



Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process was very clear to me. The timeline was clear and any questions were fastly responded on by the University. Of course there is some paperwork, but in the way that this was organized at University Utrecht, it wasn't half as bad.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I felt like there was a lot of counselling and support from the university in Utrecht. With seminars explaining how the process will look like, a structured plan online and helpful answers from the university when needed.
academic preparation
As this was my last semester of my bachelor's, I felt like I didn't need more academic preparation for going abroad.
language preparation
The only preparation needed for my stay in Romania, from a academic perspective, was that for the English language. This I had already learned sufficiently by my own with the help of English courses throughout my studies.
finances
I applied for the ERASMUS grant and received this too. For me, after making a Financial Plan, this was enough to not need any more financial support. I put enough money on the side before departure, and that will give you a lot more freedom and ease in mind to go enjoy your stay abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the beginning it was a little tricky getting my schedule in order, as a lot of interesting courses were overlapping. This was because I wanted to take courses from different ranges, which meant that sometimes they came from another master or faculty. In the end it all turned out fine, with a nice collection. UBB encourages you to go see first lessons of different courses, to get a taste of what it holds- then you have a clear view to base your decisions on.
academic quality of education activities
Studying abroad is different in other countries, that's just a fact. The Dutch schoolsystem is one I consider to be quite high in quality, but seeing how other countries do their thing is very fruitfull. The quality of the UBB had no complaining. There were skillfull teachers, students really eager to learn and enough space for the student if he/she wanted to go a little higher than the normal program.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was a lot of support from the university out. Every faculty has a person who helps you throughout the process of starting up, choosing your courses and the whole semester after that. Besides that I received an 'overall' buddy from ESN and another one from the faculty. So whatever it is you need assistance with, there is someone.
transfer of credits
UBB workds with the ECTS system, which meant for me that the credits are transferred one on one. This made



that step very easy and clear.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN and the university in Cluj-Napoca gave a very warm welcome in the first week. This gives you the opportunity to learn new people right off the bat, which in my case meant immediately the best friends I met here. They understand that you're coming to a new country and a new university (most probably) alone, and they've set up a real nice first week to make that transition a lot easier. They kept these events going for the rest of the semester too, so that way you'll never have to be bored.

accommodation

Cluj-Napoca has a large of student dorms. They are cheap, easy to rent and fun as you live with a lot of other students. I choose to find my own room in an apartment of a Romanian I met before coming here. This was just as easy, and altho it costs me a little bit more a month- still quite cheap. For me I did this because I just like to have my own place once in a while, and the dorms are of a minimum of 2 persons. Both options are quite easy to organize, it is just whatever you prefer.

leisure & culture

Romania has so so much to offer. In Cluj there is a very rich nightlife, and mostly students as residents. It's very developed and filled with creativity, every place you go in from early in the morning till deep in the night has its own great ambiance. Besides the city itself, Romania is filled with beautiful nature, which you can explore with even an hour drive outside the city. Further is also no problem with renting a car, busses, trains or the greatly used way of hitchhicking.

suggestions/tips

Cluj has a lot to offer to make your stay in the city an amazing one. You will stumble on something cool happening without too much trouble or looking, and it's a great city to roam around to find new places and things to do. A thing to consider is if you want to stay in the dorms or not. This is a personal preference, with both choises their pro's and cons. The dorms are cheap, more easily arranged and you're around other (Erasmus) students all the time in a very student-like part of the city. Then again, if you don't want to share your room and kitchen with one or more persons, you could also choose to find a place on your own. Personally this didn't took to long, as Facebook is widely used for finding renters/places to stay. This will cost you a little more, with a little bit more trouble. But you can mostly stay for as long as you want (in the time after your study) and you'll have more personal space. Again, completely dependent on your own preference.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. Romania is a beautiful country with beautiful and warm people. It is relatively undiscovered, which makes it even more interesting. Politically the country is in an unique state, with such a short time of being out of the Communist regime. You can have a little bit of everything, with luxury in the big cities, crazy beautiful nature of all different kinds and back to basic living when you're going to the more rural area's.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

What I said about the nature and the rural area's or Romania: please go there when you're staying in this country. The cities are beautiful and should defenitely be visited, but treat yourself with diving in the nature and as close as you can get to the locals in one of the many, many little villages. When you managed to learn the language a bit (another big tip, it's way easier than you might think), you'll notice that the people in these villages are of the nicest kind. Not hesitating to take you in for a warm meal, a bed, some palinka and genuine



interest in you. Something you don't see so often anymore in the more modern countries and cities.

Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

See *Erasmus+ Studies timeline and instructions* for more details. Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students.