

**2018-2019**

**Report 1**

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
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<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
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 / Taal- en cultuurstudies

destination city & country	London , United Kingdom
name university abroad	University College London
start date	24 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>I would really encourage everyone who is thinking of going on exchange to start doing your research and preparations early on (the end of first year is not too early if you want to go in your third year!), because the whole process might take longer than you'd expect. I knew from the beginning that I wanted to go to an English speaking country, so I started doing my reasearch into universities in the UK, Australia and South Africa (I wasn't particularly drawn to the US). I think my first choice was Stellenbosch University (South Africa), but I knew they only had one spot available so my second choice was Monash University (Australia) for which I got selected in the end. However, I still felt kind of drawn to the UK as well so I had a look into the list of remaining destinations (which I highly recommend doing) and I discovered they had a leftover spot at University College London (UCL). The exchange programme at UCL is half teaching internship (NVT: Nederlands als Vreemde Taal), hald studying and this combination sounded very appealing to me. I contacted Emmeline Besamusca straight away and I managed to change my destination just before the application deadline passed. Because no one else had applied for the NVT-internship, I could even apply for the entire academic year instead of just one semester, so always ask if it's possible to go for a whole year if that's what you'd prefer.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>I found the application process and all the administrative work you have to do in order to leave rather confusing, and to be honest I did not always find the UU to be that helpful. In the beginning when I was trying to decide where to go, I was repeatedly recommended to go to Germany or Switzerland even though I specified</p>

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I wanted to go to an English speaking country (both for academic and personal reasons), but the international office kept telling me it's very hard to get into British universities and I had a better chance of getting into 'less popular' destinations. But in the end I did find my perfect destination and my application went through quickly even though I changed my destination fairly last-minute. So if you've found a destination you really like, make sure to 'fight' for it a little bit and they will support you and help you. I would recommend to get in touch with a former student who went to the destination you're interested in, I found they're usually the most helpful, because they know exactly what you're going through. Furthermore, don't be afraid to send lots of emails to the international/Erasmus office, they're there to help and it's better to ask lots of questions than to realise something after you've missed a deadline (there are quite a few deadlines to be met).

**academic preparation**

I didn't do any specific academic preparation and found the level of modules at UCL to be very similar to the level I'm used to in Utrecht, so academically it was a very smooth transition from one university to the other and from second year to third year. Though, I would recommend to really read up on the modules at UCL you're interested in and see what they expect from you, usually the UCL module guide online will state whether the module is assessed through an exam or an essay (incl. how many words), so you can select your modules based on that as well. Also make sure to have some second choice modules in mind, since you might not be able to take all the modules of your first choice after you arrive. Doing the NVT-internship means you're officially an affiliate student within SELCS (School of European Languages, Culture and Society), but you should be allowed to take 50% of your modules outside of SELCS, make sure to arrange this in time though if that something you want to do. I ended up taking four modules (so half of all my modules) in the Department of Philosophy and everything worked out fine.

**language preparation**

I didn't do any language preparation. As a Language and Culture Studies student I studied English in first year and I am half British so I felt prepared enough. Moreover, as soon as you move to the UK and hear English all around you, you will notice you'll get the hang of speaking (and thinking) in English in no time and your fluency will improve so quickly over the year, just make sure you don't forget your Dutch...

**finances**

London is expensive, there is no way around it, but it is totally manageable. Maybe consider taking out the Dutch student loan if you don't already have it. Also, finding a flat on Facebook or SpareRoom rather than going in student halls might work out cheaper, at least that's what I did and all my friends in halls paid more rent. Public transport wise, I would recommend getting a personal/student Oyster card, they have a special one for 16-25 year olds that gives you a bit of discount on the bus and tube. Also, it might be worth investing in a bike (especially if you're staying for a year), not only to save money, but time (rush hour is real)! But mind that London is unfortunately no different to the Netherlands when it comes to bike theft, so get a proper lock as well. Food wise, just don't go out for food (except maybe Indian all you can eat buffets like IndianVeg in Angel), because it's expensive. Instead cook together with your friends, go to the cheaper supermarkets (Morrisons, Lidl) and enjoy the free food Hare Krishna hands out everyday from 12-2pm in front of UCL and SOAS university. Also make sure you have a reusable coffee cup, loads of coffee shops give discount if you bring your own cup. You can also buy basically anything secondhand in the many charity shops you'll find around London, I got all my clothes and the most random things like home wear and kitchen utensils in charity shops for only a few pounds.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD****study programme (content and organisational issues)**

Like I mentioned before (in the 'academic preparation' section) the transition from the UU to UCL was quite straightforward, if you don't struggle too much at the UU, you won't at UCL. If you want to take modules

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outside SELCS, make sure to contact the department you're interested in early on and ask them what modules would be available to you to choose from. Initially, I registered only for modules within SELCS but after my arrival at UCL I was able to substitute all my modules for modules in the department of Philosophy. I did all of my modules at the highest (third year) level, so they can count towards my major. Just make sure you communicate your module choices well with both SELCS and the UU.

## academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality of lectures, seminars and the teachers is in many ways similar to the UU. Some modules I took were quite challenging, but also the most inspiring and it taught me a lot. UCL is a big and international university, so you have access to a lot of facilities and interesting lecturers and professors from all over the world, so make the most of all the academic knowledge and experiences that are available to you at UCL.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

I think the support at UCL for affiliate/Erasmus students is sufficient, but don't expect to have a guide or someone to help you every step of the way. There is a lot of administrative stuff in the beginning you have to figure out yourself, but if you have questions the SELCS study abroad officers are usually very responsive and helpful. And the UCL system is not that different from the UU, so you'll get the hang of it soon enough. Christine Sas, who was my internship supervisor at the Dutch department has been very helpful and kind as well, and I could always knock on her door, even for things that were not strictly related to Dutch or teaching.

## transfer of credits

My credits haven't yet been transferred, but just to be sure but I'd recommend to ask your departmental office at UCL to write a letter of accreditation proving how many credits you should get per module and which academic level they were at. Especially if you're taking modules outside SELCS, ask the office of the department you're taking modules from for a letter to ensure there won't be any confusion about the modules you took and the credits you deserve when you come back to the UU.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

UCL offers a special orientation week for international/exchange students during the first week. They offer loads of optional activities, ranging from sports, to nights out and day time excursions. But you really don't need to attend all (or any) of the activities to meet people. I just went to the mandatory introduction talk and a boat party, and already met loads of lovely people, some of whom I'm still really close friends with. They will also have a 'fresher's market' where you can sign up for one of the many student societies UCL has, they have a society for every sport you can think of, each country has their own society and they also have an art society and a drama society for example. I was planning on joining one or two societies but in the end I had already met so many people and so many things going on that I didn't really feel the need to join one anymore, but it's definitely possible! During the first week you'll also have the opportunity to open a British bank account at UCL, which I'd really recommend doing as soon as possible after you arrive, because it might take a while.

## accommodation

I would strongly recommend looking into 'private' flats on Facebook or SpareRoom, there are specific groups for student housing from several universities. UCL also offers accommodation in different price ranges and areas of London, and that's perhaps the easiest way to go, but if you're looking for a slightly more 'authentic' and homely home, it might be worth looking elsewhere. I think it is easy to meet people in halls, but it will exclusively be freshers and other international students, of course there is nothing wrong with that but overall I've heard from all my friends in halls they'd rather live outside halls. I started looking for rooms on Facebook around June (so three months in advance), and the second flat I approached 'picked me'. In London they most

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likely won't invite you for silly selection interviews like they do in Utrecht, I just skyped my current flatmates and they showed me the house. I lived with 6 other people (4 boys and 2 girls), most of them English, and I was really lucky because we all got on incredibly well immediately and they're still some of the best friends I made in London. The house itself was not in the best condition, but the location (Chalk Farm) was great and my tiny room was very affordable (546 pounds a month) compared to the London standard. Contracts in London are almost always for a year, so be prepared to have a few months in summer where you'll have to pay rent but won't live there. I had a contract starting and ending at the end of July, so I had some time to settle in beforehand and stick around during summer afterwards. Of course, if you're only going for one semester this might not be an option, so in that case I'd say go for UCL halls or see if you can sublet a private flat for a couple of months.

## leisure &amp; culture

I think it's no secret that the main reason that makes London such an exciting destination is that there is always something to do! I would say try and stay away from the touristy and crowded areas and explore your local area and support the independent shops, cafés and markets. I have personally really come to love 'east' London, i.e. Hackney, Dalston, Stoke Newington, Islington. Those are all great places to see live music - any artist you've ever dreamt of seeing live will sooner or later come to London, so be warned; all your money might go to gigs. Earth and The Shacklewell Arms in Hackney are two of my favourite places for drinks/gigs/going out. I'd also recommend going to parks, I was lucky to live close to both Primrose Hill and Hampstead Heath, and especially the latter is great if you just really need to escape the hustle and bustle of city life for a bit. In the middle of Hampstead Heath you'll really feel like you're in the middle of the countryside, but you'll also have a beautiful view of the London skyline.

## suggestions/tips

If you'd like more specific tips or advice, feel free to contact me, I'd love to help a future Londoner out!

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

A hundred percent yes. UCL is a very good university academically, especially for exchange students because of UCL's international character. In general, going on exchange is an amazing opportunity to experience life at a different university, and UCL is internationally considered to be a very prestigious university, so I would really take this unique chance to study at UCL and broaden your academic experience whilst you can. Moreover, London is such an amazing place to live for a while, especially as a young person the city has so much to offer. It is so diverse in every way, so there's something to enjoy for everyone, both inside and outside of uni life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try and make the most of the academic and extracurricular facilities UCL and the University of London offer. For example, you can use all the University of London libraries, if none of the UCL libraries have your fancy, take a look in Senate House, the British Library, the Wellcome Collection or SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies). Most of my flatmates went to SOAS university, so I made a library card at SOAS at the beginning of the year (you can do this at the reception when you bring your UCL card) and ended up spending most of my library days at SOAS, they have a very distinct atmosphere and strong student community and I made some lovely friends there.

**2017-2018**

**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University College London
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 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 in order to go on an exchange is one that consumes a lot of your time and especially your responsibility. For me, it was very important that I kept up with all the information I was given in a short period of time and I had to plan carefully in order to complete everything in time. From my experience, the communication with a host university can be very slow and you have to keep in mind to be patient. I didn't hear whether I was accepted until very late.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I have had good experiences when it comes to the counselling and support I got from the International Office of Utrecht University. At first, I wanted to study in Berlin instead of London, but the International Office advised me to go with my second choice, because that would be easier in many aspects. Whenever I had a question or difficulty regarding my exchange, especially before my departure, the International Office was there to help me and guide me. I was also impressed with the quick responses I sometimes got on my e-mails. I have experienced how important the contact between an university and student is in order to go on your exchange prepared.
academic preparation	I have though a lot about the differences between my home and host university. However, I couldn't find any big differences; studying at Utrecht University and at UCL is very comparable and I'm happy that this is the case. Levelwise, I think I was prepared enough to study at UCL and follow both advanced and beginner classes in different topics. I can conclude that Utrecht University has prepared me well enough when it comes to academic skills and to use them at a different university.
language preparation	Because I decided to study in the UK, I did not have to follow any language course whatsoever. However, it is very important to bear mind that when you go to a country where English is not the main language, you have to have a certificate in the language they speak there. If you do not have one, you have to take a language course in order to get one. This is one of the reasons that stopped me from going to Berlin and to choose London instead, even though I have been raised with German as my second language. Remember the academic use of a

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language is different than when used normally and even though you're only taking English courses, it is important to think about your language skills before making any decision.

## finances

One of the most important things is, sadly enough, still money. Some countries or cities are very expensive to live in and you have to be prepared for everything. In order to have enough money to last me for a term in London, one of the most expensive cities to live in, I decided to raise my student loan before I went on my exchange, in order to save money and be sure to have enough. I think this is a wise thing to do, because you never know exactly how expensive it will be in the end. Remember that you will probably spend much more money when you're on your exchange than studying at your home university.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

I decided to do three courses within my own field (Linguistics) and follow one course outside of it. It is important to plan your courses in advance and not only think about what you want to achieve during your exchange, but also how to integrate it into your study at Utrecht. For me, it was hard to sign up for my courses because I had to do that when I was already in London and could not do this in advance. I already had four courses in mind, but in the end it appeared three of them were not available anymore. Luckily, I had already looked at some back-up courses I could take, so I can strongly advice to do this too.

## academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality of education activities are roughly the same at both universities. I could not spot any difference in the way of teaching or the level of the courses. I think they academic quality of the courses I took at UCL is comparable with the ones I've taken at Utrecht University.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

In my opinion, the contact between my tutor abroad and me was not that well. I had the feeling I knew more about the exchange process than my personal tutor and I did not receive any support at the receiving university. I have talked about this with my international flatmates in London, and we all agreed that the contact between the university and the exchange students could be improved massively. I am glad I did not have to rely on my host university that much and that I could handle my entire exchange on my own without any counselling from my host university, because I was well prepared.

## transfer of credits

Because the term officialy ends at 15 december, but I had all my deadlines in january, because normally the exams at UCL are all taken in June, I am still waiting for my work to be graded and to receive my credits.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

I think the orientation programme was very nice and I got to know a lot of people during my first two weeks, thanks to all the welcome activities. I am very glad I attended that many of them, because I think the first two weeks are the most important one to make friends and get to know what you want from this experience.

## accommodation

The accommodation I stayed in was overall good. It was organised from the university itself and this is very convenient for international students. It is important to find an accommodation in time and to make sure you have one before you arrive, because this can take away a lot of stress.

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leisure & culture
<p>During your exchange, you have plenty of time to get to know the city and country. I loved to walk around and visit different parts of the city, get to know the locals, get to know the culture by eating, drinking and cooking the local food and by visiting different museums and important buildings. I think this is also a part of your exchange that is important not to forget and an unique opportunity to live abroad and really get to know a city. I experienced that it is really different to be in a city as a tourist or as someone who lives there, with a preference for the latter.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>When it comes to the student life during your exchange, I can advice you to enjoy it as much as possible and not let anything stop you from the things you want to do! Don't miss out of things because you're afraid of spending money, because this is an amazing opportunity that is so much more worth than money. Also, do attend all the activities that are organized by the university, especially in the first two weeks, because you will get to know people and the area right away.</p>

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	<p>Although London is a very expensive destination to study abroad, I am very glad I chose London in the end. It is such a diverse city and there is plenty to do and very different from any city in the Netherlands. It was an amazing experience and I fell in love with London, because it is a very friendly city to live in. Also, it is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever been in, even though I never liked London that much before. I can highly recommend London as a destination. When it comes to UCL, I think, all in all, that UCL is a good university and comparable to Utrecht University. The area that the university is located in is stunning and in the middle of the city center. Also, because of this, I got an opportunity to live in the centre of London and very close to my university. The teachers are nice and there to help you and the academic level is good. UCL praises itself for being one of the best universities of the world, and I do not know if I fully agree with this, but it is certainly a good university. The only thing I want to point out is the bad communication between the university and its exchange students, but I hope they will improve this soon.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?	<p>I know I've said this before, but I can highly recommend to go on an exchange. It is an amazing opportunity to meet people from all over the world, to study at a different university and to live in an entirely different country. I can happily state my exchange period was the best moment of my life.</p>

**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	BA English Language and Culture
destination city & country	London, England, UK
name university abroad	University College London
start date	26 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (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 advisable to start as soon as possible with this. It is a lot of filling out forms and mailing back and forth with both your home university and receiving university. Do not leave this till the last moment as you won't be able to make the deadline then. In the end, it did go well for me. Filling out the form was no problem but the mailing back and forth took up a lot of time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Utrecht University helped me very well. They always replied to my mails as quickly as they could and if I had a question regarding the application process, they were always happy to help me out. They guided me very well in the application process. I would advise to, anytime something is unclear in the application process or after, just mail them so they can help you out.
academic preparation	
	My BA in English, combined with the linguistics track, was definitely sufficient enough for me in order to follow the modules at UCL. I at no moment felt as if I had any disadvantage academically. I was on the same level of knowledge as my UCL classmates.
language preparation	
	I did not need to take any additional language courses before my exchange as I already studied English both at high school and at my BA. I at no moment felt that I could not follow the classes due to my lack of language knowledge.
finances	
	London, of course, is an expensive city so I would advise to save up as much as possible. I already wanted to go on an exchange since the beginning of my BA so I was able to save up on money. The accommodation is definitely the most expensive part but in London itself there are a lot of options to save on things like public transport and leisure activities. It is easy to learn the top students spots for dinner and shops selling things like clothes and homeware from fellow students. UCL had an introduction day where they also taught us all these ways to save a little money.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	My study programme was excellent. They offered modules in Linguistics that I could not take at University Utrecht. It is also very interesting to discuss for example features of the RP British accent with classmates who do actually have the accent. I really would advise this linguistics programme for people who want to study this.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality was excellent. I was able to gain more in-depth knowledge about my chosen topics and linguistics in general. The teachers were very knowledgeable as well as approachable as they were always prepared to answer your questions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The counselling and support was really good. I had a special affiliate tutor, which really helped as he was already familiar with everything an affiliate student needed to do.

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transfer of credits

I am still in the middle of this process, so I cannot comment on this yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome &amp; orientation programme

UCL provided a great orientation programme introducing us to among others the university, the UCL union and student life. They also organised several activities through the Union which introduced students to the different clubs and societies they could join as well as provided students with a chance to meet other students outside of your own study programme.

accommodation

The accommodation was good. It was a bit on the expensive side but that was by choice as I was prepared to pay a bit more in order to have a bit more independence from the rest of my housemates (i.e., own bathroom). I got my accommodation via UCL. The university has both own halls of residence as well as contracts with some independent student accommodation providers which allows students to have some choice in the matter of their accommodation. I would advise to apply for accommodation as soon as possible and well before the deadline to increase your chances. If you're a term 1 affiliate student, you have just as much a chance at accommodation as first year students. You do, however, only get one offer so if you decline, you have to find your own accommodation.

leisure &amp; culture

London is full of culture and leisure activities. I tried to do and see as much as possible in and of the city and I spent a good portion of my leisure time exploring the city. It was very exciting to find stores and cafes (such as tea shop Whittard or tea café Yumchaa) very different from Dutch ones and I would very much advise to seek these out as it is quite exciting to find these little hidden gems in London. The museums in London are all free so I would definitely advise to check some of them out. Also, check out magazines like Time Out London, where you can find fun and different kind of leisure activities, from pop-up museums to festivals, to do in London every weekend.

suggestions/tips

I would advise to definitely get all the information you can on students discounts (on for example public transport/Oyster card) and on all the spots and stores (like Argos and Poundland) where you can get the cheapest students essentials.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend it. Sure, London is expensive but the city is definitely worth it. It is rich in culture and entertainment, you're never bored and the people are incredibly nice. The University itself is also great. The academic quality is excellent, the teachers are great and the UCL Union societies are a great way to have a fun time and meet students from all over the university. The university is also great for international students and provides a chance to meet people from all over the world. Even the English weather was better than in the Netherlands :)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Save up money and just be prepared. Have everything in order on time.

**UK - London – University College London****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 / Dutch & Flemish language and culture

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University College London
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (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	
	Fairly easy. You have to follow the instructions on Osiris, and start on time. Note all the deadlines for applications so that there won't be any surprises
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	If needed you can contact the international office by email, phone or in person. There are also enough moments of preparations organized by UU.
academic preparation	
	X
language preparation	
	You do not have to do a official language test, but you are required to take an English test provided by the EU. This will not influence you application though.
finances	
	You are asked to make an estimation of your costs abroad. Especially in London you have to have enough recources for food, living and other expenses. My term cost me around 5 to 6 thousand euro's, including rent in London.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	UCL is a great university, and the teachers and students are all top-level. The organization is good, everyhting is made clear, information is given to you on everything; UCL does everything to give you a great welcome. I was required to take on 30ECTS which caused some problems because I also went for an internship (teaching Dutch) and that was not in their system. So my courses did not match (the ones I said I would do and the one's I ended up doing). You get all the help you need, however, to make things in order at UCL. Nobody gets everything right right away.
academic quality of education activities	
	Quility is very good. UCL is a top-university and you can see that.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UCL is a very independent university, which means they let you do as much as they can, but if you do need any help, there are offices and people for everything. If you need help writing essays or if you feel lonely or stressed; they have everything and it is easy to find.
transfer of credits
X

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
Very good, you get a box and a bag with flyers and information, there are speeches and activities to welcome you; everything is taken care of.	
accommodation	
UCL offered me a room in one of their buildings. I was housed with four other people (I had my own room of course), all exchange students. The building was very close to UCL and cost around 177 pound per week.	
leisure & culture	
London is a big city which has everything to offer.	
suggestions/tips	
X	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, UCL is a top-university and also very diverse; people from all over the world come there and you will have a good time and you will meet likeminded people, always.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
X	

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Faculty of Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University College London
start date	03 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

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<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	At first, I found the application process very unclear. I had to fill in several documents and received many e-mails about things that I should do. The learning agreement, for example, needed to be filled in using several codes. Eventually, when I got the hang of it, it all turned out being easier than I thought. Especially when I arrived at UCL, everything became clear. It is a bit of a puzzle, but when you find out how it works, it's not that hard.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	In the beginning I felt like the International Office at UU was not really motivated to help me with requests and things I had a hard time with. When the departure date came closer, however, they were very helpful, and, and this must be said, very fast (with signing documents). Also, during my stay in London, there were two terrorist attacks and the International Office sent me an e-mail if I was alright. I've experienced this as very caring.
academic preparation	
	The academic level of UCL was actually lower than I'd expected. Because the university is in the top 15 of the world, I expected the work load to be very high and the content of the studies as well. This, however, can be compared to the level of education at UU. I think this is a good thing: I didn't feel like I couldn't catch up with the rest of the students.
language preparation	
	I study English language and culture, so going to an English-speaking country was not a problem for me.
finances	
	Without the Erasmus Grant I don't think I could've stayed as long as I did (January-June). London is, especially compared to the Netherlands, crazy expensive. Especially regarding a social life: one beer costs around 5 pounds, in the whole of the city. Food, however, can be saved upon. If you make the right choices and cook by yourself, it doesn't have to be that expensive.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I did the NVT-stage (Teaching Assistend Dutch) and two courses: In, on, and off London (film studies) and Post-1945 European History
academic quality of education activities	
	As stated before, I think the academic level of studying at UCL is the same as in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Although I only met her once, Ania from the UCL International Office has been very helpful via e-mail. I felt like she knew exactly what problems for Erasmus students could be, and she sent us very clear e-mails with instructions and information. She was also our contact person, and my experience with e-mail contact with her is that she replied very fast and with clear instructions or answers.
transfer of credits	
	My credits haven't been transferred yet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	

**UK - London – University College London**

The welcome and orientation programme in the first week has been very meaningful for me. This is basically where I met all my foreign friends, and that have been a lot of people. In the first week, the UCLUnion organised a boat party, and I've experienced this as most meaningful for my social life. Also, the union organised other events for study-abroad people, and they were all a lot of fun!

## accommodation

I have experienced my accommodation as very welcoming and peaceful. I was housed in Langton Close, in a quiet area in Bloomsbury. I shared a flat with three others, and we had our own kitchen, toilet and bathroom. The area is very quiet, but still there are around 300 people living in the building, so it never gets boring. Also, the common room of Langton had been renovated in January, so we had the fanciest common room of all the student residences I've seen. It was a good place to hang out and chill (and has a big tv!). The people in the reception and the cleaners and maintenance workers were all really friendly and welcoming as well. I really felt at home in my residence.

## leisure &amp; culture

London is a very big city, and even after six months I still feel there is a lot more for me to discover. You will never ever get bored, because there is simply too much to do. A lot of museums, for example, have free entrance, and there are a thousand bars in a thousand different areas that are worth a visit. Because London is very expensive, me and my friends used to hang out in the common rooms of the students residences a lot as well. We would just buy our own drinks and hang out and play music. If you're with the right people, everything is fun. But I do highly recommend trying to explore as much different areas of London as possible, as they are all upcoming (Brixton, Dalston, Shoreditch, Seven Sisters etc.). Try to get out of the comfort zone and look further than Westminster or Southwark!

## suggestions/tips

As stated before, the greatest experiences I had were in the less known areas of the city. There are a lot of areas that are upcoming but not so well known to tourists yet, so if you want to explore the 'real London', you should definitely take some time to explore the less well known areas.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! It is a very diverse university, and London is a very diverse city. It opened my eyes to different cultures and the differences between people. Even though London can feel a bit anonymous, my experiences is that it's your own choice: if you want to be in contact with people, you can. If you don't want to, you don't have to. I think Londoners, even though it is often stated otherwise, are very friendly. Also, UCL is a highly recommended university, and it has a lot to offer.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**2015-2016****Report 1**

faculty/college	SELCS: School of European Languages, Culture & Society
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Internship Dutch department + two courses SELCS departement

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>When I heard that they choose me for the internship at the Dutch department the whole application process started. I had to fill in a lot of forms (so be warned, there is a lot to do before you got officially accepted). Utrecht University accepted me, but that did not mean that UCL accepted me. But the International Office of Utrecht University helped me a lot with that. Basically it is just a lot of forms that have to be filled in and signed.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>The staff of the international office helped me a lot during my application process. Whenever I needed help I could send them an answer and they replied quite quick. Besides that, you can walk into the office and ask your question.</p>
academic preparation
<p>Because this exchange was 'extra' (I only needed 7.5 ECTS to graduate), I choose two courses that seemed interesting to me. They did not have a lot to do with my study program (I studied Dutch Language and Culture in Utrecht, but at UCL I followed a course about Digital Humanities and one about Multiculturalism and Identity). It was just an expansion of my knowledge. I did not do academic preparations because I did not feel that I needed it.</p>
language preparation
<p>My last official English exam was from 2011 (my final exam of the havo), this was not really recent. So the International office gave me a 'B'-level and they advised me to follow a English language course to improve my language skills. I felt quite confident about my language skills, because after the havo I had much more English input. Besides that it was my goal to improve my English by studying and teaching (internship) in London.</p>
finances
<p>The first month of my exchange I stayed at my uncle and aunt, so I did not pay rent. The other two months I had a room in London, which my uncle paid. I was really lucky that he paid, so I could use the money I saved for food, fun things and trips. I also used my student loan for that.</p>

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)

**UK - London – University College London**

Before I got to London I had to fill in my Learning Agreement. I choose two courses, but these courses were not automatically the courses I would follow in London. When I got to UCL I had to enroll myself. I checked the timetables of the courses and the examinations. Because I was planning on going back to the Netherlands before the term officially ended, I choose two courses with essays instead of exams. The courses I choose were different from the courses I wrote in my Learning agreement. There were teachers who helped me with the enrollment and the other organizational stuff, that was really nice and helpful. The next week the courses started.

## academic quality of education activities

I was surprised by the system at UCL. They have a trimester system. Two semesters of ten weeks they follow four different courses and the last semester they have their exams. This means that the students have four different topics at the same time instead of two different topics like in Utrecht. And that means that there are less contact hours per course than in Utrecht. The courses I followed were both only two hours a week. I felt like we did not have time to talk through all the topics. That is different from Utrecht, because in Utrecht we get really 'deep' into one subject.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

I did not need any counseling nor support during my stay abroad. But at the orientation they told me about all the persons that were available if I needed help.

## transfer of credits

I found on the internet the webpage about the transfer of credits. For me it was most important to just pass the exams in order to graduate. As long as I got a 40 or higher I would pass the course. I passed all my courses with passing grades. I really felt that the points they gave me were way higher than the grades I would get in Utrecht (converted ofcourse). It seemed 'easier' for me to get a higher grade at UCL.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

UCL names itself 'global university'. And according to my findings, it is! The welcome program was very useful. They explained all the useful stuff. Also, the orientation program was nice. That offered the affiliate students a lot to get to know each other. I met a big group of people because of that. They definitely made my exchange even better.

## accommodation

Because I missed the deadline of the housing, I was not sure of a place to stay. But they did offer me a room. I was planning to leave after the classes finished so I would write my essays back home. When I asked the residence if short-term rent was possible, they said no. So I had to find a room I could rent for a shorter term (three months). That was quite hard. Finally I found a private residence. But I would really recommend the housing from UCL. The rooms I have seen were nice and cheaper than the private residence where I stayed. Besides that I would not recommend to stay just for the classes. I decided to come back and stay a little bit longer (so I could have taken the room UCL offered me).

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## leisure &amp; culture

Because the globality of the university, I got to meet a lot of people from all over the world. That was really nice and interesting. I never knew about the (student) lives outside Europe. Besides that the vibe at UCL was really nice. The campus has a lot to offer, especially because of all the societies. There is a society for everything. So you can get in touch with people of the same interests.

## suggestions/tips

Besides studying I would really recommend to travel around the city and maybe even outside the city. Students should definitely join the Give it a go - trips.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, for sure! The university is really nice. It was nice to study on a campus like UCL. It is big (at least if you compare it to Utrecht binnenstad), international and has a lot to offer. Besides that being a exchange student makes it really nice. You get to know a lot of other people. To be honest, I don't even made a lot of British friends. For me it was really nice to meet people from all over the world. I had the time of my life. London is such an amazing city and has so many things to see and things to do. You can never get tired of London. It was the perfect mixture for me: studying and teaching at UCL, living in (the middle of) London, meeting all this people and spend time together and travel with them.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No, I think that I said everything I had to say.

**Report 2**

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

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

My exchange application process was really easy and went well. The International Office was really helpful as they send all the significant information (i.e. documents, deadlines, et cetera) in time and there were multiple email reminders. The only time I felt like I did not get all the information in time was when one of the documents I uploaded in Osiris was not approved as the dates were not visible. I did not get a reminder for that so I was lucky I found out about it in time. Communication with UCL regarding getting the right signatures on my documents went really smooth as well. The Affiliate Officer responded quickly to my emails so I had no problems whatsoever regarding getting all my Erasmus documents signed in time for the deadlines.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

**UK - London – University College London**

If I had any questions regarding my Erasmus grant the International Office replied to my emails within the given amount of time - I believe that is three to five working days - and also the pre-departure meeting was really helpful. I only wish that there had been a smaller meeting with just the students who were going to the same destination as I was going, because it would have been nice to have known some people in advance. I heard that happens for instance at universities in Berlin and Paris and I think it could be an idea to organise a similar meeting at Utrecht University in addition to the general pre-departure meeting.

## academic preparation

I believe that the courses in my bachelor studies in general prepared me enough academically to make the most out of my study abroad. I have learned and extended various skills, from reading academic texts to expressing myself verbally and orally; from thinking at an academic level to working on group projects.

## language preparation

In my bachelor studies I got used to reading academic texts in English. Also some of my tutorials were given in English - but not so many. I wish I had had more preparation in writing in academic English, because the first time I had to actually do that was at UCL. Therefore, I found it a little hard at first to write an essay in English and I feel that I might have done better if I had more practice in advance. The Erasmus Language assessments were a good means to test my level of English and I believe they were quite accurate.

## finances

London is a really expensive city - especially regarding rent - so I had to make a very good financial plan in advance. At the UCL website I found an overview of the average costs that students make in London so I used that as a guideline to make my financial plan. Despite the fact that I knew this beforehand I was amazed at how much I spent eventually. Therefore, I would recommend anyone to save enough money in advance!

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme consisted of two parts. On the one hand (10 ECTS) I did an internship at the Dutch department as a language assistant. I gave the conversation and listening lessons for the first, second and fourth year students during the first term. On the other hand I participated in two courses, namely Digital Humanities (7,5 ECTS) and Noir Fictions (7,5 ECTS). DH was about creating an online (group)project on digital humanities and writing a follow-up essay about our findings. Our project was about creating a map of film locations in London. NF was about the characteristics of Film Noir. I had to write two essays: one was an analysis of a sequence in a film noir of choice and the other one was a comparison between two noir novels.

## academic quality of education activities

At the moment, UCL is the 14<sup>th</sup> university in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Therefore, I assumed that the academic quality of education activities would be really high. So I was very surprised when I learned that I only had four hours of lectures a week (for the two courses stated above). Also, for the course on digital humanities the time I spent on reading academic text was minimal. However, the lectures were given in small groups so there was much room for discussion and one-on-one attention. Also, the lecturers were real experts in their field of study.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

Whenever I had a problem with something concerning my Erasmus grant, I went to my Affiliate Officer. She was kind, accessible and answered her email straight away. For my internship as a language assistant I also had a supervisor at UCL within the Dutch department. She was a great source of information, helpful and accessible.

## transfer of credits

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At the moment, I don't have my transcript of records yet. The reason for this is that there is a central UCL reporting deadline regarding grading, as it is the UCL central exams office that runs this process for the entire university. I will receive my grades/credits early March. UCL sends my official transcript of records directly to the International Office at Utrecht University.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

UCL has a really extensive welcome & orientation programme for the whole university, the faculty and the department. There is also an orientation programme for international students only - this is one week before the 'regular' students come in. There is a committee that organises all kinds of fun activities, from walking tours around London to international tea parties. Also, there is a faculty meeting to learn the ropes and you have time to arrange your student ID, get to know your way around campus, et cetera. In the weekend before the first week of lectures there is an extensive market where all the University College London Union (UCLU) societies present themselves. In the first or second week of lectures there is a 'Meet your department' meeting to get to know the other students as well as the lecturers. As a result of this programme I felt really welcome both at UCL and in London.

## accommodation

I signed up for UCL accommodation as this is the cheapest way to get your accommodation. I got a room in the Goldsmid House, which is twenty minutes away from UCL either by tube or bike. I lived in a house with seven other people - all international students except one. I had a nice ensuite room to myself and shared a large kitchen with my roommates. There was a guy that cleaned the kitchen and the hallway every working day so that was a big advantage. Notice: students that study at UCL for a full year get precedence for UCL accommodation so I was very lucky to get a room.

## leisure &amp; culture

I think I can write a whole book on this topic, because London is one of the most beautiful and dazzling cities in the world. There are lots of museums and you can visit almost all of them for free. There are loads of food and vintage markets, for instance Camden Market, Borough Market and Bricklane (on Sundays) are my favourites. Highlights such as Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye don't need any introduction. In conclusion, I spent a lot of time sightseeing next to my studies.

## suggestions/tips

I would recommend to sign up for a UCLU society, because it makes your London experience so much better! I personally signed up for the hockey society for a variety of reasons, but the most important one is that I wanted to improve my English accent. It was really nice to live in a house with international students, but nobody actually knew how to speak 'real' English. In my hockey team I was the only international student; all the other girls were from the UK so I could practice my slang with them. Also the hockey society organised weekly socials varying from parties to volunteering activities. It is important to feel part of a group.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend anyone to go to London to have their study abroad. The city is beautiful, the people are amazing, there are so many things to do and every day is a new adventure. As for UCL, the opportunity to combine an internship as a language assistant with studying at one of the most pretentious universities in the world would be my main reason to recommend UCL to any students who has an affinity with teaching Dutch to students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend anyone to go abroad, because it really adds something to your studies.

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

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

While applying I was focussed on going to Edinburgh univeristy. I thought it was quite a lot of documents to be signed etc. so make sure you start early since I also had deadlines for essays on top of this, which makes everything quite stressfull because everything has to be signed in time. Anyway, everything was signed and uploaded, check if your uploads are accepted or not since you have to use the right format etc. In addition, I would recommend that you have a letter of reccomendation from one of your teachers, I sincerely think that this is what made me get the placement.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht university was great. I had a lot of difficulties with my application, slow responcees from UCL, even emails that I got from them that weren't even intended for me. The International Office has helped me through all of this, ever so kindly. They wanted to help with everything, really, it was amazing. Even when I didn't have a UCL accomodation and was sentenced to find something myself, they helped me contact some people who had already gone to UCL. The International Office really did everything they could and were extremely supportive. I didn't really have any contact with others from UU, except for two of my teachers who were also extremely supportive and proud of me to go abroad.

academic preparation

I study English language and culture and had only a few basic linguistics courses. I was going to study Linguistics at UCL, which I expected would be more work than at UU. I did not really prepare for anything really. It wasn't until I got here that I knew which modules I could take and which not. I was advised by someone here who had no clue what my background was, however, he gave me some good advise. On top of that I consulted my teacher who gave me some extra reading material (which I honestly didn't read). My preparation was actually more and more excitement and dedication.

language preparation

I had not prepared anything for this since I was going to an English speaking country.

finances

London is CRAZY expensive. I mean insane, seriously. I have no money left. And I don't want to scare you because I went to see musicals, I went to Stonehenge and Bath and Dover, so this costed me quit some money as well (& going out is really expensive, like only 25pounds to get in, I'm not even starting on the drinks). Besides all this, daily life is really expensive. Doing groceries is not fun at all and the rent for a week here is almost how much I pay for a month at home. I saved a lot of money before I got here and luckily I have supportive parents, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to do everything I've done. Don't make the finances scare you though, London is an amazing to live in and for me it was really a dream coming true.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

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I was very excited because the linguistics programme at UCL was said to be extraordinary. And well, I must say it was super interesting. I loved 3 of my 4 courses, so that was a good score. The courses itself were fairly good organised, some had some starting problems since they didn't include an 1term affiliate programme beforehand, but this was easily settled. Because I had a narrow background, for me some of the courses were hard work, but I like a challenge. One of my courses (stuttering) was the worst ever, it was really boring. At least the lectures were, the actual subject was interesting. I must say I'm not the perfect student so I don't know what you would do/think about al this.

## academic quality of education activities

All my courses had a high level quality for a couple of reasons. One of them was the content of them, they were all intermediate/advance courses and they lived up to that. The upmost reason I think were the teachers. They are all super skilled and interesting but also very helpful and open for comments because they only like discussions about what they're teaching, that makes it more interesting for them as well.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

After all the stuff I went through beforehand I thought that they would be the worst. The thing is that through email they are not as afficient as they are in person. Our contact persons were always reachable and easy going so you could have everything organised super easy. They were supportive and excited for us to be there. I never needed any counselling but I know that if something was really wrong they would be there for me to help.

## transfer of credits

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

This is one of the downsides of UCL. It had a well organised orientation programme but it began while I was still in search for a room/still in the Netherlands so I couldn't attend. This is of course of my own doing but I know several people who weren't able to attend, and the ones who were weren't that excited. But the major fail is, they only have this week and then afterwards you're treated as anyone else. And yes, this has its perks because you feel really like a student from UCL. However, fact is, you're not and it's not easy to blend in with the native crowd. They have already formed their groups and are generally not interested in you as a friend but mostly just as a classmate. After this orientation week, there was nothing organised for international students, so we had to do everything ourselves. I only had a handfull of international students in linguistics, but I really had like to meet more people and due to no further programmes for internationals this was not possible. UCL is not working together with ESN which I really utterly disliked because I was here on an Erasmus programme.

## accommodation

For me this was a major issue. UCL has a limited amount of flats, and I'm actually the only one I know that is not living in one haha. All my friends got placed, but I didn't. Then UCL offered a list of alternative accommodation, but most of it wasn't for me because I was only staying 1 term, or they were looking for a graduate student, and several other things. So it did not help at all, which meant that I had to search for something myself. I stayed in ISH (DEFINITELY RECOMMEND) short stay the first few days and found a room at spareroom quite easily. The only down part is that is really really expensive, but I had no choice because finding a room in London can take a while. I have been in some of the UCL accommodations, and on the one hand it must be nice to live closer to your friends but on the other hand I really like it that I found my own place with people not studying at UCL.

## leisure &amp; culture

London is amazing. So many things to do!! The nature surrounding and in London is amazing (Hyde park, Regent's park, Primrose hill and Hampstead Hill). There seems to be unlimited amounts of museums and the

**UK - London – University College London**

most of them are for free. The nightlife is amazing, going to the cinema at Leicestersquare, going out or to a pub.. anywhere (Also nice/affordable UCL bars), world's best musicals. Really, endless opportunities and this city never sleeps. I haven't even started on all the historic buildings or just walking around the different boroughs and then of course the landmarks!! Make sure you check them out during the night as well because that is def worth it (millennium bridge is my utmost favourite).

## suggestions/tips

I would say that UCL should have more stuff organised for internationals, especially 1 term affiliates, because it's crazy expensive for them to apply for a society or club. They should also really try to organise stuff with the ESN network. Anyway, tips for you guys who want to go to the most amazing city; make sure you have enough money to do everything you want because it's soooo worth it.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would most definitely recommend UCL. It's an amazing university with great facilities and good staff. They are very well known so having spent time here will look good on your resume. Besides, it's the best university in London! Really, I fell in love with the city, and I must say, the university also has a place in my heart. I don't think I have to elaborate on all of this any longer, I guess I made my point in the previous paragraphs. (I hope I didn't scare you with some of my stories because it really differs per person)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Really save money to make life more easy, start early with filling out your documents and don't be scared when something goes wrong or not how you planned it because there are so many people who are there to help you. Literally everything will turn out just fine. And for me as not a very sentimental person it means a lot when I say that this is one of the best experiences you will encounter in your life. You learn so much about yourself and other things, you will cherish your time abroad forever.

**Report 2****PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The exchange application process was quite difficult and stressful. There were a lot of documents and deadlines, and I did not always know what to do. Luckily, the International Office of Utrecht University can be really helpful and they have answered a lot of my questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I did not get very much counselling and support from Utrecht University. My teachers sent me e-mails sometimes, but for the rest I was on my own. When I had a question, I contacted my home university or my host university and they both helped me with several problems, although Utrecht University was not always very clear about its documents. That's the reason why I had to fill in some forms twice and get signatures twice, which was a bit annoying. Utrecht University was also a bit slow with documents and signatures and answering my questions, which caused quite some stress.

academic preparation

My only academic preparation was the bachelor English and the first year of my master's programme, Literary Translation. I think this was enough preparation to follow the courses at University College London. They were not too difficult and actually comparable to the courses I had taken in The Netherlands.

language preparation

**UK - London – University College London**

I did not have any extra language preparation, just my bachelor English. I think this was sufficient, because I had no trouble understanding my teachers and classmates in the UK and speaking with them.

## finances

Finances was kind of a big issue during my exchange, because London is a very expensive city. Rent alone was about 900 euros a month, which is for one of the cheaper UCL accommodations. On top of that came groceries, travel costs and costs of trips and fun stuff, because when you're abroad, you definitely need to do some daytrips to explore and discover the country you are living in. I tried to spend not too much money on food and stuff, because when you have to, it is possible to live quite cheap. But an exchange to London will still cost you a lot of money, so that's why I would recommend everyone going to London to save a fair amount of money before you go.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme was very interesting and informative. I'm a translation student and UCL offered some very interesting translation and literature courses. There were no real organisational issues, because UCL is not very strict with its courses. It is no problem to enter or enrol in a course a little later. This was great for me, because there had been a misunderstanding about the credits I would receive for my courses, so I had to pick another course (three instead of two). UCL and my professors however knew exactly what to do and recommended a very interesting course to me, which solved all my problems. The content of the courses, too, was very interesting. I have learned a lot, my teachers were friendly and helpful and I received great marks. I think I have learned a lot about translation in London. Do take in consideration that the courses run a little longer than the end date of the term. When my term ended, I still had to finish my essays and receive my marks. My term ended in december, my deadlines were in january, and I received my marks in february.

## academic quality of education activities

Most education activities I did were of great quality. Some of them were not very challenging for me, because I was a Master's student and the courses were for both BA and MA students, but my professors gave the MA students extra work and activities, which made the courses more challenging for me. For example, one of my professors gave me the option to give a class to these BA students myself. This was very interesting and informative, a great experience. Only the course Advanced Translation was quite easy for me, because I already learned a lot during my own Master's programme in the Netherlands. At Utrecht University, however, I learned to translate from English into Dutch and at UCL I learned it the other way around, from Dutch into English, so the course was still very challenging and interesting for me.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

I have had enough counselling and support at my university abroad. They were all very friendly and helpful. I've been in contact with my professor from the moment I decided to go to London and when I arrived, she immediately wanted to meet me. My graduate tutor also arranged a meeting with me and it was made very clear to me to whom I had to go if I had a problem. There was always someone I could go to when I had a problem.

## transfer of credits

I'm not able to write anything about this topic, because the transfer of my credits has not yet been done. I received my marks, but my university told me that they remain provisional until a Board of Exams takes a look at them in July or October/November. I really hope it won't take that long, because I hope to graduate in September.

**STUDENT LIFE**

**UK - London – University College London**

welcome & orientation programme
UCL organised a lot of welcome and orientation programmes. For instance, I have attended an orientation programme for international students, a programme for Humanities students, a programme for Master's students and a programme for students of the Faculty Dutch. And on top of that came welcome programmes from several UCL clubs (there was a really interesting freshers fair) and of my accommodation. I went to almost every welcome party (and there were also Christmas parties and even a Sinterklaas party!), because they were a great way to meet people and to get to know the university.
accommodation
My accommodation was arranged by the university. I received an email about the registration process, filled in my preferences and price class and a little while later, a room was assigned to me. It was a pretty expensive room, but I guess you will just have to accept that when you want to live in London. My accommodation was in the centre of London, the university was a fifteen minute walk away and behind the accommodation building was a beautiful park, so it was not extremely busy there. There were seven others in my house, all of different nationalities because they were all exchange students. It was really nice to meet them and to do fun stuff with them. Of course, you can also decide to go and find a room on your own, but this is quite difficult in London, especially if you're trying to do this from the Netherlands.
leisure & culture
There is, of course, very much to do in London, so I've obviously tried to do as much as possible. I think I have seen almost every part of the city, and even made a few daytrips outside London (organised by UCL). There are lots of museums, tours and interesting things to see in London, so if you want to, you can always find a place to do something nice. I've not been bored for one moment. And if you don't like cultural things, there are also swimming pools (with student discount) and a lot of gyms, UCL clubs (hiking club, knitting club, baking club, book club, etc.) and other things to do. It was a great experience for me!
suggestions/tips
If you go to University College London, I would definitely recommend to visit the UCL Union webpage regularly, which shows all the trips UCL organises. I've been to Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, Stonehenge and many other interesting places. These trips are organised by UCL and definitely not expensive, so they are a great way to explore England!

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend University College London and London to others. It was a great experience to study at one of the best universities in the world and there are a lot of things to do and to see in London. The people at UCL and in London were very nice to me and I immediately felt at home. I did not really experience such a thing as a culture shock, I only found it very interesting to realise the differences between the UK and the Netherlands and between UCL and UU.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I would recommend to go to the welcome fairs and meetings to get to know the university and meet people, because that can be really helpful when you're new in a foreign country. Above that, travel around the country, go to other cities and enjoy your stay abroad. It is a great experience, both studying at a great and beautiful university and travelling around the country. I just returned home, but I miss London already.