



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

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
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was made very clear to me during the information lecture of the International Office. You are supposed to write an essay about your first choice destination. Soon after the deadline of the UU I was selected for ELTE. I contacted the receiving university as soon as possible because it can take some while before you get a response back. The International Office of ELTE was very friendly and signed all my documents immediately.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of Social Sciences has been a great support for me. They respond almost within 1 or 2 working days. I forgot to email my courses to the Exam Commission but the International Office helped me with this. They do not monitor everything that you need to arrange so it can be wise to check the website thoroughly and make a list so that you do not forget anything.

academic preparation

I did not have to do any academic preparation before I went on Erasmus.

language preparation

It is obliged to do a language assessment on the Erasmus+ website for your grant. This did not take me a lot of time.

finances

I saved some money for my Erasmus and I received my grant before I went to Budapest. Everything is somewhat cheaper than in the Netherlands so my costs were not that high. It is wise to have some money if you want to visit other countries in eastern Europe.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before you apply, you have to choose between the faculty of Social Sciences and the faculty of Psychology & Education. It is wise to check the available courses of both faculties and base your decision on that. I have chosen for the faculty of Social Sciences because the psychology courses seemed to be too much overlap with the courses I already followed at the UU. You need to check this carefully! During the introduction week in september, it is explained how you can register for courses. After that, you have a two week registration period



so this is very different than how it works at the UU. However, at lot of courses have a maximum headcount so you need to be fast. If a course is full, you need to approach the teacher to ask for permission to follow the course. Because of all that, your courses can change and you need to communicate that to the Exam Commission because they need to approve your courses. A lot of course I changed by the time I arrived in Budapest so my Learning Agreement changed a lot. Also, the courses at ELTE have a most of the time 3, 4 or 5 ECTS so you need to take a lot of smaller courses. It is allowed to do 10 of the 30 ECTS on another faculty. I can highly recommend to do that.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education acitivities is lower and not that intensive as in Utrecht. All my courses had lectures, some of which were obliged and some were not. It really depends on the teacher how well they speak English. I did not had any working groups.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office at Eötvös Lóránd University replied fast on my emails. Sometimes I did not get any respons and after I had send a reminder they replied almost immediately. Be aware of this, I think they miss emails sometimes.

transfer of credits

ELTE has two semsters in a year, which means that I had courses until the beginning of December and after that my exam period started. You get a couple of exam dates for each course so it is somewhat more flexible than at the UU. The teachers were very fast with giving my results back.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programm of Social Sciences was only two days and not that special. However, I can recommend to go because they explain how you can register for courses and other useful information is given.

accommodation

I arranged my own appartment via the site of Erasmusu. There are a lot of facebook groups which offer appartments for Erasmus students. District V, VI, and VII are nice areas to stay and close to the university. The prices for a room in the city centre are friendly priced and somewhat cheaper as in Utrecht.

leisure & culture

Budapest is the capital of Hungary so the city is never boring. It has a rich history which can be discovered in daily life. My appartment was in the Jewish quarter and almost everything was within walking distance. You have restaurants, ruin bars, shops, and clubs everywhere. There are a lot of parties for international students and the prices of food and drinks are cheap compared to the Netherlands. It is also very cheap to do sports at ELTE in your free time.

suggestions/tips

When the weather is still good, there are a lot of outside ruin bars where you can have a drink. I really like the ambiance there. In the beginning, a free walking tour is a good way to explore the city. I also arranged some trips to Slovenia, Bratislava, lake Balaton, Croatia, and Berlin. Exploring eastern Europe is very easy out of Budapest and I can really recommend it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely recommend Budapest to others. The Erasmus community is really big so there are many international students. Not everything is that well arranged at ELTE compaired to the UU but I was not surprised by that. It is still an eastern bloc country and old-fashioned compaired to the Netherlands. Also, Hungarian is a



very difficult language and not easy to learn. The university offers a language course to international students but I did not participate. In my opinion, the city is a great mixture of old historic buildings and new places.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Going on exchange, to Budapest or another destination, is a great way to make new friends and explore other countries. If you want to improve your English and do something totally different it is great for you.



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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)

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, cafées, 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

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!

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.

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>See end note for * and **</i>	<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 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)

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)	<p>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.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>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.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>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.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>I got my credits but they are not transferred yet so it is hard to say something about that.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>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.</p>
accommodation	<p>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.</p>
leisure & culture	<p>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 musea. The terror haza and the hospital in the rock are interesting musea 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.</p>



suggestions/tips

Go on trips! It is very cheap with flibus 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?

Dont'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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<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: a.sharifi@students.uu.nl</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Awesta Sharifi</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><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: @</p>	
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)

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)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

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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)

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 dingetje, 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 flibbus 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 rhythms, 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 starts, 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 safe. 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 administration 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.