



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Utrecht School of Economics
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Economics and Business Economics

destination city & country	Lille, France
name university abroad	Lille 1 Science et Technologie
start date	12 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	My application process went quite smooth, although I was quite late with my application and housing request. My application deadline was on the first of July so I had enough time to gather every part of information. Only trouble I had concerned my learning agreement as it was hard to find information on courses online
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I had a few conversations with Andrea Neylor at the Exchange office to discuss my courses, and we had a general meeting with everybody who went on an Erasmus program just to talk about what to expect when you are there
academic preparation	
	Doing the Erasmus in my 4 th year of studying, I already completed almost every necessary course, the Erasmus program was kind of like a minor for me.
language preparation	
	I already had my B2 level in French, which came in handy
finances	



My grant and my student loan

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

This was quite an issue, as there was little or no information on the courses online I had to figure it out when I arrived there. But since there we also almost no course descriptions it was sometimes hard to get my courses approved. In the end it all worked out but I would advise students going to study in France that it is a bureaucratic nightmare and thus be wary that when you send an email in English you might not get a response or it will be in French.

academic quality of education activities

The level was a bit lower than I was used in Utrecht, but the language barrier makes up for a lot of it. Especially since for some courses there were no tutorials, only lectures, and it was all in French, so you had to pay attention.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Counselling and support were widely available in Lille, if I had a problem with my courses I could always rely on Mr. Cuvelier and his secretary

transfer of credits

As of this moment I have not yet received confirmation that I passed my courses so we will see.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the month September there are a lot of parties on the campus and everybody is very kind and keen to help you out

accommodation

I stayed in Reeflex, the accommodation provided by the University. The upsides were that I it was a 2 minute walk to my lectures and tutorials, and it is well organised, rooms are good and spacious. Downsides were however that you don't live in the city center and that you live alone. There is not a real communal area where you can cook together or just hang out. So it can get a bit boring sometimes.

leisure & culture

The university provides a wide range of sports in which you can participate and other than that I made trips to the beaches of Normandy and Paris. Via ESN it is also possible to go to Bruxelles and Brugge and a lot more.

suggestions/tips

If you don't like to eat alone, try to find an accommodation where there is a communal kitchen, so not the accommodation provided by the university

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the experience to anyone, but I would warn them about the bureaucratic nightmare, and that is an absolute necessity to speak French. Only English doesn't get you very far.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Speak French



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sociologie

destination city & country	Lille, Frankrijk
name university abroad	Université Lille 1 Sciences et Technologies
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	This process was very clear and easy for me, because everything is explained on the UU website. When I needed a signature from the universities I received it on time and there were no problems. Sometimes I got stressed because of the deadlines and all the forms, but this was not necessary.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was really good. When I had questions, a lot of people were there to answer them, by email and at the university in person.
academic preparation	
	My academic preparation was just the first two years of my Sociology study in Utrecht. I didn't have to do anything else besides this.
language preparation	
	For my language preparation I bought a beginners course of french for at home. I started this one year before my stay abroad. I can recommend to go to a real class where you also have a teacher who can help you speak the language.



finances

I saved some money, but here I mainly lived of the Erasmus money, and the money you receive for your OV and the 'uitwonendenbeurs'. In france you can also apply for CAF.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At Lille 1 the study programme wasn't very clear for international students. We started later then the normal students and I had to change all the courses I had chosen before.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was in my opinion a little lower then in Utrecht. The exams were easier and we just had lectures and no working groups where you discuss the lectures. But because it was in french it was harder for me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support was less organized then in Utrecht. They were willing to help you, but where you needed to be and who could help you was often unclear.

transfer of credits

I havent had the transfer of my credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This program was really nice and welcoming. We also had a full week of french courses where you could already get to know a lot of international students. ESN organized a lot of events.

accommodation

I lived in REEFLEX, the building on campus for international students. I loved living here, because it was full with Erasmus students and people from all over the world. We had lots of parties here and the location is amazing. Youre on campus and the city centre is just 15min by metro.

leisure & culture

I loved the city and its culture. It is a beautiful old city with lots of kind people. Every time I went to the centre I was amazed by its beauty. There are many amazing restaurants, clubs and bars.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to apply for a room in REEFLEX. Its easy to meet new friends here, the location is amazing and the building itself is really well organized.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this destination. The city is amazing and it's close to a lot of other cities, like Bruges, Bruxelles and Paris. The university is okay, but for Sociology not amazing. Still, I learned a lot at Lille 1, just had to get used to the different ways of organizing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES

UU Report 2014-2015

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Biology

destination city & country	Lille, France
name university abroad	Université Lille 1
start date	25 / 08 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is not difficult, but you'll have to fill in quite some forms and collect signatures, so start on time and you'll be fine. It can be a bit hard to find information on the site of Lille 1, so really take at least a month.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There is an information meeting for students who want to go to southern Europe, which is really helpful to get information about the application process and Erasmus+ grant. If you consider going abroad, you should at least participate at one of them. For more specific information about the city or university you want to go to, it's better to contact students who went to there already. They can often give you more practical information about your stay than the International Office of Utrecht.

academic preparation

Actually, I didn't really do any specific academic preparation. Just make sure with your study advisor that the classes fit into your study plan. In general, it helps to have good grades to get a place at the university you want to go to.

language preparation

If you want to go to France for your bachelor, all classes will be in French. This scared me at first, but in the end it was not as difficult as I had expected. If you have a B1+ or B2- level of French before you go, it will do. I learned French in secondary school and re practised with my old teacher before I went to Lille, which helped me a lot. As well, you can follow a week of French classes organised for all Erasmus students before the start of the colleges, make sure you go there! It will help you and it is the best way to meet the other Erasmus students.

finances

To finance my stay, I applied for the Erasmus+ grant. From the Dutch government, I got the normal studentscholarship for students not staying at home. Furthermore, I temporarily stopped my student OV-card to get a monthly compensation as well. Still, I also needed my savings to be able to do everything I wanted to. If you choose the accomodation offered by the university the rent won't be so high (€220 a month), if you look for



a place yourself you'll pay at least €300. An unlimited public transport card is €28 a month (called VIVA), my groceries were approximately €100 a month. After your arrival in Lille, you can also apply for something called the CAF, which is a compensation from the French government for students not living at home. But I never managed to actually get it, because you need to complete multiple forms and send them (among other things) a copy of your insurance, your passport and a birth certificate in French.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I went to Lille during my third year of bachelor and followed the bachelor parcours "Biologie des Organismes et des Populations" for half a year. This parcours contained six different subjects, in total exactly 30 ECTS. Next to the Biology classes I also followed the free French class organised for all international students coming to Lille, which was really usefull and also counted for 2 ECTS. For me, there was no liberty of combining classes from different parcours or studies, like I planned initially. This really depends on the study you follow though, because students from Economics or Sociolgy could combine any classes they wanted so I would really advise you to contact the Erasmus coordinator of the classes you would like to take to see what is possible.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the classes was not lower than in Utrecht, but the education works differently. For one, lectures take two heures without a break, which was hard in the beginning but you'll get used to it. Furthermore, in some of my classes they really focused on learning things by heart, instead of understanding how things work. I had way more lectures than working classes. This does really depend on what you study though. A general difference the other international students noticed as well is that students here really are not used to do presentations or essays in a scientific way. In this, I really had an advantage.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I can only say the support I got was really good. My Erasmus coordinator would help me anytime with any problem, whether it would be administrational, financial or personal, and the professors and other students were always there if I didn't get anything during class. Furthermore, there is an Erasmus organisation (ESN) situated on the campus where you can go to for things unrelated to your studies. Don't count on the people to speak English though. But at the ESN they do and before you leave, you sign up online at the ESN for a French 'buddy' to help you in the first days, who normally speaks English too.

transfer of credits

At this moment, I'm still waiting to get my results so I can't really say anything about the transfer of credits. I do believe it will be fine though.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The ESN organisation arranges an extensive welcoming programme for the Erasmus students, with activities such as a welcoming and informational lecture, an international dinner and meetings to get a French bank account. Like I already wrote, you can get a French 'buddy' as well to help you through the first days and show you around the campus and the city centre. The preparational week of French class will help you get into speaking French and meeting other students. I never felt unwelcome, lost or lonely.

accommodation

I chose the accommodation offered by the university, because I didn't dare to go and look for an appartement myself. International students get a room at one of the many residences on the campus. These residences are fine, but not really well. Depending on the residence, you'll either have your own place to cook in your room



and share the toilets and showers, or have your own toilet and shower and share the kitchen. Anyway, it's more like living in a flat than living in a student's house and there is nothing to do on the campus. If you want to experience more of the real French life, I would recommend to go to Lille a few weeks in advance and try to look for a 'collocation', a student house where you'll really live together with other (French) students and which will probably be in a nicer neighborhood.

leisure & culture

The cultural offer was surprisingly big. Every neighborhood in Lille has its own 'Maison Folie', where they regularly organize concerts and exhibitions, most of the time for free. Every first Sunday of the month all museums are for free as well. Furthermore, many bars organize free concerts too. Actually, there were so many things going on every week that it was impossible to keep up-to-date. The site www.lille.sortir.eu is really helpful, it gives a clear overview of all exhibitions, concerts and other events in Lille and the surrounding cities. The university of Lille offers free sports classes for all students. You'll have to inscribe during one of the first weeks and you can even get ECTS for them. Be sure to inscribe as soon as you can though, because the classes are full in a day or two.

If you go partying, many bars close around 3:00 am but there is one street called 'Rue Solferino' where the bigger clubs are, which stay open all night long.

suggestions/tips

If you go from September to January, make sure you're already in Lille during the Braderie, which takes place in the first weekend of September. It is a massive flea market on all the streets of the city centre, lasting the entire weekend and accompanied by drinking beer, eating moules-frites and partying all night long. Don't miss it! Though Lille is not so big, there are many small bars and coffee places to discover. The new Use-It map of Lille, made by people actually living here, gives a good overview of really nice ones. You can find it online at www.use-it.travel.

The last thing I can advise you to do is go to the Wazemmes market on Sunday morning. It is a huge market where you can find anything for a really low price. I mostly went there a bit late (around 14:00) to get vegetables for a bargain. Afterwards, act like the French people do and have a seat at one of the many terraces surrounding the market with your friends to drink a beer (or a coffee) and eat some of the food you just bought. To end the Sunday in a real northern French way, go to 'Cheval Blanc' around 17:00. You'll be surprised...

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Lille has really surprised me. The city is really nice and because it is not so big, you run into friends all the time. There are many things to do, people are welcoming and the big amount of international students you'll make friends from all over the world. It's actually really close to Holland, which means you can easily go back during the holiday and Belgium is just half an hour away, so you can visit many cities during your weekend and you'll find artisanal Belgium beer in every bar in Lille. In general, things are well organized at the university too, so you don't have to worry about any administrative aspects.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are considering studying in Lille, just do it! You'll have a great time!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2013-2014

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name degree programme	Algemene Sociale Wetenschappen

destination city & country	Lille, France
name host institution and/or company/organization	Université Lille 1
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> courses <input type="checkbox"/> research <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01 / 09 / 2013
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13 / 01 / 2014

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application process took some time. While applying to study abroad it seemed a lot of work, but looking back it's okay. First of all, I wrote a motivation letter. After that, I had to fill in forms about my financial plan, which courses I wanted to take at the university of Lille, where I would like to live, a transcript of records etc.

counselling/support at home university

The support from the UU was fine. Most things you have to do by yourself on your computer, but whenever you go to the International Office or make an appointment, they are more than willing to help you. For me this has been helpful, because sometimes I felt confused with all the paperwork.

academic preparation

Academic preparation was not necessary, since I was about to take courses in Sociology and already had the knowledge required, because of my study Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at the UU.

language preparation

I took academical French classes at the faculty of Languages, to refresh my knowledge of the French Language. This was helpful, not only did I improve my French, I also learned some things about French culture.

finances

Fortunately, finances were not a problem. Lille is close to the Netherlands, so I didn't need an expensive ticket



and the rent for my students residence was less than I pay in Utrecht. Consequently, I did not change a lot in my financial plan.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

It wasn't very easy to find out which courses I could take in France. When I was still in the Netherlands I searched on the Internet and found some interesting courses, but once in France I found out it was not possible (anymore) to take these courses. However, this was not a problem because the university of Lille more or less knows this will be the case. An information session was organised by the university, where they explained which courses we could take. After that, I chose my courses and had to arrange with the specific teacher if it was possible to take his/her course. During the semester in Lille I took 7 courses: 2 language courses (English and French), 1 Erasmus-course and 4 Sociology-focused courses.

academic quality of education/placement activities

Before I went to France, people told me education in France is of a lower level than in the Netherlands, but actually this was not the case. I would say the level and quality of education is more or less equal to Utrecht University. The organisation of the courses however was different: mostly we took a course in a group of 20-30 students, it feels a bit like you're in highschool again because of these small groups. During the courses I gained a lot of useful knowledge, but the exam contained mostly just 2 or 3 of the 8 topics that were discussed in class. The exams actually test whether you understood the general themes of the course and not all the details, which usually is the case for my exams in Utrecht.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

At the University of Lille they were willing to help you, but sometimes it was difficult to find the right person. Also, it happened a few times that several teachers or coordinators told me contradictory information. Everyone told me that French bureaucracy isn't very efficient and a lot of other students had the same problem. But if you keep trying and ask, you will manage.

transfer of credits

The Examencommissie has approved 6 of the 7 courses I took in Lille and so all the credits I got in Lille for these 6 courses will be transferred to the credits I already had in Utrecht. Because Lille 1 is a partner-university of Utrecht University, the transfer of credits is quite easy.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The Erasmus-organisation (ESN) in Lille is great! They organise a lot of activities, parties, and also Welcome Days in September. Taking part in these activities was a great opportunity to meet other internationals (and there are a lot in Lille). Also the mayor of the neighborhood where the university is situated organised a welcome-event for



all international students.

accommodation

I lived in a students residence, at the campus of the university (Lille 1). The room was not big, but it had all you need: desk, chair, cupboard, kitchen and sink. In my residence the bathroom was shared, but this differs according to which building you live in (whether bathroom or kitchen is shared). A good thing about living on the campus is that you're close to the other international students (most of them live at the campus) and easily can visit each other.

leisure/culture

During the week I spent more hours in class than I was used to in Utrecht, but during the weekends there was enough time to discover the French culture, museums and nature. We had several international dinners, parties, Karaoke, and trips to cities like Paris and Bruxelles.

suggestions/tips

As long as you stay in touch with the organisation of ESN you definitely will get to know something about French culture, and about all the things that are interesting in the city you live in. Be open-minded and enjoy being surrounded by so many different cultures in a foreign land. Studying in France does require a good level of French language so make sure that in any case you have basic knowledge of the French language and grammar. If a language-course before you leave is an option, please do. If this is not an option, don't be afraid, because once in France you will learn very fast and be surprised about how quick you can learn a new language!

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, I do recommend Lille 1. It is a university that is used to international students and so they know how to help you to make you feel comfortable. Also, the Erasmus-coordinators of the university are flexible and willing to help you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I recommend to live on the campus if you study at Lille 1. Of course the room is not really big and you have to take the metro to the city centre, but during my stay I've seen that the people who lived on the campus formed a close group, and the people who managed to get a students room in the city centre were less involved in the other international students. However, if you like to involve more in the real French culture, living in the city centre may be better, because on the campus you will find a lot of internationals.


UU Report form ~ Erasmus 2012-2013

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	RA Liberal Arts
destination city & country	Lille, France
name host institution and/or company/organization	Lille 1, IAE
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30 / 09 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25 / 01 / 2013

preparation
exchange/placement application process

I was enabled to go on a exchange to France to the Universite de Science et Technologie, Lille 1 as it was listed as one of the possible partner universities of Utrecht Universiteit. In order to be considered I had to hand in my application at UU (keeping an eye on the early deadlines) as well as through the special internet forum of Lille 1, which can be accessed via their official website, where I had to apply independently again. For the application process it is important to fill out a learning agreement, a financial plan and recommendation of a professor (not compulsory). By the choice of courses at the host university it is very important to verify with the head of department of the particular faculty first that the courses are open to Erasmus students. Furthermore did I enroll in the Business School IAE, which is linked to Lille 1 - but operates independently. In such cases it makes sense as well to approach the head of department in the very early phase of the course choice as it allows to spare you some difficulties later. Some Erasmus students in my experience had major difficulties to enter some of the courses which they had initially indicated in the Learning Agreement.

counselling/support at home university

The home university was really responsive and helpful to urgent matters and flexible enough to deal with them from far away. This gave me confidence that the administrative side would be capable of managing the exchange well and sending out relevant information asap.

academic preparation

In order to prepare for the exchange I firstly enrolled in pervious semesters in courses that were needed to fulfill my track, so that once abroad I had no academic requirements to be fulfilled but to be more flexible with my



selection of courses.
language preparation
As for an exchange in France it is very important (or let's say advantageous) to have a minimum level of France- I prepared in advance over the summer break with an online course and enrolled in the time of the exchange in two further french courses. This way I was able within a few month to move comfortably around with my working knowledge of french.
finances
Life in France is expensive in regards to food products, but the University offers great cafeterias where students can have a full meal for 3,10 for lunch and accomodation in the campus residence gets as cheap as 170 Euro for unrenovated small 9 m ² rooms with shared bathroom and shower. Books need to be partly purchased individually, or can be found in the library or in online forums- depending much on faculty and professor. I had to purchase the books myself for approx. 200 Euros. For travels, it is possible with the cart viva (needs to be requested at Transpole office) to use the whole public transport in Lille for 27,90 Euro per month. For going out, there are a lot of bars and restaurants which offer student reductions. Thus the costs of a month abroad including food, housing, study material and going out costs are approx. 350 Euro minimum.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Organisation in the University was very different than at UU, meaning exam dates can be changed last minute, professors and students don't communicate well on exam or lecture dates in the first place etc. The International office, responsible for Erasmus students has reliable open office hours however, whilst professors were sometimes difficult to be reached in a contact attempt outside the class room. Work load was not to say higher, but very different that at home. For obtaining 30 credits, I had to enroll in 6 courses which all required research disserations of 25 pages plus an exam and/ or presentation. Even though I am an organized student normally, it was difficult for me to manage the work load well- especially because often lectures could occupy a whole day and at the end of it we were assigned a terrific amount of reading material for preperation for the next day. I often only saw my appartment in the evening when trying to overcome the study load. Qualitatifely a lower performance was portayed on average. For example in scientific research, simple internet research to a mild degree were accepted and study content was treated in a general manner in the lectures.For students with a low level of French, exceptions could be arranged with the professor to hand in written work in english or on the exam as well- this depends however the foreign language knowledge of the professor.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Academic quality was emphasised to a lesser degree than practical work application. That might have to do with the educational system in France where there is a distinction between Ecole and Université. In this case Grand Ecole's were placing greater importance on qualitative work and Université's encouraged group work to help each other as well as they would offer "rappratages"
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
that is to say retakes for exams.
transfer of credits
Is still in progress, so I cannot comment on this in this very moment of time.



student life
welcome/orientation programme
The semester started off by an Intra week from ESN the student activity committee. It included sportive activities, such as competitions in soccer and rugby etc. as well as a welcome information event open to all students, where the faculties introduced themselves and practical guiding information for a life in Lille were delivered. Lille 1 offered a voluntarily French- speed course of the duration of one week at the beginning of september as well as a free city tour and soirées at different bars in the city.
accommodation
Possibility as above mentioned to live on campus exist. However the campus location of Lille 1 is far out (20 min to the city centre Gare Lille Flandres). It is sociable because one gets to know a lot of students there, but at the same time inconvenient because of limited space and dirty public bathrooms and a lack of responsibility from the responsables in the respective campus locations. Although this is a cheap living style, appartments in the city centre are difficult to find for a short stay of some month and partys also take place on the Campus (Maison des Etudiants) it is more relaxed and comfortable once a city apartment is found. This will certainly be cheaper, but also safer to access when coming home in the dark- as the campus is located in a socially weak neighbourhood . One other plus which needs to be mentioned however is the practicality of free parking space on campus, that will often be denied in the city centre. To compare prices: Campus location with shared bathroom (btw 170-210 Euro), campus location with single bathroom (250-300 Euro), city apartment shared/individual (500 Euro). Some further tips are for those that consider living on campus, the residence Triolo has a very good reputation/ for those considering living by themselves the quartier Gambetta is relatively cheap and offers an arty young scene and a market nearby.
leisure/culture
<p>Marche Wazemmes on Thursdays and Sundays between 9.00-13.00 o'clock. Enter at metro station gambetta. especially great to fetch some marrocan warm prepared lunch, or cheap vegetables and herbs as well as ingredients needed for an international cuisine.</p> <p>Bar Circus, on a pay as you wish basis, through the whole week music bands are playing in this small venue. Once a week open kitchen for dinner is offered for 5 euro. Definitely worth a visit for english and french music.</p> <p>Rue Solferino, the party mile in Lille. Definitely something for the mainstream taste but helps always over a good night out- although late night food shops are rare around here.</p> <p>Place et Musée des beaux Arts, second largest museum in france after the Louvre- it offers a great selection of french painting from all epoques, amongst them some very well known art works and a flamish art department.</p> <p>Lam- musem for contemporary art and it's statue garden in a beautiful park to relax in with a picnic in summer called parc du heron.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>-At the end of august Lille celebrates the "Braderie" a fleamarket which stretches out through the whole city. A great event to buy some extra furniture, cuttlery or even some extravangant old "french things". Definitely worth attending.</p> <p>-Furthermore the festival fantasique is another live event, taking place in late autumn where a big parade with ballon- figures is led to the streets of the city.</p>



Vieux Lille is a charming old part of Lille and should be visited at one point.

-Couch surfing in Lille has as well quite a well developed community, it's worth checking it out for language exchange partners- other than that language exchange is also offered by the University in form of the café de launge(taking place 3 x per semester) or the tandem project, request additional information at the university.

-Daytrip to London possible at a rate of 9 pounds per one tour ticket with the scnf special offers, so check early.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would certainly recommend it- although one will be surprised to see that especially the northern frenchies sometimes have their ways and it takes some time to adopt, but overall a very valuable experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

A minimum level of french is truly a plus for this exchange and meeting place, grading system (from 20-0 points, where the highest usually given out is 18 points) thus it is very different and 100% say impossible to be attained for an academic performance.


UU Report form ~ Erasmus 2012-2013

faculty/college	Faculty of medicine
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	Biomedical science
destination city & country	Lille, France
name host institution and/or company/organization	Université Lille1
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01 / 09 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31 / 01 / 2013

preparation
exchange/placement application process

I started with my application in november 2011. It costs a lot of time and paper work, but it is all worth it. I needed to wait a long time, almost 2 months, until I hearded I was accepted. After the first application, there starts a second application at the host University. For accommodation there is another application. It was a lot of paper work and everytime another deadline.

counselling/support at home university

I knew what I wanted so I did not need a lot of counselling. The University helped me when I needed help. When things were not clear, they always could help me.

academic preparation

I searched a lot on internet what kind of courses I wanted to follow. I did my minor in France so I could do everything. I changed my learning agreement 3 times, and even when I arrived I changed it again. It was not a problem at all.

language preparation

I lived 10 years in France, so my French was already the level of a French citizen. But writing and reading was more difficult then I expected. I could already speak and understand everything in French so for me it was very easy. Other Erasmus people had a lot of problems with communicate with French people.

finances

I had the Erasmus grant. Financial I did not have anymore problems. But I would have had them if I had not the



Erasmus grant. It was exactly enough to go abroad.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
The organisation was not very good. A long time it was not clear for me if I had classes, where, how late. But after a month I found my way and when you finally understand the French structure, it is easy to find everything.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The way they teach is very different from what I am used to. I think the way I am used to is better. They did not use microphones (not even when they are talking to 450 students!), no powerpoint presentations, no records and they write everything on the board and dictate a lot. This is almost impossible for a Erasmus student to follow. The French students are very nice and understandable to Erasmus students so they give all their notes to us.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
I did not have a lot of contact with my host institution. They helped me in the beginning, they were very understandable. In the beginning it was hard to understand everything we needed to do.
transfer of credits
Everything went well. I did not have any problems with the transfer of credits. It costs time, but finally after a long time my host and home university had signed everything.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
There was a introduction week. This was really nice. I met a lot of people these days. It was good organised.
accommodation
My host University send me a mail about a accommodation where I could apply for. I did it, and my host university gave me a room. They told me I could pick up the keys on Sunday. Unfortunately they were closed. I was very lucky that I could speak French and slept in the room of a French girl who I just met 3 minutes before.
leisure/culture
I had enough time to see my new friends, to do nice things and to travel. I was at the university every day but I had no homework. I was a lot with Erasmus students but also with French students.
suggestions/tips
If you want to meet new people, you need to go to the introduction from Erasmus. In the classes you can meet French people. They are not good English speakers, but you need to speak/learn French if you want to study here. Thursday night you need to go to MDE (Maison des Étudiants). There are every Thursday free concerts and other things. It is the place to be for Erasmus people, it is from 20:00-01:00. You can bring your own drinks. And Rue Solferino is the place to be for clubs. Try to go ones on Sunday morning to Wazemme, the biggest market from whole north France.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes. It is a very nice city to study and life as student. They have a lot of activities, sport, clubs, restaurants, shops,



etc. The people are very nice to Erasmus people. There are a lot of Erasmus people and from outside Europe, so you can meet with all the cultures you want. Try to go to all the activities in the beginning, this are the places to meet with everyone, French people are going to it too!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No, I said everything I wanted to say.


UU Report form ~ Erasmus 2012-2013

faculty/college	University College
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	UC Liberal arts and sciences
destination city & country	Lille, France
name host institution and/or company/organization	Université Lille 1
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01 / 09 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28 / 01 / 2013

preparation
exchange/placement application process

The application process takes a long time, I started already in October the year before. The amount of paperwork is enormous, I had to fill in a study and learning agreement 4 times before the application was completed. The choice of the courses was another big point, while you are theoretically allowed to form your own curriculum you need to accommodate the requirements of your faculty, and if you choose to take multiple courses in different departments be ready to face a lot of bureaucratic complications. In any case some departments like Mathematics have very clear websites regarding their course offer.

counselling/support at home university

I was under the responsibility of the UU exchange office, I got all the support that was necessary.

academic preparation

I had no specific academic preparation for my exchange.

language preparation

I took a French course at UCU and I spent the summer preceding the exchange in France. Also, the host university organises an intensive French course the week before the start of the classes, and during the semester another language course which can be counted for ECTS credits.

finances

France is in general less expensive than the Netherlands, so there were no financial problems. I had to ask my family for financial support however, due to a very long delay in the payment of the first installment of the Erasmus



grant.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I took courses in both the department of Physics and Mathematics. It created some complications at the beginning, since I had to refer to two different departmental coordinators and pedagogical secretariats, and also for the exams registration there were some problems, but in the end I managed to fix everything. Most courses are worth few credits (from 3 to 5), so getting the 30 ECTS required can be a hard task. In general you will spend much more time at the faculty than you would do in the Netherlands.
academic quality of education/placement activities
While the level of the classes is not higher than the Netherlands, the method is very different and this can create some problems at the beginning. The teaching method for mathematical and physical sciences is extremely formal, with few practical application, and to be able to solve the problems you are required to master the theory. The teachers were very helpful, and the lectures clearly explained. And even better are the exercise session: the groups are in small size so you get an almost individual help, and in France these sessions are held by a professor and not by an assistant (most of the time by the lecturer himself), so you are guaranteed that they know perfectly the subject and give clear explanations. The final exams are hard, but if you have worked well during the semester passing is not difficult.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The departmental coordinator, who was supposed to be the first counsellor, was often absent for conferences or other work so he wasn't very helpful. The international office can give you support regarding administrative procedures, housing and living issues, but for classes or other departmental activities you need to look for the secretaries of the department. Fortunately the professors are willing to help if you have issues regarding their (or even other's) courses.
transfer of credits
After one month the final grades have not even been published yet, so no mention of transfer of credits.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The intensive language course the university organises the week before the beginning of the classes is the first welcome activity. While the course is too short to really help you improve the language, you will likely meet there the people you are going to see most often during the semester. ESN also organises welcome activities and parties, but I didn't attend them. The welcome events help you meet other people, but mostly other foreigners so if you want to get to know locals it's better to participate in other students associations.
accommodation
I lived in the university residence. The room was very small, and the residence quite noisy sometimes, but it had all the necessary, like a sink and a cooker. The toilets and showers were shared, and kept very clean by the service personnel (they passed every day to clean). However, when you leave the room they will expect the same standard of cleanliness, so it's difficult to avoid extra cleaning charges.
leisure/culture



There is a large variety of leisure activities, and the great thing is that they cost very little, a lot less than the Netherlands. Almost everywhere special fees apply to students under 26, so whatever you like to do you can do it without spending too much, from visiting musea to bowling to dance classes. In particular the university has a service for sports and physical activities, which offers courses completely free of charge (and with the possibility of obtaining ECTS, if your faculty approves), and some other activities at a fee, like the gym, but you usually pay for the whole semester the same amount you would pay for one month in the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

Try to join some student associations, it is a great experience and you will meet many locals.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, because their course offer is very wide and the teachers (at least the ones I had) are good lecturers and very helpful if you have problems. Lille is also a very nice city with a big student population, a varieties of activities and also of parties.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even if you don't need it for the courses, learning well the French language will facilitate a lot your life there.