### preparation

**exchange/placement application process**

The meeting of the International Office Utrecht (two years ago) made sure everything become clearer already. It made me enthusiastic to go on an exchange. Therefore, the next year I did my application to go to the University of Barcelona. It is a lot of paper work and it is very important to check all the deadlines, because it can take some time to get all the signs on the different documents. Luckily, the requirements of the application are clear. The application process is not difficult, it only takes time.

**counselling/support at home university**

The International Office in Utrecht is very helpful. It is always possible to go to the Office with your questions. They also organise some meetings which are important to visit. It will make everything more clear.

**academic preparation**

I did not do academic preparation before I went to Barcelona.

**language preparation**

Before I went to Barcelona, I followed the courses Spaans Taalverwerving I and Spaans Taalverwerving II at the Utrecht University. In Barcelona, I did as well a Spanish Language course. The University of Barcelona offers good language courses for exchange students. I would recommend doing this if you would like to learn Spanish.

**finances**

To make sure I had enough money to go to Barcelona, I worked the last months before I went to Barcelona to safe money. Besides I had a student loan and my parents supported me.

### study/placement abroad period

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

I followed four courses at the University of Barcelona (24 ECTS). Besides, I did a Spanish Language course (5 ECTS). It took some time to choose my courses, because I wanted to do all of them in English and there are not a lot. Furthermore, it is important to make sure that your timetable is correctly and there is no overlap. Although my courses were in English, some of them involved Spanish Law. I really liked it to learn more about the Spanish Constitution.

**academic quality of education/placement activities**

I think the academic quality of education activities is lower than in the Netherlands. I experienced it as less strict. In Barcelona, there are only lectures. Sometimes it is with a group of 60 students, sometimes only with 15
people. The exams are way different than in the Netherlands. I did not have an exam with open questions. I needed to make assignments, a presentation, a multiple-choice test and essays.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The International Office in Barcelona responds fast to emails. They can only be a bit chaotic at the Office at the University. Therefore, it is important to make the appointments on time to make sure that you have your documents before the deadline.

transfer of credits

The University of Barcelona sent my Transcript of Record with my ECTS to my home University.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The first day there was an introduction meeting at the University. Besides, ESN offers activities in the first week. In this way, you can meet a lot of new people immediately.

accommodation

I already searched for a room in the Netherlands, on the site of ResaHousing. You can only reserve a room 30 days before your arrival. I think it is easy to have a room immediately when you arrive in Barcelona. Other people searched for a room here in Barcelona, but it can be difficult to find a nice room that quickly.

leisure/culture

Barcelona is just great! The atmosphere is nice and relaxed. People are willing to help you, especially when you try to speak Spanish. There are a lot of cultural activities to do. I would recommend visiting Sant Pau, it is really beautiful.

suggestions/tips

Go to Barcelona and experience the city as much as possible! There wasn’t a moment that I regretted coming to Barcelona. I would like to stay for a few months more, because there is much more to see and to experience. Luckily Barcelona is not that far from the Netherlands!

conclusions

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

I would recommend Barcelona to go on exchange. I had such a nice time over here! The city is beautiful and there are so many things to do. After 5 months here, I think I still did not see everything. Besides, I really like the culture and the language. But when you do an exchange especially for your study, it is maybe better to go to another destination. Some courses really taught me something about International Law or Spanish Law, but other courses did not teach me that much. However, I am still very happy with my choice for Barcelona. It was such a valuable experience. I learned some Spanish, made a lot of new friends and learned much about a new
I would recommend learning some Spanish before your go on exchange to Spain. I think it is helpful to do the Spanish Language Course at the University of Barcelona. Furthermore, I bought a bike in Barcelona because I think it is faster than public transport. At the end of my stay, I sold it for a good price. If you like to bike, I would recommend buying a second-hand bike. Moreover, as I already said above, it is way easier to arrange your accommodation in the Netherlands. My last advice is to experience the city and the culture as much as possible and to enjoy to the fullest!
## Universitat de Barcelona

### 2016-2017

### Preparation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>exchange/placement application process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever since I started my Bachelor I knew I wanted to go on exchange. After the first meeting everything became more clear how to organize an exchange. To go on exchange means a lot of paper work, be prepared for that. Make sure you fill in the correct forms right on time! It takes quite some time to look into all the different cities and universities. Which cities offer English courses, which don’t? Do they offer semesters/trimesters? What are further requirements...</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>counselling/support at home university</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The people at the International Office are very helpful too. But sometimes the lines can be long and they don’t (/cannot) know everything about every university. Sometimes I contacted the host university directly with questions. Make sure you go to the meetings Universiteit Utrecht organises, they helped me a lot with my preparation.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>academic preparation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t do any academic preparation, because I already obtained my bachelor when I went to Barcelona, so all the courses were extra</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>language preparation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t do any language preparation, because I knew I was going to follow a Spanish Course the first 8 days in Barcelona. The UB offers a really nice, intense language course (‘Estudios Hispanicos’) for exchange students before university starts. I would definitely recommend to do this course if you’d like to learn Spanish. You get to know a lot of people too.</td>
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<tr>
<th>finances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain is cheaper than Holland, although rent can be higher (especially if you’re used to the relatively low rents in Utrecht). But the Erasmus grant is a good start and helps a lot.</td>
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### Study/Placement Abroad Period

<table>
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<tr>
<th>study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)</th>
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<tr>
<td>I followed 5 courses in total. One was the language course I mentioned earlier (5 ECTS). Others were 3 courses at the law faculty, one at the criminology faculty (6 ECTS each). You’re allowed to follow a course over there too. I wanted to follow courses in English only, but unfortunately there are not many courses in English offered at the UB. It took quite some time to find out which courses are in English, but the exchange coordinator at the UB is very helpful and she replies quickly to emails. Although my courses were in English and mostly had their focus more on international law, some of them involved some Spanish law. At the introduction meeting, the</td>
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</table>
exchange coordinator told us that she couldn’t tell all the exchange students in which courses they were enrolled yet. Had something to do with their system and they didn’t know how many Spanish students were subscribed already. We had to go to her office to be enrolled. I was lucky and could enrol in the courses I mentioned on the learning agreement. Others had to change their learning agreement a lot.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education is way lower than the quality at the Universiteit Utrecht. They test you really differently, which can make the exams harder, because you won’t be used to their way of asking questions etc. Especially, the level of English of the teachers is not perfect. This can be confusing sometimes.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

They’re really helpful at the UB. My emails were always answered within 2 days. You receive reminders about deadlines / paperwork.

transfer of credits

I haven’t heard anything yet about my credits.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

There was an introduction meeting and you could attend a couple of activities. However, there is not a ‘big’ welcome programme. Apparently, UPF offers a better welcome programme. ESN offers a lot of activities though!

accommodation

For the first week I rented an Airbnb. That week I searched for an apartment. I’ve found my accommodation via the website idealista.es, where agencies and people offer houses/rooms for rent. I would recommend to go to Barcelona and look for apartments over there, because you’re able to see your room and roommates.

leisure/culture

Barcelona is a beautiful city that offers a lot: culture, food, shopping, beach. Nightlife is fun too. It is a really international city, so you will meet a lot of people from all around the world.

suggestions/tips

If you’re planning to stay for half a year I would recommend to find an apartment in the neighbourhoods El Born or Gotic. It is nice to be able to speak Spanish, but most people speak English too.

conclusions

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

Yes for sure! Barcelona is a lovely city and the UB is a nice university. You will meet loads of people! The weather is good, the city is vivid, the food is amazing and there are always parties and events. But if you want to
follow courses that will broaden your knowledge and will challenge you a bit more (as were used to in Utrecht) etc., I wouldn’t recommend to go to Barcelona.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I’ve heard a lot of good stories about UPF (the other university). Apparently the level of the courses over there is a bit more difficult than the UB. Their locations are in the city centre, although the ones of the UB are around 20 min by metro.
### PREPARATION

**exchange application process**

My idea to join the exchange program started when I went to the first meeting about this subject given by the International Office Utrecht. After going there I knew it for sure: I want to do this. Then I started checking out the different universities and options. We had to write a motivation letter for our first choice. I also had to give my first and second choice. Luckily I got in on my first choice.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

The counselling and support at the Utrecht University was very good. Everytime I had a question they answered it directly. The question hours at Studiepunt were very busy, but they handeled it right.

**academic preparation**

Regarding to my academic preparation I didn't do any.

**language preparation**

I took Spanish classes in Utrecht at 'Fuentes'. It were 3 hours a week, for 3 months long. It really helped me with the basis Spanish language.

**finances**

Spain is a cheaper country than Holland, so I did not have to pay very much attention to this. With the Erasmus grant you can really cover a big part of you stay. You have to keep in mind that the first months of the exchange period will be most expensive because you have to start many things from stretch. Such as your room ( and the deposit of it) and your public transfer card.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

There weren't that much English courses that you could join. There were only seven. So there wasn't much to choose. But the courses I participated were very interesting and helpful. The main difference was that they don't work with 'Timeslots' when you are choosing your courses. So it is kind of a puzzle to figure out your classes.

**academic quality of education activities**

The academic quality differed from courses. Mostly it was good. The level of English differed a lot as well. But mostly it was good. I had to give many presentations and deliver many essays in English, this helped me to improve my presentation skills and level of English. Eventhough the level of English of some teachers was well, they really appreciate it when you understand and speak Spanish.

**counselling & support at receiving university abroad**

The counselling and support was well. The answered the mails quickly and they were nice. The students from the receiving university were also very helpful. The receiving university was really strict about deadline.

**transfer of credits**

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### STUDENT LIFE
**welcome & orientation programme**

This was all very nice. ESN organized a lot of activities and because of this I got to know many people from different countries.

**accommodation**

My accommodation was really bad. There were many mouses in my appartament at the end. I would really recommand the following students to contact previous Erasmus students from that country for recommandation on accommodation.

**leisure & culture**

Barcelona has it all. Nice bars and restaurant, beautiful culture because of great architects, a beach and a great atmosphere. There is always something to do in this city.

**suggestions/tips**

Join all the erasmus activities and follow their activities on Facebook. In this way you can easily meet new people.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCLUSIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I would really really recommend it. The university is very helpful. The only negative thing was that the level of English of some teachers was bad. However, Barcelona is a lovely city. It has the culture, the leisure, the beach. I am already jealous of the people who will go to Barcelona next semester, because they will have the time of their lives there. The students at the Law faculty were really helpful as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do you have any additional advice or comments?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would really recommend to contact previous Erasmus students for appartments. Also, it is very helpful to speak (a little) Spanish before you arrive Spain.</td>
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## 2015-2016

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

The exchange application process is something you have to do a long time in advance of your actual going abroad. You have to write a motivation letter and to send your CV. I applied for going on exchange in December 2014, and my actual going abroad was in February 2016. This gives you a long time to sort your life out before going on exchange! For me, this was really helpful. The University is giving students this way a long time to prepare their exchange, something that is necessary.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found during my preparation that the International Office was really helpful. It's quite difficult to sort out all the courses and you make your Study+Financial plan while you're in the Netherlands. For a University abroad, who's site is in Catalan. So I came many times to the International Office and they always gave me good advice. Before I went to Barcelona, I was fully prepared in terms of my Erasmus grant. I really believe the International Office did everything they could.

#### academic preparation

An academic preparation for University de Barcelona was not really necessary. While I was already a third year student in Law, the subject I was going to follow where in addition with the thing I already learned in my first years at the University of Utrecht.

#### language preparation

In Barcelona, it was possible to follow every course in English. I already had a sufficient level of English for following those courses. What I did was taking a Spanish class in Utrecht already, after all I was going to Spain. The Spanish class really helped in to actually live in Barcelona, but for academic purposes it was not really necessary.

#### finances

In advance, it was quite clear what you could expect of your financial situation while going abroad. I was getting an Erasmus grant (approx. 250 euro a month), a public transport fee (approx. 90 euro a month). Besides that I have a student loan so all my finances were pretty easy to sort out in advance. For me, it was not necessary to get an expensive visa and also plain tickets to Barcelona are quite cheap.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

While arriving to the University of Barcelona, I thought I had all my subjects sorted out. But when actually taking the classes, I discovered it had nothing in common with the subjects I like to study (all the names of the classes were in Catalan). Fortunately, the University of Barcelona gives you 2 weeks to ‘try’ all the subjects they offer so you after that you can make your final study programme. So in advance the content was not very clear, but arriving at the University of Barcelona, they had fixed this problem by giving us 2 weeks of ‘try-out’. But the whole organization of the UB (and I believe, overall in Spain) was quite disorganized. It takes a long time to get answers on your question, the opening hours are terrible and a lot of people don’t speak English very well.
### academic quality of education activities

At the University of Barcelona, the academic quality is not as high as in Utrecht. I discovered this quickly while taking the courses. They also didn’t do any education activities. But the courses gave me a very different light on the way I learned things in Utrecht. So for my overall education and development, studying at the University of Barcelona was really helpful.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The people of the International Office are really nice at the University of Barcelona. Always when I stopped by the office, they helped me very well. But sometimes I had issues, and they didn’t know the solution for those issues as well. And afterall: it's still Spain. So everything goes a bit slower and stuff to arrange takes a lot longer then in Utrecht.

### transfer of credits

I passed al my courses and I asked the International office of a Transcription of my credits. Still no answer. So I think this is going to be difficult to receive.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The first day of school, we had this Welcome Session. I’ve met a lot of people from all over the world there. The session itself was mainly in Spanish, which I partly could understand and partly not. Fortunately we already had a lot emails received with information which I could put in google translate. ESN Barcelona also gave a speech and had this whole introduction program worked out. I quickly met a lot of new people, and made a lot of friends. Thanks to ESN Ub, I leaned to know the city and did a lot of amazing activities.

#### accommodation

Before coming to Barcelona I already arranged my accommodation in the City centre of Barcelona. Its quite easy to find accommodation and its also cheap comparing to Amsterdam or Utrecht. I rented my room through rentroombarcelona.com a company which I strongly recommend. I had a beautiful, big apartment which I shared with 2 Canadian and 2 French girls. It was amazing.

#### leisure & culture

The Spanish culture is one of the most vibrant and yet at the same time relaxed cultures in the world. I adapted quickly to the Spanish way of life. Late dinners, a lot of tapas and sangria. And other then Utrecht: teachers are late to lessons 20 mins! I was never in a rush while living in Spain.

#### suggestions/tips

Participate to a lot of activities of ESN UB at the beginning. This way you will meet a lot of international people and once you find your people the real fun can begin!

### CONCLUSIONS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would definitely recommend this destination. Barcelona is a city that has everything: Culture, Museums, Food, Beach, Nightlife. It is the most amazing place in the world. On top of that, Barcelona is really affordable. Considering the University of Barelona, I think its the best option to study at this University. I heard terrible stories about other universities while mine was actually quite ok. But for academic purposes I would not recommend Spain at all. For your own development --&gt; yes!</td>
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<tr>
<td>do you have any additional advice or comments?</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
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