

2018-2019

Report 1

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	Italian language and culture

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20/ 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It was honestly a lot of work. Just did the standard stuff you had to do at our home university. I told the university my preferences and then in February I heard I was allowed to go to the University of Bologna, lots of stuff to do, like curriculum and also motivation letter etc.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Our university gave us a lot of information and send us e-mails on the right time. It was just that still a lot was very unclear for me, but that was more the fault of the University of Bologna, there should be something that provides immediate good contact with the partner university.
academic preparation	I just followed my courses in Holland, half of them are in Italian, but furthermore I didn't do that much academic preparation, just that my courses are about Italian language and also culture, so that might have helped me somehow or in some way a bit.
language preparation	I study Italian language and culture so I automatically prepared for my exchange when it comes to language. I also spent the summer in Italy, like I always do, so there I already got to practice my language, furthermore I didn't do that much extra, cause already in my from day to day life I spoke Italian a lot.
finances	The financial aspect of an exchange is very personal, I got the Erasmus grant and the so called grant for transport, which was both honestly a lot to arrange and still is. Furthermore my parents paid for every single dime of my exchange, housing etc. I got a monthly payment from them, honestly you can make an exchange as expensive as you want, but if you want to have a lot of fun it becomes more expensive immediately.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	It was just that it was unclear if I had to do a Studyplan here and furthermore everything was unclear here in Italy, so for instance I thought I had to apply for the courses, but apparently you only apply for the exams, and the studyplan thing I found out quite late, but when I found out where to find it, it was very easy.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality of the teacher is good, nothing bad to say about it, teachers were always late, but you adjust to that, so then you come late as well. The only thing is that things were and still are super unclear, for instance exams are a total disaster, everything takes super long and is way too stressful and unorganized, teachers don't give you the proper information about the course and the exam, you always have to ask them, and they also tend to reply to e-mail in like a month.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	I didn't get any support when it comes to the exchange, you have to arrange it all yourself, for instance it wasn't clear to me that I had to do a check in, it would be nice if the university here would send us e-mails about what we are expected to do. Furthermore the offices are just weird, they are open just a few hours per week and its always super busy.
transfer of credits	
	Credits were always clear for me, it was just that sometimes the schedule of a course would change with anyone telling us. I try to obtain 30 ECTS here, and most of the other students just 15. But it was always clear how many credits I would get, its still a blur when it comes to the grades, cause we have a different system when it comes to grades.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	I didn't go to a welcome of the university, honestly in my opinion they didn't do enough when it comes to that. The people at the international office were really nice, but it was just all a bit unclear and you really have to organize a welcome and orientation programme yourself, cause the university was not keen on that.
accommodation	
	I found my accommodation at home, already in like may I believe. I didn't want the stress of going here and trying to find a house, cause that has been a long and very stressful process for a lot of people here. I live at Camplus, it's a Campus with a lot of students that includes breakfast and dinner, you really practice your Italian this way.
leisure & culture	
	Italian culture is obviously my passion. I am used to being in Italy for a long, but being on your own without your parents is a completely different experience. The Italians are very over the top and dramatic, but once you are in their group and are the most complementary and warm people that exist. I have done a lot of trips here in Italy, which was all super nice.
suggestions/tips	
	Arrange your housing already at home! This way you will arrive a lot calmer here in Italy. Furthermore try to go with the flow of taking it easy and don't get too stressed or angry when things are very ill-organized. Indulge in the great food here! Bologna is a heaven for lovers of simple food, AKA a pasta or lot of pork meat and cheese.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would absolutely recommend this destination to people. The university not so much, it was just to unclear and unorganized for my taste, but you do get a lot of individuality here at the university. Bologna is the perfect city for students. It's a city in which people work live and study, unlike Florence which is full of tourists. So if you want to study in Italy or in southern Europe, do Bologna, it's a warm city with a huge student life.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Erasmus exchange is a lot to arrange, I will be honest with that, and sometimes it is really like I really need a break from this, but at the end it all worth it. You will grow a lot as person here. In the beginning you can be afraid about not making friends, but it is super easy, everybody opens up easily and everybody wants to make the most of their time here.	

Report 2

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	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	27 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 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	
The exchange application process took some time but it was always quite clear what you had to do. The international office at the UU helps you pretty well and always responds fast on documents that need to be signed. Gathering all the signatures and documents just takes some time.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The international office at Utrecht University is quick to respond to any questions and the office is opened a lot so you can just walk in for a signature or a question you have. They also organise a predeparture meeting before you leave where you will meet other UU-students that go to the same city of country.	
academic preparation	
I personally followed only courses of free choice on exchange since I already completed the rest of my bachelor program before the exchange. Therefore I was free to choose whatever courses I liked. I did not really have to prepare anything academically beforehand.	
language preparation	
In the academic year before my exchange I followed the Minor Italian Language and Culture at the UU in order to prepare a little bit for my stay abroad. In the end it is possible to take a lot of courses in English in Bologna so	

this is not a necessity at all, but of course it is nice to be able to speak a little Italian. The average level of English of a Dutch student is definitely enough to manage in Bologna.

finances

Bologna is not a cheap city. Already the average rent is quite high (comparable with Utrecht I think) and also the supermarkets are expensive in comparison to the Netherlands. Going out for dinner can be relatively cheap, although this is of course always an expensive way of eating. I personally had to save quite long beforehand, on top of for example the Erasmus Grant, to be able to afford my stay, but it was definitely worth every euro.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As stated above I followed courses of free choice in Bologna. Therefore I could quite easily pick courses in English. I took a course in Political Philosophy, a Seminar in Comparative History and Politics and Introduction to Italian Culture. The last one is a course especially for international students and is meant to introduce you a little bit to the history and the culture of the country you live in. It consists of one lecture a week, some special events, and ends with a big paper (4000 words) that you have to write on a related topic. I did not have many organisational issues, everything is in general just a bit more chaotic and laid back than what I was used to but if you just accept this it is fine. The only annoying thing is that it takes a lot of teachers and university staff really long to respond on email for example (if they do at all).

academic quality of education activities

In my opinion the quality of the courses differs quite a lot. I took a course here with a lot of international guest speakers of which the quality was quite high. On the other hand in another course it was sometimes even difficult to understand the English of the teacher and the quality of that course in general was quite low. Therefore I think you have to be a little bit lucky with your teacher. On average the level of the courses and the exams is not as high as in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office in Bologna only opens about two hours a day and is then often quite crowded. Therefore it is important to be there on time if you want to get your stuff done a little bit fast. But they help you pretty well there. Sometimes it is also difficult to get in to contact with your exchange coordinator by mail (if you need a signature for example), therefore always start to mail them in time and don't hesitate to mail again and again. Otherwise they often always have office hours during which you can drop by to get stuff done.

transfer of credits

This has not happened in my case at the time of writing. I do not expect any problems when it comes to this though. As far as I know the transfer of credits always goes fine between Bologna and Utrecht. The exam committee in Utrecht has also already approved my courses and the credits so that should be fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome program was held in the week before I arrived which was a little bit weird because I was already quite early in Bologna in comparison with a lot of other exchange students. The first week I had to figure out some things by myself because of this but it was all fine in the end. It is very easy to sign up for courses here so that was no problem.

accommodation

<p>It is hard to find a room in Bologna, especially in the old city center. I have been very lucky that one of my best friends was in Bologna for the first semester and that I could take over his room really easy and even just within the old center. Searching for a room is easiest by Facebook I think. I rented my room from Erasmusland, which is a organisation similar to ESN. It is always a good idea to see if they have a room available.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>Bologna is a super vivid city. There is a lot to see and to do and the bars and restaurants are always crowded. In Italy it is probably studentcity number 1, therefore there are of course a lot of parties and activities. There are a lot of international students as well and next to ESN there is also Erasmusland that organizes so many activities, parties and trips that it is almost impossible to not get in contact with a lot of fun people. Apart from that, Bologna is located really central in Italy, and has a big trainstation. This allows you to explore the rest of Italy very easy by train (Florence, Venice, Verona, Parma, Milan) or by plane of course.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>After arrival I would immediately become member of ESN and Erasmusland. Their membership card is 10eu each but you will have this money back in no time because of all the discount you will get in bars, clubs and on activities. Just join some of their activities in the beginning because that is the easiest way to get into contact with a lot of new people</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
<p>I would definitely recommend Bologna for an Erasmus exchange. The university offers quite a lot of courses in English, therefore you do not need to be fluent in Italian to study here, in one of the most beautiful cities of Italy. The studentlife is booming and it is for a reason that Bologna is called the culinary capital of Italy. Furthermore, the city is not yet overwhelmed by tourists, like Florence or Venice, and the size of the city (compareble with Utrecht) is perfect for one semester since you can really get to know the entire city, without it getting boring. Perfect Erasmus destination in my opinion.</p>	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
<p>It is very important to check if your faculty is located in Bologna itself. The university of Bologna also has campuses in surrounding cities like Rimini, Cesena and Forlì. Maybe this can also be nice but you should be aware of the fact that if your courses are located on those campuses you won't be studying and living in the city of Bologna itself. I know that some people only found out about this just before their exchange, so make sure to check this in time.</p>	

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	04 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 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
The formal preparation went very easily for me, mostly you just have to follow the guidelines the UU provides
counselling & support at Utrecht University
It was alright, I did not ask for much support so I did most of the research etc. myself. There were some helpful meetings, but there was never anyone present that had been to Bologna, only other places in Italy. This might have been helpful.
academic preparation
Apart from language preparation, I did not do any academic preparation.
language preparation
I followed a A1 Italian course at University college, which was a very nice course toget some feeling with the Italian language. I would recommend doing a course while still at home, even if it is just for the basics.
finances
I saved some money for my travel to Italy with working, but furthermore did not change my finances too much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did my courses in English. There is quite a big variety of English courses to follow. Most of the things I did were on Italian culture, Italian history or Italian society, I really enjoyed this opportunity to learn about Italy.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality differs per course, in general the level is a bit below the level of Utrecht University. I did not spend too much time studying and learning, I thought my courses were rather easy and low in work-pressure. Usually exchange students get quite high grades and most of the time you won't have to worry that you won't pass a course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support was a bit messy, but if you'd reach out for help or contact everybody was very nice and helpful. If you do most of the things on your own, they will also leave you alone.
transfer of credits
Not yet recieved

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The student welcome in Bologna was 2 months after my arrival, so I did not attend this, since I had already figured things out on my own and had already met plenty of people on my own. This welcoming programme is weirdly late.
accommodation

Accommodation was the hardest part of my stay. It is very difficult to find good and cheap accommodation in Italy. It is beneficial to speak Italian or find somebody who does who can help you with contacting people. I ended up responding to loads of people on facebook, but it is very difficult to get one of those rooms because they're often with a minimum stay of a year. Try and find Italian people who are doing an exchange and leave their room for half a year and see if you can arrange something with them. There's useful facebook sites and websites, and in Bologna you have some agencies or advertisements in the streets. It might be stressful to go to a city without having a home but you'll find something!

leisure & culture

Bologna is a very nice town for leisure & culture, and it is in the middle of Italy so you can easily travel through the country. You can join Erasmusland and ESN to get to know other erasmus students, they provide many activities and cheap little travels. However, I'd recommend just trying many places and not stick too much with the bars & restaurants that you go to with the organisations because there's so much more to discover than only those places. There's something for everyone in Bologna, it's an amazing city for culture and leisure!

suggestions/tips

Take the train to other cities, and see if you can even do some nice trips or hikes, because the area is very beautiful and you'll have enough time next to studying. Every first Sunday of the month all museums in Italy are free so use that! There's many activities organised by cultural organisations, you can get a ARCI pass for example, which allows you to go to a lot of nice bars, concerts, events etc. Going to the cinema is a great way of learning Italian. On Wednesday's there's live music at Labas, which is a squatters centre, it's a really nice place. Try and learn the language because it will open some doors for you and it is a beautiful language!!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would, Italy is a beautiful country, and Bologna is for me the best city in Italy for students to go to. There's a nice student culture, the food is amazing and there is a lot of thing to do everyday.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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**2017-2018
 Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> susdorf.marek@gmail.com
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Research Master Gender Studies

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Bologna University
start date	20 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 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	It was a long time of preparing and sending the application, collecting documents and asking for references and some advice from other people that had already taken the exchange.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The Utrecht University was very supportive, helpful and professional, they helped me a lot with filling in the forms and making my decisions.
academic preparation	My only academic preparation was actually following my courses at Utrecht University. I knew what courses I wanted to take at the receiving institution so I was already prepared for them in terms of my academic knowledge.
language preparation	I did not take courses in Italian although I went to Bologna. The language of instruction at the receiving university was English. Despite of this fact, I took some lessons in Italian which I enjoyed very much.
finances	The Erasmus grant helped me a lot but of course it did not cover my all expenses. I had some savings and also tried to earn some money from my own commissions.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I absolutely loved the courses at Bologna University. The staff at the university was very helpful, supportive and also professional. I did not find any additional and unnecessary obstacles or problems regarding my stay there, everything was in the right order.
academic quality of education activities	

I enjoyed the courses also in terms their academic quality. The system at the receiving institution differs a lot from its Utrecht counterpart but I managed to understand the rules and obey them. There is a greater emphasis put on lecturers rather than seminars but actually, thanks to that, I learnt how to deal with such kind of classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Bologna University wa very helpful and supportie, I did not encounter any superflous difficulties there.
transfer of credits
Everything was in right order, I only needed to submit mthe transcript of my grades and the stuff from the University did all for me.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
It was a challenge at the beginning as this kind of situations may be a challenge, everything is new and you need to learn how to find yourself in the right pace in the right moment. But after a while it was all well-known. The only thing is to be patient with learning new rules.
accommodation
Well, I found it actually asstounding that it was so difficult to find accommodation in Bologna, but it turned out that because of the size of the city and the large number of international students it was extremely hard to find and also search for a place to stay. The renting portals are all in Italian, it is actually hardly possible to get ccomodation if you do not know Italian or an Italian person. Luckily, I had friends who helped me with that.
leisure & culture
It was absolutely amazing tostay in Bologna, there are many miscellaneous museums and attractions, the architecture is fabulous, the people are great and the food is gorgeous. I did enjoyed staying in Italy, it was very teaching at many levels.
suggestions/tips
If you are going abroad I wuld recommend to get to know as many people as you know. Firstly, because of your network. Secondly, because you never know when you will need some help when you are abroad, alone in a foreing country.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely yes. Bologna Univerity is very welcoming, the stuff is very friendly, the academicians are so professional and the courses are extremely interesting. The city is fabulous and has got much to offer. I definitely enjoyed staying there and would do that once again if I could.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try not to miss deadlines and always bear in mind that you have to do the paperwork connected to the exchange. There is a lot forms to fill in.

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> i.t.m.geerlings@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
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	Bologna, Italië
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Bologna
start date	14 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 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	It can be difficult to get in contact with the exchange coordinator at the receiving university or find an updated version of the website where you can choose courses from at the time of application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Not a lot of guidance, but availability through email was helpful and very helpful and the people at the international office helped me a lot with bureaucratic problems.
academic preparation	None.
language preparation	None, besides taking a dictionary.
finances	Applying for the erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took three Italian courses: Antropologia Culturale, Sociologia and Arabo 1. The courses were difficult to follow in the first few weeks but I started to understand more and more. In the end I could understand most of the lectures and was able to take the exams in Italian and Arabic. The organization of the courses is very different from the UU, so there are for example only lectures and no seminars.
academic quality of education activities	

Good professors that usually give student the opportunity to ask questions and participate eventhough there are only lectures and no seminars. However, it still feels way more passive than taking a course at the UU, because you are forced to prepare and participate while in Bologna everything (usually also attendance) is based on your own responsibility.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
It was hard to get in touch with my exchange coordinator, but the welcoming day was useful. After that, there was no more coueselling or support, but that was also not necessary.
transfer of credits
Not done yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
After the check-in, there is a welcoming day where you get important information on the studyplan, class hours etcetera. Very useful.
accommodation
Accomodation in Bologna is a mess. Too many exchange students for the accomodation available for them. Many people ended up living in way too expensive rooms or airbnb. It is really hard to find a room when you're not there yet, so I went there first without housing and only luckily found a room on the day before I would have to leave my hostel and have nowhere else to go because everything was booked or more than 100 euro per night. My advice is to live a bit outside the city center and buy a bike because it is still really close, cheaper, more options and having a bike in Bologna is anyway the best thing.
leisure & culture
Great city, nice things to do and to see. A lot of the museums or things to see that are also free or not expensive. Many places for drinks, nice food, aperitivo etc. Also around Bologna are a few nice cities like Ferrara. Tour of Bologna is recommended.
suggestions/tips
Travel to other places and cities because in the end, Bologna is very small. Also visit things in Bologna like the Archeginnasio and places like the Teatro Comunale. Buy a bike and a good lock for the bike because they get stolen a lot. Drinks in via del Pratello. And eat a cotoletta alla bolognese.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes absolutely, Bologna is a great city that is not too big and filled with students or places that are made for students. There are a lot nice bars, cafes and cheap restaurants which are perfect for students. I had interesting courses with great professors and reallly nice italian students. Met great people from Bologna and all over the worlds and you run into the same people because the city is small which is great.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
save a lot of money before going.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	University of Bologna
start date	29 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 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	
	It went really easy. I registered for the rest places and Bologna was my number one. After already a few weeks I got an email that I was accepted by the University.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	/
academic preparation	
	I didn't need to do any academic preparation before I left to Bologna.
language preparation	
	It is not necessary to speak the Italian language in Bologna. Many courses are taught in English and almost everyone speaks English.
finances	
	The prices in Bologna are more or less the same as in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	At the University of Bologna it is possible to choose courses of different faculties, you only need to follow half of your courses within your own faculty. I was assigned as a students of the humanities faculty, but I also follow courses of the economics faculty and the political science faculty. I didn't have any organisational issues.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of the courses differs. Some courses have the same hight of academic quality as in the Netherlands (University of Utrecht) and others were a bit easier. It depends on the content of the courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	/
transfer of credits	

The transfer of credits goes very slowly. Check frequently if the professor already registered the credits and otherwise contact him/her.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first weeks they organized different welcome programs for the exchange students. At these meetings they explained

accommodation

It is really hard to find an accommodation in Bologna, since it is a big university city. Make sure that you start early with looking for a room and do not wait until you arrived in Bologna. It can take a few weeks before you have found something. Rooms are overall quite expensive in Bologna, more or less the same prices for rent as in Utrecht. Watch out with transferring money to 'landlords' before you have seen the room. A lot of people got scammed by fake landlords.

leisure & culture

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suggestions/tips

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CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, it is a great university with a lot of diverse course offers. I also highly recommend the city itself and the atmosphere. It is a small city, but therefore really easy to meet people and to discover the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start searching for a room early, before you arrive in Bologna and watch out for fake landlords and scamming.

2016-2017 **Report 1**

faculty/college	Faculteit Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Italian language and culture

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I tried to follow all the deadlines, asked friends who had been on Erasmus in Bologna for advise if needed, but all in all it was all quite simple. The steps to follow are quite clear.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I didn't use much counselling before going on Erasmus, except that I wanted to find a substitute course in Bologna for an obligatory course that I had to still follow at Utrecht University. For this I contacted the Exam Committee of UU, and they accepted my request.
academic preparation	
	Academically I didn't need to prepare much, except of course that I had a good look at the Course Catalog of Università di Bologna to find out what courses I wanted to follow.
language preparation	
	As my bachelor in Utrecht is Italian language and culture, my study already provided me with enough basis of the language to study without problems in Italy. On top of that I was lucky to have an Italian flatmate still in Utrecht for 4 months before leaving, so I could practice already daily for 4 months before leaving to Bologna.
finances	
	Together with the Erasmus Grant I had some money saved up, from my job, and from the 'regular' student loan that I take. That was enough.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	In the beginning I had planned to follow courses with a total of 39 ECTS, which already before I even started classes turned out to be way too much. Next to that some courses were given only at the Campus of Forli, which is at least 1,5 hour by bus, so in practice following courses at another Campus than that of the city of Bologna was impossible. It could be done maybe if that was the only class I had on that day, but since I had one in Bologna too it wasn't doable. Also the course timetables overlapped for some courses, so in the end just 3 courses was more than enough. One course I also ended up changing because the course content overlapped too much with a course I had already followed in Utrecht. Changing courses is quite easy, as you only have to subscribe for exams, otherwise you can just attend all courses you like. So better to attend a lot of different courses in the first week or two, to see what you like, and then continue following those and 'dropping' (stop following) the rest.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality of the courses was good, only in one courses, Pedagogia Interculturale, we were with about 100 students, and they made us do presentations in groups of 5-6 in front of that big of a group. As there were many groups to present, for weeks students had to listen to presentations.. This didn't really work very well.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	I only went to the International Office once to make my registration complete, other than that I didn't use any counselling or support services so I can't tell anything about it. I just had some e-mail contact with the professor of the course of Linguistics that I was following and which counted as a substitute of a obligatory course at Utrecht University (with permission of the UU Exam Committee), about the course credits, as I had some confusion about that. He was helpful and answered my questions via mail clearly and fast.

transfer of credits

At the check-out at the International Office of Bologna my transcript of records wasn't finished yet, as one of my three votes wasn't put in the system yet. Later after coming home they sent the Transcript of Records to the International Office at UU and they in turn sent it to me. The transfer of the credits themselves is still in the progress.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a welcome speech for Erasmus students, but I didn't go as I had already met some people with whom I had plans. Other than that I'm not sure if they had much orientation or welcome programs, in either case I didn't attend any of it as I felt I didn't need it.

accommodation

I was quite lucky finding a room via a room website of Bologna, (not via the University), and have had a good experience in my house. It was big, well maintained, in a nice area just outside the city walls(center). A little bit more expensive than I had hoped, but then again, it was basically thrown in my lap, and it being also a single room (not shared), I accepted and didn't regret it.

leisure & culture

Bologna is a very lively vibrant city. Nightlife, live music, theatre, cinema, events.. There is always something to do. Plus, if you want, there are no less than 3 Erasmus organisations, ESN, Erasmusland(ESEG) and ELBO. Every Wednesday at the Empire pub there is a Language Tandem where you can talk and meet other foreign students as well as many Italians.Plus from 23 till midnight there is a free salsa lesson.

suggestions/tips

Getting a public library pass is free, and renting books AND movies is also FREE! Also it's worth visiting the parks in the hills south of Bologna, they are easy to reach either by bike or by bus. For example Parco Villa Ghigi, if you climb to the top of the hill you have a great view over the whole city. Also a walk to Basilica San Luca is worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Bologna as a city to study! It is beautiful, almost no tourists, lots of students, lots of cozy bars and cafés, lots of things to do.. It has a great vibe. Also many Italians say that in Italy it's the best city to study. The university as well offers many good and interesting courses, the only thing is that in the beginning if you didn't arrive on time it could happen that you had to sit on the floor because there wasn't enough place. But a bit later in the semester this was no longer a problem.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start on time with studying, or at least try to keep on track with the reading material. Because in Italy for most courses you usually only have one exam at the end of the semester, which means you have to learn a lot and if you start only just a week or two before the exam you might find out it is too much to learn in too little time.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 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	I started my application process a bit late because at first I wasn't sure if I wanted to do an exchange. When the time to sign up for the remaining places came, I immediately applied (that was end of November 2015). The amount of papers to get ready in time is quite a lot. But it's just a matter of spending some time figuring out who is responsible for what in case you need help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support at UU was very good. Emails were always answered quite quick.
academic preparation	I chose Bologna for several reasons and my academic preparation was more concerned with me trying to align my research focus in Utrecht with what I was going to spend the semester doing in Bologna.
language preparation	I chose courses to be followed in English in Bologna and Italian is one of my mother tongues, so it wasn't need for me.
finances	It was a bit unpleasant to wait until the very end to know the amount I was going to receive, but everything worked out fine. Just follow the deadlines for applications and it's all fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	University of Bologna was a bit unorganised in terms of schedule but it was just a matter of understanding the way things work.
academic quality of education activities	The quality of courses were very good. I just struggled for not being used to having large classes (with 80 ppl) in some of the courses, but on the other hand it was good to be exposed to different types of pedagogies.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

I never really had to contact anyone for anything besides what was asked by UU and for that it was always easy to reach the people in charge.
transfer of credits
I still do not know how this will work.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Since I already knew the city, the country and the culture, I didn't feel lost once I arrived and didn't have difficulties figuring things out.
accommodation
I found a room within 2 weeks with the help of friends.
leisure & culture
Bologna offers a lot in terms of culture and this was also one of the reasons I chose to go there. I knew the city would inspire me socially and academically to figure out how to develop my final thesis in UU.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend University of Bologna as a destination for your Erasmus exchange. Bologna is one of the oldest universities in Europe and one can gain a lot from its tradition. In addition, the city offers a lot in terms of student life and it's a destination where you can bridge acquiring academic knowledge with exploring and being inspired by the city's cultural environment.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	31 / 1 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 6 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process was very clear and easy. More or less everything was stated online and if anything was unclear, the international office could always help me out.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support I got from UU was very helpful. Usually they would respond to my e-mails within a day.
academic preparation
The academic level in Italy was very much in line with the dutch academic level so no preparation was needed.
language preparation
Even though all the courses I attended were in English I learned some Italian just to get by in daily life. Though I would certainly recommend this it is not absolutely necessary.
finances
Prices in Bologna are more or less the same as in Holland, but life on erasmus is definetly more expensive than in Holland. You will want to make a trip every now and then and go out for dinner and drinks a few times a week. Make sure to take this into account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Studying in Italy is not the same as in Holland. You have way more liberty. You can, for instance, choose whether you attend classes or not. Also, the deadlines are very negotiable.
academic quality of education activities
In general, the level of classes was about the same as in Holland.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really seek counsel at the receiving university. I only had direct contact with the teachers who were generally very friendly.
transfer of credits
The grades in Italy are given on a scale of 30 (30 being the highest). It is not very rare to receive a 30 so in Holland they translate this as a 8,5, which seems fair to me.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university as well as organisations such as ESN or Erasmusland organised city tours, welcome dinners/ lunches so this was well taken care of.
accommodation
Housing in Bologna is quite expensive (comparable to Utrecht) and difficult to find so make sure you start looking on time.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a very central place in Italy. Within two hours by train you can be in Milan, Venice, Parma, Modena, Florence, Ravenna and Rimini so there is plenty of places to visit on a day trip.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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Yes I would recommend this university. Bologna is a real student city, so life revolves around students. It might not be as impressive as Rome or Florence but it is definitely a great place to study.

do you have any additional advice or comments?