



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

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	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Lóránd University
start date	3 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process for the Eötvös Lóránd University was not that complex. Just be aware that you don't get a respond that quickly from the receiving University, so send your documents for application as soon as possible.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I have experienced good support from Utrecht University. They don't have anything lined up for you though, so you have to take care of all the administration yourself. Only when I had questions or certain problems I had contacted the International Office of Utrecht University
academic preparation	There wasn't any academic preparation required for my Erasmus period.
language preparation	You need to have a B2 level in English to be able to succeed your Erasmus period in a foreign country.
Finances	I was prepared for the costs I would have in Budapest, Hungary. Since Hungary isn't such an expensive country, I did not worry about it that much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme I did was Psychology and Education. Just be aware of the fact that the study Psychology is not included in the faculty Social Sciences as it is in Utrecht University. For some reason the Psychology courses were included in a totally different faculty, named Psychology and Education. Make sure to apply for this faculty if you would like to attend Psychology courses. I made this mistake, but luckily they could apply me for the other faculty on time. When I applied for this faculty, I had chosen the courses which seemed interesting to me and had put them on my learning agreement. When I arrived in Budapest, the procedure of choosing courses was totally different of what I expected. They had a new system since last year that you needed to apply for a course on a certain day as quickly as possible, otherwise when they became full you would not be capable of following that course. Per course there were approximately 30 places. In the end, I could not choose half of the courses I listed on my learning agreement. I had not enough ECTS to fulfill my Erasmus period. After a few weeks, I finally arranged my courses with the International Office in Budapest. But since it took weeks to complete my list of



courses, many of them had already started and so I was far behind. Also, I could not choose the courses I intended to choose and which I found interesting.

academic quality of education activities

I was behind on many courses, but since the academic quality wasn't that good, I could keep up with the rest quite quick. The lecture setting is quite different from Utrecht University. You have small classrooms with max 30 students per course. This makes it more personal and I kind of liked this setting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at Eötvös Lóránd University was alright. Sometimes I could get a response 2 minutes later and sometimes it took me weeks. So it wasn't that consistent in replying. Still, the head of the International Office was very willing to help me out and it succeeded in the end.

transfer of credits

In Hungary you have a semester system. This means that you have lectures and practicals for 3 months and after that you have the exam period, which takes 2 months in total. After I finished an exam, the transfer of the credits were quite fast.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I really loved the erasmus students association. I definitely recommend applying for these kinds of associations. They arrange different events like camps (highly recommend if you want to meet new people very quick!), boat parties, pub crawls and trips to different cities in Hungary. Since I am half Hungarian, I already knew Budapest quite well. Still, I gained much more knowledge about this city and these associations were a great chance to get more familiar with the city and to get to know new people.

accommodation

I highly recommend to like Facebookpages which are made for hiring studentflats. Also, begin early with searching!!! The hiring prices are relatively cheap compared to Utrecht.

leisure & culture

I absolutely love the Hungarian culture. Ofcourse I am biased since I am half Hungarian. But I could not find a better city to study abroad than Budapest, even if you don't have any relationship with this city. It is fairly cheap, the nightlife is amazing and the city is beautiful. It just breaths history, so a guidetour is highly recommended if you're interested in the history of this city. Budapest has many things to offer, like thermal baths, great shopping streets, many pubs, huge parks and beautiful nature. It is a big city which contains 3 million people. You can tell it is popular among foreign students, since you spot many a day. The Hungarian mentality is very different from the Dutch one. On the first look Hungarians may look a bit grumpy, but really, their hospitality is something I have never experienced before in an other culture. The Hungarian cuisine is very traditional and broad, so a lot of fun for foreigners to try. There are also many 'hipster' places, especially in the Jewish district, like restaurants, cafés, ruin pubs and more. If you like a city which is vibrant, contains a lot of history, is fairly cheap and has a lot to offer, I really recommend Budapest to you!

suggestions/tips

Do a guidetour when you arrive, there are even ones for free (at the St.Stephen Basilica square everyday at a certain time). Also, Budapest is surrounded by other amazing countries. A citytrip to Vienna (only 3 hours with the bus), Prague, Bratislava is very doable. I recommend to apply for erasmus student associations which you can find on Facebook. They arrange a lot of events and it is a great chance to meet new people. The Eötvös Lóránd University has also many different associations like an orchestra, sports, dance, language courses and more. Apply for these if you are interested in one of these hobbies.



CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>Yes I do! Budapest is a great student city and you can tell by the many foreign students you see in Budapest. People all over the world come to Budapest, because it has things to offer that some cities don't have. The city is historical and modern at the same time. It is nothing to compare with a Slavic country even though its location is in Eastern Europe (Hungary isn't a Slavic country). It has its very own unique culture. A mix of the Western and the Eastern influences. This makes Budapest, Hungary unique and one of a kind!</p> <p>Every University has its pros and cons. Ofcourse the application proces for the courses wasn't that easy, but I am sure every other University has its problems which they need to work on. If you're very focused as an Erasmus student to do specific courses and you would like to broaden your academic knowledge, I don't recommend this University to you. It still is Eastern Europe and as we know the Dutch education is far ahead. Instead I would apply for an University in a more Western country.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The Hungarian Goulash is nothing like you know it in the Netherlands. It is a traditional soup, not a stew. So try it! ;)

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permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.b.vanegmond@students.uu.nl
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	or	
<input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @		
faculty/college	Social science	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Erasmus	

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I did not experience any difficulties with the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International office social science is really nice, they are willing to help you with everything and respond fast. I did not have any big problems but I felt I could always ask them if needed.
academic preparation	
	The level of the university in Budapest was lower than the level in Utrecht. I did not do any academic preparation. One thing you could do if you are going to study social science, find out more about the political situation in Hungary. Teachers often refer to them (and will explain them) but it can help you.
language preparation	
	All my courses were in English, therefore I hadn't needed any language preparation. However, I am happy that I had some full English courses in the Netherlands. I was already used to writing papers in English and courses taught in English.
finances	
	Besides the Erasmus grant, I had saved some money. Budapest is quite cheap but of course you do more fun things and trips which you would not do in your home town so make sure you saved some money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The organization of courses was not that good. The site had some problems so we were able to sign in at the day our courses were meant to start. This was quite chaotic. However, it was not a problem of the international office but of the ICT department. The teachers do not get Neptun (our osiris) too which sometimes was annoying. In the end, I did not fall behind schedule and the international office was willing to help us. All by all I could say that the organization skills were not so good but in the end there are no problems and people are willing to help you so sometimes you just have to think, it will be okay.
academic quality of education activities	
	The courses were interesting and a good addition to my courses in the Netherlands. The quality is lower than in the Netherlands but the teachers have different examples and different stories and they try to make connections to the current political situation in Hungary which makes it more interesting. For me it did not matter that the quality was a bit lower because my goal of Erasmus was not only studying. Besides, I got the feeling that the information and knowledge the teachers had was often interesting but the courses were not so well organized and because of that the quality also decreased.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Despite of the problems at the beginning with course registration, the international office was helpful. Teachers are too although I got the feeling they do not really get how things are organized for erasmus students.
transfer of credits	



I got my credits but they are not transferred yet so it is hard to say something about that.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the beginning there was an introduction day which was quite short. Also the communication of the introduction week could have been better. All the introduction week activities were announced in the introduction week and it would have been nice to know them earlier. Here again, the activities are nice but the communication could be better. I also tried sports in the introduction week but they were not so nice in my point of view because a lot of the lessons were in Hungarian.

accommodation

There are a lot of student houses available and the best way to find one is via facebook groups. Make sure you get notifications of these groups because a lot of internationals are looking for a house. The best tip is make sure you live with other internationals because in that way you really get to know other cultures and speak English every day.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Budapest and a nice thing about it is that everything is not that far from each other so you can walk a lot. Restaurants and pubs are everywhere and there are a lot of museums. The Terror House and the Hospital in the Rock are interesting museums about the second world war. For sporty people, there are a lot of nice gyms in the city and I definitely recommend the 4% gym. They have a student discount. Besides, Margarit Island is perfect for a run or to relax in the sun. Would you like to relax then I recommend the thermal baths but do not go during vacations because it is full of tourists then. And last but not least, go to Janos Hill, it is a perfect hill with really nice view.

suggestions/tips

Go on trips! It is very cheap with FlixBus and you are close to a lot of countries. It was for me the best way of spending money. I did some free walking tours in other cities and that was really nice too. Besides, I recommend Lampas, it is a pub that is super cheap and they play live music very often.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! Budapest is a big city, it has a lot to offer and travelling is very easy from this place. My university may not have the best organization skills but in the end they will make sure everything will be okay. Besides, Budapest is very popular under internationals all over the world so you will meet a lot of different people. You will not get boring in this city and because of all the internationals there are a lot of events and parties you can join. Doesn't matter what kind of student you are, for everyone there is something in Budapest.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't try to learn Hungarian because it is too difficult and try to follow the politics in Hungary because they are very interesting and different from the politics in the Netherlands.



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permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: a.sharifi@students.uu.nl my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Awesta Sharifi other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Faculty of Education and Psychology
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology and Behavioural Sciences

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	You need to take a few steps to apply for the exchange period. You are asked to fill in a top 3 of preferred universities (or minimum of 2). Further, you are required to write a motivational letter for that specific university, a financial plan, study plan, language proficiency statement and your Curriculum Vitae.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I had a lot of problems with registering for courses in Budapest, but when I needed help, I could contact the International Office in Utrecht and most of the time they tried to help me or suggested to seek help from the International Office in Budapest.
academic preparation	I did not prepare myself to be honest.
language preparation	I tried to engage more with the English language, by for example watching movies with English subtitles. Furthermore, I wanted to prepare myself for the Hungarian language, because I wanted to try to speak that language. When I arrived I took a crash course Hungarian Language, but it was harder than I expected, so that is why I decided not to learn to the Hungarian language, besides, this language is only spoken in Hungary, so I cannot use it in other countries, that is why I decided to focus more on the English language.
finances	You can fill out forms to get an Erasmus Grant, also you can ask for a public transportation reimbursement (OV vergoeding).



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	It was organised very differently in comparison to the Utrecht University. Overall, it wasn't as good as in Utrecht, but the content of some courses turned out to be better than I expected---especially regarding the course content. Some courses I found really interesting, and I decided that I wanted to go pursue these courses further in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	As said before, the quality turned out better than expected. Although, I would recommend a few teachers to improve their English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Because I experienced some problems in the beginning, with registering for courses, I turned to the International Office a lot. They helped me a lot and really tried to fix this for me. At a certain point I did not expect it to turn out well anymore; to my surprise it turned out that the International Office had solved my problems.
transfer of credits	This is not transferred yet, I expect this to be forwarded at any moment.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	I really liked the welcome programme; it felt really welcoming. They told us things about the Hungarian culture and about the city. Also, they recommended to visit some places in the city. Further, you get information (about your study, stay or social programmes) you can really use and did not think of beforehand.
accommodation	I arranged the accomodation together with a friend who also went to Budapest. We rented an apartment through a family friend of hers. Before that I tried to find something myself, I tried to do this through some Facebook pages.
leisure & culture	The people (especially in shops) are less friendly than in Holland, which is something you just should get used to. However, it already helps to learn a few Hungarian words: if they notice that you are trying to make an effort to communicate with them, they are more friendly. Being unfriendly is a cultural thing, so do not take this personally!
suggestions/tips	Engage in social events/activities! There you will meet a lot of new people. You should not solely focus on the Erasmus students. Look further, because there are also fulltime international students who are really nice! Also, get out of the city, there are a lot of beautiful cities around Budapest itself that are definitely worth visiting!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	To be honest, the quality is less than in Utrecht, but you have different courses that you mind very interesting. If I would recommend to go to Budapest, I would really recommend it for the city itself, it is such a nice city, it is so beautiful. The international people are very nice and very open to you.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	



Not that I can think of, but I am willing to help if you have some questions or need some advice! (You can contact the International Office for my contact details)

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permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: lotherder@msn.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
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<i>See end note for * and **</i>		
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Social Sciences	

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE)
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Het kostte best veel tijd om al het papierwerk in orde te maken. Maar al dat geregeld ben je al snel weer vergeten als je in Budapest bent aangekomen, en er allemaal leuke dingen op je te wachten staan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	De support vanuit de Universiteit Utrecht was erg goed. Het International Office reageerde vaak snel op mijn emails, en de informatiebijeenkomst was erg nuttig en enthousiasmerend.
academic preparation	Ik heb geen academische voorbereidingen gedaan. Dit was ook niet echt nodig, aangezien het niveau van het onderwijs in Budapest een stuk lager ligt dan het onderwijs in Nederland.
language preparation	Ik maakte me vooraf een beetje zorgen over mijn Engels. Ik ben namelijk niet zo goed in Engels, dus ik was bang dat ik dingen niet zou snappen, of dingen niet zou halen door mijn slechte Engels. Deze zorgen waren totaal ongegrond. Want er zijn heel veel mensen die nog veel slechter zijn in Engels dan jij. Nederlanders kunnen over het algemeen heel goed Engels, en soms nog beter dan de docenten. Dus maak je daar vooral geen zorgen over.
finances	Ik heb veel gewerkt voor in naar Budapest zou gaan. Dit spaarpotje kwam ook goed van pas, want je geeft altijd



meer geld uit dan je verwacht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Het studieprogramma was nogal een dingetje. Vooraf had ik op de site gezocht naar vakken die mij interessant leken. Bij aankomst bleek dat een deel van die vakken niet meer bestond, toch niet in het Engels waren, of al vol zaten. Dit schopte mijn plan nogal in de war. Ik heb dus vakken gekozen die beschikbaar waren, en niet per se omdat ik ze zo interessant vond. Je moet zelf heel goed opletten bij het kiezen van de vakken, want sommige vakken worden op hetzelfde tijdstip gekozen. Dit moet je zelf uitzoeken, of het mogelijk is en hoe.

academic quality of education activities

Het niveau van het onderwijs op ELTE is lager dan in Utrecht. De Universiteit is nogal ongeorganiseerd. Maar het onderwijs is wel veel persoonlijker. Ik had kleine klassen, wat zorgde voor meer persoonlijke interactie.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

De ondersteuning vanuit ELTE was goed. Ik kreeg een mentor toegewezen, dit was een Hongaarse student, zij hielp me met kleine dingetjes, zoals de weg vinden of inschrijvingen. Daarnaast was er een coordinator van de faculteit. Je kon hem mailen voor vragen over vakken etc. Hij reageerde vaak snel op mijn emails.

transfer of credits

Dit is nog niet afgerond, dus hier kan ik helaas nog niks over zeggen. Maar ik verwacht geen moeilijkheden, want het International Office in Budapest reageert vaak snel.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Het welkomsprogramma was een beetje onduidelijk, we hadden hier niet echt informatie over gekregen maar we hadden zelf op facebook gevonden dat er een openingsceremonie was van de hele universiteit. Hier zijn we heengegaan, en dat was heel leuk, met Hongaarse dans, een speech van de directeur van ELTE en andere sprekers. Verder was er nog een introductiedag van mijn eigen faculteit. Hier kregen we praktische info, leerden we alvast wat mensen kennen, en konden we vragen stellen. Ook ben ik met ESN meegegaan op een Welcome Weekend. Dit was erg gezellig, en heel goed om nieuwe vrienden te maken:) Zeker in het begin is het een aanrader om mee te gaan met activiteiten van ESN, zo leer je makkelijk en snel nieuwe mensen kennen.

accommodation

Via een Facebook groep heb ik een kamer gevonden. Achteraf had ik liever nog even doorgezocht, want ik betaalde veel te veel voor mijn huis, en ook was het huis nogal krakkemikkig, met een slecht bed, slechte wifi, en een kapotte douche. Mijn advies is dus om niet te snel een kamer aan te nemen, want vaak laten ze je veel te veel betalen, omdat ze weten dat Internationale studenten het huis toch wel nemen, omdat ze geen andere optie hebben. Ik zou het niet aanraden om naar Budapest te komen zonder dat je een kamer hebt. Een paar van mijn vrienden hebben dat gedaan, maar dat zorgde voor enorm veel stress. Uiteindelijk vind je natuurlijk wel iets, maar het is niet fijn om de eerste weken zo in onzekerheid te leven, want alles is al spannend genoeg.

leisure & culture

Vanuit ELTE zijn er verschillende sportgroepen waaraan je mee kan doen. Ik ben bij het Hongaarse handbalteam gegaan. Ik handbal al lang, en wilde dat graag in Budapest voortzetten. Gelukkig vond ik een handbalteam en werd ik geselecteerd voor het team om ook competitie te spelen. Dit vond ik echt super leuk! Zo leerde je ook een beetje lokale mensen kennen, want je zit toch wel een beetje in een Erasmus bubbel, met allemaal internationale vrienden om je heen. Ook vond ik het prettig dat de handbal mij een beetje structuur gaf in de week. Want je hebt opeens super veel vrije tijd. Daarnaast ging ik vaak met vrienden stappen, samen eten, tripjes maken of gewoon een avondje chillen!



suggestions/tips

Ga tripjes maken! Er zijn heel veel bestemming in Hongarije en rondom Hongarije die echt de moeite waard zijn om te bezoeken. Met de flibus kan je heel goedkoop overal naar toe.
Geniet van je vrijheid, want de tijd vliegt voorbij!!! Voor je het weet zit je weer in je strakke regime in Nederland! En stress vooral niet te veel om school, want dat komt echt wel goed. Erasmus student hebben altijd een streepje voor bij de docenten, dus die laten ze echt niet zakken. En als je vragen hebt over Budapest, het onderwijs of wat dan ook, mag je altijd contact met me opnemen:)

CONCLUSIONS

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

Ja, Budapest zou ik zeker aanraden als bestemming. Het is een prachtige stad, met een fantastisch uitgaansleven en mooie cultuur. Het leven is goedkoop en het is een centrale plek in Europa om andere steden te bezoeken! Als je op Erasmus gaat voor de kwaliteit van het onderwijs zou ik echter niet voor ELTE kiezen. De kwaliteit van het onderwijs is laag, en de universiteit is slecht georganiseerd.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Als je twijfelt om wel of niet op exchange te gaan, doe het!! Het is een fantastische ervaring die je nooit meer vergeet. Je leert ontzettend veel over jezelf, en kan even ontsnappen uit het drukke leventje in Nederland. Je moet op je eigen benen staan, en dat is super goed voor je zelfvertrouwen. Je hebt zoveel vrijheid als je op exchange bent. Een aanrader voor iedereen!!

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	Cultural Anthropology

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	ELTE
start date	30 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not that hard. You needed to write a motivational letter and financial plan and send you CV. After that they made a selection and I think it is not really hard to get a spot in Budapest (I think I was the only one who wanted to go there this semester).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is great! They always respond very fast and really try to help.

academic preparation

I did not really prepare myself when talking about academic skills.

language preparation



They sent me an English test before the exchange which I have to make again afterwards. This is nice because you can see if you improved. I did not practice my English before leaving.

finances

Budapest is relatively cheap. Still I tried to save money because it would be at least five months without working. In the end it still costed a lot of money because of all the extra activities and travels.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose other courses than I planned, but it turned out fine. I followed courses on the Hungarian prison system (even got to visit one), problems in Hungarian society and post-socialism in Hungary. These topics were really nice because it helped me to get to know the country where I was studying better. All courses were especially organised for Erasmus students which was really nice.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that there was zero challenge in the courses I took. They were way too easy (in a sense that the education was such a low level and in a sense that they were so easy on us: no pressure at all).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The ELTE university did not really give good support. The Questura offices were closed on random days and moved from location to location.

transfer of credits

I haven't received the credits yet but it will probably be 25.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Budapest knows a great student life! There are tons of organisations like Erasmus Budapest, Erasmus Life Budapest, Erasmus Student Network which make it really easy to integrate into the life of Budapest and to find your Erasmus friends. Just follow them on Facebook and pay attention in the first weeks and you can join activities with them daily if you would want!

accommodation

I found my flat via Facebook. There are some groups (just like Kamer in Utrecht) which make that really easy. It was a bit scary because I had to transfer the owner of my flat 200 euro before even having a contract but that's just how it goes here. All the international student flats in Budapest are so similar (all Ikea stuff) and really great (even clean often).

leisure & culture

I did not really have a culture shock from Hungary, only from my roommates and friends. Everyone has such different ways of eating, partying, sleeping rythms, everything! But it was great to get to know everything about Northern Finland for example, where they only icefish, hike and all have reindeers for example.

suggestions/tips

Buy a monthly student transport ticket, you can only use the semester one because it's a small paper thing. The number of your student card you put on there has to be shown like a real student card if they check, so online student cards like the one of UU doesn't count! Go to the Morrisons every Monday night and explore at least the Instant, Szimpla, Kuplung, Lampas, Corvin Club, Hello Baby Bar. Go on trips with the Erasmus organisations! And take the Flixbus to all surrounding countries (which are a lot!!)



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend Budapest to anyone who wants to have a great Erasmus experience in Europe! It looks like Budapest is made for Erasmus students (everything is organised to well, at least the parties and activities) and you have the opportunity to travel to so many countries by only a few euro and the Flixbus!

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	11-09-17
end date	02-02-18

PREPARATION

exchange application process

First it was very important to look at all the universities and their pro's and con's. For me, it was important to go somewhere where are minorities such as Roma, because I learned about them and find it very interesting. My finances were also important, so I made a top three with this in mind. My motivation letter was very important to me, because I really wanted to go to Budapest for my further studies about Roma. I spent a lot of attention to this letter and fortunately it worked out well. The application itself was not that difficult, because it was explained in the meetings very good.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As I said, you know what you have to do because of the clear powerpoints and presentations from STIP. If you needed a signature or help, you could send an email and the same day you got an answer.

academic preparation

I did not need special preparation, what I already did was enough.

language preparation

The universities subjects were given in English so no further preparation needed.

finances

It was good to make an financial overview, I could see if I needed to borrow more money from DUO etc. But I had some savings and I knew Budapest is not expensive so I did not have to worry about that.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had 7 courses, two about the EU, two about anthropology, one about Roma, one about child psychology and one about contemporary problems in Hungary. It was very interesting because I only could do the Roma and Hungarian subjects in Hungary. So it was very new and different.

The study programme was not that clear as in Utrecht, a lot of people had problems with signing up for subjects and the first weeks were chaos. You had to try to go to a person who can help you, but that was not simple. You were sent from one to another person. After puzzeling and try to go to the right person who can help you it was clear and everyone manage to sign up for their subjects of choice. It is different than you are used to, but you learn a lot of manage such things on your own.



academic quality of education activities
The quality differs a lot for every subject, and it depends on the teacher and his/her way of testing. But overall I learned a lot that I could not learn in Utrecht, because it is from another perspective, from another country and other subjects. The teachers were good in speaking English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The receiving university was very willing to help, but it was more chaotic and sometimes you did not know to who you have to go. So there was good will to help, but not always a clear way. In the end it always went well.
transfer of credits
For this subjects you get a little less credits than in Utrecht, six subjects gets 5 cts, and for one 2 cts. I think it is fair because it took a little less effort than the Utrecht University subjects, but I learned also a lot.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had an orientation day for the faculty, they helped us with practical matters such as login on the neptun system (same as blackboard), but they also organized some relaxing activities to get to know each other and the university, an Hungarian market and Hungarian language course. It was really fun to meet people there.
accommodation
I was in a flat with 11 other erasmus students. I got the landlord's information from the erasmus facebook page by Utrecht University, so that was useful.
leisure & culture
I spent a lot of time to explore the city as a real tourist in the beginning. We also explored the nightlife with all the flatmates. The culture is not that different as the Dutch, but there is more poverty so more beggars etc. Also the Hungarian people have more radical opinions on the area of refugees, Jews, Roma and other minorities. I think that is partly the case because they are not as rich as the Dutch people on average. The food was good, especially the Goulash. The buildings in Budapest are really impressive and beautiful, and the people seem a little sullen in the beginning, but if you try to get to know them better, they are very friendly and helpful.
suggestions/tips
Ask people who have been to Budapest how they got a room, and go to the city a week before school stars, so you can explore the city and culture in advance.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I highly recommend this destination, because it is really beautiful, many things to visit, experience and see. Also it is a great city for students to study because of the many study libraries and coffee houses. Also there are many pubs and clubs where you can meet and party with all your (erasmus) friends. Although I didn't expect this, the city was very clean and I felt save. I also would recommend the university, the people were very willing to help and make you feel at home due to activities. Also the subjects are not that difficult as in The Netherlands, but it is not true that you don't learn the same. That is because you have to arrange things in English while it is not that clear and structured as at UU. Also you learn about subject who are not available at UU. So I learned a lot, in a way I could never have done at UU.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



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	Interdisciplinary Social Science
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	04 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a little bit more than I thought it was going to be, so if you don't want to stress you should start in time!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had a lot of contact with the International Office FSW, they helped me a lot with preparing my documents. They have a walk-in hour which is really useful.

academic preparation

My classes in Budapest were going to be entirely in English, and since my English is already at quite a high level I didn't have to do any academic preparation.

language preparation

This was also the case with language preparation. I figured I would learn the necessary Hungarian when I would get there.

finances

I made a very useful financial plan, what you also have to submit with your other application forms. I had some money saved, got some support from my family and of course the Erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses that I followed in the end were a little bit different from the ones I chose before coming to Budapest. This is not worrisome because I believe it happens at almost every Erasmus destination. The definition of Social Science in Budapest is also quite different than in Utrecht. It was more internationally orientated, with classes about the EU or even political thinking.

academic quality of education activities

The education in Budapest is not as challenging as it is in Utrecht. Also, the workload is less. But exams and essays are quite the same level as back in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Great! The people at the international office in Budapest were really nice, they reply to your email really quickly and they always want to help.

transfer of credits



Still awaiting these, but I've heard the transfer can leave you with a little bit less credits than you hoped you would get.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I had a welcome week with a few different events. It was nice to get to know some people. My orientation day for my faculty was only on Thursday, so I had a few days before to get to know the city. Also, other organisations that have no connection to the university organize a lot of fun and cool activities where you can go in your first weeks.

accommodation

I found my flat on Facebook, as a lot of other people I know. I just saw 2 guys wanting a 6-person flat, they already had contact with the owner and just had to fill the flat. We had a small conversation on Facebook chat, decided it was fine and when we found 6 people we contacted the landlord. I had a buddy assigned from the university who could check the flat for us, and when she said it was fine we transferred the deposit and could move in on the requested date. It could sound sketchy but that's the way a lot of people do it in Budapest, and we found no trouble at all. (Btw, my flat turned out to be so much fun so don't be scared to go live with some random people you don't know!).

leisure & culture

There is so much to do in Budapest, 5 months won't even be enough. You'll find there is something for everyone. I personally went to a lot of baths, almost twice a month, while my roommates were crazy about escape rooms (they're about a 100 in Budapest). So you definitely won't be bored, even when you've seen all the touristic stuff. Besides that, the party culture in Budapest is also insane. The techno scene is really big there, but if you try your best you can find a suited party for every music genre.

suggestions/tips

There's too much that I could list right now, it all depends on your taste. I really liked the Christmas markets through the whole city in December, I also went ice skating in the park. When the weather was still good definitely check out some rooftop bars, for example 360 bar. I also went to a cheap concert in Akvarium, so if you check those events maybe you'll find some cool concert as well. Also going out for breakfast or dinner is really cheap, and Budapest has a lot of cool spots where you can eat or drink, for example Cirkusz for breakfast and Mazel Tov for dinner.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely. Budapest has a lot of universities, so the city is full with Erasmus student. They are a lot of parties and activities for Erasmus students, which is so nice because you can meet everyone almost every week. The city itself is so diverse, and also so beautiful. You will never get bored. The university doesn't really ask too much of you: which is perfect because then you have a lot of time to go explore. The city has a lot of tourists as well which is nice in the weekend, because the city gets really full. You can meet new people every single day basically, but because of the Erasmus network you also see a lot of the same people. Budapest is honestly one of the most fun and cool destinations for your Erasmus (and not to mention, it's also really cheap).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Definitely go on some trips if you have the money or the time. Close destinations are Prague, Vienna, Krakow, or even Slovenia or Croatia. It's the best to go with your Erasmus friends for an unforgettable time. It's very easy to go everywhere with Flixbus, or even rent a car or van if you are with more people. Also flying can be very cheap to some destinations (for example Berlin). If you have the resources, do it!



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	ASW (Interdisciplinary Social Sciences)

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	06 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process at first sight seems like a complicated process with lots of paperwork. Luckily, the UU gives a good overview containing all phases and steps in the application process on their website. Especially the timeline and instructions document helped well in keeping track on the documents I still had to deliver. The only thing which was a bit unclear, was whether or not I had to deliver a language certificate on my English skills. (eventually it appeared this wasn't necessary). Furthermore, it was sometimes hard to find (back) what I was searching for at the UU website, since there is so much information displayed on the study abroad pages.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office (IO) helped me well with all my questions, both face-to-face as well as via mail. For example, I had a complicated question related to the Erasmus grant, and the lady at the IO desk took all time to answer my question. Also, my mentor supported me well in how best to set up my 'vakkenvuller' (scheme with courses/internships through my university career), because at first I was unsure if an Erasmus exchange would fit in my planning.

academic preparation

Academic preparation was not necessary, ELTE University didn't require any special admission requirements for the courses I wanted to follow. I could even register for Master courses, while being in my Bachelor's. Although later on it turned out this was only possible for a few Master courses and if the teacher agreed.

language preparation

Since I would study in English at ELTE, no specific language certifications were required. I only had to fill in the OLS language test in order to qualify for an Erasmus grant.

finances

Since Hungary is part of group 3 of Erasmus grants, a country with lower living costs, I only received €150 per month. Unfortunately, this was not sufficient. Since a couple of years, living costs in Hungary has risen and don't differ that much from living costs in The Netherlands anymore. Luckily, I've calculated before my arrival how much living costs would be, and received financial support from my parents and a student loan in order to be able to pay my rent, groceries, travels and university costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



At first I wanted to register for six courses from the Master 'Ethnic and Minority Policy'. Before my arrival I sent an email to the International Office at ELTE to ask if this would be possible. They told me it would be fine, but after my arrival I had many problems registering for those courses. The digital registration system used was several times not operative, didn't show which courses were Master's or Bachelor's and I couldn't find the courses I wanted. I ended up with a list of totally different courses than planned. Still, most of them contained master courses and I asked the teachers if it was alright if I joined the class. Most of the teachers agreed or didn't even ask if there were any bachelor students in their master's class. Unfortunately, one teacher showed me the door because I was a bachelor student, which was really frustrating because the International Office couldn't help me. There were only 2 courses which were eventually related to the topic I wanted to study: the Roma minority in Hungary. Other courses I followed were about the Middle East, sociological challenges in Hungarian society, education of minorities in European countries and a Hungarian language course for Erasmus students. After all, it was interesting to learn about a new topic such as the Middle East, and I was at least able to study the Roma and minorities in general in Central- and East European countries.

academic quality of education activities

The level of education at ELTE was low compared to the UU. It was easy to get good grades: at the end of the semester I had an 'excellent' for every course. Most classes were interesting and provided all the information I needed for the tests, presentations and essays, although sometimes it was unclear how to prepare for a test. Course manuals (if they already provided one) are not as elaborate as the ones at UU. Teachers being late was not exceptional, and one time a teacher simply didn't show up. Furthermore, I noticed that many teachers had troubles with the digital system as well. They didn't know how to open registration forms for tests and how to upload PowerPoints and even more problematic: grades.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

ELTE didn't offer much help for the problems I experienced. When I was send out of a Master's class, they simply said it was up to the teacher whether to allow bachelor students or not. I had to ask every teacher if I could stay, which made me insecure because most courses were already full and the registration period was soon to expire. Eventually, the registration period was extended and the international office offered a list containing bachelor courses which were still accesible. Almost none of them caught my interest, but luckily I was eventually accepted for mostly Master courses and only had to pick one more course from this list (this course was about the Middle East). Still, it was very frustrating to first hear following master courses is possible, just to experience after arrival that most teachers don't approve.

transfer of credits

By the time of writing this I haven't got my credits transferred yet, since my original transcript of records haven't arrived yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation week organised by the university was not that exciting. First we listened to a speech from the major of Budapest, after which there was the possibility to visit an overcrowded and unorganised information market. The first day they also organised small trips to the student office, were every student had to pick up their 'student id' (read: an A4 with an ELTE stamp, in Hungarian) . I joined one of these trips and had to wait 2,5 hours in an overcrowded office to finally receive my id (which I had to renew every 2 months but they didn't tell me).

accommodation

Since I didn't want to sleep in a dormitory, I decided to look for a shared flat close to my university. It's not difficult to find a well priced flat in Budapest. There are many landlords actively searching for renters on Facebook. I payed €300 for an 18m2 flat at Ferenc Körút, close to my university and tram 4 and 6. It was a good location and I lived together with other internationals (50/50 full-time workers/students). Still, before finding



this flat I signed up for a dormitory as well, just in case I couldn't find a flat myself. Luckily I found a flat myself in time, otherwise it turned out I would have been placed in a dormitory quite far away from the university.

leisure & culture

Budapest is great when it comes to these two things. The nightlife with its ruin bars, cheap cocktails, many internationals and sometimes even free concerts is just awesome. Going home during midnight is no problem, since tram 6 is operating day and night. The Hungarian culture is interesting with its folkore dance shows, very tasty cuisine and the many thermal baths. The city itselfs host an incredible amount of beautiful 19th century monumental buildings, statues and bridges and the view over the Danube river (Donau) during the night is just breath-taking. In the winter semester you are able to visit the many beautiful Christmas markets.

suggestions/tips

If you want to taste the real Hungarian culture I would recommend to visit other places in Hungary as well, like Miskolc, Pécs and Eger. Budapest is such an internationally focused city, I wouldn't say it's representative of Hungary in general, where most people don't speak English that well and are more focused on their own culture and values instead of having an international focus. Furthermore, learn a bit of Hungarian. It's difficult but it's also fun and it's much appreciated by locals outside of Budapest when you now a few words. If you know a bit of German, you'll manage too.

I would also recommend to travel outside of Hungary: it's a country surrounded by 7 other countries, so there's enough choice and by bus or train it's quite cheap!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would not recommend to study abroad at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Eotvos Lorand University. It's a chaos for Erasmus students for several reasons I've explained above. I was not able to register for any of the master courses I wanted. Since I am a bachelor student, I asked the university before the application if I was allowed to register for master courses as well and they gave permission. They even signed my learning agreement which included only master courses. When signing up for the courses via the university's online registration system, it turned out these courses didn't exist or would be given in another semester. So I tried to register for other master courses, which took some time since Neptun crashed the first days or some courses were already full. When I attended one of my first classes, I was simply asked to leave the class because the teacher didn't accept bachelor students. As you can see, communication at this university is a problem which bothers a lot of students (not only the Erasmus ones). Also, I needed to request a student ID, which you can ask for at one of the two student offices. But everytime I went to these offices, it was overcrowded by students and people were waiting for 2 or even 3 hours. I don't know about other faculties at ELTE, but the organisational structure at the Faculty of Social Sciences is a chaos. Furthermore, the level of education was much lower than at UU. It was easy to obtain excellent grades without doing your best. Finally, it was very difficult to obtain my transcript of records in time. I had to wait for one grade for 2 months before they could send me the original document. I think this faculty need some more time to get their organisation and administation straight before admitting foreign students. Thus, I would not recommend this (part of) Eotvos Lorand University. However, Hungary is a great destination for Erasmus students, so I would definitely recommend to study here, but just not at ELTE.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend to inform yourself well before applying for ELTE university. If you can handle the stress of registrating for courses and obtaining all necessary documents in time (transcript of records, certificate of attendance) you can reconsider, and hopefully in the upcoming years effort will be made in the educational and administrative development of the Faculty of Social Sciences.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	06 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was pretty clear for me and well communicated by the university. Because I was applying for the second semester, you have to be really early in deciding your study program. The deadline for the application was the 1st of december 2015, and I was only leaving in february 2017. So I knew one year in advance that I was going abroad a year later. This was not a problem for me, but can be something to take care of when making a study program.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht Univeristy was very good. You could easily go to the office or send an e-mail and the response was very quick. It was very clear what they needed from you and what you had to prepare before you leave.

academic preparation

I had no specific academic preparation as I am in my fourth year of my bachelors, so I expected to have enough academic skills that suited the educational level here.

language preparation

I didn't really prepare anything for the language, as my English was good enough to manage myself and make myself understandable. During my study I have read a lot of English articles and books so I didn't expect this to be a problem. The Hungarian language is pretty hard to learn so I was not planning to really learn it.

finances

Before I left to Budapest I saved some money. Next to this I planned to use my student loan and the Erasmus grant to have enough money to live here. Budapest is not the most expensive city to live, but because of trips around the city and more

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

During my preparation of the semester abroad there were some difficulties with finding the right courses which were given in the semester. The program of courses wasn't clear until the first day I got here and the registration started. This made it a bit difficult to plan courses and fill in the Learning Agreement. In the end one chosen course was eventually cancelled, so I needed to change the schedule again. But there was enough choice for Erasmus students and a nice variety of courses to pick.

academic quality of education activities



As you are studying in a different country, the level of education is somewhat different. I had to get used to the way of teaching, as their main focus was on participation in class and for most courses there was no end test but a presentation or a paper. This is somewhat different than in the Netherlands, but still useful as it improved my skills in writing structured papers. But the level of education was pretty good and teachers had much knowledge in their field of schooling. They were always open for discussion and often used the international composition of the group for discussion. This was very interesting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the university here was very good. Emails were answered very quickly and with any question you could go to the international office. They are very helpful and even let me do a resit from my Dutch course here.

transfer of credits

I have passed all my 6 courses of 5 ECTS, so in total I received 30 credits here. I haven't handed them in at Utrecht Univeristy yet, but I think that will be fine. The grading system is different here, it works from 1 to 5 where 5 is the highest. I don't know how these grades are being transferred to the grades at our university.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The introduction at the University was well organized. There was a general one for all Erasmus students at ELTE University, and one for our own faculty. This was useful because you could meet new people with whom you have classes with as well. Next to this there were some activities organized by the University and by the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) of our university. It is very useful to participate in these events because you meet a lot of new people!

accommodation

I rented a room at SRS, an overarching organization which helps exchange students with renting rooms. The organization was very helpful and I liked the fact that I had all organized it before I arrived, but compared to other rooms their rooms are pretty expensive. Using Facebook or your network (ask people who've studied here) is more helpful when you want a cheaper room or when you want to be sure with whom you are living. You can also choose to find a flat after you arrive here and book for example a hostel or Airbnb for the first days. This way you are sure that you find a nice and clean flat and you have more choice in flatmates.

leisure & culture

As Budapest is a very big city, there is always enough to do in your leisure time. The city is very beautiful so in my leisure time I really enjoyed exploring new spots in the city. Every weekend there were several events and things to do and parties to go to. I haven't really experienced a big difference in culture between the Netherlands and Hungary, so it was not a very big problem to get used to the life here.

suggestions/tips

I would advice students who are going on Erasmus to choose a room or apartment with a living room. This is very useful when you want to hang out with friends or your roommates.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend Budapest as Erasmus destination. The city is very lovely and alive and especially towards the summer the city and the weather became very nice. To my opinion Budapest has everything you need for a semester abroad, as there is so much to do, the public transport in Budapest but also to other cities and countries is very good so traveling is easy and there are a lot of Erasmus students so always people to meet.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



I would recommend students to participate in a lot of events especially in the beginning of the Erasmus period, as this is the perfect way to meet new people. Be open to new people and cultures, and just enjoy your time because it is over so quickly!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

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	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eotvos Lorand Univeristy
start date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application for the exchange can take some time, since there are some documents that need to be signed by the receiving institution and the sending institution. This can take some time, so start early so you don't have to stress! Communication with the receiving institution can be hard sometimes, since it is not always clear who to contact. I would give as advice to work together with other students who go on Erasmus, because everyone needs to fill in the same forms.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht Univeristy was great. At the beginning when I needed help I went to the international office, but since I was on a facultairy exchange they couldn't help me, so they send me to the international office of the faculty of social sciences. There they helped me perfectly.

academic preparation

For academic preperation I read some of these reports of former erasmus students who went to the same university as me. Besides, I looked at the website of the receiving insitution a lot of times and watched some video's they put online for Erasmus students. Also I attended a course about intercultural communication, which helped me a lot and which I would highly recommend, also because it learned me how to see my experiences as personal and professional growth.

language preparation

The language of the courses I chose was in English, so for me that did not require any preperation since I was already used to attend courses in English. But I knew before I left that I wanted to learn Hungarian, and since that is an extremely hard language to learn, I wanted to prepare myself a little bit. I bought an Hungarian language book for dummies and I downloaded a Hungarian language application on my phone to practice and get familiar with the language.

finances

The semsester before I went on exchange, I worked a lot to save money for my Erasmus. I heard from former Erasmus students in Budapest that it is very easy and common to travel a lot from Budapest to other places during the stay, so I know I had to save some extra money for that. In the end I hade more money left than calculated, partly because I received 90 euro's per month from the public transport organisation in the Netherlands (OV-vergoeding) and I payed only 50 euro's during the whole semester for a public transport card in Budapest.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
As preparation for my Erasmus I had to choose my courses according to the website of my university in Budapest. When I arrived in Budapest, I found out that none of the courses I choose were actually available that semester, so I had to change everything. This was a bit of a disappointment, but luckily there were a lot of other interesting courses I could choose. Also it took some time to change all the courses in the papers for my Erasmus, but since I could just go to my coordinator here to collect the signature it worked out fine. The system of choosing courses in Budapest is different from what I was used to. I was advised to sign in for more courses than I could take, and then the first week of the courses I could visit every one to see what I liked. After that week I had to choose the courses I was going to follow. For me this system worked really good, because I had a clear image of the courses I picked.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education in my university in Budapest is different from what I was used to in the Netherlands. In Budapest it was really diverse: some teachers were much more qualified than others. Also the way of teaching differs. Some teachers really appreciate it when you ask critical questions and give your opinion, others are completely the opposite. For me it took some time and awkward moments to find out which teachers prefer what attitude, but once I found that out everything worked out fine.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
My university had a mentor system for exchange students, which helped me especially in the first weeks to get to know the university. Also there was an introductionweek organized with different kind of activities to get to know each other and the university. After the first few weeks I did not need a lot of counselling and support, except for the few times I needed signatures from the coordinator.
transfer of credits
All the courses from my faculty are 5 ECTS. The grades differ from 1 to 5, and only when you get a 1 you failed the course. My credits are not transferred yet, so I do not know exactly how much a 5 will be worth in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The first few weeks there were a lot of activities and parties organized for the new exchange students. Different organizations are operating in Budapest to organize these kind of events: Erasmus life Budapest, which organized mostly parties, ESN, which organizes trips and events, and lastly my university organized an introductionweek the first week. I participated in a lot of events and parties from these organizations in the first few weeks, because it was a perfect opportunity to get to know my fellow students and also students from other universities. With ESN I went on a trip to Eger, a small city 2 hours away from Budapest, which I really enjoyed. I also went to a festival ESN organized in cooperation with my university, and to several picnicks, pubcrawls and movienights. In the first few weeks I also went to some parties organized by Erasmus life Budapest, but later I found other club and bars I preferred to go.
accommodation	I found my accommodation via the exchange students facebook group of Utrecht University. I contacted a girl who studied in Budapest the semester before me, and she recommended her apartment to me. When looking back at it, I am very happy I did this, because it made me feel secure about the place I was going to stay. I couldn't have wished for a better accommodation. I stayed in a flat with 11 other Erasmus students, who turned out to become my second family. First I was a little bit hesitated about living with so many other people, but since your real family is not around, it is nice to always have so many people around, and I never felt lonely during my stay because of this. Accommodation for exchange students in Budapest is usually much more expansive than for the local students. It is possible to find a cheaper option, but it takes a lot of time and effort, and that can be hard since you have to arrange it from a distance.
leisure & culture	



In my free time I made a lot of trips to other places in Hungary and also to neighbour countries. It is really easy and cheap to travel from Budapest to other places, and a lot of Erasmus students do it. Otherwise there are plenty of nice places and events to attend and see in Budapest. Especially when the weather is good, there is a lot of life on the streets and in the parks and there are a lot of day festivals and open air concerts and parties which are really nice.

suggestions/tips

Lots of events are organized every day in Budapest and sometimes it is hard to keep up with what is going on. A solution for this is Facebook: almost all of the events are put on Facebook, so if you go to a place you like, just find them on facebook and like their page, so they will invite you to their next events. Also follow the pages created for Erasmus students, and the page for tourists in Budapest called 'we love Budapest' (there is an English version). Here you will find what is going on every weekend. Next to that I would like to advice to go to the Rudas baths, picknick at the liberty bridge, see the sunset from the Gellert hill, and just wonder around the city and go to streets you have never been before. Because around every corner there is something new to discover!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university and destination. Budapest is the perfect city to live for half a year/ a year abroad, since there are so much things to do and to discover and the city is very young and lively (and relatively cheap). To me it is a mix of different cultures and mentalities, with a big amount of international students that will make you feel at home in less than a week. Also my university was really nice, even though in the beginning I had some conflicts with the different mentalities of some of the teacher (but maybe that was just bad luck). Any way the organization of the university is good, and together with the amazing city you will learn a lot about yourself and others and have a wonderfull once-in-a-lifetime experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Please contact me if you would like to know more about the university or the city or to gain some insider tips of nice places and events to go!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Lóránd University
start date	07 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite a lot effort, but it's also really helpful for your preparation. You have to make some plans like a financial- and study plan and you have to write a motivation letter.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from the international office is really good. When you need a sign or you have a question they answer really quick.

academic preparation

I was already in my fourth year when i started my erasmus so academic preparation was not really necessary. I knew how to write an academic essay, how to make references etc.

language preparation

I didn't need to prepare, because i knew all the courses will be in english. My english was good enough to go there and follow the courses. I knew hungarian was quite impossible to learn so i wasn't planning to really learn it. I followed a hungarian language course during the semester but it was more for fun then that i really wanted to learn the language.

finances

Before leaving i had to make a financial plan, this was really helpful. I didn't get stufi anymore so i had to loan quite a lot from the government. Of course there was also erasmus scholarship an ov money and my parents transferred me some money every month to. The livingcosts in budapest weren't that expensive but of course you go on trips and parties more often, so its important to save some money for your erasmus time.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before leaving to Budapest i had to make a study plan in which i selected some courses i wanted to follow. I used the study programme of the autumn semester on the website of ELTE, but when i came to the university on my first day i found out the courses were totally different. Some courses were still there but there were also a lot of new courses or courses were gone. On the first day they gave you a list of english courses you can follow and then you could subscribe for these courses on Neptun (our osiris). Unfortunalty there was a problem with my neptun code which causes a problem because when i wanted to subscribe for courses a lot of them were already full. A lot of students had problems like this so they said to us to just go the courses you want to follow



on the first week of lessons and ask the teacher if you could join the class or not. It was a lot of effort with sending a lot of mails to teachers and the ICT guy who had to sign you up for the courses, but in the end i selected the courses i wanted to follow.

academic quality of education activities

The niveau of studying in budapest is a lot lower then in the Netherlands. The most important thing for them is that you are attended during courses and you actively participate in class. The grading system is in budapest from 1 (fail) to 5 (excellent) and if you do your best in class they give you a 5 really easily. I actually only got 5's so that will be a 10 in Holland. For the courses at social science you got 5 ECT and for each course you have one lecture of 2h each week. Most of the courses don't have a test as final exam but a essay. I followed 5 courses so at the end of the semester i had to write a lot of essays. This requires a bit more effort but it improved my writing skills a lot.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at ELTE was really well organized. When you needed a sign or stamp for something they answered really fast. There was also a ICT guy who you could mail if you had a problem with the neptun system (osiris for us) or other ICT problems. They were really helpful and you could always go to their office if you need help with something.

transfer of credits

I passed all my exams so i received 25 ect for the courses and another 3 ect for hungarian language course. I haven't submitted it yet to the university of Utrecht, but i think it will be fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was well organized and i met in the first week already a lot of people. There were course parties and fun activities. But there was also help with for example going to the quastera office to get your student id and so on. They also assigned me a mentor and we tried to meet, but because i was earlier in budapest i already found a lot of people to hang around with. So i didn't really need her help, but she was nice.

accommodation

I arrived almost a month before the start of the semester because i wanted to go to sziget first. Because of this i had to find a flat on time. Because the housing services were not really fast in responding i decided to search for a room by myself. I became a member of a lot of facebook Erasmus Budapest groups. In these groups a lot of landlords post their houses so i responded on a few of them. I was a bit scared to say yes to a room you have never been before but in the end i was very lucky with my landlord. He was really nice and we could always call him if there was something wrong. I lived with 4 other guys and girls, it was really small but i didn't need that much space so it was fine. One of the best things about my flat was that it was on the 4/6 tram line, i would really recommend to find a house close to it.

leisure & culture

In my leisure time i spent a lot of time doing fun stuff with friends. Budapest is never boring and there are always parties going on. We also made a lot of trips, because traveling in eastern europe is really cheap and a lot of other countries are close. The culture is not really different but the biggest culture shock for me were all the homeless people on the street. When you are in budapest as a tourist you don't really notice it but when you live there for a while you will see that the hungarian people have to work really hard for their money.

suggestions/tips

Just enjoy amazing budapest! Climb the gellert hill, go to the spa or to margrit island if you want some rest after all the parties. Be open for everything and have fun!



CONCLUSIONS

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

I think you can have an amazing erasmus experience in every city. I was really happy i choose budapest. It was well organized, an amazing city and i met so many great people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

no



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	ELTE
start date	07 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Everyone is talking about a lot of paperwork for the application proces, but it is really okay. There are some forms you have to fill in and some signatures you have to collect, but most of it is pretty easy to collect by email.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office was really helpfull and responded really quick when you had questions. The process is well explained at the information evening and in the emails.

academic preparation

I didn't need any academic preparation, I went on Erasmus in my fourth year of my study in Utrecht, so I was kind of used to university and the courses in Budapest didn't require any preparation.

language preparation

I didn't have language preparation because my study in Budapest was in English and my English was sufficient enough to go there without any extra preparation. I can say that my English was not that good, but really fine enough for going there and be fine.

finances

I saved some money before going, and I took a loan from DUO. Also I got Erasmus grant and public transport grant. Anyways, Budapest is cheap, and you can live cheap, but still I spent a lot of money because I wanted to enjoy my time and not hold back with things because of money. So it depends a bit of what you want to do, but if you're also going on trips etc, you spent more then at home I think. But its worth it!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed courses at the faculty of Social Sciences in Budapest. I had to fill in courses before going there, but that was based on the old program. So the first week at university you could join all the courses for trying out and then decide which ones you wanted to take. Also you can take a few courses at another faculty if you want, so for example I took a course at the law faculty as well. I followed courses that were a bit different then the courses I already did in Utrecht so it was a complement for my study.

academic quality of education activities

The quality is lower than in Utrecht, they expect less from you than in Utrecht and the form of teaching is different. For a lot of courses the grading was writing an essay or presentations instead of an exam. But for example I took a course of the law faculty which was a bit more difficult because I am not used to law. So it also



depends on the courses you take. Also some courses are master courses so they are a bit more difficult.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office in Budapest was really helpfull and could always help me with questions or providing the papers I needed to fill in for the Erasmus grant. They are used to have Erasmus students on the university so they know what to do.

transfer of credits

I don't know yet because I still have to wait for my transcript of records and send it to Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a comprehensive welcome programme. There were a lot of activities and opportunities to meet people. I didn't join them all because I already knew a big group of people trough my flat, but it was usefull and if you want there is enough. Also there is a welcome weekend by ESN (the Erasmus Student Network), they also organise pubcrawls/pubquizes etc. Also at university there were some orientationdays with information and welcome talks, so it was pretty clear and there was time to get used to the university.

accommodation

Everyone said it is pretty easy to find a flat in Budapest and I found one really fast. But I also heard people for who it was pretty hard. Some people just came here and booked a hostel for the first days to look for it here, but I heared a lot of flats were rented already then. So I will recommend to look for a flat before. There are a lot of facebook groups you can join. Just like 'flats budapest' 'erasmus budapest' etc, where houseowners post their flat. I had an amazing flat with 11 other erasmus students and I think that was one of the best choices, so you can always ask me for the contacts.

leisure & culture

Budapest is such an amazing city, there is so much to do and to experience. Especially in my first weeks we did everyday something new, city walks, musea, nice bars and parks. The city is really alive and I was never bored there. There are things for everyone, cultural events, parties, sightsees. Hungarians are sometimes a bit grumpy (especially in supermarkets) but Budapest is a really international city. The language is not understandable at all, but mostly you can do it with English.

suggestions/tips

Just try to explore the city as much as you can, when you stay somewhere longer you have time to do the more local and unknown activities. Also Budapest is really central, so perfect for trips to neighbour countries. We have been to Serbia, Slovakia and Poland, all places where maybe normally won't go that quickly, but really worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes absolutely. If you really want to go for high quality education you shouldn't go to ELTE/Budapest, because the level is lower then in Utrecht. But the city and the whole experience is so worth it. Budapest is, what I said, such a lively city and there is so much to do, so many international people and just a perfect city to live for a while. I think it is on almost every exchange, but I made friends for life and I'm really happy that I spent my time in Budapest with all these amazing people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you want to know some more, you can always contact me.