### Universidad de Granada

#### 2016-2017

## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The application process at the university of Granada is fairly easy. In April you get sent a link to an online application, together with a how-to in both English and Spanish. In this you just have to fill out your personal data and upload a copy of your ID or passport. The document number on this ID will be used for all kinds of stuff, so make sure you upload the ID you will take with you. You can also reference your application by this number. Once you get there, there will be a plenary introduction in which you give a copy of your passport and they finalize your application. Up until half of september, therefore, your application won’t be final. All the other stuff has to be arranged after the application is already final (picking courses, buying books, applying for a student card, getting the password for the wifi). Don’t expect this to be arranged before october.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

At Utrecht, we got a lot of information about the application process. It was a little complicated, but the international office was very approachable and helpful. Not only did we receive support in the actual application process, but also advice as to what other things we should do before going abroad and what might happen when you actually live abroad.

### academic preparation

The level of the courses in the University of Granada is very basic. Contentwise, you will probably get along just fine. As the culture in Granada is one of not studying more then you have to, you will definitely not fall behind if you put in a decent amount of work. You could go to the website (of the specific faculty) and read up on what courses are available, as it helps to pick your courses as soon as possible, but this is to not miss out on practical information.

### language preparation

I really recommend reaching B2 in Spanish before the semester starts. I myself had the recommended B1. However, nobody speaks any English and the University of Granada is not very organized; you have to often chase the information you need. Me only having B1 Spanish made this a complicated and tiring process. Furthermore, right at the first week, friend groups of (international) students are formed. B2 is sufficient to comfortably socialize in Spanish. Your level of Spanish will go up rapidly during the school year, so don’t worry about academic or legal Spanish, you will learn this as you go. The best way to do this is to just do your readings, even if you read slow in the beginning. The more you do it, the easier it will get. If you postpone readings, your reading skills will not develop quickly enough to keep up with the schoolwork (not because it is a lot, but because all your readings and assignments are in Spanish, and take a lot of time the first weeks). After the first few weeks, writing and debating in Spanish will not be a problem anymore, as long as you did your work the first few weeks.

As to reaching the B2 level: going up a level takes 3 weeks of an intensive course in Spain. Therefore if you take 6 weeks of spanish in spain, you should reach A2 before you arrive in Spain. If you take 3 weeks, you should reach B1 before you arrive in Spain. Learning Spanish in Spain is far more effective and efficient than in learning it in your own country, therefore don’t spend all your time reaching B2 in the Netherlands.

### finances

Granada is actually the cheapest city of Spain. To give you an idea: the rent of a room will be somewhere
between 130 and 230, a beer (accompanied by free food, enough to constitute a meal) will be 2 euro's, a week's groceries are 40 euro's and a night of clubbing will cost you 15 euro's tops. with an income of 500 euro's each month, you will be able to live comfortably (rent, food, fun and occasional purchases such as a coat for the winter or a check up at the dentist). You could also make it with less if that is necessary.

Don't try to get a student job in Granada. The unemployment rate amongst youth is currently very high (in the 40%) and a lot of very experienced people with degrees that are fluent in Spanish are also looking for jobs. There is no market for students that stay temporarily, are not fluent in spanish and don't have a degree nor can work full-time.

I found applying for the Grant and "OV" vergoeding a complicated process, but it was word is as it covered more than half of my finances. I recommend finding the forms, saving them and reading through them early, so you no what signatures/stamps you will have to collect.

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### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the introduction week, there is a faculty specific information lecture. I study law, and we received a list of courses on paper. With this list, you have to make your own timetable. In my course choice, I went with the name of the courses, as there was no information on the content of the courses in some kind of course catalogue or study guide. On the website of the faculty, there was a list with the timetables for every workinggroup. The Spanish students get placed in groups and follow set courses, and a set timetable. International students can cherrypick courses and in which group (and thus at what time) they want to follow the courses, but it is a but of a puzzle. You can switch courses for a month, so if you don't like a course, do not meet the requirements of a course, or cannot understand a professor, or the hours don't work for you, you can pick another course or another professor, or another timeslot. If you have figured out what courses in what groups you want to take part in, you have to go to the international office to register (something that was not clear to me). The international office is only open 10:00 -14:00, and there is a very long line in the first weeks, since everybody has to register.

The courses are all in spanish, and every professor can decide for themselves what they want to teach in the course. Friends of mine had the same course, from a different professor, and there was almost no overlap in the material we had to read and the issues that were discussed in class. The types of courses you can choose are:

- **Cursos troncal**: basic courses, such as history of law, theory of law, political economy. These are introductory courses and easy to follow. They are all 1st year courses
- **Cursos basicos**: courses in spanish law, criminal law, labour law, etcetera. They are numbered (e.g. Labour law II), so you will know when a course can not be taken without having some background in the subject. Many international students took these courses and managed to get a good grade. The difficulty of the course depends on whether you pick 1st year courses or 4th year courses.
- **Cursos optionales**: extra courses, such as legal argumentation, international economical law. These courses are all 3rd to 4th year courses and presuppose some knowledge in the area. (e.g. don't take international economical law without having a good basis in public international law)

#### academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education activities is significantly lower than in the Netherlands. Students are simply required to be able to repeat what was said by the professor in the lectures. Students are generally not very engaged in the lecture, and because the groups are quite big (80 students) its not really possible to engage in group discussion. Some efforts have been made to make the lectures more interactive, in the form of assignments you have to hand in every week. However they usually amount to question to check if you have read the literature. Another difference with the Netherlands, is that students are expected to accept things like: "the definition of democracy is... " without any reflection or discussion.
Every course has a final exam, that usually counts for 70%, and a series of 'practicas', which are assignments. What the assignments are varies a lot, depending on the teacher. Some teachers ask you to read a book, summarize it and present it, other teachers put out a small assignment every week, or want you to go to a roundtable event, or read and reflect on cases.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before the lessons start, there is an introduction week. A lot of information on how the university works is provided the first day of the introduction week. The information is essential, so don't miss any of it. The international office of your faculty is your contact point; they are very helpful in helping you solve administrative problems. Use the introduction week to get in content with international students of your faculty, being in a group of international students will help you keep up to date with what you need to hand in/sign/copy/etc.

They also work with a mentor system, so you can actually make use of 1 on 1 advice and assistance (I did not use this opportunity, so I do not know to what extent this is helpful)

Information on your courses is a lot harder to obtain, because the content and even the procedures of your course depend on the teacher. Thus, things such as where to buy books, what form the test is in, what you need to prepare before the lecture and how the teacher will communicate with you, will be given during the course. At times, the syllabus clarifies these things, but more often not. Unfortunately, there is not a fixed bookstore or information channel (such as blackboard).

transfer of credits

As of now, the transfer of credits is not yet completed because of an administrative problem.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

As alluded to in the sections above, there is an introduction week. It starts a week before the first day of class, and you will receive information about it some time before. The first day is on the science campus (fuenteneva) and consist of a welcom speech and some crucial information about how to finalize your application, as well as information on the services the university and related associations provide (more on those later). To speed up the process, bring a copy of your passport, so you won't have to wait in line. The speech as well as the information are translated to english. On another day (specified on the website) there is a faculty specific introduction. Here you will get information on your timetable, how to register for courses and all other information. This one is in Spanish, so make sure you are well rested and understand spanish quite well, because the information cannot be found online and is pretty important. Make notes if you need to. Here you will receive a form that you can use to register for courses at the international office (of your faculty). The rest of the orientation programme consists of leisure activities. I would recommend to go, since this is where everyone gets to know each other and groups are formed. It also helps to know other students that speak english and have to deal with the same confusing registration proces.

#### accommodation

Most people, including me, only started looking for accomodation once they arrived in Granada. The price of a student room in a shared appartament is between 120 and 260 euros, the price of an entire appartament between 200 and 300. My experience is that the best chance of finding an appartament is walking around the area you want to live, and take contact slips of advertisements of appartaments that you can afford. Then call the number and make an appointment to see the room or appartament. If you like it, immediately arrange to sign the contract.

Spanish people are pretty informal, and tend to arrange everything last minute. A good time to look would be august or september. You also have to be very proactive, they assign the room to the first person that is on
their doorstep with the first month of rent and the deposit in cash and a pen to sign the contract. If you wait too long or expect them to take the next step, the room might be rented to someone else (this happened frequently). Don't stop looking until you actually have the keys and a contract.

Granada is not a big city, so it is not hard to find a place that is from walking distance both to your faculty and the center.

Since a deal is not a deal until you have handed over the rent and deposit, and they want to show you the apartment physically and see you before they assign you the room, it is no use using internet to find accommodation. When you are already in the city, it might speed up your search, but don't look from home.

A good place to find a room or apartment is on the Facebook pages:

* pisos granada
* ESN granada
* Alquiler granada

(Watch that you look for accommodation in Granada CITY, as the province is also called granada.)

Don't expect anyone that rents rooms to speak English. They might, but most of them don't. It is therefore necessary that your Spanish is good enough to make appointments, ask questions and make deals over the phone.

**Leisure & Culture**

Granada is a great city, with amazing student life. Three student organizations are active (Erasmus, ESN, Emycet). They all organize nights out, trips to the beach, Sierra Nevada and even citytrips for a very reasonable price. In the introduction week they organize events to get to know other students. The student life throughout the year is very active. There are an average 4 parties a week, and every other weekend, there is a trip. Since the academic level of the courses is not very high, this is doable (although I did not go that often). The libraries are quite empty, until 2 weeks before final, when everyone suddenly starts pulling all-nighters.

The nightlife in Granada is, as I said very active. Granada is full of bars, and it is the use that you get free food (tapas) with every drink. Outside of the touristic part of the center, you can choose which foods and it easily constitutes a dinner. A night out always starts with tapas, and the tapas substitutes dinner (which would normally be around 10). After that, you go to a pub/café, until 3. Then the clubs open. Everyone usually stays out till 7. Because alcohol is not expensive, and the food is free, people go out often and drink much - social life revolves around tapas and clubbing to a large extent.

I really recommend joining all 3 organizations. I soon noticed that certain bars have certain offers on specific day. The thing is, on days there is a special offer in some bar, all students are in that specific bar. If you choose a place to go at random, you might enter into an empty bar. Therefore I really recommend staying in contact with students you meet in the introduction week, as to stay in the loop.

Aside from partying, Granada is known for how ancient it is, and for being a meeting point between Moroccan and Spanish culture. It is easily one of the prettiest cities of Spain, so there is plenty to see (which is why I recommend going a bit earlier to play tourist). In the winter season (November - February) you can ski at Sierra Nevada (one hour away). In the summer you can go to the beach (one hour away).

The university facilitates sports clubs, varying from football and rugby to salsa and zumba, to hiking trips in the mountains. They also have a cultural center, where you can meet people and watch movies (for example). The weather in Granada is 40 degrees (Celcius) in the summer (June - September), 25 in fall and spring and 15 in the winter. It rarely rains. However, somehow, 15 feels chillier than it does here (in the Netherlands), so you will need to pack some winter clothes.

**Suggestions/Tips**

Most of these I have already mentioned, but here they are summed up:

* Go to as many activities in the first weeks as you can, even if you are normally more introverted.
* Make sure you are comfortable with speaking Spanish both in social and professional settings before you go.
* Go before school starts to play tourist, get used to only speaking Spanish and find a place to live. Also, the activities start mid-August.
* If you want to better your Spanish in Granada, and also have an accommodation and already meet people during the summer, follow an intensive course at Escuela del Lenguas (really really recommended). They also host excursions and lots of activities in the evening, so you don’t have to get to know Granada alone. I would really recommend this, to ‘ease into’ the daily life in Granada (in a more foreign-friendly environment than a lecture full of Spanish students that don’t speak English and do not know what is and is not new for you).

* Don’t tire yourself trying to figure out ‘the system’ (books, timetables, etc). There usually is none.

* Stores open at 10:00, close at 21:00, and are closed between 14:00 and 16:00 in the winter, 13:00 and 17:00 in the summer (this really is very inconvenient).

* All courses are offered in morning classes (09:00 - 15:00) and evening classes (16:00 - 22:00). The slot 13:00 - 15:00 and the slot 20:00 - 22:00 is for optional courses (optional for Spanish student, for you of course, all courses are optional). Have your classes in the afternoon mostly (so between 13:00 and 20:00), this way you will be able to best adjust to the lifestyle. And during exam week, that way you can go to the library in the morning, when there are still spots.

* Figure out where the study spots are. It is very common to host dinner parties all the time, and have friends over constantly. I lived with locals and it was never quiet. Studying at home did not really work. Most faculties have their own library, but they are full around exam time. Also, during exam time extra buildings open up to study in, and all study places are open 24-7 (except 06:00-08:00 to clean); these buildings are also almost always full.

* Dinner time is around 22:00, lunch around 15:00. In exam time, this is a great time to find a study spot. After 16:00, but before 20:00, restaurants and take out places are closed.

* You can get around by foot. There is also a pretty well functioning bus system and cabs are cheap. There is no need to buy a bike (unless you really like biking, which is great in the mountains around Granada).

* Go on some of the trips

**CONCLUSIONS**

***Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain***

I would definitely recommend going to Granada for the social and cultural experience. Granada is an amazing city and has a unique mix of Spanish and Moroccan culture. The city is beautiful and the food and weather are great. Granada has the most active student life and nightlife and you will definitely have a great time. However, if you want to really invest in your education, I would not recommend Granada. The style of teaching is rather rigid: you are supposed to write down what the teacher says and memorize it. I personally did not get bored because following classes in Spanish itself was enough of a challenge already, but if you like to be challenged academically I would choose another university.

***Do you have any additional advice or comments?***

Since almost no one speaks English, you will have a hard time arranging things upon arrival if your Spanish is not up to par - it would be best to already have B1 before arrival. To properly follow the courses, B1 is not enough, B2 would be. Join the student associations, almost all social contact, parties, trips and events are arranged by them. The earlier you join them, the better. Arrive a few weeks before school starts to explore the city, get used to speaking Spanish all day and to find an accommodation. Buy a map and wander around the city, and try lots of random bars.
### Universidad de Granada

#### 2016-2017

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<th>PREPARATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>exchange application process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both the UU and the UGR have a relatively simple and clear application process. It still takes quite a lot of time, but then on the other hand it's logical that such things require some preparation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>counselling &amp; support at Utrecht University</th>
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<tr>
<td>Since I'm pretty stupid in a lot of things concerning administrative procedures, I was very happy with the fact that the people helping you at the UU are very friendly and don't get frustrated when you don't get some things which are very obvious once you get them. Also I appreciated the fact that my international office always replied within (at most) a few days.</td>
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<th>academic preparation</th>
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<tr>
<td>I didn't do a lot of academic preparation, because I wanted to start my adventure blanc. Looking backwards, it might have been a good idea to learn Spanish before going to a Spanish university. On the other hand, I really</td>
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<th>language preparation</th>
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<tr>
<td>I did a small Spanish course, but I would recommend other people to have at least B1 if they would go to Spain, also because almost all courses are in Spanish</td>
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<th>finances</th>
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<td>The more you have the better</td>
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<tr>
<th>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</th>
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<tr>
<td>study programme (content and organisational issues)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UGR is probably a very bad university. For me however that wasn't a problem, I didn't really go for the academic content</td>
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<tr>
<th>academic quality of education activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish people are nice and will help you, but don’t expect a reply if you send them an email. Go to them in person and then you will have a chance of success.</td>
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<th>STUDENT LIFE</th>
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<td>welcome &amp; orientation programme</td>
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<td>The UGR has a small welcoming programme, but there's lots of other student associations which offer a ton of different activities. It's absolutely impossible to get board in Granada. Granada is party town, but for everyone: from hippie to posh prick, everyone finds his way.</td>
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<tr>
<th>accommodation</th>
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I lived in an UNESCO world heritage building with 17 other people. Really cool, but because of the coolness of those houses (called carmens) the landlords tend to be very, very fraudulent. I was pretty much ripped off without any services or niceness.

**leisure & culture**

Granada is a melting pot of cultures and his been like that for centuries. Because of that, and the relaxt spanish leading culture Granada is a perfect city to live for half a year or a whole year.

**suggestions/tips**

Try to visit every barrio in Granada; every part of the city has his own culture and you’ll find something else everywhere. Favourite coffe bar: Cuatro Gatos in the Albaizin. Not only because I lived only 50 meters from there, it's also the best coffee bar in Granada. And good coffee is a hard thing to find in Spain.

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**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Definitely yes. Granada is the perfect city to spend your Erasmus! The only bad thing I can think of is the fact that the level of education low is. But let's be fair: which law student goes studying abroad to learn spanish laws? No one of course. Oh now I do know another bad thing about Granada: too much reggaeton, but you’ll have that problem everywhere in Spain.

**do you have any additional advice or comments?**

Do you want some rest once in a while but still want to live nicely and being able to go to the cinty centre quickly, then go live in the Albaizin, the most beautiful part of Granada and also not that noisy. Do you want to be in the centre of the parties: go and live in the city centre or between the city centre and 'Neptuno', a shopping centre. In that area it’s party hard every night.
**PREPARATION**

**exchange application process**

I finished my Bachelor in February and had a semester left before starting my Master. I decided to use this time well by going abroad. Since I wanted to improve my Spanish I decided that I wanted to go to Spain, and preferably to Granada because most of the subject here are taught in Spanish. The UU made it clear on their site how you had to apply for an exchange, and that made the application process quite fluent.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

The International office of the UU answered all the questions I had during their office hours or by e-mail. They responded most of the time quite fast and they were very helpful.

**academic preparation**

I chose some courses at home using the student guide, but at this university you can try all the courses you'd like to follow and also the methods of teaching of the teacher in the first few weeks. Every teacher teaches in a different way and with his own methods, so for me it was very useful to be able to see how the courses and teachers were for the first few weeks and then base my decisions on my experiences.

**language preparation**

I have had 6 years of Spanish in high school, but I had to refresh it which I did with an online course and with the online course of the Erasmus Grand. When I came to Granada I followed a Spanish course at the CLM (Centro de lenguas modernas).

**finances**

I worked a lot in the months before leaving, so I saved quite some money, and I also applied for the Erasmus grand.

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**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

**study programme (content and organisational issues)**

In the first few weeks you can try out the different courses and teachers. I tried out some courses and also different teachers of the courses and made my decision based on my experiences. It is also nice if there are other Erasmus students in your class, because since you're in the same situation you can help each other out when you don't understand something. I finally chose 3 subjects at the law faculty and the Spanish course at the CLM. Two of my courses at the law faculty were in Spanish and one in English. This was the first year that they taught 2 subjects in English, which is nice as a variation.

**academic quality of education activities**

The quality of education is not the same as in the Netherlands. In the courses I chose were only lectures where you have to listen to the teacher. A lot of teachers didn't use a powerpoint, so you had to understand very well what they were saying. This was for me the hardest part, because the Andalucian accent is very fast and because they pronounce words a little bit differently, it was quite hard to understand sometimes. Since everything is very theoretical here, the exams are as well. You don't get any case questions, you just have to memorize all the information you study. This also means that during most exams you can't use the law or jurisprudence. Since I was not used to this the exams were pretty hard for me.

**counselling & support at receiving university abroad**
The counselling support is good at the Universidad de Granada. They were very helpful and tried to answer all of your questions.

**Transfer of credits**

I am still studying in Spain while writing this, so I’m not sure how the transfer of credits will go. I hope the transcript of records will be send as soon as possible to the UU.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### Welcome & Orientation Programme

There was a welcome day at the university, but that was just for general information about the faculty and about how you could pick your courses and other university related stuff. For social activities you have to go to the Erasmus organisations. They organise a lot of social activities every day in the first few weeks, from tapas evenings to visiting the beautiful places of Granada. It’s quite easy to get to know people because of these activities.

#### Accommodation

I found my room before I came to Granada trough one of the Facebook groups (there are a lot of them!). Other people I know came here without booking a room in advance and they found one here quite easily. During the semester a lot of rooms remain empty, so you don’t have to worry too much about not having any accommodation. I lived in the city center, which I can recommend because it's close to everything, and because Granada is very small you can walk everywhere from the city center. My room was quite expensive for Granada, but you should easily be able to find a room for around 260 euros.

#### Leisure & Culture

For me the most beautiful part of the city is the Albaicin. The Albaicin has a lot of charm and if you walk up to the "mirador the San Nicolas" you have a beautiful view over the Alhambra. The streets of the Albaicin are also very quite, and it doesn’t feel like you’re in a city anymore. The Alhambra of course is as well one of the main attractions here! I went to 2 football games of Granada CF, because the CLM where I followed my Spanish course had promotions for those games, and this was absolutely amazing! Even if you don’t like football the atmosphere is very nice so I recommend you to go there once! In Granada you get a free tapa with every drink you order, so eating out is quite cheap. There are some really nice places with good tapas, and most of the time you only have to order 2 or 3 drinks with tapa to be full.

#### Suggestions/Tips

Go on a lot of trips! The Erasmus organisations offer the trips quite cheap and it's an amazing experience. If possible go to Marocco with one of the organisations. Since you're in the south of Spain it's not that far and it's very nice to see the culture differences.

### Conclusions

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. There are a lot of Erasmus students in Granada and the atmosphere is always very nice. The city is very vibrant and there is loads of stuff to do. If you want to improve your Spanish this is a really good place, because most of the courses are in Spanish. This way you improve your Spanish a lot faster then when you only hear English during class.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Since the Andalucian accent is quite difficult I recommend to take some Spanish lessons before you come here. When you have time to come here a few weeks before the university starts do so, because it's very nice to know the city before you have to start studying.
# Universidad de Granada

2013-2014

## Preparation

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<th>exchange/placement application process</th>
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<td>The application website did not work well for some reason, fortunately if I send emails about it they were relatively helpful.</td>
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<th>counselling/support at home university</th>
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<tr>
<td>They were helpful and gave us enough information. It's just a shame they don't have more office hours, it's easier if you can just walk by on more occasions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before leaving I already had enough ECTS to graduate, so I took mostly first and second year courses that I didn't specifically need to prepare for.</td>
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<td>I left for Spain about three weeks before the introduction started to take a language course. In Granada, but from what I know also in the rest of Spain, there are a lot of language schools to choose from. I chose Delengua, which was pretty cheap so I could afford three weeks of class. I already had about a year and a half of Spanish in University, but that was already two years ago so it was definitely good to freshen up at the start. If you're looking for a room after you've arrived, it makes your life a lot easier if your Spanish is good enough to have basic conversations with your potential landlords.</td>
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<td>Granada is a really cheap city, great because this way you can undertake a lot for little money. Rent is especially very low, I paid 180. The only reason you may spend more money here than at home is because you are abroad and want to travel and try as many new things as possible. There are also a lot of Erasmus groups, not just ESN, that organize trips to nearby cities, the beach, etc. These are often cheaper than if you go to those places yourselves via an ALSA bus.</td>
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## Study/placement abroad period

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<tr>
<th>study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)</th>
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<td>During the first few weeks, as an Erasmus student you go to the different courses and see if you like them. If you are serious about taking a course, try to go from as early on as possible, because you will end up missing things if you only decide to join after three weeks, even though it is allowed. Apart from the content, the teacher is the most important factor in choosing your courses. I had a couple of teachers with very heavy accents that were difficult to follow, it's better to look for some teachers that you actually understand. Also, try</td>
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to talk to the teacher after class and see how he responds to Erasmus students. I had one teacher who let us take the exams orally which in that case was a lot easier, whereas another teacher wouldn't even give us some extra time to complete our written exam (as we of course needed a lot more time than the Spanish students). I only took courses at the Law Faculty and the CLM, as for instance the Humanities Faculty uses different timeslots (everything starts half an hour earlier than at the Law Faculty), so it can be hard to find courses that you can combine with each other. Criminology is also taught at the Law Faculty and can have some very interesting courses.

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<tr>
<th>academic quality of education/placement activities</th>
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<td>I think the contents are not necessarily easier, but there are still a lot of courses without papers and other assignments, that only have one final exam, and where you're really just expected to listen to the teacher and remember what he said for the exam. That is however, changing a bit I feel like, some courses have more than others. Also take into account that for one course may have different teachers and (slightly) different examination methods and course contents.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counselling/support at host institution/organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>I didn’t really need extra support, but the International Office was generally helpful.</td>
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<th>transfer of credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Can’t really say too much about that, as the process isn’t completed yet.</td>
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<th>student life</th>
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<td>The orientation programme organized by the university was quite limited. Also, we for instance had our Faculty’s introduction meeting (explaining us how to register for courses) after the courses had already started. Definitely look for all the Erasmus facebook groups, if they don’t find you already. There was a group that organized somewhere to go every night for the first few weeks, which was a great way to get to know the city and what it has to offer, as well as your fellow Erasmus students.</td>
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<th>Accommodation</th>
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| There really is an abundance of student flats available, so the looking for room process is quite different from that in Utrecht. Whereas in Utrecht the other housemates select you, in Granada the landlords can't really be picky and if you want a room you can usually have it. So don't feel pressured to accept something too quickly. I lived close to Plaza Einstein (in Calle Sol), which I would definitely recommend. It is a nice student area and there are a lot of cheap restaurants and bars. Also a recommendation is close to plaza Trinidad, or close to Plaza Nueva. It’s easy enough to find a room after arriving, so I would definitely recommend doing that. You'll have the chance to compare prices, location and insides of the apartment. You'll definitely encounter some landlords who will try to ask more for the rooms than they're worth, it is definitely possible to find something good for 250 max, including gas/light/water. Take into account that it gets pretty cold in winter here, mostly inside the
houses. So try to find an apartment with central heating, and if there is central heating, ask if you can turn it on yourself or it is turned on during (very) limited hours for the whole building.

**leisure/culture**

There is so much to do and to see, Granada is a really great city! Lots of historic sites with of course the beautiful Alhambra as the most important one. Also countless nice places to go for tapas (usually you get a free tapa with a drink, so it's also really cheap), loads of atmosphere on the streets (if you can forgive the Spanish for walking so slowly and in your way - the Dutch go outside to go from A to B, whereas the Spanish are outside relaxing, hoping to walk into people they know, etc.). It's not very big so you can walk pretty much everywhere, and it really is a student city, somewhat like Utrecht.

**suggestions/tips**

Great places to visit are obviously Sevilla, the beach (if you go the fall semester go as often as you can in the first weeks as you'll have to miss it soon), la Alpujarra, Ronda, Córdoba, Càdiz. In Granada itself, the ones you MUST see are the Alhambra and the viewpoints Mirador de San Nicolas and Mirador de San Miguel.

**conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain

Yes, definitely. Maybe not as useful academically or professionally as going to for instance the US or the UK, but if you go mostly for the experience it's a great city with so much to do.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

I got a SIM card from Happymovil at the Phonehouse, wouldn't recommend this provider (bad service), probably best to get to get a well-known name. The Blackboard system is really complicated, so ask around at the International Office in time if you can't get it to work. The International Office is open from 9.00-14.00, so make sure you come a bit early (not at 13.55) and they're still very helpful. You will have to register as a resident in Spain with the Extranjería. Go there early in the morning. It is a three step procedure and if you go in the afternoon the other steps will have to wait until another day, as you have to go to a bank with your form to pay a fee, and the banks close in the afternoon. This whole procedure is a great example of Spanish bureaucracy, so approach it that way and expect to be there for the large part of the day and it can only turn out better. Ask Spanish students for their 'apuntes,' they usually don't mind sharing them and it can be really hard to make useful ones yourself. Ask for a bus card (sort of OV chip card, but without the checking out hassle) as soon as possible (you can get them from the bus driver) as this is about twice as cheap as buying individual tickets each time. If your parents are visiting, you can also swipe the same bus card three times for all of you. Expect things to be slow and inefficient and nobody to speak English and you'll only be pleasantly surprised. A lot of Spanish students are, because of the crisis, very motivated to learn English - see if you can find someone to practice your Spanish and their English with. Learn the phrase for 'Could you please speak more slowly, I'm foreign' if it's not immediately obvious from your blonde hair. Have fun!
Universidad de Granada

2012-2013

preparation

exchange/placement application process

I always wanted to speak Spanish fluently. When I learned it was easy to study abroad, through the partnerships, the only option that came in my mind was Spain. I orientated myself on Internet and on information meetings, when I made my decision for Granada; a nice student city in Andalucia. It is comparable to Utrecht (Madrid and Barcelona are way to big for me to live there), they speak castellano (not catalan) and I thought it wasn't a city I would visit quickly. Actually that was my first and only choice. If I wasn't selected, I was also happy to stay in the Netherlands. Fortunately I was selected immediately for Granada, even without an interview!

counselling/support at home university

The support at the home university was fine. I was informed on time by e-mail when deadlines were approaching; when we had to hand in something or when there was some new information. Also when you went to the counselling hours you got help. Of course it is up to you to organize a lot yourself as well, but you could always ask for assistance. Perhaps the only problem was that it was always crowded at the counselling hours and you had to wait a long time, perhaps that can improve in the future.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation. For me the most important thing was to finish all my bachelor courses, so I could start my master after my exchange period.

language preparation

During my secondary school I already had some Spanish classes. During a summer holiday I practiced it again and after that I went to Instituto Cervantes, a language school from the Spanish government which has a location on the Domplein. I didn't go to James Boswell Institute, because they only offered preliminary courses. So the study year before I went for exchange I already took Spanish class to be well prepared. The half year before my exchange I didn't follow Spanish classes, because Instituto Cervantes is quite expensive and I was busy with completing my bachelor degree.

finances

I applied for the Erasmus grant, the payment for transport costs and worked extra to have some more extra money for my stay in Spain. The application procedures aren't difficult and don't take much time. Just arrange it early, to have your documents signed by the international office. During my stay I only had problems with the
payment for transport costs. They calculated debts because I didn't stop my subscription by scanning my personal card for a machine. At the end I stopped this reward retrospectively, but because of that I didn't receive a sum of 100 euro extra a month. Quite an expensive failure!

**study/placement abroad period**

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

In November we had to subscribe ourselves for some courses via an programme on Internet. When I arrived in Granada it was made clear this selection was not final. It was better to follow some classes to take a look if you could understand the teacher (all classes are in Spanish) and ask if it was alright to follow this course as an Erasmus student. I also found out that my selection was practically impossible, because some hours coincide. First I also wanted to follow courses from other faculties, but I didn’t do that eventually, because it was a bit difficult to organize and I didn’t want to arrange that. In the first week I already managed to have organized my study programme. I selected courses which I found interesting and, above all, where I could understand the teacher for the biggest past. During my semester I had unfortunately some changes in professors, ones I understood less, but I was still happy with my choices. It was however quite a challenge to compose my study programme, because you had to watch the study guide to see all the courses and the hours, a true jigsaw! Besides my 3 law courses, I also followed a language course. For exchange students there was a special offer to go to Spanish classes for a reduced price and with assigned credits. Almost all the Erasmus students I know chose that, so it is also a good way to connect socially.

**academic quality of education/placement activities**

During my period I realized you mainly have problems with the difference in language than with the level of the education. What surprised me the most is that I almost didn’t had books prescribed. Of the 3 courses, only for one I had to read a book of 250 pages. The Spanish education includes following lectures and listening to the subjects the professor has selected. Studying is really passive. What also strucked me, is that they focus more on facts, differently than in the Netherlands. For example, I had an oral exam in which I had to tell where an article of a law was about. In our system it is more about applying the law, different from Spain. That explains as well the fact they don’t use so much jurisprudence. Although I am not fluently I could follow much of the classes, of course at first less than after a few months. Also the exams were fine, not difficult at all. The academic quality is just not that high. To give an example, in the only study book I had, there was no citation at all. Only in the beginning they mentioned some sources, but they don’t know foot-notes.

**counselling/support at host institution/organisation**

In the orientation week there was a introduction meeting at the faculty which was very helpful. But besides the beginning it wasn’t necessary to have much contacts with the host institution. It doesn’t mean the people aren’t nice at the international office, they are always very helpful and if you want, they try to speak English. I would recommend you just go to the office when you got questions.
### transfer of credits

While I am still studying in Spain, when I write this report, I cannot state anything about the transfer of credits. I hope this process doesn't cause any problems, but I am a bit afraid for it. Things aren't organized so quickly in Spain and it is also period of holidays. However, I need the credits really on time, otherwise I cannot start my master in September.

### student life

#### welcome/orientation programme

A week before our classes started, there was an orientation week organized with meetings of the university and activities of the international students associations. This was very useful to get necessary information to study here, to get known with the city, but above all to learn new people.

#### accommodation

Before my departure to Granada, I already subscribed groups on Facebook for Erasmus students. There were much posts with rooms. I reacted on one, asked for pictures and checked the location, after which I decided to take it. When I arrived in Granada I could go to my room immediately. This was a very good decision. I lived in the city center and had very nice roommates. There were more people looking for rooms on Facebook, but there also pretty much who searched when they arrive in Granada. There are many agencies who offer rooms and you can also see many advertisements on the streets.

#### leisure/culture

Granada is a beautiful historical city. The main attraction is of course the Alhambra, an enchanting monument. But also the quarter Albaycin is on the list for world heritage. Besides that you got stunning views from the city center to the white tops of the Sierra Nevada. In any case the city has a nice location, near sea and mountains. Granada is also known for its tapas. Only in this city you get free tapas when you order a drink. You just don't need a dinner then! The culture in Granada is really outgoing. There are almost always people on the streets and there are many bars to have tapas. There are also many traditional festivities which made my stay special here, like Semana Santa (towards Easter), Dia de las Cruzes, Feria. Also the surroundings of Granada are special, I made trips to Sevilla, Córdoba, Ronda, the mountains and the beach, but there is many more to visit! Because you don't have to spend so much time for your university, there is enough time to discover Granada and its region.

### suggestions/tips

I found it difficult to get known with Spanish students. During the classes there is not much contact and it is hard to integrate with them. I was lucky to play hockey here with a male team (trainings) and because of that I had Spanish contacts. I would advise to do the same. If you practice a sport, try to find a team to play with. Or try to live with Spanish students.
In that way you will really experience the Spanish culture and practice the language.

**conclusions**

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

I would definitly recommend Granada as a host organisation, especially for people who like challenges and different cultures. I really enjoyed my time here, especially for the cultural part. It is a beautiful city with a different culture from ours, yet it is not too far away. It was a great experience for me to meet people from all over the world and being able to say I got a sufficient knowledge of Spanish now.

**do you have any additional advice or comments?**

If you know you want to go to Spain and Granada in particular, try to get Spanish classes as soon as possible. The better your level of Spanish is, the better you will feel yourself at home!
**Universidad de Granada**

**2012-2013**

### preparation

**exchange/placement application process**

Door dat ik een tussenjaar in Spanje had gedaan, wist ik zeker dat ik naar Spanje. Vervolgens heb ik een motivatiebrief in het Spaans geschreven, en ben ik aangenomen, volgens mij omdat ik de enige aanmelding was. Vervolgens krijg je vanuit Spanje wat mail met bevestiging.

**counselling/support at home university**

International office beantwoordt al je vragen per mail, meestal redelijk snel. Ze hebben ook spreekuren waar je langs kunt lopen.

**academic preparation**

Ik heb mij niet voorbereid op de vakken, omdat het lastig kiezen is vanuit Nederland. Het is makkelijker om uiteindelijk je vakken daar te kiezen, door in de eerste paar weken bij verschillende vakken en docenten te kijken wat je aanspreekt.

**language preparation**

Ik sprak al Spaans, maar om dit weer op te frissen heb ik twee weken voor het semester begon een taalcursus gedaan. Als je nog weinig Spaans spreekt is het wel belangrijk om zo'n cursus te doen, omdat alle vakken in het Spaans zijn. Maar het is ook leuk, je leert er veel mensen door kennen.

**finances**

Het leven in Granada is niet heel duur, dus met de Erasmus beurs, stu, zorgtoeslag ben je al een eind. Om relaxed te kunnen leven is het wel fijn als je daarnaast nog een bijdrage van je ouders hebt, of zelf spaargeld hebt dat je kan gebruiken. Daar een baan vinden is lastig, en de lonen zijn laag.

### study/placement abroad period

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

In de eerste weken kan je bij alle vakken langs gaan. Dan is het vooral ook handig om met de docenten te spreken om te kijken hoe ze omgaan met Erasmus studenten. Alle vakken zijn in het Spaans, het aanbod is redelijk breed, al zijn er ook vakken die je alleen in een bepaald semester kan doen, of die je een heel jaar moet volgen.

**academic quality of education/placement activities**

Het niveau van de vakken ligt lager dan in Utrecht, en er wordt vooral theorie bestudeerd. Werkgroepen
kennen ze niet, ieder les is een hoorcollege waar je aantekeningen moet maken. Tentamens kan je vaak overleggen met de docent. De universiteit organiseert verder weinig activiteiten, maar er zijn genoeg studentenorganisaties die tripjes en andere dingen organiseren.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

De informatie vanuit Spanje is vrij traag, of blijft soms achterwege. Mocht er dus iets lang duren, zorg dan dat je er zelf achteraan gaat, dan worden al je vragen wel beantwoord. Het international office is alleen open tussen 10 en 2 uur ’s ochtends.

transfer of credits

De meeste vakken zijn 6 punten waard, al verschilt het nog in welk programma je ze volgt (grado of licenciatura).

student life

welcome/orientation programme

De universiteit heeft een welkomstpraatje, maar daarna moet je het meeste zelf uitzoeken. De algemene introductieweek stelt ook niet veel voor wat betreft activiteiten, je kan je dan beter aansluiten bij ESN, een Erasmus studenten organisatie die wel dingen organiseert.

accommodation

Er is geen campus, maar iedereen regelt zijn kamer ter plekke in Granada. Dit is heel makkelijk, er is een kameroverschot in Granada, dus je kan snel een kamer hebben gevonden. De prijzen liggen tussen de 150 en 350 euro, en heel veel kamers liggen ook goed in het centrum.

leisure/culture

Granada is een fantastische studentenstad. Er zijn veel Erasmus feestjes, en de Spanjaarden zijn over het algemeen open, vriendelijke mensen, die zeker open staan voor Erasmus studenten. Het is vrij klein, maar dat zorgt juist voor een goede studentensfeer. Daarnaast krijg je in bijna iedere bar bij je drankje een gratis tapa, vaak ook nog van goede kwaliteit. Daarnaast heeft Granada het Alhambra, een prachtig oud paleis, en zit je zowel dicht bij de bergen om te skieen, als dichtbij het strand.

suggestions/tips

-

conclusions

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

Ik kan Granada absoluut aanraden om een half jaar te studeren. De Spaanse cultuur is anders dan de Nederlandse, en daarom geweldig om mee te maken. Het is een leuke studentenstad, en je leert makkelijk andere studenten kennen, zowel Spanjaarden als internationale studenten. Bovendien blijft het tot half
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<th>November prima weer, alleen de winter is koud.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have any additional advice or comments?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Het is handig om op redelijk niveau Spaans te spreken, doe daarom vooral een cursus voor je verblijf!</td>
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