

**2018-2019**

**Report 1**

<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	yes:	<a href="mailto:clmlangenhuisen@gmail.com">clmlangenhuisen@gmail.com</a>
	my weblog	yes:	
	my Facebook account	yes:	
	other (social) media	yes:	
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<b>bachelor's</b>	master's	PhD
name study programme	Italian language & culture		

destination city & country	Firenze, Italy
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Firenze
start date	04 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 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	<p>In the application process I had to make sure all the forms were filled in correctly, not only by me but also my sending institution (Universiteit Utrecht). Fortunately, I started this process on time so I didn't have to stress whether the documents would be signed in time. The receiving institution sent me their documents a bit later than expected, but the process was pretty quick and they responded fairly fast so there was no problem there either.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>In my experience there wasn't a lot of counseling. As preparation we had a Erasmus gathering with students that went abroad the year before, which was informative, but according to me not always an accurate depiction of what it's actually like. I do believe that if I'd asked for counseling during my time abroad I would've gotten it.</p>
academic preparation	

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

Even though I knew that the academics would be different in Italy, I did not feel prepared when I got there. The teachers talked and talked every week for 2 hours, 3 times a week and there weren't any group discussions or presentations or anything. There weren't any exams until the end of the semester, so your whole grade depended on 1 oral exam. This gave me serious panic attacks which made me unable to finish my courses.

## language preparation

Regarding the fact that I studied Italian language for two year before going and I'm fairly fast in learning languages, I did feel like I was prepared enough to follow the courses in Italian. However, sometimes the teachers forgot there were Erasmus students in the room as well and spoke really fast, which sometimes made it hard to follow.

## finances

Finding an affordable decent room in Firenze was pretty hard. I had to pay 450 euros a month for a room really far from the city center. But besides that living in Italy is a bit cheaper or maybe in Firenze quite the same price as in the Netherlands. Nevertheless, it wasn't really easy to get by without financial support of my parents.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

Even though I had prepared my Learning Agreement way beforehand, upon arrival it turned out that lots of courses were in another city or department and not available for Erasmus students to attend. It therefore is important to have some back-up courses prepared in case the courses in your Learning Agreement turn out to be impossible to follow.

## academic quality of education activities

The academic quality in Italy was lower than I'm used to in the Netherlands. Nevertheless regarding the fact that everything is given in Italian and they talk pretty fast it sometimes is hard to follow the courses. The lack of having to write essays or give presentations struck me as a shame, because I always find those skills important to develop.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

The support at the receiving university was very good, the ladies responsible for Erasmus students were very kind and responded very quickly when I'd write them an email. It was really easy to get things done with them (signatures, documents, etc.).

## transfer of credits

Regarding the fact that I did not manage to successfully get grades in the courses I followed at the Università degli studi di Firenze, I'm not in a position to talk about the transfer of credits. Though I do believe that this would be a quick and honest process.

**STUDENT LIFE**

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

The welcoming program was quite short and small. We only had one day where some people responsible for the Erasmus Program would give short speeches (in Italian even though lots of students there did not speak the language yet) and they showed us around in the city centre to show us where our classes would/could be. There was a buddy system implemented with Italian students who were available to help us with our Learning Agreements and that were eager to do fun things together.

## accommodation

I lived with two working people that were around 40. Even though I did not mind at all, I'd have preferred to live with people my own age, but it was very hard to find decent rooms in the center, let alone with people I actually liked. The people I lived with were very nice Italians, but I didn't see them very often, so I didn't really have the feeling I lived with other people.

## leisure &amp; culture

The Italian culture is amazing. I got myself a museum card for Uffizi and Palazzo Pitti and often went on days where there weren't many tourists lining up to enter the museums. A "negative" point about Firenze is that the city center is really small so the concentration of tourists is really really high, which made me quite anxious every now and then. However I did enjoy the city and all of its beauty a lot.

## suggestions/tips

If you're going to Firenze, make sure you find yourself a room a bit closer to the center. I often found myself unable to go out with friends because I lived so far away from the center and didn't want to go all the way home alone late at night.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would only recommend this university to people that are ready to work really hard for there grades. Though I hear a lot of stories from Erasmus students that their exams were really easy and teachers didn't really care, in Firenze they are very serious and will not let you off easily!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just say yes to every invitation and new experiences! It will bring you a lot of new friends and good times you'll cherish forever. It really is a once in a lifetime experience and you should really make the most of it, academic-wise but also in a personal sense.

**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.a.ruijgrok@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	Language and culture studies

destination city & country	Florence, Italy
name university abroad	Università degli studi di firenze
start date	15 / 09 / 2017 (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!

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	For the application you have to prepare some documents, everything you have to do you can find very clearly on the website. My advice is don't hesitate if you have questions or if you cannot find something, and when you made your choice for a university abroad start the process as fast as possible. Find a way for yourself to organise all the documents.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The Utrecht University organises a very nice pre departure meeting and they will always help you with your questions if you email them. But you have to ask them yourself, it is a very individual process, and they will not do everything for you, self-dependence is a very big part of studying abroad.
academic preparation	
	I choose the courses abroad within my field of study so academically I was prepared. But keep in mind the university system in Florence is very different from the one in the Netherlands.
language preparation	
	I took Italian 1 & 2 at the Utrecht University and I did a A2 and B1 course at Babel and in Italy. They say you need B1 for your studies in Florence, but I advise you to have B2/C1. Studying in another language is way more difficult than you think, it is not like an everyday conversation. You need to read and write the same things as the Italian students. Of course you learn a lot whilst being there, but I wished I had a better preparation. You can also do a language course at the language institute of the university (CLA).
finances	
	I can advise you to make a financial plan, keep in mind the especially the beginning costs a lot, and it will cost more than you think because you will do a lot of fun stuff. Prices are more or less the same as in The Netherlands. A student room can cost you about 400 euro. And avoid the tourist places.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
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**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
At the university you can choose you own courses within the faculty, this can be a little bit tricky with credits and timetable. Every professor organises the course different. But you only have lectures for about 3 X 2 hours. The courses are 6 or 12 credits. Keep in mind that a lot of courses you choose you have to change.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is bad, so don't expect too much. The system in Florence is very different, it is more about memorizing facts and not about participation. You only have lectures, and the professor can easily be an hour late. It changes very much every course, also how interesting it is. My advise is always to introduce yourself to the professor and ask what you have to do (they have visiting hours). Keep in mind that there is a big hierarchie in the education system and they expect you to be really formal. Also all exams are oral, this is very different and difficult.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They respond very fast to your email but you will never meet a person in real life, so when you have a problem I wouldn't know where to go. The office is not opened that often, keep this in mind.
transfer of credits
I think it is not a problem to transfer the credits but I didn't get them yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
There was a welcome day was more about practical information. But there are also a lot of organisations in Florence to meet people.
accommodation
It can be quite difficult to find accommodation because you have to organise it yourself. Do this as soon as possible. It is good to find something on Facebook or other websites. Maybe you can get in contact with a person you know. I stayed some days in an airbnb to find a room, which was a little stressfull.
leisure & culture
The city is amazing and you will for sure meet a lot of nice people from other countries. There is something to do or see every day. The Italian culture can be a little bit different, especially when it comes to organisation, but you will get really pacient. I advice you to see as much as possible of Italy, it is really easy to travel around. Eat as much as you can!
suggestions/tips
Don't expect too much from the university of Florence. But you will for sure enjoy your time in the city and the country. It is an experiance, especially when you study history of art. It is nice to contact a person who has been there before for some tips. Enjoy your time, it goes by so fast.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The city yes! The university no...
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Exchange Experiences

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

International Office

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze****2016-2017****Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Florence, Italy
name university abroad	Università degli Studi Firenze
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 02 / 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	
	It is very important to keep in mind the exact deadlines of the applications. At first it seems quite a lot. Therefore I would recommend asking a fellow student how already went abroad for some advise.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	If you honor the deadlines the counselling and support at our University is very supporting. I lost a document and the international office made it possible for me to take care of the documents by way of email. Very helpful.
academic preparation	
	I chose to follow courses at the university of Florence that fell within my specialisation (the one at Utrecht). Though the subjects didn't overlap, I was in possession of some prior knowledge.
language preparation	
	Since I study the Italian language I decided not to follow a language course before departure. During my stay though, I attended a language course that was offered by the university. Since the quality of the lessons is quite good and the course is for free I would recommend this opportunity.
finances	
	Italy is not a very economic country to live, especially as regards rent. Also it is difficult, whether or not impossible to find a job. Therefore I would recommend students to save some money before departure.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	From fellow students I understood that it very often happens in Italy that the courses change and that you have to change your language agreement upon arrival. Luckily all the courses I chose were taught.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of the education activities, in my view, varies. The role of the professor is even more important than it is at Utrecht. I have had professors who were very capable and provided a structured learning environment. I have also had professors who were less capable which made the courses hard to follow and the structure difficult to understand. However there are some professors that into consideration the difference between natives and Erasmus students. I recommend new students to approach professors at the beginning of the

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

semester so that unnecessary work needn't be done.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Although the counselling and support at Florence are satisfactory it is important to know that due the language barrier it is wise to be well prepared and speak some Italian. Also, many offices are only open on mornings, so a thoughtful planning is needed.

transfer of credits

Until today it is quite unclear to me how the transfer of credits between Italy and Utrecht works. Since both countries work with different grading systems, and Utrecht subtracts points due to a supposed difference of academic level, it might be useful to know the exact terms.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university of Florence does not provide an introduction. However, there are about three Erasmus organisations which do provide activities during the year.

accommodation

Also accommodation is not provided by the university. It is useful to ask for a membership of the facebookpages of the Erasmus societies. There are also some sites similar to kamernet.nl as for example easystanza.it.

leisure & culture

Most of the Erasmus societies provide also leisure and cultural trips. I was a member of Erasmusland with whom I made several lovely trips. By train, flixbus and blablacar you can easily organise some trips yourselves.

suggestions/tips

Something very nice about Italy in general: the second Wednesday of the month all films in the movie theaters are only 2,-. A tip for Florence: every first Sunday of the month the civic museums are for free.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I very much recommend Florence as destination to study abroad. For the city is not only beautiful it has a bright history that never bores. It is not too big and not too small. There are plenty possibilities for (Erasmus) students to enjoy the studentlife, though it is never an obligation. Although I had some difficulties with one course and its professors I do recommend the University of Florence. The level of instruction really depends on the professors, but if you choose wisely, this should not be a problem.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

## Report 2

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

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

destination city & country	Florence, Italy
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Firenze
start date	01 / 03 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 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 process for the exchange application will take a lot of time. There are a lot of forms to fill in and it is not always easy to get all the right information from your university abroad. The best way to go if you have problems is if to pass by the erasmus office or contact your university abroad.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Utrecht University is really helpful when it comes to support and counselling. Of course you have to fill in all the forms yourself and make sure you will meet the deadlines, but if you have any problems the international office will give you advice. They also organized a meeting about studying abroad before we left.
academic preparation	
	My academic preparation as bachelor student art history was sufficient.
language preparation	
	The university in Florence required the level B1 for Italian. I followed two courses before going. One at Babel and one with Luca Avanzi. I have to be honest that the level of B1 is not really sufficient to follow the courses and especially to take oral exams. The university in Florence has an excellent language institute (CLA) where you can follow courses during your stay. This is highly recommended. The first course is free, the second one will cost 50 euros. I followed two courses, one B1/B2 language course focussing on art history and one B1 listening and writing course.
finances	
	I ended up spending way more money than I expected on going out/restaurants/drinks. Although life in Florence in general turned out to be cheaper than I expected.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I was a little bit disappointed by the amount of art history courses they had to offer in the second semester. Due to schedule overlap I couldn't follow all the courses that I wanted to. You can choose your courses before you leave but you will change almost everything when you arrive. It turned out to be some courses were already held in the first semester etc.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality is okay. What was new for me was that you have 3 x 2 hours of lecture for every course. Here they have never heard of working groups or participation. So it turned out for me that I was going to 24 hours a week of lecture. This is not really my way of studying and it was sometimes hard to focus or not to lose attention or interest, especially when the groups were big or the professor was hard to follow due to language accents.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

The erasmus office at this university is extremely kind and helpful.

transfer of credits

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**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

There are several Erasmus groups in Florence like, AEG, ESN, ISF and Erasmusland. They will organize loads of activities so you will definitely make a lot of friends. I really liked going on the trips they organize (AEG) and the aperitivo's.

accommodation

I found accommodation via via. I stayed at a top location (Piazza Santa Maria Novella) in a shared apartment with a Finish girl I found on facebook for 450 euros a month.

leisure & culture

The Italian culture is amazing! There are a lot of things to do in Florence especially as art history student. However if you don't have anything with culture whatsoever maybe this is not your city to go.

suggestions/tips

Attend the language courses at CLA. Make sure to attend some Erasmus groups so you will make friends easily and quick. Take advantage of your stay here and visit a lot of museums/cities etc.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, If you are going for a cultural Erasmus and want to learn Italian I would recommend this university. I think however if you really go for the level of education (especially if you are for instance a law student) there will be better universities. Studying in Florence is however a real pleasure and there are a lot of things to do! I had so much fun!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No

**2014-2015****Report 1**

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

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The process of application was, looking back, relatively easy. I went to a meeting where everything was explained quite clearly. The webadres on which we could check the information was also very clear. All I needed to do was

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

follow the steps in time. In the beginning you feel like it is a lot of work but all in all I don't think it was more than two days of work.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Excellent. The meeting was really helpful and when I had a question my e-mails were answered quickly.

academic preparation

Before I started my Erasmus period I had already completed all the required courses in Utrecht and finished my thesis so everything I did abroad was extra and I didn't really worry about the academic level. I knew I was going to do a course on Roman history and archeology so I did an extra course in Utrecht which was mildly relevant but I probably would have done that course anyway.

language preparation

I did the minor Italian Language and Culture in my second year in order to prepare myself, which is a good enough level to start with. Then, between my second year and until I moved here, in order to keep my level, I started with private lessons every week.

finances

Other than the extra amount of money you get from Erasmus and the government for not using public transport and living by yourself, I didn't have a special grant. It is wise to have some savings in your bank account for the first two months of rent and the guarantee but you can definitely live off the grants.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

All I had to do when inscribing myself for courses at the university of Florence was their website. Unfortunately they do not say in which semester a course is given. To my surprise they approved all three of the courses for which I inscribed myself. But when I looked at the program of this semester and found my courses it was said: already given in the first semester. So I had to change everything. Luckily this was quite easy, but it was still annoying. The classes themselves are two hours long. Most of the teachers come fifteen to late. The class starts with half an hour of reading up the names of all the students. After that the real lesson starts. The teachers are good, both in teaching and in the material. I would have liked a powerpoint presentation as well to understand the subject better but this was not the case. There are a lot of students who attend the classes so it can get quite loud, sometimes I thought I was back in middle school.

academic quality of education activities

I think the quality of the university is average. The staff is good but old-fashioned and Italian. So they come in the classroom, say what they have to say and take off again. Lessons are only activities, only later on in the study program will the students go on excursions or will extra lectures be organised. What surprised me the most is that we did not need to write anything. You are not required to write a paper and the exam is oral. My presentation skills have improved by this I think but for my writing skills I am happy I am studying in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Sufficient. When I had a question they answered me and when I needed something signed I could come back within a week. I did not really have a lot to do with them. Except that when I needed a student card they could not type in my birthplace, an engineer had to come and install the place in the computer. Which meant I did not have a card for a while.

transfer of credits

I don't know yet. The credits will probably be equal to each other. At both the universities you get 60 credits a year but in Utrecht it is equal to the complete time you spend on a course, here you only get credits for the hours you are in class. The grade will probably be divided by 3 since they work with a system from 0 to 30.

**Italy – Università degli Studi di Firenze**

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	Upon my arrival in Florence I went to the Erasmus office of the university, as I was told to do in an pdf the was send to me in an email. They gave me my study program, a little book with some information about the university and they told me what to do next to get a student card, where to find the university buildings, etc. Unfortunately there wasn't something like and orientation day on which you could meet other students.
accommodation	I found a room an apartment via the website easystanza.it. I had the luck that there is a Dutch Institute in the city in which I could sleep for the first two weeks untill I had found a place. Two weeks is enough to find something since in Florence there are not a lot of students who don't live with their parents. So don't regard the first week as a vacation, like I did, because than you will have to pay more than you want. You can find something good for around 300 euros if you don't mind sharing the apartment. If you need something fast you'll have to pay a hundred a month more, and still share. Wifi is more important than you think it is. There are a lot of apartments in the city which do not have Wifi, so keep looking in that case.
leisure & culture	I choose to study at the university of Florence mainly for the city of Florence. Florence is culture. Which also means there are a lot of tourists. The city itself is comparable to Utrecht in numbere of inhabitants, but you will have to dubble that number because of the tourists. This has it's pro's and con's. There's always something open, most people speak at least a bit of english, and the weather is good most of the times.
suggestions/tips	Everything will take more time than you think it will, there are no deadlines in Italy. If you want Italian friends then everything will be up to you. I enrolled in an language course at the CLA (first month is for free) where I got to know some other Erasmus students. Buy a bicycle. Go to the visiting hours of the teachers, even if you don't really have questions. Just ask about some extracurricular activity. It helps if they know your face at the exam. The best icecream is solled by Badiani and the best coffee you can get at Chiaroscuro. I like to visit the smaller cities that surround Florence like Prato and Pistoia.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I would recommend this destination to anyone. Especially if they study art history. The university itself is not worth the trouble, but the people and the city made it worth my times.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	-