



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2017-2018

faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

destination city & country	London, United Kingdom
name university abroad	King's College London
start date	18 / 09 / 2017
end date	01 / 06 / 2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was only two weeks before the application deadline that I decided that I wanted to study abroad, and had very little time to decide where to go and which university to apply for. In the end I chose KCL, because I heard good things about it and they had modules that really interested me. In a mad dash I finished all the necessary paperwork and obtained all the needed signatures, and applied on time. Then I had to wait for the decision of both UU and KCL, but eventually I got the news that I was accepted at KCL. However, since there were certain agreements in place between UU and KCL, instead of half a year I could only do a full year and a certain set of courses. I agreed with these conditions, because above all I wanted to go to London.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The Science International Office was really helpful and answered all my questions regarding my upcoming exchange, both of a personal nature and those concerned with the technicalities. One thing that really stood out for me occurred while I was already in London: there had been a terrorist attack on the tube, and the Science International Office emailed me both on my personal and on my UU account to check if I was okay. At the time I'd been nowhere near the affected area, but it really touched me that they should remember to check.

academic preparation

Academically, I didn't prepare much, since the courses I took were all in the same field as those from the UU, and since my study is already taught in English, I had no trouble with the English names.

language preparation

KCL is in London where they obviously speak English; my own course at UU is also taught in English so I didn't have any problems with the language.

Finances

I took the maximal student loan from the government and I temporarily stopped my student OV.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



My year abroad consisted of two semesters, each filled with two courses. All four modules had their exams in May, even though there was an exam period in January as well. This was less than ideal, since for two of the exams in May there hadn't been a class since the end of December.

academic quality of education activities

While the quality of the lectures was good, there seemed to be little communication between the lecturers and there was some overlap, as well as some topics that seemed to come out of nowhere and had little to no relation to the rest of the module.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I needed no counselling or support, and while I'm sure it was available, I never looked into the matter.

transfer of credits

The results of my exams have not yet been published, and therefore the credits cannot yet be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was packed and contained quite a few useful bits and I met a lot of new people. However, there were also a lot of activities that took place at the same time, so I did have to choose where to go. I met so many new people that I soon forgot who's who, and most of them I never saw again. There were lectures about how to live in London and other apparently useful things, but I was aware of most things already. What I liked most about the welcome programme were the walking tours; a guide led us through (part of) the city pointing out landmarks and telling stories connected to them. I went on a Harry Potter and a Jack the Ripper walking tour, and both of them were really enjoyable.

accommodation

I applied for university housing and got a room in Moonraker Point, a large building with reception where only students live. I shared a flat with seven other people who during the year become some of my best friends. We had a shared kitchen but our own bathroom. My room was in the center of London, a five-minute walk to Tate Modern and the Thames, so it was really a top location.

leisure & culture

Once I got to know my flatmates and coursemates, and got some friendships outside as well, I went with them to musea (all musea are free), to have dinner (a really popular but expensive way to discover the city), and just hang out and relax. I personally love musicals, so I went to see as many shows as I could. I also really love reading books, and London has many bookshops; the one thing that's cheaper in England than in the Netherlands is books, and I bought a lot during the year.

suggestions/tips

Do what you want, don't be afraid to go somewhere alone, there's enough time to discover the city, it is but a university in the end and while that knowledge may fade over time, the memories and friends made in London will remain much longer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would, because London is an amazing city with lovely people. I made many new friends that I will keep in touch with and visit next year. The city itself has a really good atmosphere and I loved all the parks and shops and cafes and restaurants and whatnot. I went more for the experience than for the credits, and everything was so much better than even my high expectations!



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Despite all the administrative work and all the forms I had to fill out and all the arrangements I had to make, this year was definitely more than worth it!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES

UU Report 2014-2015

faculty/college	Pharmacy
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

destination city & country	United Kingdom, London
name university abroad	King's College London
start date	05 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 06 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I am not such a excellent planner and most of the time nearly missed the deadlines. Despite this everybody wanted to help and so I completed most forms on time. I advice everybody to really start filling in forms and submitting them on time, because most of the time there is something wrong or missing when you submit them. It takes some responsibility and changing you habits (if you are chaotic, like me) to go abroad. I learned a lot by only applying to go abroad.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Like I said everybody was always very patient and supporting, even when you are freaking out. I didn't had a lot of counseling about my modules, but I didn't ask for it. They mainly counsel about the global principles not about the specifics for you university.

academic preparation

I wanted to do 3th year courses while I am a second year student which complicated things a bid. Most of my fellow students did 3th year courses in Utrecht. Although I passed my courses I do recoment to think about the consequences. I noticed a lot of my fellow abroad students choose to apply for the easier courses. This allowed them to spend more time in the city and hang around. I really like my subjects and I had really intesting courses, but needed to learn a lot. I enjoy studing more if it is intresting than if it is not suggesting harder and interesting courses are better. However I would recoment to think about the consequences, social and culterual if you need to study a lot. Pick the courses you think are interesting but don't push it too far and accept you cannot do everything.

language preparation

My bacherlor is in english so I am used to be tauched in english. I did read a few books in english, but nothing more than I normally do. Communicating with peer students is harder than reading though. They use specific words and expression which can make it more difficult to understand all the jokes and nuances.

finances

London is incredibly expensive, I completely misjugged the amount of money you spend here. Public transport and groseries are the worst. There is no way you can calculate everythink, but expect to go above your budget. You probably do more than when you at home, you go to movie, theater and clubbing more often to make



new friends. I never expected to pay 14 pounds (19 euro's) to see a movie but I did. Rooms are around 500 euro a month for a few square meters, grosseries 40 euro a month and 100 euro for a montly bus and tube pass (including the discount only available for 2nd semester students).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first week was an introduction with a lot of activities and the possibility to re-arrange things and change courses. I had a lot of problems with my courses and timetable. They were extremely friendly and tried to help but unfortunately they couldn't. In the end I solved it by mailing my new teachers and they where extremely friendly and helpful. The course I did just had a bid of a special arrangement and therefore the normal solutions didn't worked. They will never take responsibility for solving your problems, so if things don't work as they use to be you need to sort it out yourself. Friends with "normal" courses had exelent reviews about the study abroad support.

academic quality of education activities

Kings had very good courses; I enjoyed the lectures and the atmosphere on the campus. They are down town and you can walk to famous places within a few minutes if you like. Such as the eye, Tower Bridge and Borough market. The lectures are giving by enthusiastic professors and when you are lucky to see some hotshots in you area of interest. Teachers will always try to help if show normal attitude towards to module. The essays, dissertations and exams are challenging but what do you expect from such a university. King's is very formal and there are many rules for extension and disease so that can be a bid of a hassle the first time. The helpdesk will always try to help though but expect it will take a few days for a response.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

After the first week I didn't had much contact with the study abroad office and mainly dealt with difficulties with my teachers. They where always there to help and don't mind spending some time to sort things out for you as long as you ask them polite.

transfer of credits

I did not yet transferred my credids, so I don't know. I do know KCL points can be converted 2:1, so 30 KCL points are 15 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As I said before the first week is intoduction and there are a lot of activieties during that week. They where well organised and pretty good for meeting new people.

accommodation

I stayed in a hall in a very very small room. It was pretty far outside the center, but one of the wealthiest and nicest area's of london. I was once again very late with applying for a room and you probably have more change of a room with a good view on The Big Ben and The Eye if you not submit a few hours before the deadline. My hall organized some events like a lunchbreak from studying during the exams, easter brunch and a icecream at the first hot day. London is very expensive and the accomondation fees are high but renting via the privat sector will only increase the fee. But hey, what to expect from such a city!
I would recomment to apply for the appartments from KCL because in halls you share a kitchen with 14-25 people, so it can be messy. In a appartment there are mostly 6-10 people. This will increase the change of getting to know the people you live with.

leisure & culture



London is amazing! Whatever you like it is here. There is not much more to say, you will enjoy. The english culture can be a bit formal but the rules are easy, always says please and que whenever you see one.

suggestions/tips

If you can afford it, stay as close to the city center as possible, you will not need such a expensive public transport card and you can go clubbing without a 1,5 hour bus trip home.

Enjoy as much of the culture as you can, most museums are free, so even if you don't like going, you can just go in for 15 minutes and go out. Or maybe all of the sudden you stumble in an amazing hall without all the tourists and truly enjoy it.

London is quite close so invite everybody over, it is a nice city to visit with a less trouisty view.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Kings is a nice university and London is a amazing city. To be a citizin of London, even when it is just for a few months is great. Looking through you window and seeing the Eye and a few ferrari and pochs parkt on the neighbors doorstep is pretty nice. Walking from the university to the Harry Potter like library and crossing waterloo bridge with The Big Ben and The Sommerset house on you right and the modern skyline on the other is just amazing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Expect to spend a lot of money so you are not disappointed when you see the number on your saving account. It helps to open a bank account in London. It is free and you won't be charged every time you pay with card or get cash. It also allows you to get a sim only and download with City Mapper (saved me many times when I got lost) to get your way around.

Just one last thing, when I moved in a dad dropped his son off for next term, he saw me moving in and said: "Enjoy your stay, but work hard." What I want to say is, don't expect Kings to go easy, it is a good university and they expect quite a lot of effort from you side.