



University of Edinburgh

2017 - 2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Was stressfull and a bit weird to have to do it so long before actually going, although not too much work.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very helpful. Fast in responding to any queries.
academic preparation
Nothing specific.
language preparation
I did not partake in any specific language preparation as my English is/was already quite good.
finances
Living in Scotland was rather more expensive than I had thought. The Erasmusgrant should be higher for the UK - especially compared to the Erasmusgrant made to some other European students, for example the Belgian students I have met.. Due to the heavy studyload I was unable to work so in addition to having a full loan from DUO, I was quite happy that my parents were willing to help me out every now and then.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Excellent quality of courses and much choice, although I did have to get used to following semester or full-year courses opposed to the normal 8 week courses offered in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities
Overall a much higher standard and quality than in Utrecht, however, as I have only taken 3 rd and 4 th year honours courses I cannot give a very ballanced account as to the 1 st and 2 nd year courses (especially the Civil Law Honours taught by Paul du Plessis stood out for me).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Support is good, both mentally and physically a lot of attention to health. I have not needed any counselling, but have heard from friends that this is excellent.
transfer of credits
I am not quite sure how this works. As I understand it, my transcript at home will just say that I passed my courses here. To me, this is a bit of a pity because I have gotten some excelent results here in Edinburgh which I would actually like to see tranferred into credits at Utrecht University that would be counting towards my overall grade because this would be improved.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Was a very welcoming week with loads of options both social and academic. However, more focused on freshers than on any other student groups (were less activities for older students) but nonetheless a very good week and met loads of nice people.



accommodation
Rather expensive and small. Would in hindsight have sought for private accommodation opposed to through university.
leisure & culture
Awesome! Edinburgh is cultural centre and Scotland is one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited.
suggestions/tips
Join some of the societies! There are so many of them that there is one for everybody.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Edinburgh as a destination for an exchange (or any other type of visit); both the vibrant academic life and the many cultural and adventurous activities that can be undertaken in the city and in Scotland make for a wonderful experience.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I do not have any additional advice or comments.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I had no problems with the exchange application process, the university was quite helpful in assisting with the process. I contacted them a couple of times with my questions and they were happy to help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office was helpful.
academic preparation
I looked carefully into the courses the university had to offer. I also made sure they did not overlap with the courses of the bachelor at Utrecht University.
language preparation
I already felt quite comfortable about my english, I took a legal english course via the JSVU which wasn't that helpful to be honest. Most importantly, I improved my english while being there
finances
Before going on the exchange, you had to make a financial plan, which was quite useful. Going on exchange is very expensive and by making such a plan it helps you realise how much money you should set aside. My parents were very supportive but I worked hard the summer before to make sure I had enough money while being there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Study programme was interesting, you could chose your own courses but you have to be quick. Otherwise the courses of your liking might be full. I chose the courses: Scottish legal system, media law, punishment and society and commercial law. Media law and punishment and society were full year courses which was very



interesting because you had a lot of time to focus on certain topics. Scottish legal system was helpful as the Scottish law system is a mixed system of civil law and common law while in the Netherland there is a civil law system. In the the first two week you are able to switch courses which is nice if you the course is not how you expected it to be
academic quality of education activities
I thought they were of high quality. The tutorials are very small scale (10-15 people) which is good because everybody is encouraged to participate. Furthermore I followed two full year honours courses which very very interesting because you dug deeper into certain topics.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support was good at Edinburgh university, you have a tutor which you have a conversation with at the start and who you can contact when you have personal problems. Next to that, there are multiple activities around the year to destress like the opportunity to pat some puppy's.
transfer of credits
It was easy to get your transcript tranferred, it was possible to do this online.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
There is a welcome week organised by the university which seemed to be more focused at the freshers. So I'm not sure if I would recommend participating in this week as you are not divided in groups or anything you can just attend the activities. Via your accomodation there is also an introduction week and I would strongly suggest people taking part in this as you get to know people in your accomodation and the activities are fun and accesible!!	
accommodation	
I lived at Riegostreet which was quite an old building but it was fine. The location was perfect, a five minute walk from Edinburgh castle. I was very happy to live so close to the city centre as the public transport was very expensive and not that asse	
leisure & culture	
The people in Edinburgh are very friendly. There is enough to do, there are a lot of societies at the university. there is literally a society for everything, e.g. there is a whisky society, a chocolate society etc. They are easy to take part in and most of the time you can come by and visit the society to see if you like it. I participated in the dancing society, the field hockey society, the dutch society and the debating society.	
suggestions/tips	
I already mentioned some tips above. So carefully pay attention to the location of your possible accomodation, it is easy to walk everywhere but it makes it way easier if your accomodation is located in the central area. Take part in the introduction week of your university accomodation, this is great fun and an easy way to meet people who live close to you or to get to know your flatmates. Another suggestion is taking part in any or more societies, this is a great way to get to know people. Lastly, I would strongly suggest keeping up with the lectures and tutorials as it can be a bit overwhelming as it is unfamiliar and in a different language.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes I would strongly recommend going to this university. It has interesting courses and Edinburgh is a lovely city. It is definitely a city I could live for a longer period of time. It is amazing that the university has so many	



societies, so there sure is something of your liking. Next to that, it is a great location to see more of Scotland or the UK. The academic quality is great and the university staff is very friendly, enthusiastic, helpful and passionate about the course they are lecturing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you have chosen your courses as soon as possible, to increase the chance of them being available. Carefully watch the deadline to apply for university accommodation. In Edinburgh the library is of great quality and they have lots of copies of different books, check this first before buying any of the recommended books.

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is fairly straightforward. It is important to inform yourself well about the city you are choosing. The best way of doing so is through contacting those who have gone in previous years.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Any questions you have will be answered by the support staff, especially during some confusing parts of the Erasmus grant application.

academic preparation

No real academic preparation was needed, just be well aware of deadlines that can be found on each course information website.

language preparation

If you speak an adequate amount of English, no additional preparation is necessary.

finances

With the Erasmus grant and an additional loan my costs were not that much higher than in Utrecht. However, be aware that you'll be using the pound which can fluctuate heavily against the Euro.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses are well organised and all information for them can be found online. All content is distributed in a similar way as on the UU, through Blackboard.

academic quality of education activities

The University of Edinburgh is a university with a good reputation and high academic standard. The (honours) courses I followed were taught in the seminars by the professors themselves. Not just reproduction is expected, but also the personal development of criticizing the authors you are made to read.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There is a great support network at the university. The Visiting Student Office is reachable all week with questions concerning your exchange. You will receive a personal tutor who you can speak to for any problems and there are buddy programs set up for exchange students to feel more familiar with their new surroundings. As a law student, extra courses were also organised to help us prepare for the exam as exchange students.

transfer of credits



Credits are transferred, after the (UU) exam commission checks your courses. You can follow a full 60 ECTS in a year. You cannot transfer your grades, all that you will receive is a pass or fail on your report.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcoming week before the first semester starts. Be sure to attend this week, as many events will be organised to get to know the city and student life.

accommodation

As a full year student you will be eligible for university accommodation. It is easier than to find a private accommodation. However be aware that your house will most likely be shared with first years student, who typically live their first year in university accommodation. University accommodation however can be quite cheap and some have great locations in the city centre.

leisure & culture

Edinburgh has much more to offer on culture than Utrecht. It is also the perfect starting point to discover more of Scotland, by visiting the highlands or either of the coasts. There is a vibrant night life, and well suited for students. There are also many lunch/dinner restaurants that carry special student deals.

suggestions/tips

The Student Association of the university has their own building (Called Teviot) accessible for all students that host a variety of events, dinners and parties. Be sure to visit the International Student Centre as well to meet people and attend events organised for international students.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university. The city of Edinburgh is an amazing place to live with many exciting sides to explore. There is a vibrant student life and a very large Erasmus student community. The city is very hospitable and the Scottish are a kind people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The University offers an amazing range of courses on some very obscure topics. If you are interested to learn outside your degree than Edinburgh has many opportunities.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for the University of Edinburgh went really smoothly. I applied through Utrecht University process in december and heard that I was selected to go to Edinburgh end of January. From then on, the University of Edinburgh 'took over' by sending me all the information needed to apply. You have to provide a lot of information, but it is all pretty straight forward.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was really happy with the counselling and support at Utrecht University, the international office responds promptly and adequately.

academic preparation

I decided not to take the Academic English for Legal Purposes course and that turned out to be fine for me. You



will have to get used to writing legal essays in English etcetera, but I soon got the hang of that. I was not required to do any other academic preparation.
language preparation
See question above.
finances
Living in Edinburgh is more expensive than living in the Netherlands, especially the rent. I got an Erasmus grant for 9 months, saved up money beforehand and was supported by my parents. I found a single room for 400 pounds, which turned out to be an average price.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The University of Edinburgh offers a lot of different courses. They are really quick with answering questions regarding picking out the courses you want to do. They usually publish the courses a few months before the semesters starts, so you can take your time to decide what it is you want to do. They offer full year courses as well and I would definitely recommend those, they allow you to really treat a subject in depth.
academic quality of education activities
The 'honours courses' (courses for third and fourth year students) are set up quite differently than they are in the Netherlands. You have one seminar a week and no lectures. In preparation for your seminar, you read a lot of texts. During the seminar you discuss this. This requires discipline and active participation, but it is very rewarding in the end because you are challenged to form an opinion about a certain subject instead of just answering questions. The exams are at the end of the year, so it's usefull to keep good notes of things you do at the beginning (this will save you a lot of time and energy later!).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everyone is appointed a personal tutor and this is great. Your personal tutor is always available to speak to, they know what's going on at the University and know who you can turn to best if you have a question about something specifically. Furthermore, the University of Edinburgh is really modern in their way of approaching mental health issues, liberation groups and other specific forms of counselling so you can really always find help even if it's not for an education-related problem.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits runs smoothly once you have received all your grades from the university, however keep in mind the Univeristy of Edinburgh takes time to grade all the exams.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Before the academic year starts, the university organises a welcome week for all students. During this week a lot of activities are organised throughout the city. It was a great way to meet people and I would definitely recommend everyone to participate. However, the student's association sells 'welcome packs' including passe-partouts for the Welcome Week. Don't bother to buy these, they're quite expensive while most of the activities during the Welcome Week are free anyway.
accommodation
I opted for private accomodation because I did not want to live in halls. This is a very personal choice, but I definitely do not regret this. I lived with two people from the UK who had already lived in the city for a few years and this really helped me settle. Also, it is nice to meet their friends and move out of the international



erasmus bubble !

leisure & culture

Edinburgh is a great and vibrant city for students. A lot is going on culture wise, so it's truly never boring. Furthermore, you're outside of the city at the beach or in the hills in no time and that is simply amazing.

suggestions/tips

Just go, it won't disappoint you!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I loved every bit of my stay in Edinburgh and can't stress enough how great this city is. Student life is really vibrant and inclusive, the city is cool and the country is beautiful .

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really, I suggest you just go for it. Feel free to drop me a message if you have any questions.



2015-2016

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I found that the application process was very well organised and clear. For me the most challenging part was writing my motivation letter, besides that the application process mostly consists of gathering information about your University of choice, the courses they provide and getting the necessary signatures from the International Students office of the UU
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International Office of the UU is very helpful if you find yourself not exactly knowing what to do. Everytime I came across some obstacle or unclarity, a short phonecall to the International Office was enough to sort things out. For instance, if you want to know if it is possible to enroll for courses outside Law, they will be able to give you all the information you need. Be sure to take enough time to sort out the various documents and so on, as the International Office is not always open and can be busy dealing with the affairs of all other students (departing to as well as arriving from other states). In other words, avoid to do things at the last moment, and there should be no problems.
academic preparation	
	I did not really do any academic preparation for any of the courses I did abroad.
language preparation	
	I knew I was already quite proficient in English before leaving, so I did not really do any extra language preparation besides following a short Legal English module the year before. This was helpful, but definitely not necessary for my stay abroad I would say. However, if you're not really confident about your level of English, I can recommend it, as it can especially help you in your writing. (Which is also convenient for writing your Motivation Letter)
finances	
	I applied for the Erasmus Grant, received my Uitwonende Studiefinanciering and Zorgtoeslag and had a € 150 monthly loan on top of that. My parents paid for my accomodation abroad. You should know that the UK can be a quite expensive place to live. Edinburgh accomodation prices are generally higher than Utrecht, and depending on the exchange rate between the Pound and the Euro, cost of living in general is also a bit higher. (Although Brexit will probably make it cheaper)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	During my stay in Edinburgh I chose to do not only Law courses, as I saw this as a good opportunity to do some courses that I maybe wouldn't have chosen easily. I did an introductory course on Criminology in the first semester (Which counts as a law related course), a full year course called International Law and the Individual and a semester 2 course called Law, Culture and Rights in a Transnational World. Furthermore, I did a full year course called Introduction to European Cinema, and a semester 2 course on Philosophy. Keep in mind that a lot of courses can change during the year, or may even be canceled. Some courses fill up really quick as well, so I would advise you not to wait too long with enrolling. The International office of Edinburgh University is very helpful, so in case you see a course that has your interest, you can always pass by and they can enroll you. They will also let you know if it is possible to enroll in the first place, for instance because there may be prerequisites or because the timetable of a course may clash with another that you are already taking.
academic quality of education activities	



I would say the academic quality of the education at Edinburgh University is very high, and they expect a lot from students regarding class participation and preparation. The seminars of my law courses were generally 2 hours, and mostly consisted of discussing the subject matter of that week, with the teachers leading the discussion, but definitely expecting interaction with students, and also actively engaging them in discussions. Whereas in Utrecht the seminars are more centered around answering questions that everyone has to prepare beforehand, in Edinburgh the seminars are a lot more theory based, and you are expected to know what is being discussed and form an opinion on it. This also manifests itself in the examinations. For my International Law course, I had to write a 6000 word essay, so that goes to show you need to spend a lot of time getting a profound understanding of the subject matter. The final exam also consisted of basically writing 3 essays in 3 hours, given a choice between a select number of topics. This is definitely radically different from Utrecht, where exams in general are more practical and case oriented. Overall, the teachers I had were all very knowledgeable and passionate about the courses they gave, and very much appreciate it when you go out of your way to add something extra to the discussions, such as recent political developments or other news.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office of the University of Edinburgh is very helpful, and in general the people there are quick to help you with whatever problem you encounter. However, you should take into account that there are a lot of International Students arriving in September every year, and that waiting times of 1-2 hours are no exception in the first few weeks. So make sure you already know exactly what you need to get sorted out and save yourself from having to go through that multiple times. During the rest of the academic year, you can almost always go without having to wait and they will be there to help you immediately.

transfer of credits

So far, I haven't really heard anything from the UU about the transfer of my credits, so I cannot really give any information on that.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcome week for all new students, and there are lots of events for Erasmus and International students as well, both from within your area of study and in general.

accommodation

I lived in University accommodation during the year. University Accommodation in general is quite good, but definitely more expensive than in the Netherlands. Honestly, it is not too hard to find private accommodation in Edinburgh, and if you start looking in the beginning of september (possibly together with other students) you can probably find a really good room that has a better price value than the accommodation offered by Uni. Also, most people living in University Accommodation are freshers, so if you would like to live with people of your own age I would definitely recommend looking for private accommodation. Edinburgh has a lot of very nice and spacious flats and houses, even in and around the center, so this should not be too hard.

leisure & culture

Edinburgh is a beautiful and vibrant city and has so much to offer. The nightlife is incredible with a lot of exceptionally good house/techno clubs on Cowgate. Pubs are everywhere to be found, and a lot of them have cheaper rates for Students. Edinburgh has great parks and opportunities for beautiful walks and allround chilling when the sun is out (which admittedly is a rare occassion). The University really feels like a community, way more than Utrecht I would say. There are societies for everything, from Tango to Harry Potter, and I would definitely recommend joining one. I joined the EUKBC (Edinburgh University Kickboxing Club) in September and this was definitely a great way to stay fit and meet new people. Besides that, there are a lot of events organised for Erasmus students, and I would say the International community in Edinburgh is quite active and you will definitely meet a lot of new interesting people.



suggestions/tips

Definitely try to make the most of your time and explore Scotland. Rent a car and a cottage in the highlands with some friends and see some of the most stunning nature you will ever see. I did some day trips to places in the Highlands such as Loch Ness, but I would argue that the most fun you will have is by organising stuff yourself and really spending some more time there. Go to Isle of Skye and other beautiful places, make some trips to Glasgow and perhaps to England or Ireland. In Edinburgh, explore the city and try to see as much as you can. Go up Arthur's Seat at night with some beers and friends and watch the sunset. There are amazing museums, parties, second hand stores, etcetera. But most of all, try to meet as many new and interesting people as you can, because in the end, that really made my year so exceptional.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Edinburgh and the University to anyone. The level of education is high and you will definitely learn a lot. Besides that Edinburgh is an amazing city that has things to offer to everyone, regardless of what you're looking for. Living and studying there for a year was the best choice I ever made, and I think everyone I met there feels the same.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Utrecht University organises a few meetings to inform you about all the things you need to do for an exchange. This is quite helpful as there are a lot of forms and they all have deadlines. You have to hand in your cv, motivation letter, study plan and financial plan. This isn't only a formality; it's also quite helpful for yourself as it makes your own plan clear. (Although I did totally different courses than I initially choose for my study plan)

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the information evenings very helpful. Before and during my exchange the International Office was very helpful in answering all my questions and I always got a quick response.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I didn't do any language preparation. I already did some courses in English in Utrecht and I expected that would be sufficient.

finances

I got an Erasmus grant, DUO grant, 'OV-vergoeding' and I saved money myself. Be prepared that it's quite expensive in Edinburgh; my flat costed me 350pounds each month.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I applied for some courses on the website, but in the end of July the University emailed me another list of courses from which I should pick. Not all the courses I applied for initially were on that list, so I had to make a few changes. This wasn't too bad as I think I ended up with more interesting courses.</p> <p>Because I went on a exchange within the law faculty I had to do 2/3rd of my courses in Law. So I took two full year/honours courses: International Law and the Individual and Law, Democracy and Citizenship. Both were 40credits/20ECTS each. Next to that I did 'Politics in a Changing World' in the faculty of Politics in the first semester, and 'International Development, Aid and Humanitarianism' in African Studies in the second semester. Both were 20credits/10ECTS each. During the year I wanted to apply for an extra course, but that's not as possible as it is in Utrecht; in Edinburgh I'd be able to follow the course but I wouldn't get any credits for it.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>Both Lawcourses were honours courses, and that means that you get a big reading list for every week. However, the professors didn't always expect that you'd read everything. They just want you to try to read as much as possible so you can follow/contribute to the discussions in the seminar.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>The contacts with the University of Edinburgh are very good and clear. They respond quickly to your emails and always want to help you.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>Don't really know about that yet. Should be done in July.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The welcome week is great. Make sure you're there and take good shoes as you're walking a lot. I arrived the Wednesday before the welcome week, and even then some events already started. Not only the University (EUSA) is organising events, also other things are organised. On Facebook I found a tour through Edinburgh for international students on the Saturday before the welcome week, which was great because at the start all international students are alone and are very eager to meet everyone. The rest of the year I was still in contact with a few I met on that tour. The things organised by the University are for both first year students as international students and vary from visiting the Parliament to going to IKEA to buy stuff for your flat.</p>
accommodation
<p>I initially signed up for and got university accommodation (which was guaranteed as I was going for a year). But in the meantime I was looking further. I am Christian and I thought it'd be interesting to live with some other local Christians, so I emailed a church to inquire whether they knew any students. In the end I got a flat with some Scottish girls, which I really liked because in this way I really got to know the Scottish culture and habits. (And I'd meet all the first years/internationals in my courses anyway).</p> <p>The only difficult thing (and I don't know whether that applies for university accommodation) was that I had a struggle with the Council Tax. You get an exemption when you're a student, but as I had the flat from the 3rd of July and university started the 21st of September I had to make clear that I was a student in Utrecht before. That took some time as I first didn't had a clue what was going on and they weren't too friendly at the Council. Utrecht University provided a statement of enrolment so in the end everything was clear.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>At the start I mainly explored Edinburgh. Edinburgh is a great city, and there are a lot of things to do. You won't get bored. Later on I did more day trips to other parts of Scotland with the International Student Centre.</p>



suggestions/tips

When you go a year; look for other people who're staying a year as well. In Freshers Week you meet loads of new people, but a lot of them only stay for one semester. In the first semester I had more contacts with international students, and in the second semester I had more contacts with the Scottish people who stayed as I couldn't be bothered to do the whole introduction thing again.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. It's a city with a friendly size; it's not as big as London but there's enough to do and it still has its own airport so you can go home/London/Dublin/etc. for weekends (internal flights are quite cheap).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take an umbrella and warm clothes. It's not true that it always rains, but you better be prepared..



2014 – 2015

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I took my time to check out all the possible universities the UU has an exchange program with. I chose Edinburgh because the university has a very good reputation internationally and because I visited the city before and I knew that I would enjoy myself there. After I decided I wanted to go to Edinburgh I put a lot of effort in my motivational letter. It is a popular destination, so think carefully about why you want to go to Scotland and why to the University of Edinburgh specifically. I think the motivational letter is the most important requirement of your application. I did not have a letter of recommendation from a professor, so don't feel nervous if you don't have one either (although it might help). It may take some time before you hear something from the international office. I would advise you to consider carefully the university you put in as second place. This way you can live with either outcome. Also, if you only put in very popular destinations you might be disappointed. Check the more 'remote' places, I think in the end an exchange will be fun anywhere you go.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	You can call the international office for all kind of questions. In my experience, the staff is very friendly and willing to help. However, I did not have to call the office for big issues, mainly just questions about the Erasmus Grant.
academic preparation	
	I started reading more books in English after I heard I was accepted. I did not take any extra courses, and in my experience I did not have to.
language preparation	
	Before I moved to Edinburgh I already took many courses in English and I did not have any trouble speaking or understanding English. Just to get into the 'English mode' I did start reading more in English.
finances	
	I was lucky enough to receive financial support from my parents. That, next to a Duo loan, the Erasmus Grant, personal savings and a student job made sure I had enough for the year. During the second semester I applied for a student job in Edinburgh to make sure I could cover my expenses. The UK is just very, very expensive. I never had to put any thought in currency differences, however, with the Euro being very low compared to the Pound, I did now. Apps like TransferWise can make it easier to transfer money to a UK bank account. You can also change your bank account so that it doesn't cost money to use an ATM. They don't accept PIN everywhere as easily as here. Also, make sure you check all the Erasmus deadlines. You will have to provide a lot of documents to receive that grant, it might help to make a list of all these documents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I could not take part in all the courses I chose initially, but it is very easy to change courses once you're in Edinburgh. Students swich a lot, so if a course is full in first instance, try again in the first two weeks of the semester. The honours courses have a limited amount of places, if you really want to follow a course, be quick to send your choices. The first and second year courses are pretty easy and not very demanding. The honours courses have the most interesting topics and more challenging.
academic quality of education activities	
	I really enjoyed my honours courses because the classes are smaller, the level is higher and most of the time the professor is more committed. I was really challenged in these courses. I was a bit disappointed in the first and



second year courses because they consist mainly of lectures and only a few seminars.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The staff at the international office is very friendly and willing to help. If you have questions about your honours courses you still need to go to the department of law, though.
transfer of credits
I have had a lot of contact with the board of exams in order to transfer my Edinburgh courses to compulsory courses at the UU. Be careful to submit the forms on time because the course organiser in Utrecht also has to agree with the transfer.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
when you come in September the university will have a full program organised for visiting students. I met many people that week, even without joining the Freshers week. I was pretty excited and nervous when I just arrived, but you cannot really prepare for it either. The first few weeks of being new in a city are just overwhelming. Just enjoy it!	
accommodation	
In my experience student accommodation is awful and expensive. When you're lucky you'll get placed with other international students, however, you are not assured of that. The rooms and flats are very small and not very nice. The University Accommodation provides the basics (a bed, a desk and a closet), but you will have to buy new all kitchen equipment and bed covers etc. Also, you cannot end your contract, you'll have to find someone to replace you. After the first semester I moved to private accommodation and I would advise people to do that from the beginning. You can get a nice place for 300-400 pounds a month and since it is such a student town, there are many nice shared flats available. You can find private accommodation through Gumtree, Dutch society on Facebook, Erasmus students in Edinburgh Facebook and spareroom. Of course it is a risk not to accept University Accommodation, but I would take it.	
leisure & culture	
Just enjoy it! You can meet people in so many different ways and there are so many things to do. Go to every society in the beginning and then decide which ones you like. You'll have a lot of free time so you can basically just do everything you want!	
suggestions/tips	
Go hiking! The Highlands are beautiful and it's really nice to see more of Scotland. Travel around and you will really get to know the place.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes! The city is amazing and you can really enjoy the UK student life. Everybody speaks English so you can easily integrate with Scottish students and international students alike .	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
I think a period abroad will always be exciting, no matter where you go. It's not just about the place, it is also about the experience of meeting people from different backgrounds and saving yourself in a new situation. However, Edinburgh is definitely a good place to go to.	



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
I decided to go to Edinburgh partly because of the language. But I had heard that the city was very international as well and I had always wanted to go to the Highlands. Once I had chosen my destination I had to write a motivation letter about why I wanted to go to Scotland. First I got selected by the UU and later the University of Edinburgh accepted me as well.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
I can recommend to go to the International Office, because it is a scary process with a lot of insecurities and the International Office can answer your questions.	
academic preparation	
It was good to have had two years of study already, but further preparations weren't necessary. Although it is good to take a look at the courses and ask in advance what you can and can't do. Some law courses really focused on the common law system, so these were courses were harder. But it wasn't impossible to keep up without academic preparation. I made a schedule in advance of courses I wanted to do, but in the end I couldn't do almost any of them. So it is good to have a plan B.	
language preparation	
I didn't have to take additional exams to get accepted.	
finances	
I applied for the Erasmusgrant and additional ov-vergoeding. But the UK is a really expensive country, so I also made a budget for additional costs.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I wanted to do a lot of law courses, but some courses are very difficult. I ended up doing two law courses: public law of the UK and Scotland and Business Entities. Public law was really interesting, because the Scottish position in the UK is a unique one. Business Entities was a partly about the entities and partly about company law. It was really interesting as well, but a bit more difficult, since it was a second year course. It was harder than I expected to get used to a new legal system. So I don't regret taking only two courses. I also took Arabic and Italian. Those courses lasted for a year. The Scottish students took those courses as extra credits, so it was an open group of students. It was no problem to do these courses as well.	
academic quality of education activities	
For the law courses the level was higher than in the Netherlands. Especially the exams were tough. For one course we had to write three essays in two hours. But it was also similar to the Dutch system: for the law courses I had to attend lectures and tutorials, similar to the "hoorcollege" and "werkgroep" in the Netherlands.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The people from the Visiting Student Office were very kind and helpful. I also met with my Personal Tutor in the first week, but after that she didn't respond to my e-mails anymore. Other people had the same problem. Luckily I could also go to the VSO.	
transfer of credits	
I took 55 ECTS this year. This is the same as 110 credits for Edinburgh. I didn't take 60 ECTS, as is normal for one academic year, because there weren't a lot of 5 ECTS courses and 65 would be too much. I was told that this wasn't a problem, as long as I passed my courses. You pass a course with 40%.	



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first week is an amazing opportunity to explore the city during "Freshers Week". The student organisation EUSA organises tours around the city and campus, parties, museum visits, etc. It is also a good opportunity to find a society or sports club. There are a lot in Edinburgh so I would definitely recommend to join one!
accommodation
The Univeristy of Edinburgh offers accommodation for students who are staying for an acadamic year. I chose to stay there, because I didn't know other students yet. A lot of first year students choose this option and other international students as well. The older students and other international students choose to share flats with each other. Also a good option, but you have to do more research on the internet for this. I stayed close to Arthur's Seat: the hill that used to be a volcano. I was lucky with my accommodation because the students organised a lot of activities and I got to meet a lot of other people. So I would recommend to choose University accommodation. The disadvantage is that you can't choose the people with whom you want to live.
leisure & culture
Like I've already mentioned: clubs and societies are great! I decided to join the modern dance society and the Hillwalking Club. The Hillwalking Club organises a lot of trips during the year in the Highlands, so it is a great opportunity to see more of Scotland. There were a lot of international students as well for this reason. But be warned: the trips are very exhausting! The International Student Centre also organises a lot of trips to see Scotland. You can meet people to go with during their coffee evenings.
suggestions/tips
Join a society/club and see more of Scotland!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would recommend this university, because of the international atmosphere. The people are very open and you can easily make friends. From an academic perspective I would also recommend the university, because the quality is very high.
do you have any additional advice or comments?