



ERASMUS+ STUDIES

UU Report 2017-2018

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

destination city & country	Glasgow, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Glasgow
start date	04 / 09 / 2017
end date	15 / 12 / 2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

As the main purpose of my exchange was to study with a certain professor, I started by sending him an email to ask if he would be willing to supervise my research project. He readily agreed to do so, but I still had to do complete the official application. This was more complicated, because there was no agreement between my study programme in Utrecht - Musicology - and the Music Department in Glasgow. In the end, my application was accepted on a contract from Chemistry. After my application in Utrecht, I had to submit an online application to the University of Glasgow, which felt more like a formality.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The staff of the International Office was very helpful throughout the application process and during my stay. They were always willing to answer any questions that I had and, obviously, sign the important documents. Especially during the initial application process, it was great that the International Office was able to put me on a contract from Chemistry - otherwise my exchange would not have been possible.

academic preparation

My academic preparation primarily involved coming up with a proposal for the research project that I conducted during my exchange. I was able to discuss this with my research supervisor from the University of Glasgow prior to my departure.

language preparation

As my score on the OLS language test was C2, I did no additional language preparation.

finances

My income included a monthly allowance from my parents, the Erasmus+ grant, and Public Transport (OV) compensation. I was able to get a relatively cheap room, because I managed to do a room swap with a student from Glasgow who went on exchange to Utrecht in the same time period. While my room was fairly close to the campus on Gilmorehill, I purchased a bike via Gumtree within a week after my arrival. This saved me quite a bit of time and money, given that the public transport network of Glasgow is not the greatest. In terms of daily expenses, I probably spent about 20% more on groceries compared to the Netherlands. That said, the Erasmus+ grant was easily able to cover the difference for me.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	My study programme consisted of an individually supervised research project and two regular courses. Unfortunately, I could not take the two courses I intended to do in the first place. One (on the music of Bach) was not organised during my exchange period; the other (on Scottish music) was already full, with priority being given to full degree students. I was only notified about this after my arrival in Glasgow. Nevertheless, I was able to choose two other courses - one on Opera and the other on Music Criticism. The Opera course was quite interesting, allowing me to broaden my horizons.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of my courses was not as high as what I was used to in Utrecht. First, the classes were much larger than in my Research Master's programme and involved little interaction. The classes were also much more top-down, with the instructor just lecturing for an hour and occasionally asking questions (which often remained unanswered). Moreover, the lecturer made barely any reference to the reading list, leaving the relevance of the literature unclear. The individual supervision of my research project, on the other hand, really allowed me to bring my work to the next level.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Both the Study Abroad & Exchanges team and the Exchange Coordinator of the Music Department were helpful by quickly answering any questions and signing the Erasmus+ documents.
transfer of credits	The transfer of credits was fairly straightforward: 1 ECTS equals 2 Glasgow credits. As I stayed for one semester, I thus received 60 Glasgow credits - 30 ECTS. Important to note is that the first semester runs from September to half December, which makes it easy for Utrecht students to obtain the required amount of credits.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The International Student Orientation and Welcome Programme is a must-do for exchange students. During four days, I learned all there is to know for international students in Glasgow: what is required during the exchange in terms of academic procedures, how to make my way around campus, and what the Glaswegian student life has to offer. The social activities allowed me to meet many other international students, which was good fun. Most memorably, I participated in a ceilidh - an event involving traditional Scottish country dancing.
accommodation	The University of Glasgow only offers accommodation for students staying the full year. As my exchange was only one semester, I had to look for private accommodation. This can be quite difficult and rather expensive, but I was lucky enough to do a room swap - as I mentioned above.
leisure & culture	Glasgow has plenty to offer in terms of leisure and culture. There are many nice pubs, especially on the idyllic Ahston Lane, where a lot of students go. The city centre is great for shopping, going to the theatre, visiting free museums, and having a night out away from the university. In addition, the university is close to the beautiful Kelvingrove Park and the Botanic Gardens and there are many organised trips to see the rest of Scotland. A trip to Argyll Forest Park was one of the most memorable experiences during my exchange. Also good to mention is that the university hosts numerous sports and cultural societies. I participated in the Choral Society, which was a great experience as well.
suggestions/tips	



There is so much to do in Glasgow besides studying, so make sure to go to the Information Fair during the International Student Orientation and Welcome Programme.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would certainly recommend going on exchange to Glasgow. Even if you cannot take the courses you intend to do in the first place, it can be a great contribution to your academic development - at least in my case. Classes might be given in a different way, but the content is still what you can expect from a well-established institution as the University of Glasgow. Apart from academic considerations, Glasgow is an interesting, vibrant city with arguably the friendliest people in the UK.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not be discouraged by what others say about the Glaswegian weather. At least for me, it was much better than I expected and oftentimes sunnier than in the Netherlands during my stay.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES

UU Report 2014-2015

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Lucas.Teunissen@Outlook.com
faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Chemistry Bachelor

destination city & country	Glasgow, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Glasgow
start date	5 / 9 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	5 / 6 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for my stay abroad as an Erasmus+ student went very smoothly. The university website states very clearly what is expected for the application and most of the required documents have well-structured templates.

Most of the documents did not cause me any trouble, the Learning Agreement, however, was the most difficult to complete. It takes some time to find out which courses overlap with courses you have followed or would have followed at your home university. This part of the application process is probably the most important as well, because it determines what courses will be taken and how many ECTS you will receive following these.

It is advisable to start completing the required documents immediately after deciding to apply for a study abroad, as it's a considerable amount of paperwork and most of the documents have to be signed by one or two other parties other than yourself.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from the international office of both the UU and the Faculty of Science throughout my application has been excellent.

From the start, the counsellors have made clear what is needed for the application and what will be expected from an Erasmus+ student. Through the international office of the Faculty of Science, I got the contact details of the international supervisors and Erasmus coordinators of the University of Glasgow.

Generally, the UU staff has been very helpful during my application process.

academic preparation

No academic preparation was needed for my study abroad, because I would simply follow the third year of the Chemistry study in Glasgow. No extra preparation was needed.

language preparation

During my time in high school (Coornhert Gymnasium, Gouda) I already passed a Cambridge CAE exam C1 level, which means that my level of English was already sufficient to start with. This was very convenient, because it meant that I did not have to arrange an English exam myself.

finances



The finances for the trip are a tricky part, at least they were for me. In my approximation of how much money I would on a monthly basis, I did not account for the fact that, once there, you want to do as many activities as you can. Combined with the fact that my rather busy school schedule and my football trainings/games made it impossible for me to have a job, I spent more money than I'd expected. That money was mostly spent on trips to the highlands or other UK cities or countries.

Overall I can say that I had underestimated the expenses during my stay abroad, but luckily I had saved a substantial amount of money that allowed me to still go on fun activities every now and then.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme for my 3rd year of Chemistry was not chosen by me, because all Erasmus+ Chemistry students in Glasgow have to follow the full 3rd year programme. This was convenient in the sense that I didn't have to find courses myself and have them approved. The programme covers three main directions (Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry) where every direction consists of six different courses.

The study programme was more intense than I had expected; an average week was 36 hours long (lectures, tutorials, workshops and labs) with labwork every afternoon but Friday. The lecturers also check attendance, which must be at least 80%. This means that, apart from having a good time abroad, a lot of time is needed for studying.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education activities were very high in my experience. Even though the Universiteit Utrecht might be a bit ahead on some of the subjects, there is a very personal and involved atmosphere at the University of Glasgow.

Tutorials are probably the best example of this atmosphere. Every week, every student had to make and hand in three tutorials, that would be marked and evaluated with a group of around eight students. The students and the tutor, usually a lecturer or a researcher, get to know each other because of this and this makes it easier to ask questions if needed. Having to make the tutorials also ensures that all students keep up with the lecture material.

Although there's always lecturers that are 'better' than others, I feel that the average level is good. The material was usually very clear and easily accessible using Moodle, a website comparable with UU Blackboard.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Even though I never needed counselling or support during my stay, I do know that it is available for students. There are separate counselors for the Chemistry programme and the International Office, but I cannot judge their ability, as I've not made use of the facility.

transfer of credits

I've completed my study abroad passing all my exams with B's, which belong to the category 'very good'. The programme I followed in Glasgow is for 120 SCQF, the equivalent of 60 ECTS. I've acquired the maximum amount of points possible this year.

The transcript was easily downloadable from my personal webpage of Glasgow University 'MyGlasgow', which is very similar to MyBlackboard or OsirisUU. A hard copy will also be sent to my home address in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This is something I was very enthusiastic about; the first two weeks after my arrival were full of introduction activities for new students.



The first week was the Internationals Orientation, which means that only the exchange students were there. Activities involved an introduction by the university, a ceilidh (traditional Scottish dance), a tour around campus and a tour around the city. During this week I met most of the friends I would hang out with the rest of the semester.

The second week is called Fresher's Week and is meant for everyone who is new to the university, so exchange students but also first years. There is an incredible amount of activities going on throughout the week ranging from parties to fairs to workshops etcetera. Fresher's Week was probably one of the highlights of the year because you get to know so many new people doing fun activities.

accommodation

During my stay, I lived in one of the University Halls called Murano Street Student Village. There are eight different University Halls and they all have different facilities.

Murano Street is one of the bigger halls, housing mostly first year students and exchange students. There are 5-6 person flats and 10-12 person flats. I stayed in one of the 10-12 person flats, which was a good way to get to know new people. That is also definitely the strength of Murano; being surrounded by so many students, it's easy to make new friends and meet up with them.

The facilities of the flats itself, however, were poor. Especially considering the rent is an amazing 450 pounds per month. The kitchen is in a bad state and the rooms are tiny and primitive. It also seems like there's an infinite amount of work to be done in and around the buildings; contractors and staff will have to access the flats on a weekly basis to carry out maintenance work and such. On the bright side, the bigger flats of Murano come with a weekly cleaning service for the communal areas.

leisure & culture

Glasgow has an unbelievable amount of options when it comes to leisure and culture. Glasgow offers one of the best pub- and club scenes in the UK, but there's also many museums and galleries to visit. Being one of the most prominent music cities in the UK, Glasgow attracts bands from all over the world with gigs every day of the week.

Personally, I'm a big sports fan, especially when it comes to football. Last year, I played for the Glasgow University Football Club, which is also how I met a lot of my friends. Last year I went to multiple football matches from the three biggest clubs in Glasgow; Celtic, Rangers FC and Partick Thistle.

The university has a club for pretty much every sport, but also societies for theater, debating, music or just fun get togethers. I can safely say that anyone can find a society that interests them. Most of these societies organise events weekly, which makes it a great way to get involved with your interests and to meet new people that share those interests.

With Edinburgh just an hour away, another beautiful city is within reach. Also, the Scottish Isles and the Highlands offer astonishing landscapes perfect for day or weekend trips.

suggestions/tips

My first suggestion is easily the most important one; take every opportunity possible to meet new people and get to know the country and culture. In my experience, studying abroad is such an amazing time and you will not want to regret missing out on anything.

Secondly, make sure that you visit the Fresher's Fair during Fresher's Week. During this fair, all of the university's societies present themselves. Joining one of these societies is what really gets you involved in the Glasgow student life. I joined the football club and I enjoyed every moment with the club and the boys. At the end of the year I even went to Lisbon with the club.

The last tip I'd like to give is to follow the activities of the International Student Society. This society does not only organise dances, pub crawls and get togethers, but also great trips to the Scottish countryside. The weekend trip to Isle of Skye that I went on, took me to some of the most breathtaking sites of Scotland and, perhaps, of the world.



CONCLUSIONS

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

The University of Glasgow is a great institute and has been helpful in every step of the way. Apart from the stunning architecture of the university buildings itself, the university is a very professional and enjoyable place for education. I've experienced it as both challenging and fun and would highly recommend the university to others.

Glasgow itself is beautiful place with endless things to do, especially for students. I feel like I've got to know the city very well and it didn't take a long time for me to feel right at home. Scotland has so much to offer and does not get boring. As long as you're not expecting too many sunny days, it's a lovely country to live. So, conclusively, I'd very much recommend both the university and the destination to others.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you've decided to study in Glasgow as an Erasmus student and you're looking for accomodation, look at both the university halls as to private accomodation. The university halls are very expensive but a good way to meet other students. Through GumTree, you can also look for private accomodation which is usually a bit cheaper.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2013-2014

faculty/college	Faculty of Science
level	master
name degree programme	Environmental biology

destination city & country	Glasgow, United-Kingdom
name host institution and/or company/organization	University of Glasgow
purpose Erasmus grant	<input type="checkbox"/> courses <input type="checkbox"/> research <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	/ 08 / 2013
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	/ 04 / 2014



preparation

exchange/placement application process

Well I had to fill in a lot of forms, sent emails to lots of people. This took about 4 months

counselling/support at home university

None

academic preparation

A 12 months internship at the Utrecht University in the Lab of Plant-Microbe-Interactions provided me with enough work experience to start right away in Glasgow.

language preparation

Watch lots of English spoken movies and play lots of video games, chatting a lot with foreign friends (in English) via Skype.

finances

My parents and working overtime at a Saturday day job.

study/placement abroad period

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

The moment I arrived my supervisor and 2 post-docs showed me around in the lab, explained me everything what and how to do stuff. Then the first week a very nice lab PhD student showed me some new techniques. Then it was easy just to start.



academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality was really good, I also helped preparing/ assisting some Bachelor courses.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
That was not so good, they had never heard of the Erasmus Bursary at all, but my supervisor was really kind and managed to arrange everything.
transfer of credits
My supervisor in Glasgow emailed my other supervisor in Utrecht with the grade.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
First week on Friday afternoon I went to the pub with all the PhD students/Post-Docs from the lab, watched rugby and drank lots of Whisky and beer.
accommodation
Arranged that via my supervisor, she emailed everybody from the lab and other PhD students in the building to ask if someone had a room available from 7.5 months, and luckily for me someone had.
leisure/culture
Watch rugby, go to many Whisky distilleries as possible and eat deep-fried pizza after a night out.
suggestions/tips
Make sure that you arrange a room in advance, in most cities the 'cheaper' rooms are hard to get.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would, the atmosphere in Glasgow both at the university and in the city itself is really good, friendly people,



lost of other exchange students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Arrange the forms on time, because it will take lots of time.