

2018-2019

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen Mary University of London
start date	05 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The exchange application process is relatively straightforward. For me personally I had some issues with the way my receiving university was structured and thus had a misunderstanding of when my exchange was to start and how their modules worked. I applied with wrong dates and an impossible planning but this was not caught by anyone at Utrecht University which makes me wonder if anyone checked it at all. I get that it's ones own responsibility but I feel like at some point someone should have caught this.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international Office was always really quick in answering my emails and signing documents which is nice. The pre-departure meeting was a little early for me as I applied for an exchange in the second semester the following year, so anything that was discussed there was almost forgotten by the time it was actually time for me to go on exchange.
academic preparation	For me personally this wasn't really necessary as I was only able to take courses at my guest university that were of a certain level (second year) which was a little below what I was following at Utrecht Univeristy.
language preparation	I had to do a language assesment before my depature in which I scored high enough to not have to get assesed at my return.
finances	Even though I think it's a good thing that students are forced to think about finances by submitting a financial plan, I think it doesn't prepare you for what you'll actually be spending. Especially in London where everything is so much more expensive than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

Before I got accepted by my guest university it was very unclear to me how their study programme was structured but as soon as I was accepted they gave me much more information.
academic quality of education activities
As I mentioned above as an Erasmus student you are limited in choice of Modules I was allowed to take, which resulted me in taking some courses that were a little less challenging than I hoped. This is a personal issue for I'm a relatively old student to go on exchange and if I had followed the normal study route this wouldn't have been a problem.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had some personal issues during my stay abroad and went to the counseling service and the international office at my guest university. I was told that they were going to help me and 'Leave it to us' but I never heard back after that, which was very disappointing. Asking for help was a difficult step in the first place and then not receiving it, after I had been told I would, made the last part of my exchange a lot less enjoyable.
transfer of credits
I have not yet got my credits transferred.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
As an European citizen I was not allowed to live on campus and thus missed out on a few key orientation moments. We were told to be on campus on January 3 rd and it was not specified that this was only for people that had on campus accommodation. I was also told I was not welcome at the welcome dinner as I did not live on campus which made me feel very unwelcome.
accommodation
As I stated above, I was not eligible for on campus accommodation, which meant I had to figure this out myself. I was lucky as I have family who live in London and helped me find a room before I arrived. However, I also knew people that were staying in a hotel for the first week(s) as they were still looking for a room. The University told them they would help but never did, which made the first weeks very stressful for them.
leisure & culture
London is an amazing city with a lot of culture and due to my schedule I had lots of time to explore a lot of it. The international office organised a number of outings and made us aware of trips organised by an international student network, which was very nice and affordable.
suggestions/tips
My main tip is to make sure Queen Mary makes everyone feel welcome and not just the people that stay on campus.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
My personal experience wasn't amazing and I feel like I was let down by the support systems in place. However, I still had a really good time and learned a lot. So, yes I would still recommend Queen Mary.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I urge everyone to go on exchange, it will broaden your horizons and teach you a lot about yourself and life. It may not always be easy and fun, but it is definitely worth it in the end.

Report 2

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

faculty/college	History
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History, Bachelor

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen Mary University London
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It takes quite some time to find out which university you want to go to as there are a lot of differences between countries and universities. For me I new quite quickly that I wanted to go to London, because of the city and the courses QMUL offers. I recommend checking out the courses of each university as this really helped me make my decision. The application process is not necessarily difficult, but does take some time to figure out. The website of the UU international office has helped me a lot.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office is very willing to help you and I really recommend visiting their organised talks. However, a lot of the things you need to fill in, you have to find out on your own.
academic preparation	The only way I could prepare myself was looking at the modules I wanted to follow. The best thing about QMUL is that they have very different and a lot of courses. It took me some time to find it, but this website (https://www.qmul.ac.uk/modules/) has all the modules you can choose from. The selection you make is not definite. In the first week, you have to accept your courses, but are also able to change them.
language preparation	I did not prepare myself as the language is English. As an Erasmus+ student you do have to take a very small online language test.
finances	London is a very expensive city, so it is important that you have a good financial plan. I used my savings, a student loan from DUO, and the money I received from the Erasmus+ grant. If you are using a student OV, it is possible to get a small amount during the time you are gone.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The university system is quite different from the Dutch system. At QMUL you follow four courses in a span of three months (one semester). Compared to Utrecht, there are less lectures and seminars per week. All my

<p>courses were two hours per week. The overall system is that all your exams are at the end of the year. This means that, as a study abroad student, you have to take a separate exam before you leave. The courses I took, did not have exams, which meant that I was able to finish everything before I left. While the university system is quite different, the structure of lectures and seminars is quite similar.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The academic quality is very similar to the UU. However, as you spend less time in seminars or lectures, you have a bit more work to do on your own. As for writing papers, the teachers are very helpful and encourage you to visit them to discuss your topic. All my teachers also gave very extensive suggested reading lists. The essays seemed difficult in the beginning, but since the topics and some readings were already given, it turned out to be the opposite for some.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>The introductory talks on the first days are very helpful. They are quite long, but I do recommend them. The people of the international office are very helpful and can answer any question. If you are dealing with (mental) health problems or study problems there are a lot of options for you to go to.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>This is not applicable yet. QMUL will send it to the UU. I recommend starting on time with filling in the forms for the UU Board of Examiners.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>
<p>Since I went in September, there were a lot of welcome activities. They were mainly focused on first years, but where a lot of fun to join in. The Student Union (there is just one, which organises all of these events) also offers trips to other cities and cheaper musical tickets</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>Finding accomodation in London is very difficult. I went a weekend beforehand and still had nothing when the introductions started. I eventually managed to get a room on campus as the housing office told me they had some rooms left. Dutch Erasmus+ initially are not allowed a room on campus. However, some other Dutch students applied for a room beforehand and did get one. I would advise you to apply for a room, while also continuing your search in case QMUL doesn't have any rooms left. There are some agencies which might help, as well as the website: sparerroom.co.uk (like Kamernet). The only thing about living on campus is that you have to buy your own bedding and kitchen supplies.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>There are so many things to do and see in London: museums, musicals, tours, hidden neighbourhoods. Some like to travel during their stay, but I wanted to stay in London to get to know the city as much as possible. Since I started in September, I was there during the Christmas season. There are so many festivals and events to do during this time. Just going to Piccadilly or Oxford Street can already get you in the Christmas mood with all the lights and decorated windows. I also recommend trying as many English dishes or products you can find in the supermarket. A very fun and easy way to discover a different culture.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>I would highly suggest joining a society. There is the so-called Student Union who are there for problems and the bigger activities, but they have a ton of societies for you to join, varying from sport to bookclubs. It is a great way to meet people outside you dorm, course or international circle. Another tip is to find a room as close to university as possible. It seems great to live in Notthinghill, but makes it difficult to join in on the campus</p>

culture. Last but not least: explore London as much as you can! Three months seem long, but are incredibly short and it feels great when you start to understand this big city a bit better.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I most definitely recommend QMUL. The university has a good academic standard, is very multicultural, you get to experience campuslife and, of course, you get to live in London!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to make the most of your time in London, it is a very diverse and vibrant city. This is definitely one of the best experiences of my life.

**2017-2018
 Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen Mary, University of London
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I knew I wanted to study abroad during my Master's programme, and not do an internship. First, I had in mind to go to UCLA because of a certain professor at that university. Later, I changed my first choice to Queen Mary, University of London. This was my second choice, also because of the professors, but very much because of the courses they offer and because I could imagine myself living in London.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The application process went well, there were no problems. I originally applied for UCLA, but the UU International Office informed me that it would not be a safe option (due to contract issues). Communication with the IO was good, they helped me really well with questions.
academic preparation	For me, it was very important that I could take courses that fit in my curriculum. The idea that I had before I went abroad, was that I would end up with an idea for my Master's thesis. Fortunately, I did. Thus, it did take up some preparation: I had to really think about my interests and what I wanted to learn in London. In the end, I ended up with two courses I did have an interest in, but did not know much about, and really learned a lot.
language preparation	I did not do any further preparation.
finances	I made sure I had enough money for the rent, and enough monthly income for living and recreational stuff.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did two courses in the History department of QMUL (one semester): Selfhood and Enlightenment in the Long Eighteenth Century & Modern Jewish History and Culture. These two courses together provide for enough ECTS for one semester in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic quality was good. The professors were really good and their courses were really well organised. Though, I found the level of the students a bit lower than I was used to in the Netherlands. But, for me, this was of course not a real issue.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people I needed for help (history department, international office) were very responsive, and I had no issues there. They were all very helpful and they made sure you were well settled within the city and within the university.
transfer of credits
When writing this UU report, I have not yet received my official credits. But so far, it has just been some administrative effort.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was only a very short welcome and orientation programme for the Master's students. Most of the information was especially focused on new Bachelor's students. The bonding of students seemed less important, that was a pity.
accommodation
Accommodation is not provided by the university; you have to find a room in London yourself. Lots of rooms are available for rent, but prices are high. The university is located in a cheaper area of London (that's good), but rent prices are still high. I recommend you choose between travelling with public transportation (also expensive) or pay a higher rent. I did not live close to QMUL, I had to travel about 50 mins, but I found some nice working places near my room. So, in the end, I did not spend much time at the university, and that saved me some money for public transportation.
leisure & culture
It's LONDON...
suggestions/tips
See 'accommodation'. Also, make sure you have some people around you. There is a lot you can do in London, but it is also very easy to get lonely. Go to a student association or a party, meet up with some classmates; make sure you're not always alone.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. London is of course a great city, but I would also recommend QMUL for students in their Master's programme. The university has a broad perspective and is very willingly to receive international students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Great university in a wonderful city!

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> pschilder@uu.nl
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faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	RMA Modern History 1500-2000

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen Mary University of London
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was easy and smooth.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I did not really need a lot of counselling and/or support at Utrecht University for my stay abroad period except for the regular explanation of application procedures. Everything was pretty clear and I knew that I could contact the International Office if I had any questions.
academic preparation	There was no academic preparation I had to conduct before moving to London.
language preparation	I expect an average Dutch student to be able to speak English sufficiently to follow courses and Queen Mary. Some of my fellow international students at Queen Mary spoke English a lot worse, actually.
finances	Living in London is quite expensive, so I advise every prospective Queen Mary student to save some money beforehand. I made sure I had borrowed enough money in the year prior to my stay abroad, but if you switch to your maximum loan at DUO during your stay abroad you should be fine as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The content of my study abroad was very interesting but very incoherent. I followed courses on American foreign policy and global history, and both courses required me to read about very wide ranging topics. I could not really focus on or dive into one specific field of interest as I was used to during my RMA in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	Comparatively bad. I realized that Utrecht is a fantastic university with a very high level of teaching, and often very knowledgeable and ambitious students. Queen Mary disappointed me in that regard. It was very easy to get high grades.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Average. I knew who I needed to contact if there was a problem, but I did not need specific help.

transfer of credits
Not applicable yet, my credits are not yet transferred.
STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I did not enjoy the orientation week as I had expected. There is no ESN at Queen Mary, and many parties felt like middle school parties as they were attended primarily by first year students. The number of activities organized for Erasmus+ students was also quite low, but maybe I just missed them because I was an irregular exchange student as I was there during my master's.
accommodation
I was lucky to be granted campus accommodation as this is usually not given to Erasmus students as far as I know. A friend of mine who went to Queen Mary two years before told me to spam the Residence Office of Queen Mary during summer in order to be granted campus accommodation, so I did. It cost me €790 a month and the room was not what I was used to, but for London standards it was quite ok.
leisure & culture
London is a brilliant city with a vibrant social life. I truly loved it and I can see my self returning for a job quite easily.
suggestions/tips
Make sure you join a society. Queen Mary knows many of them, so just subscribe, get to know people and find out which one you would like to attend for the rest of your stay.
CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If you are looking for an academic challenge: definitely not. If you are looking for the traditional Erasmus experience: no, because I assume that other universities in Europe provide more events to have fun. However, if you'd love to live in one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the world: definitely yes. The university gives you plenty of leisure time to explore the city.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Make sure you know why you are going on exchange, and find the matching university to that goal.