



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	sociology and psychology
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application for the the abroad programme was very easy. It was clear what we had to do and how to do it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office at UU offered clear support and were ususally quick to resopond to questions

academic preparation

The courses at the receiving university could not be picked until the start of the semester. I could give some suggestions of the courses I wanted to take, but these courses changed before I actually started there. This made it hard for me to prepare for the academic courses. However, it did not cause any problems when the semester had started

language preparation

I had to do the assigned language test, on which I scored C1 I believe. This meant that I didn't need any extra help regarding the language preparation. I did need to take the same test at the end of the semester to see if my English had improved.

finances

I remember being kind of confused by some of the preparations of the Erasmus Grant. However it all turned out fine in the end.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The studyprogramme changed before I got there, which meant I had to choose other courses than I was planning on taking because they were not available anymore.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the university and the courses were fine. However, it was less than I was used to from the Netherlands. I did learn quite a lot because I took courses that were different from my own study programme at UU. I barely experienced any stress because all the deadlines were at the end of the semester which gave me plenty of time to prepare these assignments.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really use the counselling that was provided by the receiving university, but they did offer plenty of support.
transfer of credits
The credits were quite the same in both universities

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The orientation took a lot longer than I had expected. We had a week to see the societies and to choose our courses. After that the lectures started and the week after that the seminars. So the starting of the semester went really slow, but this was nice because you could have time to get used to the university and meet other people.
accommodation	There was no accommodation provided by the university and it took me a long time to find an accommodation. The day before orientation started was the day I found a room. It was really expensive to live in Dublin which I was not really prepared for.
leisure & culture	The Irish culture is amazing. Everyone is very friendly and willing to help you with whatever. The culture is mostly inside the pubs where young and old are mixed together and are all having a good time. Because the university is in the middle of the city centre, it was very easy to just go into the city to get some lunch or a coffee or just go to the park to relax for a bit. Also there were some areas near Dublin where you could go hiking or go to the sea.
suggestions/tips	If you go to Trinity College Dublin, join the hiking society. They offer beautiful hikes every week. I only went one time, but it was one of the best days I have experienced there.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes, it is a beautiful university and I think the city is really nice as well. The pubs are so much fun and there is beautiful nature (but you have to leave the city for that)
do you have any additional advice or comments?	



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	Pedagogische Wetenschappen

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

My preparation started at the end of last year. The UU's first deadline is 1 December: if you want to study abroad in the next school year, you have to submit your application for the UU before that time. For me, this consisted of a motivation letter and a study plan. In your motivation letter you have to make clear why you want to study abroad at the UU. Your study plan consists of the courses you would like to take abroad and which courses you will follow when you are back in the Netherlands. Sounds like it's not that bad, but be smart and start on time. Figuring out which courses you can take abroad takes more time than you think and it is always nice to have your motivation letter read by someone who is good at English. After you have indicated this in Osiris you have to wait for a message that you have been approved by the UU. When you have received a message from the UU, you will receive an e-mail from the Foreign University. You usually have to make sure that you have submitted your application to the foreign university you would like to attend before 1 July. You will need signatures for this, so it is important that you have them on time. For this I had to fill in a form and have it signed, send a signed grade transcript and a copy of my European Health Card and a signed letter from the UU stating that you speak the language of the Foreign University. After this you will receive a welcome message from the Foreign University. Then you have to make sure that you apply for grants and fees on time, arrange rent and sublet and book flights.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at Utrecht University was good, if I needed something signed or had a question the International Office always got back to me in a couple of days. We also had a predeparture meeting, which was a nice way to meet other students that go to the same location.

academic preparation

The education I had beforehand at my home university was sufficient and I could manage the material fine.

language preparation

Luckily I went to an English speaking country, so I did not have to do a lot of language preparation. I did have to do an online language assessment, but because I got a C2 the first time around, I didn't have to do a second one after my time abroad.

finances

I felt like my expenses abroad were quite similar to my expenses in Utrecht, the only thing that's far more



expensive is accommodation. Most of the other Dutch students I talked to had to pay around double the amount of rent compared to what they have to pay in Utrecht. The same was the case for me. Luckily I got the Erasmus grant, so I was able to manage my expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There weren't any problems with the study programme. After the first week, we had a week where we could choose our classes and visit several of them. This was a nice way to see which courses Trinity had to offer. I did not have any problem with registering for my classes. Secondly, there weren't any problems with the content of my study programme. I could follow several sociology courses, which were interesting.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was good. We had interesting assignments and the professors explained the material well during our tutorials and lectures. We had courses for 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS so we would have tutorials and lectures between 6 and 12 hours a week. I mainly had to write essays, which were a bit more broad than what I was used to. I liked this, because I had to put more effort in my argumentation and had more freedom in what subjects I wanted to discuss.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counseling at Trinity was amazing, there are a lot of facilities for you if you have a problem. There is even a chapel and counselling if you feel overwhelmed or are homesick. Also if you need to practice some academic skills, they have workshops in the library every month. Unfortunately, the support in finding housing wasn't that good. That is probably the only thing I would have liked to get a little more help with.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits went without any problems.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We had an introductory week, which was a nice way to get to know Trinity and all its societies. We also had two studentmentors showing us around the campus, which was great. They also sent us weekly e-mails with recommendations and advice. However, these meetings and mails kind of stopped as the semester got more busy, which is a shame because it would have been nice to get to know the other exchange students a bit better.

accommodation

Because of the housing crisis in Ireland it is quite hard to find affordable accommodation. Almost all the other Dutch exchange students I talked to paid double the amount of rent as they did in Utrecht. On the facebook page: "TCDSU Accommodation Support" a lot of rooms are placed and I found mine through "NCAD Accommodation Network"!

www.daft.ie www.myhome.ie www.rent.ie www.collegecribs.ie

www.gumtree.ie www.tcd.ie/communications/noticeboard www.propertycheck.ie www.property.ie

leisure & culture

Dublin is an amazing city to stay in, there is always something happening and a lot of museums and places to visit. Trinity also has a lot of societies that organise fun activities, which is a good way to spend your free time.

suggestions/tips

First of all, the national museums are free of charge, so definitely visit the national art and natural history museums. There are a lot of lovely small towns around Dublin as well, for instance Howth and Bray, or go hiking



in the Wicklow mountains or climb Killiney Hill. You can also take a trip a little further away to Galway, Cork or Belfast. Lastly I went to the cliffs of Moher, which was beautiful.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would most definitely recommend Trinity College, the campus is beautiful, the professors are nice and the lectures are interesting. All in all, it was a very positive experience for me. However, the main way of meeting people, is with the societies. This can be a bit scary for some people, because unfortunately there is not that much arranged for specifically the Erasmus students. Trinity is also a very individual society, so this is also something to take into consideration.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Before you go on exchange, take your time to think about things you find important. For instance, if you find it hard to meet new people, it can be nice to go to a university that organises a lot for foreign students. Every university is different and it can be nice to know if you have to find your own accommodation, or if the university arranges a lot of things for foreign students. It can help you make a good informed decision and minimize stress.



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	Sociology

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

To apply for TCD, like every other university, you have to do a lot of paperwork. Because the UU provides a lot of information and guidelines, everything went well.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU answered the questions I had quickly via phone and email. They also sent general informative e-mails and organised an information meeting to which you can go to.

academic preparation

At Trinity, I took some modules in Sociology and Environmental Sciences. To take these modules, no special preparation was needed.

language preparation

There was no preparation needed.

finances

Accommodation in Dublin is more expensive than in Utrecht. The price of food in Dublin is comparable to the prices in the Netherlands (I recommend you to go to the Moore Street market and the Lidl). I have spent some more money on social events in Dublin than I used to do back home. Before I went to Dublin I saved some money, got the Erasmus Grant and the 'OV-vergoeding'. I also wanted to find a job in Dublin. However, finding a 8-hour-a-week job appeared to be impossible so I used my student loan to compensate for this.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At Trinity, I took two modules in Sociology (social networks and digital lives + researching society) and Environmental Sciences (environmental monitoring, environmental dynamics + global climate change). Although some of these modules were officially not accessible for international students, exceptions could be made. The modules were very interesting, especially the environmental ones because we did some lab work and went on a field trip.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses given at Trinity is quite comparable to the quality of the courses given at the UU.



There are some differences in assessment; you'll have to write more reports and there is less group work.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everyone at Trinity is very eager to counsel and support you. There are multiple places/persons you can go to for help (e.g. Student2Student, academic registry and your coordinator). It is well arranged and you do not have to wait long for a response.
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
This was great. In my first week, the university organised a Freshers market where all the 100+ societies promoted their activities at their stalls. During this week, you could go to the societies' activities (e.g. reading horoscopes, debates, gazing stars, picknicking, scuba diving and petting insects) to see if you wanted to join them. There also were some opening speeches from my faculty, informative talks and a tour through the big campus.
accommodation
Accommodation was hard to find and is also pretty expensive here (you'll pay around €500-600 a week for a shared room). I lived at a guest parents' place, 30 minutes by bike from TCD. I found this place via Facebook, where I posted a message on a page. Although it was nice to have my own room, I missed the contact with housemates and cooking together. If I could choose again, I would have gone for a student house with flatmates.
leisure & culture
One of the reasons I wanted to go to Ireland, was because of its culture, beautiful nature, kind people and the TCD's 101 societies. In my leisure time I went on hikes to places like Howth and Bray and I also joined the Hiking Society on their hikes (they go to the places that are hard to reach by public transport). I also visited places like Cork and Galway, and went on a road trip with some friends to see some more of the country. Also the national museums are free and fun to visit on a rainy day (and some are just around the corner of TCD). And of course, for the 'real Irish craic' you should go to the pubs and sing along with the buskers!
suggestions/tips
If you want to go to Dublin, I recommend you to look for accommodation on time(!). Join as many societies as you like in the first week and do the random things that are possible to do here. If you feel like making trips with other people, you should join international societies like Europa, because you will find many people who want to go to the same places like you and you can rent a car together.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If you consider to go to TCD, go! Dublin was super nice, and TCD even greater. In the city there are plenty of things to do and if you're tired of the crowded streets, the stunning Irish cliffs are only 1 Lewis away. The people are the kindest and lively music is all around. Even the weather was better than I expected. Plus, Dublin is also quite nearby so your (Dutch) friends and family can easily visit you!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
A friend of mine was an au pair while she studied at TCD. She had to work for 12 hours a week, got free accommodation and food and even got some pocket money. So, if finding affordable accommodation appears to be hard, you could consider this!



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	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Trinity College, University of Dublin
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was a little nerve-wracking for me, because I didn't decide to apply until a week before the deadline. It is not a huge amount of work, but I found the writing of the motivation letter especially difficult. I'd advise to take your time writing this and to make sure you have time to let others read it for you.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office of Utrecht University was always helpful if I had a question. The time it took for them to reply varied from half an hour to a week, but this was never problematic.

academic preparation

I did not prepare much academically, since I planned my exchange in my fourth year. This ensured I had no restraints on which classes I had to finish or the amount of ECTS I had gathered at the end of my third year.

language preparation

I have had a lot of experience in speaking English, so I did not prepare for the language in any particular way. I did look up whether people in Dublin spoke Irish, but as they do not, I did not prepare myself further.

finances

I took some time to calculate my finances. I made an excel spreadsheet to calculate costs of living in Dublin (rent, groceries, etc), the costs of university (books, writing material, transport) as well as the costs of potential trips around the country and activities with friends. Living in Dublin is more expensive than Utrecht, with average rent around €800 per month. Supermarket prices are similar to Dutch prices. I calculated how much money I would need per month to pay for this and took into account my student loan and erasmus grant, so that I could see how much I would need to save.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At Trinity college, module registration is not organised very efficiently. You don't choose modules before your arrival, but you find out which classes are taught in the first week. You then choose which you want to follow and you have to get your choices signed by the faculty in which that module is taught. Each faculty organises a date and time on which you can do this. When you have all your modules signed, you bring the form to the



academic registry, and they will put this in the system manually. This is a bit of a hassle, but it worked out fine. My modules were Conflict studies (Sociology), Social class and stratification (Soc.), Language learning (Linguistics), Policy in the behavioural and brain sciences (Psychology) and Irish for beginners (Ling., an elective).

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was quite high. All my teachers and professors were experts in their fields and taught their modules well. I mostly had lectures and some seminars, which usually had some required reading. The lectures were often very interactive.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not make use of any particular counselling or support at Trinity, but I know they were available. Each student is assigned a tutor, who you can contact for any kind of problem. New students and erasmus students are also placed in a student-mentor group. My mentors were very nice and they sent an email every week with important information, as well as upcoming activities at the university. They sometimes organised meetups or would be at the university to show us how to do something (like printing).

transfer of credits

My modules were accepted by Utrecht University and varying difficulty grades were awarded to them. I did not agree with all of these, and after making a case for each disagreement, they were changed. I will receive my grades at the end of January.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week at Trinity consisted of the Freshers market, in which all the societies of Trinity have stands (hundreds of them). You can sign up for as many as you want and they all have activities throughout the week as well. The academic part of the programme is small but full of useful information.

accommodation

Finding a room in Dublin is not easy. There are a lot of people searching and the rent is often very expensive. I was lucky to find a room in a house with other exchange students, not far from the city centre. I shared my room with another girl, which was a little strange at first, but I had a great experience with her and all my housemates. My landlord had several houses which he only rents out to international students, so don't hesitate to contact me if you would like his contact details.

leisure & culture

Dublin is full of museums (quite a few are free), great pubs, shops, parks, etc. and cool activities are organised all the time. Pubs often close around 12/1 o'clock, but clubs are open later. There's a lot of live music in pubs, which makes it a great place to hang out and relax. The Irish culture is interesting and well worth immersing yourself in. Irish people are generally very polite and will be very helpful if you need something, so don't hesitate to ask others for advice or help.

suggestions/tips

The Trinity societies organise loads of activities so I'd advise to join whatever societies you like (you can also join at any other time in the semester) and just check out activities that sound fun. Lots of people will be new and it's a great way to get to know people and to experience the university and Ireland more fully. One I'd recommend is The Hist, a debating society that has very interesting, but usually also very funny debates every Wednesday evening, followed by drinks and chilling, as well as bigger events throughout term.

In terms of accommodation, I'd advise to start on time. I mostly used facebook and I think most people find their rooms there. If you're really having trouble, lots of people stay at a hostel for the first week or two and usually find something then, so don't worry. Do make use of the public transport to visit great places, like taking the dart (regional train) which is easy and short but can take you to lovely seaside towns in no time.



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Trinity college and Dublin. The university has a great location and campus is beautiful, which already makes it lovely to go to class each day. Classes are interesting and there are lots of options, and you can choose as much of a challenge as you'd like.

People are welcoming and Dublin has a lot to offer on all domains. Public transport in the city is good and it's not hard to get out of the city either.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The university might seem a little hectic at first, but I learned that it'll sort itself out, so don't worry about that too much. They are very flexible and you can switch modules in the first weeks if it is not what you expected and they are always open for options if you need help or are struggling.



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)

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 preparation 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, LGTB- 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 your 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)

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)

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

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 sciences 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
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, Ierland
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 there 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?



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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 topped up 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
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>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.</p>
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!