Report 3**

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

faculty/college	Utrecht University
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	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Valencia

start date	11 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 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 process wasn't all too complicated, there was enough information on what I had to do and how to do it. And in my case I knew someone who was going to the same University as me so if something wasn't clear I would ask her.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	As I stated before, I had someone I could go to if I needed help filling in a form or finding a form. When I had to get forms signed and emailed the international office I got them signed forms back within a few days.
academic preparation	I chose courses that contained topics I briefly got at UU and I wanted to learn more about.
language preparation	The language preparation I had was from before and during my studies since I study Spanish. If you want to go to Valencia and don't know Spanish I would recommend you to take a course because the people in Valencia are not very good at English so you can talk to the people in the stores etc.
finances	I spent much more money than I had anticipated because I went out more than then I thought I would. But my room was cheaper than what I had budgeted.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The teachers guide was quiet accurate but some courses were less interesting than I thought. But there were fun and interesting moments as well and most importantly I learnt a lot. I didn't have to write many essays, just a few short ones and I had to do some presentations. Some courses had a lot of small assignments you had to do in class or at home that were part of your grade.
academic quality of education activities	Some courses were more difficult than others. I had an assignment in which I had to recognize the Spanish dialect spoken. I can't differentiate the different dialects of Spanish within Spain and the characteristics were the same for a lot of them so that assignment was challenging. But overall I think I had a good balance of more challenging and less challenging activities.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	We were assigned a mentor but in my case I didn't need her help. She could have helped us with practical questions.
transfer of credits	The credit system there is different; In Utrecht the courses are 7,5 ects and in Valencia they are 6 ects so I had to do 5 courses in a semester in stead of 4.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
<b>welcome &amp; orientation programme</b>	
	There was a course about the culture and city of Valencia provided by the university which was quiet useful but the information could have been compressed in just one day in stead of three. There was also an official introduction day in which we got information about the enrollment process.
<b>accommodation</b>	
	I lived in a house I found on "Spotahome" near the Avenida Blasco Ibañez, one of the main streets of Valencia. My room was not big but that wasn't very important to me since I was only staying there for a few months. My rent was 265 euros(that includes utilities). In my house we didn't have a living room so we used the kitchen as a spot to hang out together.
<b>leisure &amp; culture</b>	
	There are a lot of activities for erasmus students. There are parties, trips to other cities in Spain and to other countries. I recommend you to become a member of one (or more) of the organizations that organize activities for erasmus students like Happy Erasmus, ESN and Erasmus Life. As a member you get discounts on many activities and you can go on some cheap trips. My university also organized some trips.
<b>suggestions/tips</b>	
	Most stores are closed on Sunday that includes the supermarkets so remember to buy your groceries before hand. Same goes for holidays.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</b>	
	I would definitely recommend Valencia. It's a beautiful city and there are enough activities for erasmus students. It's not a very expensive city either so that is also a plus.
<b>do you have any additional advice or comments?</b>	
	The University Library is open 24/7 during the exam period so if you can't study at home you can always go there.

**Report 4**

<b>e-mail address</b>	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> m.c.vanolphen@students.uu.nl
<b>faculty/college</b>	Universiteit Utrecht, Humanities
<b>level</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
<b>name study programme</b>	Liberal Arts and Sciences

<b>destination city &amp; country</b>	Valencia, Spain
<b>name university abroad</b>	Universitat de València
<b>start date</b>	27 / `01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
<b>end date</b>	07 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
There are quite a lot of tasks one has to complete before being able to study abroad. However, if you do exactly what the e-mails tell you to do, step by step, you will have enough time to complete them and ask questions before the deadline.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office has been very helpful in arranging everything to go abroad. In my experience, I always got a quick response to my e-mails. It's also possible to call/ walk by the international office. I have called them several times when I had an urgent question and always immediately got a helpful answer.
academic preparation
I had already been studying Spanish since first year and having lectures in Spanish. I have had absolutely no trouble understanding the courses/ teachers.
language preparation
I had already taken all the Spanish Language classes at Utrecht University, but I think a B1 level should be enough.
finances
I applied for the Erasmus Grant and saved money before leaving. As I still received my Studiefinanciering and my student loan, I have not experienced any money issues.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I have to add that we are not used to doing semester courses, which means we usually do two courses at a time, instead of 4 or 5, like in Spain. It was hard putting together a timetable without overlapping courses. I found it quite stressful and badly arranged, because we were expected to already attend classes we hadn't officially enrolled in, and could still change courses after a few weeks. I also didn't get my Aula Virtual password/ username (the Spanish BlackBoard) until I was a few weeks in. Quite inconvenient! In short, the Spanish system is not as tight as our Dutch one, but I realised after some time that I should just relax and let it happen, and everything turned out to be just fine!
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the courses really depended on the teacher. I have had some really good teachers and other quite bad ones. Most of them showed up late (even during exams!!) and were even on their phones during classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really use this, except for the Erasmus signatures and always got a quick response. Unfortunately I got ill during my stay and wanted to see a doctor. I went to the university's medic, who also helped me figure out which Centro de Salud I belonged to close to my house.
transfer of credits
I have not had experience with this yet. It is in progress right this moment. I just followed the steps in the e-mails I received from university and the Universitat de València will directly send my results to the UU.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
There was a welcoming day on which we received a map full of informations about the university, the city, practical info, sports and more. Also, there was a presentation hosted by my coordinator after which everyone was directed to certain classrooms where we had to fill out some forms.	
accommodation	
Everyone I know here wanted to live as close as possible to the university, preferably on Blasco Ibañez (basically all facultaties are on this big street). Housing is also very cheap here (think around €200,- or even less) and there are a lot of Erasmus parties in this neighbourhood. However, I personally wanted to live in the city centre, which was obviously way more expensive, but still fine/ similar compared to renting a room in Utrecht for instance. I could easily cycle to the university in about 10 minutes and there is a metro/ you could even walk (about half an hour). Everything is very walkable in Valencia. I went to Valencia approximately a week before my classes would start and stayed in a hostel. Before going I responded to a few rooms that I found online and this way I easily found my perfect accomodation (even with a lot of prerequisites!)	
leisure & culture	
There are a lot of lovely restaurants, bars, beach clubs, museums etc. in Valencia. And a lot of celebrations and holidays, since Spain is quite a religious country.	
suggestions/tips	
Keep in mind that on Sunday most stores and supermarkets are closed (except for some stores/ express supermarkets in the centre).	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Staying in Valencia has been amazing! I am sad it is coming to an end. The weather/ people/ city are wonderful and I would definitely recommend going here.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Make sure you add some Erasmus Facebook pages to be updated on parties, activities etc.!	

## 2016-2017

### **Report 1**

faculty/college	humanities
level	BA
name study programme	Comparative literature
destination city & country	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de València
start date	8 / 9 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 1 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process went quite well, although it took a very long time to receive all the needed signatures on the different documents, which caused some stress.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The support at UU is very good, I'm glad with our international office because they are very helpful with any questions and any email you send them is answered quickly.
academic preparation	
	My academic years at Utrecht University were enough preparation for this Erasmus stay.
language preparation	
	I didn't have any language preparation since my mother is Spanish, therefore I already speak it sufficiently.
finances	
	Spain is a cheaper country than The Netherlands, but still the Erasmus grant is needed to be able to enjoy the stay abroad to the fullest. The prizes did not surprise me and were sometimes even lower than I expected, which was a good thing.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Although I had to change a few courses because they were given at the same time for example, this went well and without issues. So there were no organisational issues. I understood all the content of the courses so there weren't any problems there either.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality was somewhat lower than what we're used to in Utrecht, and the absence of smaller 'workgroups' was what I missed most. There wasn't a lot of participation or option to participate in lectures or classes, which is what would've helped to motivate more.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	I haven't needed a lot of counseling and support, so I wouldn't know if it were available or any good.
transfer of credits	
	My credits have yet to be transferred but I do have confirmation of that happening soon.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
	There was only one orientation day organised by the university for all incoming students, so it was very general and a little bit chaotic. After a general meeting, there were more specific faculty meetings, but since the faculties are quite large, these were very general as well. The orientation programmes organised by for example the Erasmus Students Network were more elaborate and included city tours and beachvolleybal games for example, which allowed for more interaction between students.

accommodation
My accomodation was fine
leisure & culture
I enjoyed all the leisure activities and cultural activities the city has to offer, it is definitely a good city to go on Erasmus!
suggestions/tips

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would, I loved the city because it wasn't too big and I could get everywhere by bike. The university was nice and I quite liked my classes. Plus there's a beach, which is really nice when it's hot in summer and to play sports. There's lots of culture to see in the city and beautiful nature in the surroundings. The different organizations that organise activities for erasmus students offer very nice activities and trips and there's lots of things to choose from. There are a lot of other students from many different countries, which is a lot of fun and really improves intercultural knowledge.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I was a bit surprised to find myself quite sad in the very first week of my stay, because I didn't expect it! In the preparational meetings they told us that the first and last period are extremely fun and that you feel very happy, but i think this could be nuanced a bit. The first week is sad because you need to acclimatise and get used to everything and you're still missing home. And then when you go back you're supposed to feel happy about going home, which you are, but you feel very very weird because you also sort of want to stay. So it's a mixture between happiness and sadness which can really take you by surprise.

**Report 2**

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	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de València
start date	08 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 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 application process for the Universitat de València is slightly complicated and a lot of work because there are many steps you have to follow and execute. It has always been a challenge but it was totally worth it. All the steps a very well explained in documents you will receive from the international office and following these instructions will help you complete this administrative obligation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The preparation offered by Utrecht University has been very useful to me. Mostly the information meetings because a lot of general information was explained during these meetings. Also the individual contact at the International Office has been absolutely helpful and convenient.
academic preparation
Personally I didn't need a lot of academic preparation besides the courses I attended at Utrecht University which were part of my bachelor programme. These were courses in Spanish language and literature.
language preparation
As I explained before, my language preparation were the courses in Spanish I followed at Utrecht University.
finances
For my financial preparation I applied for an Erasmus Grant and tried to map out the expenses I expected to make every month. I saved some money before traveling to Spain because I knew it would become a very busy time studying and enjoying the Erasmus lifestyle.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I thought everything about the study programme was arranged before the semester started, since I had all documents approved by everyone. It turned out that some specific courses were recommended by the receiving institution. This caused some confusing situations in the beginning of the exchange. Luckily everything was solved by the start of the classes. If you follow the instructions of your contact person everything will turn out fine.
academic quality of education activities
The overall experience I have of the academic quality is that it's different than in The Netherlands. The level of classes is lower and very bad organised. In all the subjects I followed there was a change of teachers, but this took place only 3 or 4 weeks before the end of the semester. Besides these organisational issues the classes were more boring than I was used to in The Netherlands. There were no small study groups, only big lectures. This was the main reason that I didn't have personal contact with the teachers and that's a pity.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't need so much counselling from the Universitat de València since everything was well prepared and organised. The only problem I've had, had to do with the schedule of the exams in January. Some of the exams were planned at the same hour so I had to change some of the exams. This was no problem and it worked out fine after discussing it with the teacher or secretary office.
transfer of credits
I still didn't receive the Transcript of records from the Universitat de València, but I did receive my grades, because they were uploaded in the Aula Virtual (the electronic classroom). I hope and expect that the transfer of credits will occur within 6 weeks after my re-entry to Utrecht.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I was really surprised by the amount of activities that were possible for Erasmusstudents. The welcome was a very nice informative meeting and I felt at home immediately. The first week it was possible to follow as much courses as you wanted, so you could orientate yourself and make a better decision about your subjects.
accommodation
I was very lucky that I found an accommodation in a Spanish neighbourhood, outside the citycentre. This made it very easy for me to connect with the local people and speak spanish everyday. The location was perfect, although, it wasn't very close to the Universtity area. I went by Valenbici almost every day, which is the perfect solution for students. It is a bike-rental system I would definately recommend to future Erasmus students in Valencia. It is a cheap and perfect way to travel trough the city.
leisure & culture
Valencia is a great city if you want to learn more about Spanish culture and spend your free time in nice bars or parties. There are plenty of Erasmus organisations that will help you find the best places to go out and make new friends during one of the trips through Spain or in Valencia. Besides Valencia offers, in my opinion, a great combination of city and nature, which you can find south of the city in Albufera. The area of El Carmen is the best if you're looking for restaurants. In the six months I spent in Valencia I tried to see all the sights, but there are too many beautiful buildings and museums to visit.
suggestions/tips
I would absolutely recommend future students to become a member of one of the Erasmus student organisations, because they offer great trips around Spain and discounts in shops and bars.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. I would recommend La Universitat de València to all students that are interested in learning more about Spanish culture and especially when you are interested in the combination of beach and citylife. These city and university have a lot to offer and will make your time in Valencia unforgettable.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
It's is very important to let go of your dutch way of living. In Spain everything is different and above all the mentality of the people. They are very laidback and adopting to this way of living will be the greatest challenge. You have to just go for it without being afraid, it will be a fantastic experience!

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	CIW

destination city & country	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat Valencia
start date	28 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 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	
This process is clear and I did not have any problems with it.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
UU will send you enough e-mails with information about what you should do and you are able to ask them questions anytime you want.	
academic preparation	
I did some research at other experiences that people had at this University, but overall I did not prepare a lot. I took care of all the documents I needed	
language preparation	
I did two courses of Spanish at UU before going on erasmus to Valencia, I think this was very useful because when you do not understand any Spanish it would be really hard to be here since they do not speak English very well.	
finances	
I saved some money myself, got a lot of support from my parents and had the erasmus grant.	

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
When I arrived we had to wait to register ourselves, but already follow the courses. The thing was that you were not sure if there was place for you. So after one week when I was able to register two of the courses I wanted to follow were full and I had to change them, but that meant that I already missed one week of both courses.	
academic quality of education activities	
Comparing to UU the quality, for me, is really different. I would not say that it is bad or something, but I feel that at UU you have to be more critical. At UV (Universitat Valencia) I mostly learned content without being really critical.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The first time I had to go to the international office I was really surprised. They did not speak English. It was hard to find out what you had to do, and it seemed like they did not really care about it. There were a lot of non- Spanish speaking people, but they could not communicate in English. At least I was lucky enough to speak a little bit Spanish so I could figure out what I needed to do.	
transfer of credits	
This will be send by post	

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
The welcome speech at UV was fully in Spanish, this was kind of hard since it was the first day and my Spanish was okay, but far from good. They gave us a lot of information which was good.	

accommodation
I found a home with help of spotahome, the only thing is that their pictures are misleading and my first room was a disaster. Luckily I moved within three days to a better apartment.
leisure & culture
Culture is great, really loved it in Valencia. The first weeks were hard because you have to adapt to it, it is so different than what I was used to. Leisure is also good, there is a lot to do and you have a huge park (old river) which suits for all kinds of activities and which is really beautiful.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to look for a room before you go, but it is hard to judge how it really looks from your laptop so make sure you can always change when you go there and it is not what you hoped for.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would recommend this university and destination, but ake sure that you speak Spanish pretty well before you go.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
It has been a great experience for me and would not wanted to have missed this. So if you have the opportunity to study abroad, take that change and you will have a great time, you will learn a lot and make friends from all over the world.	

**Report 4**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen (Humanities)
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	Valencia, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat de València
start date	27 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 07 / 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 application proces will take some time, because you need to do some paperwork but it was clear. The UV coordinators were also willing to help you in case of any doubts.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The pre-departure meetings are very useful and if you have any questions, just send an e-mail and you will get a reply within a (few) day(s). The documents you receive by e-mail after the meetings are also helpful, because	

<p>this gives you an overview of all the documents and deadlines you need to take into account. Besides this you can find lots of information on the UU website.</p>
<p>academic preparation</p>
<p>Before you go, you need to make a study plan which includes the kind of courses you would like to follow at the UV. This needs to be approved by both the UU and the UV. Keep in mind that this will probably change, because of a lack of places for Erasmus students, especially when you would like to follow a subject at another faculty.</p>
<p>language preparation</p>
<p>I didn't had any knowledge of the Spanish language besides some basic words/sentences. That's why I did an intensive summer course at Centre d'idiomes. This was very useful for me, because I learned both the language and the city. I went for the second semester, so I also followed 'Spaans taalverwerving 1 &amp; 2' at the UU.</p>
<p>finances</p>
<p>You need to make a financial plan to make sure you are able to pay the monhly costs etc.</p>

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
<p>study programme (content and organisational issues)</p>	<p>In the beginning it might be hard to figure out if you can follow a subject or not, because the first two weeks you will follow some lectures that might seem interesting to you. After this you go to the secretaria to find out if there are still places available, which is not always the case. In that case you need to change while already some weeks have passed. It might also be difficult to fit in all your courses into your schedule, because each course has 2 weekly lectures. For me this was really different from what I was used to at the UU. So it's useful to have some extra options in mind. I chose 6 courses (all 6 ECTS), but I needed to pass 5 of them.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>	<p>There might be some academic quality differences between courses.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>	<p>Since they don't speak any English at the international office, it's useful to have a minimum knowledge of the Spanish language. However, they respond quikly if you send anything by e-mail.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>	<p>The UV will send your transcript of records to your home university.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>	<p>There is a reception day at the beginning of the semester, this was well organised.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>	<p>There are a lot of rooms available. I already rented a room via an agency but also a lot of students find a place through other students.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>	<p>The city is great with it's beautiful park, architecture and the beach. There are several Erasmus organisations which organise trips to other cities, parties and other social events to meet new students.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>	

There are several 'Erasmus' FB groups in which a lot of information is shared

### **CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes definitely! I really enjoyed my stay here and I recommend everybody to do a semester abroad.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to figure out as much as possible before you leave, because it's always good to be well prepared.