



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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

destination city & country	Istanbul, Turkey
name university abroad	Bilgi University
start date	7 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was a lot of paperwork and searching for what kind of papers and stuff you have to do. But the website of the UU was very helpful! Also the International Office was always very helpful and fast with answering questions or signing papers.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was very helpful! At one point I was doubting a lot to go because of all the happenings in Turkey, so they sat down with me to talk about my options. They even offered me opportunities to go to other places if I didn't want to go here. They have a very good support system.

academic preparation

I didn't have to do anything

language preparation

I didn't learn any Turkish in advance. I wanted to, but I was too busy with my thesis. At some points I was a little bit disappointed by myself that I didn't learn any Turkish before arriving, but it turned out to be okay.

finances

I was supposed to save money for this exchange, so I started working. But eventually I didn't really save money and also didn't really need it. With my student loan, Erasmus+ grant and some support of my parents I could easily survive there. The country is really cheap, especially in the period that I went there, the Turkish Lira was very low compared to the euro. Of course if you do a lot of trips there it can cost you some money, but overall I never heard anyone complain about having too less money so survive there (even though the city is expensive compared to the rest of Turkey)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I searched a long time to find out which courses I wanted to do there, but when I arrived and had to register for my courses it turned out that some were not available, were in Turkish or were full. The course registering period was actually the worst of my whole time there, but because you're an Erasmus student they help you a lot. It's really good possible that they're not enough seats in the course left, but they give you a "special seat" which means that you can take the course even though it's already full. My advisor and the other teachers were very helpful during this chaotic period. Another problem is that a lot courses are on the same time or at a



different campus after each other which means you can't take both courses. It's a lot of puzzling but eventually it will all turn out to be fine. Just try to do it as soon as possible! The courses that I took were

Human Nature

Media and Human Rights

Communication for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolutions

Sociology

In the beginning I also took Organisational Psychology and Turkish for foreigners but I dropped those because they didn't really suit me. The 2 media courses are definitely a recommendation since the teachers were very kind and the courses were super interesting, even though I never did a media course before.

academic quality of education activities

The level is lower compared to the UU, that's why your grades will be downgraded. In the beginning I thought that it couldn't really be so low but then I saw the midterms and finals and they were not that hard. Of course it depends on the course that you take and how much effort you put into it. But compared to studying for exams at the UU I studied way less over here and got good grades anyway.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office is very helpful! Also the international club of Bilgi is helpful and you can always send them a text with questions. I never met my advisor, he responded quick on my messages with actions but almost never sent something back. There was no need to meet him since everything turned out okay and he helped me, but it was still kind of weird that he didn't put that much effort in helping me. They work with a buddy system and my buddy was very kind. She picked me up from the airport to take me to my hotel, helped me with a Turkish phonenummer etc, but after that she was really busy and I only met her at campus once. It was no problem since I had a lot of help around me and some never met their buddy at all, but I expected a little bit more.

transfer of credits

I asked for a transcript of my grades and that was very easy. I have no idea how it will go from here on but I think it will all be okay.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was very nice. They prepare a presentation that is actually a little bit too long, so after this whole day you're very tired. But they provide a lot of information that can be used during your stay here. After this day they also upload the powerpoints on the website so you can always find them back when you have to do some of the necessary stuff here.

accommodation

I was part of some Facebook groups where I could find a room. In the first week I stayed in a hotel and went to see some rooms but a lot of them are with people who already work. Since I really wanted to live with other students I was determined to search further and eventually found the best house I could live! It was an Erasmus building close to Taksim (where most nightlife, restaurants, shops etc. are) so I was really happy. The prices for rent were quite expensive compared to other rooms, but still less than I paid in Holland.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is such a great city to live! There is 24/7 things to do, to visit etc. You can get lost in a district you've never been before and see amazing houses, streets and enjoy the place. For me it was definitely the best decision ever to choose this city. Actually 1 semester is not enough to live here, since the city is so big and there is so much to do. It's also nice to do some other trips around Turkey (Cappadocia, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Kusadasi, Izmir, Fethiye etc.) and it really doesn't need to be expensive. Istanbul is the best city I've ever lived, even though traffic was terrible and it's never quiet, you also never get bored here. Go to Istanbul!



suggestions/tips

I felt really safe here which I didn't expect at all since the media frightens you about this country and city. My friends and me talked about this and everyone was a little bit scared to go here in the beginning, but nothing bad ever happened to us. We never regret going here!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes absolutely. The university is a private one compared to Koc or Bogazici, which didn't really interested me before. But some courses that I took were only possible because it was a private university, and I really enjoyed those courses. The location is really good and they have good shuttle buses to the university. The campus is not that big but really pretty and nice places to hang out. And of course Istanbul is a really nice place to live for your Erasmus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Istanbul, Turkey
name university abroad	Bilgi üniversitesi
start date	26 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The international office was really helpful! Everything was so clear and well arranged. In the beginning I was quite overwhelmed with all the stuff we needed to write and do. But in the end it all turned out fine and everything is explained step by step. You have to be careful about the deadlines though.

The only problems I had were with my host university because they didn't sign my pre-departure form. So I couldn't hand the form in online. The problem was solved by handing it in without a sign. They signed it when I was in Istanbul so I could upload it anyway.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I actually never went to the office with questions because in my opinion the website is very clear. Everything I needed to know, I could find on the website of the university of Utrecht or Bilgi University.

Because my destination was Istanbul, during the summer I got an email if I still wanted to go there because of the attacks. They offered me alternative destinations but I went anyway. I really was surprised that they could arrange something so last minute anyway. This really shows how helpful they are and how they react so quickly on current situations. Even everytime something bad happened in Istanbul they asked me if everything was okay.

academic preparation

I did not need to do anything.

language preparation

It was not needed.

finances

Istanbul is a quite cheap city to live, so the money was no problem at all. I received the Erasmus+ grant, which is about 210 euro a month. Besides that I received extra money from the government for not using the public transportation which is about 90 euro. And I still got my normal (uitwonende) studygrant. I have actually no clue what I spent in Istanbul. I think it was approximately 900 euros. I think it was quite the same as I spend in the Netherlands, including everything. There are some extra expenses like the visa, which you don't have to pay in other countries, but this wasn't that much. I think it's about 50 euro in total.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>All the courses I chose beforehand weren't offered anymore. This was quite a hassle to get in different courses that I liked. Their system is really different from ours. During the orientation day they explained us very clearly how it worked. They open the system during 5 days, and in those days you have to chose your lectures. You can subscribe to every course whithin your faculty, outside that faculty you have to ask the teachers for permission. This took quite a lot of time because some of them didn't respond or didn't want to let you in. Once you have subscribed for the courses you want, there is one week where you can 'try' them out. During this week you actually only go to classes to read the syllabus. After this week you can drop and add courses again. Because this was quite difficult I stayed in the courses that I choose the first time. Those courses were Turkish for foreigners Work and work behavior (HRM) Culture, Market and Game Industrial Psychology History of modern psychology In the end I wish I had changed some courses because some were quite double with what I already did at my home university or what I am going to do at my home university.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>The thing is, if you want to go to Istanbul to actually study at the level of Dutch universities, don't go to this university. The quality is nothing like I was used to. In the beginning this was quite convenient in my opinion because I had so much spare time since I only had classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, and homework was almost non-existent. But in the end it really started to annoy me I will give you a example why. For the course History of modern psychology we had to write a paper. I put in quite some effort to write a paper like I'm used to do at my home university. When we got the results back, I got a slight higher grade than the student who litterally copy pasted the wikipedia page, or students who didn't even refer to one article. But the teacher wanted to give everybody a passing grade. This happened in a fourth year class. In the end it turned out that I was rather unlucky with the courses I choose. Because some of my friends really had to put in effort and learned a lot. Besides all this negativity there are ofcourse also positive sides. They have a great campus, it used to be an old factory which they renovated and made an university in. They also have free shuttles driving trough the whole city which is amazing. I was at school in 20 minutes, which is great for Istanbul. Another thing which was great were the activities they organised for International students. During the first weeks you could participate in a lot of things like a city tour, dinner nights and parties. I went to Capadoccia with the university as well. So in conclusion, the university isn't really challenging which sometimes really annoyed me, but it gave me more time to explore the city and the country. If you want to go to a really good university I recommend you to go to Bogazici, which is a really cool university!</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>The university linked me to a turkish students which was great! He helped me with searching for appropriate housing, and things I should think about when coming to Turkey. When I arrived he showed me around and in the end we became really close friends! He even came to the Netherlands with a few of his friends to visit me already. Besides that I had a study adviser, but I've never met him because he never showed up at our appointments.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>The transfer of credits went easier than expected. Unfortunatly they didn't give me credits for the course History of modern psychology. I found this out when I was already back, because I never checked it with the examcommittee. I should have done that, because I didn't like the course at all, so now I did kind of do it for nothing.</p>



The scores I got from the university were quite high, and they lowered them to Dutch standards which I completely understand.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was great! Firstly we had an orientation day which was organised by the international office. There they explained how everything worked at the university and how to get a residence permit. They helped us a lot with the residence permit which was great because this is a very complicated process. They even organised a day at the university to hand in all the documents.

Besides the practical introduction, there was a little organisation (created by Turkish students) that organised parties, dinners, game nights, walking tours and trips far away. This was amazing. Here I met most of my friends. They really putted an effort in making you feel at home! I heard some stories from other universities and I think Bilgi has one of the best facilities for International students.

accommodation

I searched for a house when I was still in the Netherlands because this was recommended by my buddy. I became a member of the housing in Istanbul group on Facebook. Here I had contact with some landlords. I found my house on that page as well, it went way easier than expected and in the end it turned out I was very lucky with my house. I lived in Tarlabasi, which is actually known as the ghetto of Istanbul, but I loved it!! the location was perfect. Within 5 min by walk I was in the main shoppingstreet, in 10 min walk at Taksim square and in 20 min I was at my university. I lived with 4 roommates, one of them was an exchange student from Germany. The others were Turkish. I chose on purpose to live with Turkish people because I knew I would make a lot of international (Erasmus) friends at the university anyway, so in this way I would learn more about the culture instead of only living in the Erasmus bubble. We did a lot together and they were the most lovely people ever! We really became a small family in no time. It was about 300 euro's (1000 TL) a month. I had my own little room, which wasn't much, but I didn't need much anyway.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is great! Also literally. After 4,5 months I still haven't seen everything I wanted to see. There is so much to do that it's impossible to get bored. I don't even know what to write here since I want to tell you everything but then it's going to be a 10 page article... Istanbul is a very diverse city, every district is different and has its own feeling and atmosphere. They have amazing buildings like the mosques and palaces, really nice places next to the water, big parks, viewpoints on the most unexpected places, local markets, basically everything!

I lived in the European side near Taksim, very close to one of the party areas. In the beginning I was really overwhelmed with how many bars there were and we had no clue where to go. Within a few weeks you'll get to know some cool places and this will continue until the end. Even in my last week I found some really cool new places which I wished I had found earlier. Besides this convenient party area there was also an amazing bar district in Kadikoy (the Asian side). This area I also highly recommend to go to since it's so full of amazing hidden places. Ofcourse there is way more to do than the party scene, for example the food. Turkish food is incredible! Especially the streetfoods. You can eat the most delicious snacks on the streets for 1 euro. In the end we went out for dinner every night because it's so cheap and way better than I can cook myself. What also is very important are the people ofcourse. Turkish people are very warm and welcoming. Sometimes in Istanbul they are more individualized but still nothing in comparison to ourselves.

It's really easy and cheap to travel through the rest of the country and totally worthed! It's really diverse from sea to mountains. You will also notice that the people differ from each other depending on where you go. One of the most frequent question asked was if I did feel safe because the attacks. I haven't felt unsafe for a second, at least not more than I would have felt in the Netherlands in similar situations.

The reason I choose to go to Turkey was because I wanted to experience a culture which is really different from



my own and still receive an Erasmus+ Grant. I'm really glad I went to Istanbul because it taught me so much! I wish I could have stayed longer!

suggestions/tips

The main thing I want to advise is: Go and experience it! Don't be afraid of the news you hear in the Netherlands.

When you go on exchange in general, try to live with locals. They'll show you their culture, and the really cool places in the city. It also helps learning the language. It's really convenient if you learn some Turkish before going there because not everybody speaks English. And when you know the basics, it's easier to learn more because you'll already recognize things in the streets. I wished I had put a little bit more effort in it.

I really enjoyed living in Tarlabasi, and I think I can say all my friends who lived there enjoyed it a lot as well. Try to bargain a bit on your rent price because they actually ask way to much from exchange students.

When you find your place to live, try to find the local market as quickly as possible. In my neighbourhood it was every Sunday and everything there was half the price or even less of the supermarkets. And they sold everything in comparison to normal shops.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Istanbul I would definitely recommend to anyone! In the city there is something for everybody. It is really fun to live in such a big city (even though I normally don't like big cities that much). You'll challenge yourself a bit more because of the cultural differences but you'll also learn a lot more!

The university was okay for me because I had so much leisure time and I could travel a lot. But in the end it frustrated me that I didn't really learn a lot academically speaking. So if you're going for a laid back Erasmus, I can definitely recommend you to go to Bilgi, since the location is great and the facilities are great. But it's a private university where a lot of 'upperclass' students study, which gives you a whole other atmosphere and more expensive lunches.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If I could go again, I would have gone a bit earlier because of the good weather. I didn't expect it to get colder in October already. My Erasmus was only 4 months, it's so short! A lot of my friends came at least a week or two weeks before the orientation day. This will help you exploring the city a bit more and you can find housing. It's really doable to find a house after going there. And please contact me if you want to know more! I'd love to tell you all about it!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology

destination city & country	Istanbul, Turkey
name university abroad	Bilgi Üniversitesi
start date	26 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 06 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is pretty easy, but it seems like a lot of work at first. Once you get around to actually filling out all the required documents, it is not that much work! For me the hardest part actually was deciding where I wanted to go. Once you know that, it is easy to find motivation to do it. When I decided I wanted to go to Istanbul, I just checked all the websites of the partner universities there and compared which courses they offered and based my choice on that. Then you have to make a study plan, financial plan, an English CV and write a motivation letter.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office at UU is very helpful. They don't have many office hours, but when they do they are always willing to help. Also, they respond to your e-mails quickly!

academic preparation

I did not need to do anything extra in terms of academic preparation.

language preparation

The courses in Istanbul are taught in English, so that means I did not have to do any language preparation. It is nice to know a little bit of Turkish before you go, so I think it would be cool to do a course before you leave. I just did a little bit on DuoLingo. But for studying, you do not need to know Turkish.

finances

For Turkey you receive the Erasmus grant, which helps a lot with finances. I worked a lot before to save up, but that was only so that I was able to take trips during and after my semester. Istanbul is pretty expensive, even though you wouldn't think so initially. I still got 'studiefinanciering' with a small loan, the Erasmus grant, my parents supported me and I also had my savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses I took were very interesting. Before you go, you have to select courses online which you are planning to take as a part of the registration to the university in Turkey. However, when I arrived it seemed that some of the courses I chose were actually Masters courses, were taught in Turkish or overlapped with other courses, so I had to choose new courses. You have to do this during the course registration week, and you can go to the International Office or your advisor for help. The content of most of my courses was very interesting: I



took courses on Turkish politics, EU-Turkish relations, sociology and political anthropology. It was not very difficult, but I think I did learn a lot because I never studied Turkey before. I also took a Turkish language course. Overall, the organisation is fine; they do a lot online which is easy. I did not really have any problems with organisation, even though the international office was not always super helpful.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the lectures and the readings overall was okay, easier than in Utrecht, but overall fine! The level of testing however was a lot easier, so you easily passed the exams etc. So you learn a lot, but you don't have to study as intensively as back home.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not really need counselling or support, but my advisor was always there if I needed him and helped me with things I did not understand. Also, you are given a buddy. I never met my buddy, but some of my friends had really nice buddies who helped them and showed them around.

transfer of credits

Bilgi University automatically sends a transcript of your records to the UU and a copy to you so that is easy! I don't know yet how the entire process will be completed but the documents you need etc. are easy in Bilgi.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I missed the Orientation Day, as I still had exams at the UU. They made it seem like a very big deal that I was going to miss this day, but in the end it turned out fine. It is useful to go though, because they explain how to get a Residence Permit from the Turkish government for your stay. This is quite a difficult process, so it is nice if you are there for the explanations.

accommodation

Erasmus is very big in Istanbul, because there are more than 40 universities. Many people know about this and want to profit from it, so there are plenty of rooms which are rented out per semester. It is super easy to find a room! I lived in a house with 6 international girls, which I really enjoyed. I also had friends who lived with Turkish people, it is pretty mixed. Either way, there are many different housings for students: there are very big student flats, all Erasmus, but there are also 3 people apartments. It depends on what you like, both are easy to find I think. I would recommend getting an Airbnb or a hostel for the first week of your stay and then search from there, so that you can visit the room and meet possible roommates. Usually they don't even mind if you tell them that you are going to look at more flats, so you will let them know if you will take it. I would not recommend getting a room before you are actually in Istanbul, some apartments seem better than they are.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is very big and vibrant, there is always something to do or to visit!! I loved it a lot. I also really liked the Turkish culture, I visited some other parts of Turkey and the people are very welcoming. Istanbul is full of cultural sites, but also has a very big food culture (which is the best) and nightlife. You never have to be bored.

suggestions/tips

Don't underestimate that the city is quite expensive, even though it is cheaper than the Netherlands! And I would recommend saving some money so you can visit other places in Turkey or countries in the region!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definitely!!! I had such a good time, and will definitely come back. Istanbul is an amazing city and full of life, Erasmus is very big so you will have no trouble at all making friends! The university is laid back and liberal, there



is a nice , open atmosphere.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The political situation in Turkey is something you should think about, but not worry about. A lot is happening politically and sometimes it seems a bit scary, but overall you do not notice so much about it. You just have to be careful and follow advice when it is given to you by the university or other trustworthy institutions! Don't let it keep you from going to Istanbul!!


UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

Faculty/college:	Faculty of social science
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	
Destination city & country	Istanbul, Turkey
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Istanbul Bilgi University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31-08-15
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	17-01-16

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The exchange placement application process takes a lot of time. So be prepared and begin on time. When you finished your paperwork you still have to wait on the right signatures of both institutions (your home institution and your abroad institution) and that will take some time. Afterwards I didn't have that much problems with the applications process. For any questions the international office will always help you.

Counselling/support at home university:

I was really positive about the support of the international office. If I had any questions I could come to the office or mail them. They were always responding really quickly. Personally I didn't need that much support from the office but it is nice to know they can help you any time you need it.

Academic preparation:

For me it wasn't required to do any academic preparations. Because of my grades at the UU I was allowed to study at Bilgi University. Also the level of the courses are lower at Bilgi University than it is at the UU.

Language preparation:

The courses were in English. Because I am a student of the UU it was not necessary for me to prepare myself for that.

Finances:

I received an Erasmus grant and some compensation money from the Dutch public transport system. Also I had saved some money to spend during my exchange. I got around really good. In



general living in turkey is cheaper than it is in The Netherlands. First of all the rent for a room is a lot lower than in Utrecht. I paid around 260 euro a month for a nice room.

Also the food is really cheap. There are a lot of nice restaurants where you can eat for nice prices. Especially the vegetables and fruits in the supermarket are really cheap.

Transport expenses are also cheaper. On the other hand alcohol is quite expensive! It is comparable with the prices in Holland.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

The courses I had chosen in the first place and had written down on my initial study plan were different from the courses I finally had followed. When I arrived at Istanbul we had an introduction-week. During this week you were able to add some courses you would like to follow. The courses I wanted to follow in the first place were not available anymore so I had to choose new courses. This was not that difficult. You just have to make sure the UU will approve your courses. In my case they didn't approve all the courses in the first place, so in the drop period I had to choose 1 new course. Please ensure that you are in time with selecting your courses otherwise they will be no more seats left in class. When you really want to follow a typical course but the class is already full you always should first ask your teacher. Most of the time they will arrange something for you so at the end you can follow the course you want.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The level at Istanbul Bilgi University was a little bit lower than at UU.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

If I had any problems I always was able to mail the international office UU. Even during my study abroad I was able to ask them questions. They always responded quickly.

Transfer of credits:

I don't know yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

When I arrived I started with an introduction week. It was really nice. Now I was able to meet a lot of other international students. The first day we spend on the Santral Campus. Everything was really good organized. We got nice food and a lot of enthusiastic people were speaking about Istanbul. The next few days you were able to visit the city in groups. Also there were organized a lot of welcome party's during the evening. During my Erasmus I spend most of my time with other Erasmus students. In class there were a lot of Turkish people who didn't want to talk in English. So most of the time the internationals were just hanging out with each other.

Accommodation:

I had a really nice accommodation. First when I arrived at Istanbul I stayed at a hostel. I would



really recommend to come to Istanbul first and then look for some rooms. You can see the flats by yourself and also the area. At first sight a lot of rooms look really nice, but in reality can this be very disappointing. I would really recommend to look for a room near Taksim. For example Cihangir, besiktas & osmanbey are really nice neighbourhoods. Finally I found my flat because I posted a little message on a facebook page. Someone wrote me back and told me that he was living in an Erasmusflat near taksim and that there were still some rooms left. I visit the flat and I thought it was perfect. It was clean and the apartment had everything. There were even already sheets. I lived with 3 other roommates. We shared 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom and we also had a small living room. In our flat there were more apartments were other Erasmus students were living. It felt like we lived in one big flat.

Leisure/culture:

In my opinion Istanbul is a great and impressive city. It is the only city who has an European part and an Asian part. It is really modern but on the other hand it has still his traditional characteristics. There is always a lot to do. Even during then night there are a lot of people in the streets, so you can say it is a city which never sleeps. I really loved to go to museums, bars, restaurants and so on. The fact you can take so easily the ferry to the Asian or European part I really liked as well.

Turkish people are most of the time so kind. They are helpful and always offer you a helping hand. When you are going out you see a lot of Turkish people playing tavla, drinking Turkish chai and smoking shisha. I really liked to do it as well. But on the other hand there are a lot of new bars where people are going out.

Typically for Istanbul is the fact that there a lot of nice rooftop(bar)s. People are used to sit outside even during the winter. During the winter they have heaters to get you warm.

Suggestions/tips:

You should go on trips with your friends. I went to Cappadocia. When I was there I did an amazing balloon flight in the early morning. I had never done that before so it was a great experience. I made a lot of beautiful pictures of the area. I can also recommend you to go to pamukkale and izmir. It was a really nice trip as well. It is nice to see something else than only Istanbul.

Conclusions

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

I really would recommend to study at Istanbul. The most important fact is that there are a lot of international students living/studying in Turkey so you would never feel alone in the big city. Also there is a lot to do. For example there are a lot of nice places to visit for watching the incredible view. The people in Istanbul are very modern and nice so you don't have to feel unsafe.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Because there is a lot going on at this time in Istanbul I would advise you to let know the Dutch consulate that you are living in Istanbul for the next few months.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology
destination city & country	Turkey, Istanbul
name university abroad	Istanbul Bilgi University
start date	02 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is a logical process. There are documents where everything is clearly explained, but it might be useful for yourself to make a small list of what to do and before what time. In my experience, you easily forget your deadlines because you also have other things to do. Another thing to keep in mind during the application process regarding choosing your courses, this list is not definitive.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

For every question I had, I could go to the international office. They were always wanting to help me as much as they could, and everytime that was enough to help me out. You have to take your own responsibility in asking the questions, but that is perfectly normal I think. I also asked some question to one of my professors and she also helped me with specific questions.

academic preparation

It is important to take into consideration that you cannot do everything, what I mean with this is that you have to prioritize. My priority was going abroad and experiencing another culture from the inside. To be able to do this, I had to drop my idea to do two paths within psychology.

language preparation

I went to Turkey and there you are fine, at least in the university, if you only speak English and not Turkish. If you would like to be able to communicate in Turkish with locals, it is smart to start preparing your language skills already at home. Since you will meet a lot of internationals and not that many locals if you don't search for them specifically and don't speak at least a little bit of the language. I wish I would have gone there with some basic Turkish language knowledge because then you pick up new words easier.

finances

I have the luck that my parents support me a lot. Besides this I had my loan from the government, what is now instead of studiefinanciering. I also arranged a compensation for my OV student card. As well, my summerholiday before was cheaper than normal.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I went abroad with the idea to follow psychology courses, but they all changed for different reasons. I ended up taking courses still within social sciences but from different study programmes. This turned out to be much more interesting than the courses I had previously in mind, since these courses were all somehow related to what was going in the world, but also Turkey specifically. It was also very easy to get the courses approved by



<p>Utrecht, however it took some time to arrange everything. In changing my courses, I had to arrange a lot myself, since changing courses on the last moment is normal for that university so they don't really see it as a problem that you still miss ECTS on the last day of subscribing. So if you need help, keep asking, or sometimes just relax, it will work out.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The academic quality really depends on the professors, I have had amazing professors which asked a lot from me but at the same time from other professors I don't understand how they ever got qualified as a professor. In general, what I have experienced, education was more about quantity than quality. So you had quite some obligations (exams, assignments, etc.), but you would pass these easily with good grades.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>I didn't have much problems, but when I wanted to arrange something I needed some extra patience for it to be done. They did not easily see it as something important or something that had to be arranged soon, even though it had. It was also a bit less organized than what I'm used to, but yeah, what do you want, different country, different mentality.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>I'm still not sure how this is done, so for the future, more information on this topic would be helpful.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>	<p>On the orientation day we got a lot of information and was further not super special. However, it was a super nice day to meet a lot of fellow international students from the whole university for that semester.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>	<p>I had a room in a shared with two Turkish women. I chose for this because I really wanted to live with Turkish people, because I would be around a lot of other internationals anyway. However, these women worked a lot, so that was a pity sometimes. If I would go next time, I would want to live with locals again but more around my age, or who are at least students.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>	<p>Istanbul is an amazing city where eventhough you live there for your whole life, you still would not have seen everything. It has many many opportunities for leisure activities and it is a open air museum for culture. Not only Istanbul but also other parts of Turkey are nice to visit, like Cappadocia, or a nice place with a beautiful beach is Sile. But also many other places in Turkey are there to visit. However, Istanbul itself has enough things to see to fill every day of your stay. Every neighbourhood is different, with small hidden cute cafes or other secret places (beautiful rooftops, tiny restaurants, churches, amazing paintings, stunning views) in it. Besides all the touristic places is still enough to see and to discover. Trust me, Istanbul is amazing!</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>	<p>Keep in mind that every place has his disadvantages, eventhough you would not realize that in your first weeks/months. Go to Istanbul!</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	<p>I would definitely recommend the destination and the university as well. Maybe the university is of less academic quality as most Dutch universities but in the you don't just go there to study, you go more for the experience of living abroad, being away from what you are used to, learn but not from books. And for this,</p>



Istanbul, Turkey is a perfect place. You are in a place where there is a mixture of cultures, languages, ideas. To be a part of this is sometimes difficult, but most of the time amazing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?