



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	Sociology

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Before departure there was not that much you had to do/prepare. Just the regular things like your Erasmus grant. However, all students have to do this, wherever you will go as Erasmus student. There is not a specific TCD preparation necessary.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	UU was very helpful. You could always send them an e-mail with questions or whatsoever. They responded quickly and were not judgemental when you wer asking stupid questions.
academic preparation	Not necessary. Whilst I think it is worth noting that all assignments at TCD (Social Sciences) have to be done individually (except for presentations) while at UU most assignments are group projects. Thus, writing papers is at UU done in groups but at TCD individually. However, this depends on your faculty. Business for example did have group papers. Just be aware of that, but you do not need any preparation!
language preparation	There was no language preparation necessary. At TCD everything is - off course - English and you did not have to do any preperation for that. The level of english used by teachers and students is perhaps higher than at UU at english modules, but you will definitely be able to manage.
finances	I think Dublin is more expensive than for example Krakau or a city in southern Europe, mostly since the rent is high in Dublin, but it is definitely worth it! However, there are many places to get cheap food for students. Most important; remember that maybe you will spend more money during your time aborad than back in the Netherlands, but studying abroad will be something you remember for the rest of your life; so do not worry too much about the money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I liked the courses I followed and I liked that you had the possiility to follow courses outside your regular curriculum. You could easily follow modules from another department. So if you study psychology it is no problem if you would like to follow a filosophy module. Some modules have mid terms, other don't .



academic quality of education activities
The content of the courses was very good, I definitely learned things while at TCD. At UU we have 1, 2 and 3 point modules, at TCD they do not have this schema. However UU will assign each module 1, 2 or 3 points. Though I do think that in general, a "2" point module at TCD is a bit more difficult than a 2 point module at UU. However, it was not too difficult/ too hard to pass. Since all papers were supposed to be written individually for our faculty, it was a bit harder, but the content was in general fine.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
All teachers were super helpful. You could always send them an e-mail with questions regarding the content of the course, or about your assignment. All teachers were happy to help you when necessary. Also, each module has two hours a week in which you can come visit your teacher in his/her office to ask questions.
transfer of credits
I think that transferring the credits is done pretty strict. I think that at UU you can easier get a grade of 7 or higher than at Trinity, but a 7 at Trinity is just seen as a 7 at UU. I personally think that a 7 at Trinity may be seen as a 8 at UU. Because higher grades are tougher to get at Trinity than at UU.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	In the first week there was an orientation week, in which you got a tour on campus. While there was not really a program with activities etc, I definitely recommend you to go, since you will be assigned to a mentor group where you will meet your new best friends! Also, there are parties the first week, but those are not organized by the university. Depending on your mentors, they will organise fun activities to do with you mentors and mentor group.
accommodation	Dublin has some student accommodations; you'll live with a few others in an apartment, share a kitchen and living room and have your own bathroom. The rooms look a bit like hotelrooms; nice and often very new. However this is wanted by many, so you have to be quick. Also, it is expensive. An advantage of these accommodations is that you'll have roommates, so new friends immediately. Also, they organize parties especially for students living in these accommodations. There are of course also other students houses. Just look on Facebook for those. Finding a room in Dublin can be tough, and expensive. You just need a little bit of luck. I lived with a hospita and absolutely loved it. Because of this family I saw areas in Dublin which I would not have seen without them. Also, it is really nice to be part of an Irish family for a while, to experience the real Dublin. However, I was very lucky with my hospita, it really depends on the hospita. Some are more strict than other about having friends over; I was lucky that my hospita was 100% okay with having friends over for dinner and friends from back home visiting me for a weekend sleeping in the house.
leisure & culture	LOVE IT! Dublin has so many great cafés, pubs, restaurants; you will never get bored. Only 20 minutes in a train and you are in nature; enjoying a hike for example. TCD has over 70 societies you can join. Some examples of sport-societies: sailing, rowing, karate, football, soccer, horse riding, hiking, tennis etc; many more! Great opportunity to meet new people! There are also societies for the not so sporty-ones ;) Think about fashion, music, theatre, etc. Also certain groups form societies, like Christians, LGBT- community, Arab-culture, German society etc etc etc. I joined 8 societies but there were so many more I would have liked to join. The societies are just a great way to meet new people. There are also societies which organize debates and lectures. Whether you like sport, debates or theatre, I would definitely join the International society and Europe society, since they organize trips though Ireland and parties.
suggestions/tips	Make sure you join some societies, and be bold, do not be afraid to go to activities and parties the first few



weeks. These first weeks are the most important ones, because this is THE time you'll meet you new best friends.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Without a doubt; Dublin one of the cosiest, nicest and coolest cities I have ever been. After 4 months there is still so much to explore. Regarding the academic education I recommend TCD too; education is good and teachers are helpful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Ask everyone around you whether they know people in Dublin, to make sure you have a room upon arrival. Also, look at Facebook and subscribe in time for the student accomodations if you would like to live there.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> s.a.j.vanoort@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sociology

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

To apply for studying abroad you have to prepare a lot of paperwork. Although, it took some time, I didn't have any problems with it. Since all of it was presented in a clear manner. However, I did not receive my letter of acceptance from Trinity College Dublin until a month before the semester started. Somehow, they forgot to send it. Luckily, the International Office from Utrecht University got in contact with the Academic Registry at Trinity College Dublin, so in the end everything worked out.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

For all my questions I could e-mail the International Office and they always responded very fast. This helped to clear things up.

academic preparation

The courses at Trinity College Dublin are comparable with the courses at Utrecht University. There was no additional preparation needed beforehand.

language preparation



There was no preparation needed

finances

Accommodation in Dublin is very expensive. Next to this, you spend a lot more money on social activities than you do at home. For this reason, it is important to have a financial plan. I saved money before I went abroad and during my stay in Dublin I got the Erasmus Grant. So, it is definitely manageable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed two courses of Sociology and two courses of Political Science at Trinity College Dublin. Although, I didn't follow any Political Science courses at Utrecht University, the professors made sure that I could understand all the new concepts. At Trinity College Dublin you write a lot of essays, which I had never done before. This was not a big deal, because the professors at Trinity College Dublin are always happy to help with any questions I had. Like I said, I followed four courses in total. This is because the Academic Year is a bit different from Utrecht University. Their courses last an entire year, so instead of following two courses at a time, you follow four up to six courses at a time. As an Erasmus student, you will only be there for one semester, so you cannot follow the second part of the courses. For this reason, you sometimes have to write an extra essay to get all the credits. However, I only had to do this for one of the four courses. You just have to ask the teachers about this.

academic quality of education activities

As I said, the courses at Trinity College Dublin are comparable with the courses at Utrecht University. In my opinion, the level of the courses are the same. The students and professors are very motivated at Trinity College Dublin, which was nice.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

If you ask for help, they will always help you. You get a mentor, who you could contact if something is going on. Next to this, you get two student tutors during the orientation week who you could always contact. Furthermore, the professors were always willing to help with everything. They were very nice.

transfer of credits

I didn't receive all my grades yet, so I don't know yet how my grades and credits will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week is called Fresher's week, which is the welcome & orientation programme for all the new students at Trinity College Dublin. There is a separate orientation programme for Erasmus students. You get assigned to a group with two student tutors and 20 Erasmus students. The Fresher's week itself wasn't that special, because there were only things organized on Monday. The rest of the week there was nothing planned so far. However, I met a lot of nice people during the first day and we planned things to do ourselves for the entire week. This was really nice.

accommodation

Accommodation is very expensive in Dublin. In the middle of the city centre it could cost you €1000,- per month. A little bit further from the city centre it will still be between €600,- and €800,- per month. I didn't have a shared room, but some people do because it could be less expensive. So that's something you could think about. There is a big housing problem in Dublin, so it was very hard to find accommodation. You can sign up for student accommodation provided by Trinity College Dublin. However, I received my letter of acceptance too late. So, by that time the student accommodation was already fully booked. I started to look for private accommodation by then and I found a really nice house with other students. So, keep searching because in the end you will



definitely find something, even though it might seem hard in the beginning!
leisure & culture
Dublin is a great city with a lot of things to do. There are so many nice buildings, coffeeshops, pubs and amazing places to hike in the nature among cliffs. You won't get bored here. I felt at home immediately because the atmosphere is really amazing and the people are so friendly. Next to exploring the city with your friends or on your own, there are a lot of organized activities from the students societies. You can enroll in these societies during the orientation week. I subscribed for 5 or 6 societies, which is quite normal here. With the international society I went on a trip to Northern Ireland and with my friends we went to squash training twice a week from the squash society. So, there was a lot to explore and to do in and around Dublin.
suggestions/tips
Go explore everything in the city, because Dublin has a lot to offer! Furthermore, explore Ireland if you have the opportunity to do so. I went to Galway with my roommates and to the ring of Kerry with my friends and these were amazing trips I won't forget. If you don't get that opportunity, there are also a lot of great things to see near Dublin such as Howth or Bray. Join societies, meet new people and explore. Your studying abroad experience will definitely be great here in Dublin!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, I would definitely recommend Trinity College Dublin. It feels great to walk through the front gate everyday, and feel part of the community. The Irish people are very friendly and the atmosphere is amazing. I could tell everyone over and over again what a great time I had.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Since I didn't live that close to college I bought a bike here, because I preferred cycling over taking the bus everyday. This was really nice, because you see a lot of the city in this way and it was an easy way to go everywhere.	

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	Sociology

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The University of Utrecht is well organised in comparison with Trinity College Dublin. Before my stay in Utrecht I	



applied online via Osiris (Utrecht Universities online administration website). This was very easy as the tasks were explained very well. I had to send a letter to my top three universities, so I had a bigger chance of actually going abroad. Many months after I applied I got an invitation of Trinity College Dublin, which was very delayed and let me in doubt for a long time. Many of my friends got accepted many months before I did.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Half a year before I started my exchange in Dublin, we had a meeting about where to go and what we needed to expect during our stay abroad. This was well organised and all the information needed was given by the coordinators. During this time I knew how to apply, where to apply and what to take into account. If I had questions, I knew where and when to go to get answers. During my preparation it was only difficult to get housing in Dublin, so I had a lot of stress about that. I only got a room two weeks before my travel and another student did quit because of the intense stress. The international Office and Trinity College Dublin did both not help with this our could not help.

academic preparation

Before I left I had no idea what to expect of the level of education at Trinity College Dublin. Before my exchange I mainly got information about how and where to apply for an exchange and how to life abroad, but not how to deal with studying abroad. During my third week at Trinity College Dublin I got more information about this topic.

language preparation

The language level at Utrecht University is great and I did not need help for improvement.

finances

University Utrecht gave a great estimation how much it would cost to study abroad and if I could get an Erasmus Grant. Because of this I had no financial problems.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At the beginning of my stay at Trinity College Dublin I did not know what to expect. The first two weeks were scheduled for new students and for applications for courses. In reality, this was only half a day and I had two weeks off because of this. After a week everything was arranged and I started with my courses. The study programme was really clear. It has the same structure as in Utrecht, but with less periods. The teachers told clearly what to expect.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education was quite the same as in Utrecht. The teachers gave good feedback and the papers and readings were challenging. The only big issue were the presentations. For every course we had to make a presentation. These were generally very bad and still got high grades. In the Netherlands we already learn to present when we are eight years old, but students at Trinity College Dublin have no presentation skills.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

When I was abroad the communication during the first weeks were difficult, because everything has to be done face to face. Many people had questions which caused there to be a long queue at any time. In Utrecht this is done online most of the time, which causes the waiting times to be much lower. The support was good when given. The teachers gave solid answers and were clear.

transfer of credits

The transfer was quite difficult because my transcript of records got send to the wrong place multiple times, which was resolved later. The communication between Utrecht University and Trinity College Dublin was clear and I knew what grade I needed to achieve to be validated in Utrecht.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	During the first week Trinity College Dublin gave a welcoming start. First I got a tour around the campus and later I met with my mentorgroup. This was the only time I saw them, because they were all inactive. I found some other mentorgroup which became my friendgroup during my stay. During the orientationweek there was a big societymarket which really helped to find people with the same interest as you do. It was great that the memberships of these societies were cheap. I joined many societies which really helped to settle down in Dublin.
accommodation	Getting an accomodation in Dublin was really a difficult task. There is not that much housing, and if there were places to rent, they were really expensive. A lot of people got scammed by fake accomodations. I luckily did not get scammed and found a quite expensive room 30 minutes from Trinity College Dublin. There was no help from Trinity College Dublin to get an accomodation.
leisure & culture	Because of the societymarket it was really easy to get into new sports or hobbies. This game an opportunity to get better with volleyball, learn how to squash and meet fellow christians. Because the memberships were really cheap, I got motivated to join societies which I would otherwise never join. Dublin is a great city. I felt it was my hometown during my stay and I am eager to go back. People are so friendly and you can talk to every stranger. Everyone is in for a talk. In the Netherlands there is far more individualism.
suggestions/tips	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join all the societies you like, you can later choose in which society you will invest. 2. Try to get an acommodation which roommates, they help you to settle easier as well. 3. Try to use the readingweeks for reading and not as an holiday, it could cause problems. 4. Join the Europa Society and tour through all of Ireland or rent a car! It is so beautiful. 5. There are so many good places were you can get great coffees, try them all out! 6. Do not go out in the tourist area, it is far too expensive. Beers a few streets further are so less expensive.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I would definitely recommend to study in Dublin. Time flies by when you are having fun. Most of the time people think Ireland is old-fashioned, but it is totally not. In Dublin there are so many great coffeeshops, restaurants and small stores. Also the weather is not terrible either. During my stay there was far more sun than rain, even during the winter months. The people are great as well, so eager to help and so friendly. Trinity College Dublin is also a great campus. It is so beautiful. It depends on what you are going to study there, but the faculty of social sociences is very welcoming as well. The structure of the systems is very unclear and devious, for example during your registration. But it is definitely worth the waiting.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Generally, just have fun and discover Ireland. The only important thing to do is getting yourself registered as early as possible.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Utrecht University
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level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and Development sociology

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity college Dublin
start date	10 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	25 / 05 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It was a lot of paperwork, but definitely worth it. Everything was pretty well explained
counselling & support at Utrecht University	We had one meeting about the exchange before choosing a destination, and one after we had been accepted to one of our choices. The first one helped pretty well with choosing which destination could suit me best. Moreover, the support at Utrecht is pretty accessible
academic preparation	I didn't need any academic preparation
language preparation	My courses were in English, so I didn't need to learn another language.
finances	I managed to get an erasmus grant and I saved some money for the occasion

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Sociology: they didn't offer anthropology courses so I had to choose something quite similar or that comes close: in this case sociology seemed the more interesting option. Moreover, I already had taken sociology courses before so I was kind of prepared. I chose my courses online for my learning agreement, but changed some at my arrival, which was pretty easy.
academic quality of education activities	I had to follow fourth year courses, whereas I am a second year student so I was pretty sceptical at first. In the end it worked out really well so the level wasn't too high as I first expected.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There was a lot of support, especially the first week and during the orientation day. We also had a student council where we could go whenever we had a problem.
transfer of credits	The transfer of credits seemed pretty fair to me.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	



Very welcoming arrival. the first day, everything was clearly explained, and they even gave some information about the student life, the daily life etc.
accommodation
It was hard to find accomodation, especially that the prices are very high. In the end, I got a number of a landlord via a friend.
leisure & culture
I didn't really have any culture shock because it reinds me of dutch culture a bit. People are welcoming, mostly in a good mood. However there is still a lot of poverty around the city thar you can clearly see, and can sometimes be quite shocking.
suggestions/tips
Accomodation is quite hard to find, start in advance!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
yes definitely! You have a lot of freedom first of all. Secondly the university itself id beautiful and a toursitic destination. Your whole stay abroad you will feel really lucky to be able to study here. Moreover, the studentlife in dublin is very nice, so if you are looking to make friends, and really enjoy your time, Dublin is really nice.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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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	Pedagogical Sciences

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	11 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It's a lot of paperwork and preparation. It's not any difficult stuff, but it's just a lot of filling in forms, sending it back, waiting for answers, waiting for signatures etc etc. It takes some time, but at the end of the day it's worth it. I wouldn't let it stop you from doing the exchange, because eventually you will get it done. Just start in time so you won't feel stressed about it last minute.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling at UU was good, whenever I had a question I just emailed them and they responded within 1-3 days. I didn't have that much difficulties, but the things I wanted to know, they clarified for me, or helped me with.

academic preparation

I didn't really prepare any schoolwork before leaving. I sort of assumed that my knowledge would be enough. Psychology in Utrecht or Dublin would not differ that much. Which was true.

language preparation

I had already taken Cambridge English exams a couple of years back, so I had those certificates, and besides I was fluent in English already. I did need to complete a mandatory language test to get my Erasmus grant.

finances

I worked all summer to save an extra amount of money on top of my already existing savings and my student loan. Then my family surprised me by gifting some money, and I was good to go. Most my resources were from my own income though, so it's important to make sure you find a reasonable job that helps you save up

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme that I had planned to follow, I didn't end up following at all. That was my own choice though, because it turned out that I didn't really like the modules that I picked. The good thing about Trinity is that in the first two weeks, you get to "try" every module you like by going to the lectures/tutorials, and if you like them you sign up, if you don't: you pick something else. This enabled me to put together a study programme that I genuinely liked without being negatively surprised by a module once you've already signed up for it. I was pretty content with my study programme, because there was not a load of study load. I took three Psychology courses and one Sociology course (25 ECTS): the psychology courses did not have any tutorials. So turned out I had 4 lectures a week and 1 tutorial, so only 5 hours a week (lectures only take one hour at Trinity).



Obviously you still have stuff to do at home, but not as much as in Utrecht. Regarding the organisation of the study programma: when signing up to courses, you have to print and fill in a form and get it stamped/signed by your coordinator, which is super inconvenient (we are used by doing everything online).
academic quality of education activities
As I stated above, the work load was not that heavy. I had a lot of free time, especially the first couple of weeks. The academic quality really differs per module, but overall I think Utrecht has a higher level of education, especially when it comes to Social Sciences. However, it is fun to see how Trinity puts different emphasis on certain aspects of courses, then Utrecht would.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are plenty of opportunities for counseling, support, advice and a lot of services that you can turn to: Student2Student mentoring for example, which they promote a lot. It's actually one of the first thing I noticed about Trinity, we got SO much information on where to find people if you didn't feel well, were stressed, or had any questions. Also, the Global Room or the Student Union are always there to help as well.
transfer of credits
My credits and grades have not been transferred yet, because it takes a while. By the end of January, all professors should hand in the grades at the Registry where they start processing them. This take up to the end of February/beginning of March.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
We started off the schoolyear with Freshers' week, which was an amazing experience. During the day there's loads of stalls at campus where you can join one of the 100+ societies (definitely do so!) and get to know fellow students. Every night in Freshers' week there's a (themed) party night: those were a few of the best nights I've had in Dublin, and you are guaranteed to meet a lot of Irish there as well because they join in Freshers'week too. I wasn't too impressed by the tour around campus, we got from two students, it was pretty chaotic, and eventually you will find your way on campus by yourself, it's not too difficult. Orientation for Internationals was pretty basic, but that didn't bother me that much.
accommodation
Finding accommodation in Dublin is a crime.... It's extremely difficult, you have to watch yourself not getting scammed and most of all: it's super expensive. I stayed at a lovely, big, new, international student complex, which was absolutely amazing (sorted out through Trinity, just email them) but it was about 1000 euros a month... That's almost triple the amount I pay in Holland. After all it was worth it though, because at least I had a super pleasant stay, very near to the city centre, with loads of other internationals. For rooms further away, smaller, older etc. you still pay around 700 euros.. In summary, Dublin is expensive.
leisure & culture
The Irish are incredibly nice and the atmosphere in the entirety of Ireland is very pleasant and cosy. People in the pubs are super friendly, and the people are very willing to help. There is so much to do in Dublin, but also in all of Ireland (See suggestions and tips below). The nature is beautiful, there are many many events throughout the year (check facebook regularly) and every night is a night to go out (Monday? No problem!) The city is very lively, big enough but not TOO big.
suggestions/tips
Definitely make as many trips within Ireland! School is not that intense the first weeks, so take out the weekends to take trips to Northern Ireland (Belfast, Giant's Causeway), Galway (!!!), Cork, Wicklow & Glendalough and many many more. All of these places were so beautiful and not that far away. It gives you a better view on how the Irish live at the countryside, because Ireland is not only Dublin. "Couchies" as the people from the countryside call themselves, can be very different from the people in the big city (tourists,



other internationals). Travelling more to the south and west enables you to meet the "actual locals".

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! Trinity is very beautiful, has a lot of status in Ireland and Dublin as a city is simply amazing: great nightlife, friendly people, always something to do, beautiful surroundings, interesting history. I would totally recommend studying in Dublin.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you make an accurate financial overview and save loads of money before you leave: you will need it.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Faculty of 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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process at first was a bit confusing. You'll have a lot to consider and a lot of forms to fill in. But while doing it things become clear and you can always get help, so I didn't have any problems with it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I emailed a lot to the international office and they always replied within a day, so the support I got was very good. They really helped me with the forms and they also cleared a lot up.

academic preparation

I also followed modules in Sociology in Dublin, so I knew what I was getting into. It stroke me that in Utrecht we learn a lot more of statistical analyses and a lot more of writing papers then in Dublin, so I felt really well prepared.

language preparation

The English modules in Utrecht were sufficient for me to go abroad to an English speaking country. It also helped that I went on an exchange before.

finances

The finances were okay for me. Applying to the Erasmus grant is a lot of work, but it's very nice that you'll get so much money. It enabled me to go abroad. I do recommend to really think about the expenses before you'll go abroad, because you'll spend a lot more on social activities than you'll do at home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had two modules in Sociology, and one in Irish literature and language. The last module I took because of the timetable, and a lot of modules didn't fit. I had fun following a module in literature, a topic I'm not used to. The module was about medieval Irish literature and modern Irish literature. We had to read a lot of stories for the lectures which we would discuss. I had to write two essays in this module.

The first sociology module was conflict studies which I really liked. We had a case-study of Northern Ireland, which was very interesting and recent. Every week we had to write a personal reflection of the literature, the lecture and the seminar. The full journal of these reflections was our final grade.

The other sociology module was social networks and digital lives. We had to write a critique of one of the literature texts of that week, and in the seminars we would discuss all the readings and the lecture. The final grade would be an essay about one of the topics of the seminar.



The organisation of the modules was somewhat chaos, since all the content was released quite late in the semester.
academic quality of education activities
I really liked that the focus in Dublin is on critical thinking. In essays the teachers really want to know what you've learned and what you think about certain things. That really activates your own thinking more than the assignments in Utrecht. However, I missed the statistical tools I use in Utrecht for my arguments and in my papers, because in Dublin it was only theory and own thoughts.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
A teacher of Sociology was assigned to me as some kind of mentor. We've met once, and I could ask her anything and mail her with problems. She was also my teacher for conflict studies, so I've seen her a lot.
transfer of credits
I don't have my grades yet, so I'm not sure if I have all of my credits and how they're going to be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme was nice. The only thing I didn't like was that Erasmus students and international students were separated in the introduction week. I would have liked to meet those people too. For the Erasmus students not a lot of activities were planned in the orientation week, but I've met a lot of people during that week and we decided to do a lot of things ourselves.
accommodation
I had to find my own accommodation, which I found in advance. I was very lucky in that aspect. I shared a room with another girl, because it's cheaper. Dublin is very expensive to live in, and renting a single room is about 700 euros a month. By sharing a room I paid 350 euros for a shared house very close to the city center. So depending on the money you want to spend you can find what you want. Finding accommodation however is quite hard, because there are not a lot of rooms and a lot of people looking for accommodation. So you'll have to start looking quite a time in advance. Also it's normal in Dublin to not have a contract in the apartment. This is good for you if you want to leave all over sudden, but it also makes the rent unsure. I know a few people who got kicked out for nothing by their landlord, so you'll have to be careful for that.
leisure & culture
Dublin is an amazing city! You'll have everything you need, because the city has a lot to offer. So the city is great. The student unions in Trinity all have their own activities, so if you want you'll have something to do every day of the week. It's also very easy to escape the busy city by taking a train to the coast and the little coastal towns. Also the train connection to other parts of the island are great from Dublin. Belfast is only 2 hours away, and is very affordable by train for students.
suggestions/tips
The international students society in Trinity had a lot of trips to other parts of the island for a really good price. I really liked to go with them to explore more of Ireland. Trinity also offers language courses in Gaelic. I really enjoyed these, although Gaelic is quite a useless language for me. I met a lot of people here and I also feel that I know the Irish culture and history better now. Another tip is to rent a car and drive around Ireland in the reading week. It's so beautiful and the country isn't that big, so you'll get to see and do a lot in a short amount of time. I bought a cycle in Dublin to get around the city and I really enjoyed it. Dublin doesn't have a lot of bike lanes, so cycling could be quite dangerous. If you do want to cycle I would recommend you always have lights with you and a bright jacket. The cycling saved me a lot of money on the public transport, but it also caused me some



stress because of the big traffic. Everyone in Dublin walks, and to be frank, the city is small enough to walk as well. And the taxi's are quite cheap as well.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend Dublin to others! Like I explained the city and the county of Ireland are great. The people are very friendly and I felt really welcome. Trinity is a university with a lot of internationals and student societies. So you'll have all the opportunities to make the most of the time there.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	16 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not too bad. You received a document of Trinity College which you have to fill in. I was uncertain of the meaning of a few things on the form, but the International Office could help me out. However, things are much better organised here than in Dublin. They are quite late with everything. I already heard from another person that she did not receive the letter of acceptance. I did receive the letter, but something went wrong with my administration in their system. I could solve this problem before the start of the semester, because I was already in Dublin. I would recommend to be there at least one week in advance, just in case that something like that happens. It is much easier to get things done through face-to-face contact compared to contact via e-mail.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at Utrecht University was really good. You can ask everything and they respond very fast. They are really willing to help.

academic preparation

I followed several Sociology modules, so I did not need any preparation beforehand. I already had enough background information from my courses here and the teachers really do not mind to explain something if you do not understand what they are talking about.

language preparation

No preparation needed, because the language is English of course.

finances

Dublin is a bit more expensive than Utrecht, especially accommodations. It is therefore very important to make a good financial plan including enough money for unexpected expenses. You will not get a single room for less than 650 per month (or you are really lucky). It might be a good idea to think about a room share, but they are also not cheap (I paid 450 per month for a room shared with one other person).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content is really interesting. Regarding the level of the courses, it is not very different to Utrecht. However, the organisation is a bit different. They follow their modules for an entire year, which results in doing 5/6 modules at ones. After the first semester you have to write a paper for every module and after the second semester there will be an exam period. However, if you are an Erasmus student for only one semester, you only



have to do the papers. (You have to ask your lecturers to be sure, but in most of the cases it will be like that.) The courses can be arranged via the Academic Registry. You have to get a few signatures from different people and it is not always very clear to who you should go. However, like I said, the Irish people are very helpful, so just send an e-mail when something is unclear.

academic quality of education activities

Like I said, the academic quality is not very different. However, the students are more competitive which means that they often come to the tutorials better prepared than the Dutch students I had tutorials with. There is a more motivated atmosphere, which is really nice, because that way it is also easier for you to do more. Furthermore, the teachers are very inspiring as well.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support was not always that good, unless you ask for it yourself. So I will really recommend that you are proactive in searching help. That way everything will work out just fine.

transfer of credits

I had to submit my last paper on the 16th of January and I only received my grade last week (22nd of February). I still have not received my Transcript of Grades so I am not really able to say something about the transfer of the credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Trinity College was very welcoming. The orientation programme was really clear and the mentors made sure that we had a good time. They were also very open and stimulated us to ask as many questions as we wanted. The Freshers' Week was a big happening and you should really attend it. It is a good way to meet others. Also, join as many societies as you can. Joining is really cheap and you can always decide later which societies you really like regarding the stuff they do and how the members are.

accommodation

Accommodation is really expensive, like I mentioned earlier. Do not expect the best of it. However, if you keep that on mind beforehand, it is not that bad. Also, go to Dublin at least a week before the start of the semester so that you can look for an accommodation. Most of the people want to see your face in real life before they accept you.

leisure & culture

The culture is really nice. The stereotype about the pub culture is definitely true and it is a nice way to come into contact with others. Especially when you are open-minded. The Irish people are one of the nicest people I have ever met. Just join societies and your experience will definitely be great!

suggestions/tips

I think I mentioned all of my tips already.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Trinity College. They are very welcoming and it really feels as an honor to study there. The atmosphere is great and the quality is really good. It is very easy to have conversations with the Irish people and their culture is really nice.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Faculty of 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	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process wasn't too much of an effort. I believe I needed to send my resumé, a motivation letter and my grades. I had to send my application to Trinity by post (so on actual paper) which I thought was pretty old-fashioned, but it all went well.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There were enough possibilities at UU to ask questions about the exchange, for instance at the information meetings or via email.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I didn't do any language preparation.

finances

It took some time and effort to arrange the Erasmus grant, but it is worth it. For Ireland you get 270 euros per month. For the rest I upped my loan at DUO and I had some of my own savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did three modules in Sociology, but two of them were pretty different in content from what I was used to from Utrecht, so that was interesting. Furthermore I did a module that was especially for Erasmus students, a module about Irish language and literature, which was very interesting.

The signing up for the modules was very chaotic. You had to find the right modules on the website, but for a lot of them it was not clear whether you could join them being an Erasmus student. Also, for some modules the timetables weren't available yet. It all had to be done offline, and you had to get a signature from every different coordinator. Eventually it all worked out fine, but it is very inefficient and somewhat stressful.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is equal to the quality I am used to at Utrecht, which is high. Still it was pretty easy to get good grades, so maybe the expectations from the professors are lower.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The counselling was poor, since they didn't even assign a tutor to me. There were students assigned to you, but not someone who was working at Trinity.

transfer of credits

The credits are transferred 1 to 1, so that is easy.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week was the orientation week. The program wasn't that full. It could be a bit more, but there were enough moments to gain information and to get to know other students.

accommodation

There was the opportunity to live in halls, but only if you were studying at trinity for the full year (or if you got lucky and got a spare room). But it is actually more fun to live more closely to the city center. The university is in the middle of the city center, and halls are all pretty far. Rooms are very expensive in Dublin, and it is normal to share a room with somebody else. This is what I did because it is a lot cheaper. It is not ideal, but I expected it to be worse. I had a large living room, so I actually only slept in my room.

To find a room it is best to look while you are already in Dublin, because people like it when you tell them that you can come by tomorrow. There are several Facebook pages where there are a lot of rooms posted. I found my room within 2 days.

leisure & culture

Dublin is a lovely city. It is not too big, so you can easily walk everywhere in the city center, but there is lots to do. The pubs are always good fun, with lots of beer and live music (live music is super important in Ireland). There are also lots of interesting (often free) museums. There are cute café's (with the best cakes ever) everywhere. Dublin has the biggest city park of Europe where you can find wild deers while taking a walk and there is a zoo. The surroundings of Dublin are also very pretty (Ireland as a total actually). You can take a train for 15 minutes and you feel like you are in a total different world. Absolutely love Dublin and Ireland.

suggestions/tips

Go and explore Ireland! It is so pretty and it can be done pretty cheap (by trains and busses).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely! The efficiency at Trinity is let down and makes for some irritations, but that is the only downsides to studying in Dublin. Don't let this discourage you. I had an absolute blast studying there and I would want to have missed it. The people (Irish are the nicest ever), the city, the culture, the university, all are truly grand (as they say in Ireland).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just go there!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

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

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	15 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 05 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

To apply for Trinity College Dublin it was necessary to fill in a five page application form. This wasn't much trouble to fill in as the International Office knew most of the information that I couldn't fill in. The only thing that you should be on time with is to apply for an European Health Insurance Card soon enough as you need the number of this card on your application. It took forever however to get a response from Trinity College, I filled in the part of the application that said that I wanted proof that the application was received by Trinity College and I never received anything from them. In the end I asked UU International Office to send Trinity College a message and that's when I found out I was admitted.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

International Office were very helpful and had an answer to all my questions. The only thing is that they only have a couple office hours per week and you can expect big queues at these hours.

academic preparation

At Trinity I followed two courses from Irish Studies, two Sociology courses and one Business course. All these courses were good to follow and I didn't need any preparation. Especially the teacher from Irish Studies made sure that everyone understood what he was teaching.

language preparation

As English is the spoken language, any preparation wasn't necessary.

finances

Ireland is definitely an expensive country, the average rent for living in the city centre is about 700 euros. And not just rent is more expensive the cost of living is a lot higher too. I had saved up about a 1000 euros for this exchange, on top off the erasmus grant and transport money you get from the government, and have spent it all. However the minimum wage when I was in Ireland was 9,50 so if you get a job you can earn it all back.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme at Trinity was definitely a lot different than at Utrecht University. Trinity works with a two semester system where it is required that you take 30 ECTS per semester. This comes down to taking around 5/6 modules at a time. The first 12 weeks of the semester are filled with following lectures and tutorials which all take an hour instead of two hours at Utrecht University. Then after the twelve weeks of classes there is a 4 week study period where you prepare for your exams. And then exam period starts.



To apply for the modules you want to take, you have to fill in a form from academic registration and collect signatures from the different department coordinators. This is all well explained in a meeting held by the department coordinators and at this meeting the coordinators were available to sign forms. You can find the curriculum of modules you can follow online.

academic quality of education activities

Educational quality at Trinity is excellent. After I arrived in Ireland I heard that is a very prestigious University and you have to get very good grades in high school to get admitted to Trinity. All my lecturers were excellent teachers especially at the Irish Studies department. The Sociology module I took was comprised out of 12 subjects, one for each week, and all had a different lecturer. Most of these lecturers were researchers at the ESRI a prestigious research institute in Dublin.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The first official day I was expected at Trinity there was a big presentation for all the international students with all the information I needed to know. There was also a global room for international students where you could pop in for any questions or meet other international students. Personally I didn't really need anymore guiding as all the information I needed was given at the presentation and the department presentation. But I did sign up for the buddy programme and this was very helpful. I met up with my buddy a couple of times and she was studying at Trinity and went on exchange to Utrecht the year before me so she definitely knew all the differences between the universities and could give me some helpful study tips.

transfer of credits

Does not apply yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Since I was entering the Hilary term and not the Michaelmas term I missed freshers week. This is the first week of the year where it is possible to become a member of every society. However there was a small stand with a few societies in the global room especially for the international students following the Hilary term. There was also a walking tour of Dublin organized for all the international students and during the academic term there were all different kinds of activities organized for international students. An example is new 2 Dublin which was held every Monday in the Global room.

accommodation

Before arriving in Dublin I've heard many horror stories from other international students about finding a room in Dublin, especially that it was very hard to find one but also that you were paying a lot of money for a room that wasn't worth it. After experiencing it myself I found out it's not that bad but accommodation is definitely more expensive than here. Eventually I found a room after about three days of searching but I especially picked a neighbourhood far out of the city centre. This room was also not that expensive and the travelling costs I made were covered by the public transport grant.

leisure & culture

Part of choice for Dublin was of course the Irish people and culture, and I have definitely enjoyed this. Irish people are great and Trinity offers many activities to explore Ireland and get to know the Irish culture. I joined the International Student Society that organises trips every weekend to a tourist spot in Ireland. It is a great way to get to know people and to see the country in a cheap way. Trinity had over 120 societies that all organise 2 to 3 events every week. There is always something to do and that makes it great experience to study at Trinity.

suggestions/tips

Definitely try to go to as much activities for international students you can because it is such a nice way to meet new people. In the beginning of my exchange I mostly hung around with other Dutch people but meeting so



many people from different nationalities was definitely the highlight of my exchange.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this university and city to others. The university was excellent and while sometimes there were some flaws in the organization, there weren't any major problems that couldn't be fixed. In addition, the city Dublin is a great city and the Irish are truly unique people in how friendly and fun-loving they are. I can honestly say that this exchange has changed my life and that definitely had something to do with the destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

faculty/college	University of Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College
start date	21 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 12 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

My application process turned out to be very different than expected. Because of all the possible places I felt kind of lost. In my chaos then in the first place I chose to go to Spain. I almost fulfilled my application. Then I changed my mind because of several reasons, it didn't feel right. I knew I actually mainly wanted to go to an English speaking country. Then I waited for the second application round for the 'restplaatsen'. In the meanwhile I found out I wanted to go to Dublin. When I contacted the international office about the rest place in Dublin it had already been given away. Then I contacted the International Offices from all different faculties to ask them if they could contact me if someone would cancel their place to go to Dublin. From all faculties I received the message that this chance was very small. But in the end I was very lucky, a place at Trinity College had become available! So main message from this story is: Always try even if it seems impossible..

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I received very good counselling & support during my preparation process. When I called or emailed I received a response right away. So if you have any questions don't hesitate contacting them. What also helps is talking to other students that already went on an exchange.

academic preparation

My main advise on this subject is: Don't worry too much about the courses you put on your first learning agreement. I spend a lot of time on choosing these first courses. I was missing information and wasn't sure if some courses were available for me. All these insecurities made me really nervous. When I contacted Trinity they told me to not worry about it too much and that it will all be fixed in the first week of the semester (and that I could change my courses on the 'Changes to Learning Agreement' during the exchange). But in order to get your first learning agreement signed you should still choose courses on the first learning agreement that make some sense

language preparation

For Dublin I didn't have to work on any language preparation as my English was good enough. However, you will have to do the language assessment before you leave, but most (Dutch) people know English well enough to pass this test with ease. Trinity College didn't even question my English before I came because they assumed it will be good enough as I came from the Netherlands.

finances

Finances are important to consider when you go on an exchange. I didn't do enough research on this topic. So my exchange period turned out to be more expensive than expected. It's good to have some savings prepared before you leave. Furthermore, completing the grant agreement in time is important to receive your grant in an early stage of your exchange. I did this too late so I received my grant 1,5 month later.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	As I mentioned above, organizing your study programme at Trinity happens in the first weeks of the semester. In the first week you'll attend presentations in lecture halls on what steps to undertake. Even the courses you choose this first week can still be changed after a couple of weeks. So it's smart to follow many different courses in the first two weeks to check out if those are the courses you want to do and if it suits your expectations.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality at Trinity is of high standard. But the academic quality at UU is also high so you don't have to be worried. I received more feedback on some essays than I was used to receive in the Netherlands. What troubled me though was that they have a different education system in which most essays and tests are due in the last two weeks of the semester (before Christmas in my case). And as an Erasmus student you have to do the double amount of essays for most courses, because the course actually lasts the full year (students receive 10 ECTS for it). As an Erasmus student you only stay half of the course, so in order to receive 5 ECTS they often want you to write an extra essay. So planning is important, in order to prevent yourself from having too much stress in the end.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Counselling & support was good at Trinity. Even though sometimes you can feel a bit lost in the beginning, arriving in a new country and a new university, in the end you'll figure it out. People are very helpful at Trinity and Dublin in general.
transfer of credits	I don't know yet, I didn't receive my grades yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The welcome & orientation programme at Trinity is good. I think mainly because I arrived in September. Because the study program exists out of full year courses, everybody has an easy start and all students are figuring out what to do. Fresher's Week also takes place in the first week. In this week all societies present themselves. You have many different societies (music, philosophy, travel etc.). It's nice to subscribe to some of them. They organize many different activities on a free base and it's an easy way to meet people. What's really cool about Trinity is that it has a very international character, there are a lot of international students coming from all over the world.
accommodation	Finding accommodation is hard in Dublin. I was very surprised by this and many people with me. I hope this will be improved, but during my stay there was a sort of housing crisis in Dublin. The first three weeks I lived in a hostel, on the one hand this was a valuable experience but on the other hand it was very stressful as the semester was starting. I had to study, but most of my time I was busy looking for houses and going to viewings. Maybe I was more picky than someone else would be, but if you don't want to pay too much, live in the centre and don't want to share a room with 3 people or more, it can be hard. In the end I settled with the fact that it will be expensive and I found a nice place (as the semester is only 3 months I thought okay I'm going to pay a lot anyway, might as well then pay a little bit more for a place I feel comfortable in and that is close to Trinity). It's mainly hard because people or landlords often don't want students as roommates or renters especially not one-term students. But don't let this story demotivate you, they might improve student accommodation (because Trinity is also aware of this problem) and they do offer you help so in the end it's all going to be okay! And I heard from more



people that they actually had positive experiences sharing a room. Or you could choose to live with a host family or you might be lucky find a good place for less money :). The website you should look on for accommodation is: www.Daft.ie. Next to that you can become a member of some facebook pages like: TCDSU Accommodation Support, Dublin Flat Share International Flatmates, I-let (accommodation in Dublin), Erasmus Dublin page (but watch out for scam).

leisure & culture

One of the main reasons I chose to go to Dublin is because I'm a singer so I was very interested in the music scene in Dublin. I heard many good stories about this and they turned out to be true. Furthermore, because Dublin is a capital it's always buzzing and many cultural events are being organized. Trinity also organizes many cultural events and trips for international students, mainly through the societies I mentioned above.

suggestions/tips

Save some extra money for accommodation, subscribe to societies and don't be shy to ask if you need help, people in Ireland are very polite and find pleasure in helping others.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would very much recommend Trinity College and Dublin to others. Trinity College because of its good educational quality, international character, social life, and because of the beautiful campus located in the middle of the city centre. I would recommend Dublin also because of its international character, as well as its music scene and the general vibe in the town. It's a capital but the city centre is not so big that you feel lost. It's a little bit like Utrecht, bigger of course, but you can still walk or cycle to most places. Best indicator is probably the fact that I still live in Dublin, even though my semester ended in december. I'm now planning to stay here until summer and write my thesis here.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I was pretty nervous before I went on exchange, doubting everything. Should I go? Where should I go? etc.. reading all the exchange reports. My advice is to stick with your own idea of what you want your exchange to bring you (good educational quality, sun, cultural life, nature). However, in the end you never know what this experience is going to bring you. Every place has its own advantages (some you might not even be aware of yet) and it's always going to be different in the end than you expected in the beginning. My main advice is: Do go on an exchange! It might sound cheesy, but it really is a once in a life-time experience and a very valuable one.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

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

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	21 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the application you have to fill in an application form for EU visiting students and you have to send it by mail. Pay attention to the application deadlines.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If you have any questions the international office will always help you.

academic preparation

None academic preparation

language preparation

None language preparation

finances

Before departure I made a financial plan. Living in Dublin is expensive. Especially the rent of your room.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied sociology and I took 5 modules. The courses I wanted to follow were not available or were already full. The whole registration for the modules is really old fashion and chaotic. You have to get signatures for the courses you want to follow. You can follow different modules in the first week before you decide what you want to follow, but modules can already be full without you knowing it. If you know what modules you want to follow make sure you get the signatures and hand it in in the academic registry as soon as possible.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is good. I had to write an essay for every module and give a short presentation for every module. The courses were interesting and challenging.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There are a lot of people who want to help you and the new Erasmus coordinator is very helpful.

transfer of credits

I did not receive my grades yet so I can't answer this.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I went to Dublin in September for the first semester. In the first week we had a Freshers' Week (Orientation for Undergraduates). In this week all societies are presented on a square at Trinity and you can see as many as you like. There is also a Getting to know you College lecture and a Living in Ireland lecture. Besides that you meet your mentor and get a tour around college and there are a lot of special events.
accommodation
Finding a accommodation in Dublin takes a lot of time, especially when you are only there for one semester. Living on campus is not a options if you are only there for one semester.
leisure & culture
The Irish culture is really nice. The people are very kind and accesable. There are so many nice pubs and there is a lot to see in Dublin and in the surrounding of Dublin. Dublin also has very nice shops and the National museums are free.
suggestions/tips
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start as soon as possible for finding accomodation. 2. Join Societies! It is a great way of meeting people. 3. Make a lot of trips to the countryside. It is beatifull. There is a special society at Trinity called Dublin international society who you can join and make these trips with.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would absolutly recommend Dublin and Trinity college to others. I had te best time, I have met wonderful people and Ireland is so beautiful.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go to the King of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Glendalough, Galway and to Donegal! Enjoy every minute you are there. Join the Erasmus Dublin pages on Facebook and contact others who already went to Dublin if you have questions.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

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

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Trinity College
start date	21 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Before choosing where to go on an exchange I made a top 5 of cities I wanted to go to. Next was to find out which University offered the best / most interesting courses for me. I choose Dublin because of the courses they offered, but to be honest I chose it mainly because of the beautiful campus. The application process is pretty straight forward once it has all started, however it is a very slow process. To apply for Trinity College you have to print out their Application Forms which is to be found on their website, specifically the Sociology apartment of the tcd.ie website. You have to fill in these forms, amongst other things the courses you wish to follow. However this makes it not a certainty that you will be able to follow these courses. You have to send these application forms by post. A couple of weeks later, you will get an email with information. This email also states that you will get an acceptance letter with passwords and student numbers. For this you have to be patient, as it only arrives around August. But once you understand what you have to do, you just have to follow all the steps.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

For most things I needed to know I emailed the International Office. They were very helpful, and even for the tiniest and seemingly insignificant questions they had the answer. They were also prepared to help out, by for example emailing the University you where interested in. However, you have to start early finding things out, because it can take some time for them to answer. If you need some applications forms or something signed, you can walk in their office hours. Mind, there is a very limited amount of these office hours.

academic preparation

Of course you have to make sure, that the courses that are offered at Trinity College are doable and useful for you. You can only follow courses from the Sociology department. However, if you want you can also follow courses from Politicology, Philosophy or Economy. But to make sure this is possible, you will have ask Utrecht University and Trinity aswel. Hence, the available courses that are on the website can differ after the arrival on Trinity College. It is also good to be aware of the fact that Trinity College handles a trimester system, but to meet up to the requirements for a Erasmus Grand you will need to get 30 ECTs. Meaning 5 to 6 courses in 3 months. But, all you need to do is write essays, no exams.

language preparation

You do not need any special forms or tests to show your level of English. However an 'excellent' level of English is required, as stated on the tcd.ie website. I personally did not do any special language preparations for my time at Trinity. If you are not that confident about your level of English, you can always do some extra courses before going abroad. But I would not worry to much about it.

finances

Dublin is in some ways comparable to the Dutch standards. Groceries are around the same price, you just have



to shop wisely (go to the Lidl, not tesco). Restaurants are also quite the same. The only thing that is very expensive is housing. Be prepared to pay around 600 per month for a room (which is either shared of a single).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

How exactly to enroll for courses is all very well explained in the Freshers week (orientation week). The first official week at Trinity is a bit like a try out week, you can follow a lecture from all courses. So you can get a bit of an idea what it is about and what you will have to do for it. After and during this week you have to work out your own time table and sign up for seminars. To enroll for courses you are required to write them down on the enrollment form and get signatures from the responsible head of the department. Then, hand it in at the Academic Registry. Pretty oldskool, but lecturers are willing to help you when you have questions. Other tip, be quick! It can happen that courses are full.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education activities is good. For third and fourth year courses you have one seminar and one lecture. All the lectures and seminars are only 50minutes. I would say very doable. Lecturers know what they are talking about and most seminar teachers are open for any questions if you do not understand something. Very approachable teachers. What preparations you have to do for a seminar differs per course. But for almost every course you will do a review on an article and present it in class. Presentations are not graded, so a good way to practise your English and presentation skill without too much pressure.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

You can easily send emails for all your questions and you'll get a quick respons. Another option is to drop by the office. Most people are very kind. And are fine with you coming by, infact they prefer that.

transfer of credits

The process is slow for it is more than a month after the essay deadlines, I still don't have all my grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The acception letter comes pretty late, ending of July, beginning of August. After receiving this letter, the full enrolment starts and you are finally an official Trinity student. The first week is called Freshers Week and you will have a welcome lecture and a tour with a small group around campus. This small group is led by two student mentors. They will help you out in the first week and are there to ask questions later in your stay. This whole week is there to get to know student life at Trinity and there is a market on front square where you can sign up for all fun societies Trinity has. Joining a society costs around 3 Euros and it is normal to join around 6 societies. Societies are a very pleasant way to meet new people and make friends. The second week is Academic orientation week and as mentioned in the 'study programme' part, you can basically try out all available courses. A pleasant way of starting your actual study time and this way you are can be more certain if the choosen courses suit you.

accommodation

As stated earlier, housing is expensive in Dublin. But it is also difficult to find a place. I recommend to start registering for international student housing organisations. (For example, when you start your semester in September, register around April if you want to make a chance) Trying to get a dorm room on Trinity campus is almost impossible if you are an EU citizen, and even more impossible if you only stay for one semester. So I also tried looking for a place on the by Trinity recommended housing websites; rent.ie and daft.ie. I wasn't able to find a place via these websites, but I know people who found a decent place on daft.ie. Rooms on these websites are fully furnished so that's big plus, however since there is a housing deficit you will probably have to settle with a shared bedroom (most of them shared with one other) or pretty far from city centre. But public



transport is good in and around Dublin. (You have the Dart, a train that has a stop on Trinity, the Luas; a kind of tram and the Dublin bus). I found a shared room via celtichalls, but I would not recommend this organization. Though if you need something relatively last minute they might have something for you. Other tip is to try to look for a room via Facebook, however be aware of scams.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Dublin itself. Plenty of museums, beautiful churches and other historical places. If you join the archaeology and history society you can join a free tour around the city and get to know it really well. For Dublin has a very interesting past and on every street corner lurks a different story. Another good part of Dublin is its pubculture, pubs are everywhere and offer all kinds of crafted and local beers. A pub is good for a night out or have a good conversation with friends. Definitely go for trips outside of Dublin too, to escape the busy bubbly streets just take a Bus ride to Howth or a train ride to Blackrock. Ireland has beautiful cliffs, fluffy green grass hills and woolly sheep. Via Dublin you can take several bus trips to see these beautiful sights.

suggestions/tips

Go see as much of Dublin as possible, it has lots to offer. All the national museums in Dublin are free, so more reason to pay a visit. If you want to have a less serious museum go to the Leprechaun Museum. Check out breweries and Whiskey Distilleries. I'd recommend Teeling distillery, because Jameson is more a museum and Teeling an actual working Distillery. Don't forget a Trinity campus tour and have lunch in the Dinning Hall for that bit of a Harry Potter feel. Stroll around in city parks like St Stephen's Green or watch deer in Phoenix park. Also, join the international student society so you can do relatively cheap trips to the Ring of Kerry, Cork, Donegal ect. So you'll see how beautiful Ireland is, make perfect picutres and makes lots of International friends.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would. Dublin is a rough city and has its ugly places, Trinity college is like a beautiful oasis of rest and peace. The academic quality is good so you'll learn a lot. To be part of a different educational system in a different country will give you a broader perspective on things. Proffesors and Lecturers are very bright, and most lectures are very interesting. The Irish accent might be a bit hard to understand at first, but lecturers are very understandable. And people are so polite and friendly it will make you feel welcome. Go see some Irish sports like Hurling and watch a rugby match in a pub, so you'll feel part of the culture and give free rein to your inner Irishman/woman. Going abroad is a great experience and you'll make some cool new friends no matter where you go. But I would recommend Dublin because it is not like any other European City. It knows poverty, but it has pretty places like Trinity College or St Stephen's Green (park) too. The Irish are proud of their culture, no wonder, for it is a great one.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

A tip would be to prepare as much in advance as possible, and in this case I specifically mean housing. Start registering and searching as soon as possible. But for the Academic Registry part, do not be stressed out if that goes slow, it is normal to receive everything pretty late because their system is oldskool. Which makes it cool. If you are Dutch you won't be so bothered by a few rainy days, which there will be. I would recommend to get a bike too, eventhough you don't have nice bicycle lanes everywhere. Just get a hang of it, and you'll be fine!