



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology; English language and culture
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	18 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process wasn't too difficult, as you just needed to send in basic information. Quite contrastingly, deciding on which courses I wanted to take was a little bit more tricky. The course catalogue was not completely clear on when classes were given, or on if every class in the planner was mandatory. Unfortunately, when I arrived, I realised I had quite a bit of overlap too, as certain classes weren't on the planner in the CC. Apart from that, I had a lot of courses to choose from. And most courses gave a short overview of what every course was about, how many credits you could get and how to get them (essays, tests, attendance).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The student-counselors (studieadviseurs) could answer most of my questions. And the international office answered the very few left. I was especially happy with how quick the IO responded to my emails, to both more official/formal and informal ones.

academic preparation

I didn't need to academically prepare myself for the Erasmus semester in Maynooth. I feel like the academic level of education in Maynooth was pretty similar to what I'm used to at UU. The only difference is that in Maynooth we had to write more essays for examination.

language preparation

Apart from doing the mandatory language test beforehand, I didn't have to do anything else to prepare. As I am studying English language and culture in Utrecht, I didn't need any language classes.

finances

Ireland is a pretty expensive country to live in. Then again, it's not the most expensive country, so you'll manage. Still, I did need the Erasmus grand to (partially) pay for my rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme could be incredibly broad. I was quite surprised about that when I arrived. There were almost no rules when it came to choosing my courses. So I could study anything from Computerscience to Chinese. I did decide to stick with the Social Sciences though. I took courses about for instance education (in practice), social policy and gender, and anthropology.

academic quality of education activities



The quality of education activities varied. Certain classes were more practical, others were similar to courses I took at the UU for psychology: sitting in a large hall where one lecturer talked for almost two hours. Then again, other courses had very small groups and workshops.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at MU was very friendly. You could meet someone from the IO in person almost every day. And you could ask any question you had. And you got quick responses to your e-mails. Apart from the io there were all kinds of services at Uni where you could get support in so many ways. And most teachers seemed to be open for pretty personal conversations as well.

transfer of credits

It was not too difficult to get a sufficient grade in Ireland. As a sufficient grade is 40%. And the grades get transferred to sufficient/insufficient. Which is a bit of a shame, as you're not really stimulated to deliver (good or) your best work.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was loads of fun, as I got to meet many other international students. We were very well informed about all the facilities and services. And I particularly liked the orientation activity that included all the international students (not just Erasmus). Which was a 'scavenger hunt' where you had to find certain spots on Campus and in the city centre and take photos for a contest.

accommodation

Accommodation was... terrible*. Although the students staying on campus had pretty good housing (without any pans or cutlery though!). I didn't hear too many positive stories about the off-campus accommodation. Most of the students I met were staying at someone's house, which was very different to what they were used to, when they had their own studio/student dorm. Also, it was really difficult to find a spot that wasn't too far away from Maynooth. And it was quite expensive.

*I got really fed up with my landlord, as he was extremely negative and quite demeaning in communication. So I was very happy I only stayed there for 3 months. Unfortunately there is no way I can leave a review or anything.

leisure & culture

All around Maynooth there's loads to do. If you follow a few facebook pages, meet some local people you can stay up to date for all the activities/socials. Besides, Dublin is really closeby, where you can find all kinds of fun things to do (dancing, playing boardgames (@the clockwork door), pubs (obviously), go sightseeing, and so on. And you can take buses from Dublin to other places to see, like the Dublin peninsula Howth, the Glendalough mountains, or to another city, like Galway and Cork.

suggestions/tips

Find a place to live as fast as you can, hopefully on campus to have more personal responsibility. Also, this village called Lucan is right in the middle between Maynooth and Dublin, so if you can get a place to stay overthere, please do! There are 2/3 buses (67, 66, 25) that go either way, so you can go to Dublin anytime.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Most definitely yes! There are so many great courses to try. It's a beautiful campus (with a campus cat!). And it's really close to Dublin.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even if you're there for just one semester, try to join a few clubs/societies when you're there.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: florivisser@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Flori Visser other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:	or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
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	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	30 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	At first the application process seemed like a lot of work since there is a lot of paperwork involved, but the instructions that were given by Utrecht University on how to apply were very clear so this helped a lot. Once I was officially allowed to go to Maynooth University, both Utrecht University and Maynooth University were very fast with giving instructions on how to continue the application process and they both replied very fast to my emails which also helped a lot.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was very helpul. It was very easy to contact the International Office with any questions and they replied fast to my emails.
academic preparation	I did not need any academic preparation for the courses that I wanted to follow at Maynooth University.
language preparation	The spoken language at Maynooth University is English and since I was already good enough at speaking English and since I had already followed some courses in English at Utrecht University, I did not need any language preparation.
finances	When it comes to finances I would advice students to save a lot of money beforehand, so you can do a lot of trips and fun stuff while you are abroad. Most of the living costs in Ireland are about the same as in The Netherlands, although the rent is definetely higher. Me and a lot of other international students had to pay about 500 euros per month for rent, so this is something to keep in mind. Before going abroad I was already aware that I would spend more money than I usually would, so I saved some money beforehand and I also used the Erasmus grant and a small student loan to pay for my expenses.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>At Maynooth University the study year consists of two semesters and you have to follow your chosen courses during the full semester. Most of the courses are 5 ECTS. In my case this meant that I had to do six courses at the same time, since I wanted to gain 30 ECTS during the semester. This is different from Utrecht University, where I only have to do two courses at the same time.</p> <p>Maynooth University offers a wide variety of courses that are available for international students. You have to apply for your courses before coming to Maynooth, but once you have arrived you first get to try all the courses for one week before you have to make your final decision on which courses you want to follow.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>Most of the courses that I had chosen were very interesting to me, although the academic quality seemed to be a little bit lower compared to Utrecht University. For most of my courses I only had to attend one two-hour lecture per week and there were usually no tutorials. This meant that I was more dependent on self studying. Luckily I had no trouble with this at all, since the workload was not very high and the teachers often did not seem to have very high expectations of us. Also, for most of my courses all examination took place at the end of the semester. In my case all examinations happened in the form of writing an essay.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>The counselling and support at Maynooth University is very well organised. The International Office is very helpful and the university offers a lot of other places as well where you can go for support. They offer for example support for academic issues, finance issues and health issues. They also pay a lot of attention to making students aware of these support possibilities and to making students feel invited to seek help if they need it.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>I have not received any of my grades yet, so I can not give any information on my experience on this topic.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>The orientation programme at Maynooth University was very well organised. It consisted of three days during which we got informed on important topics and during which we did fun activities to get to know each other and our university campus. In my opinion the programme was very welcoming.</p>
accommodation	<p>Maynooth University has a really nice campus for international students, but I did not get a chance to apply for this campus since the amount of international students that wanted to study here was so high that the campus did not have enough space for everyone. Because of this, I had to look for accommodation myself. It is actually quite hard to find a place in Maynooth, so I started very early with looking for a place via different Facebook groups and via the accommodation website that was offered by Maynooth University itself. It did take me pretty long to find accommodation, but in the end I managed to find a nice place in a student house in Maynooth via Facebook. A lot of other international students did not manage to find a place in Maynooth however, but they went to live in one of the surrounding villages instead. Although this is sometimes a cheaper option I would really recommend to try and find a place in Maynooth itself, because otherwise you are often very dependent on buses. This is actually not really nice because the buses in Ireland are often late and they do not arrive that frequently. If you live in Maynooth instead you can very easily walk everywhere, which is much nicer.</p>



leisure & culture

Maynooth is a small town but there are a lot of great things to do. First of all, I would recommend to join some of the clubs and societies at Maynooth University, since they are very welcoming to international students and it is a great way to meet new people. Second of all, the pubs in Maynooth are really nice. I would especially recommend going to The Roost on Thursdays. Maynooth is also relatively close to Dublin, which is great as well and from here you can also easily travel to other parts of Ireland. I would recommend to visit as many places in Ireland as possible, because the nature is very beautiful and there are a lot of really pretty towns and cities to explore. The people are also very friendly and helpful and you will notice that everybody here is quite relaxed which I thought was really nice.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to visit as much places as possible and to really get involved in the student life in Maynooth.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Maynooth University is very welcoming to international students so it has a lot of great things to offer and you will very easily get involved in the student life here. Ireland is also really beautiful and there are a lot of places to explore.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Feel free to contact me with any questions!



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	Cultural Anthropology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland Maynooth
start date	26 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I was having a hard time choosing the country that I wanted to go to. One of my selection points was that I wanted the university abroad to start at least at the beginning of February, since my semester in Utrecht only ended the last week of January (in the text above it says that I started at the end of January, but that was only the introduction. The actual lectures started the first week of February.)

For the application there are a lot of documents that need to be signed, so I would recommend to start this process on time. Sometimes it takes a while until you receive an email with a signed document from the staff of one of the universities.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU was a good help when needed. I did not need it that much, since two friends of mine who also study Cultural Anthropology also went to Maynooth, so I could ask them questions as well.

academic preparation

For academic preparation not much was needed for me. I just had to make sure that I had received enough ECTS to be able to study abroad.

language preparation

All of my courses were in English, and my English is fluent, so I did not need to prepare anything for my language skills. Also, there was no specific level of English needed.

finances

Before I went to Maynooth, I had saved some money, but this was not at all enough to make it through the semester abroad. Neither was the Erasmus grant, so during the semester I was lucky enough that my parents were willing to help me financially and I had a monthly student loan through the Dutch government.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I found the anthropological modules that were offered in Maynooth very interesting. Most of the modules were 5 ECTS and since I had to receive 30 ECTS in the end I chose 6 modules; 4 anthropological ones, 1 about Irish Cultural Heritage and one was an Irish language course. I think the anthropology courses in Maynooth were really different from the ones in Utrecht, which I really liked, as I obviously didn't want to follow the same courses as I did in Utrecht.

One thing that I had gotten used to while studying in Utrecht is that for most of the anthropology courses, there



is one lecture as well as one seminar a week. In Maynooth there were just lectures (except for one course), which made the education pretty inactive for the students. In Utrecht I liked discussions about the readings, because I think students understand the content of the course better that way, and that was something that I missed in Maynooth.

One thing that I did really like about the education in Maynooth is the process by which students can apply for modules. As part of the preparation I had to sign up for courses, but those were not definitive at all. In the first week of lectures, students can go to any lectures to try the module and then they might change their initial choice of modules.

academic quality of education activities

Overall, I found the modules that I chose very interesting. One negative thing though for me is the lack of seminars. I feel that by this lack of seminars, teachers aren't able to go as much into depth as I was used to in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

In the introduction week there were several presentations from people stating where (international) students can go to when in need of support. Furthermore, there is a Student's Union (SU) in Maynooth, which connects the university with the students. There were students studying at Maynooth University who also were part of the SU. They also held presentations and told the international students to what students they could go to if they needed support.

transfer of credits

In Maynooth University there are percentages being used for grades. This is something that I really had to get used to, but during the introduction week this was explained. As I have not received my final grades yet I can't say much about the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The staff from the SU talked about their union in the introduction week and they did not only talk about the possibility of support, but also about the student life in Maynooth. There are a lot of clubs and societies which students can join.

accommodation

Finding accommodation in Maynooth was a bad experience. It was really hard to do and there was barely any help from the university. The university did give the students a website where house owners could advertise rooms and where students could contact those owners. What I mostly checked was Facebook. There are a few groups on Facebook where you can find available rooms in Maynooth and the area. I would really advise students to look for a room in Maynooth and not one of the closeby villages. This is because buses do not come too often and sometimes other students who lived in a closeby village (I lived in Maynooth) had to walk for a good amount of time to the bus stop.

My experience is that in Maynooth (and the area) a lot of students live in a family house. There is also campus accommodation, but it is extremely hard to find a spot in one of those rooms.

leisure & culture

As said before, there are a lot of clubs and societies at the university. Furthermore, there are also a few bars in the town which are great!

During my stay I traveled a lot during the weekend and the bank holidays. I traveled a lot to Dublin (about 45 minutes by train), but I also sometimes made bigger trips to other cities in the country. For me Ireland looked kind of exactly what I expected it to look like; very green and a lot of hills and a lot of pubs. It's a beautiful country!

suggestions/tips



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CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely!! I have had an amazing experience in Ireland, because of my great host family, the interesting modules, the beautiful nature in the country and because of the great social life I've had. I would recommend studying abroad to anyone, because I think it has great outcomes for you personally, socially and academically.



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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 Developmental Sociology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	26 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Applying for an exchange experience was somewhat overwhelming. The amount of universities where you can apply is enormous. Once decided however, it is easy to know what you have to do. It is time-consuming to get everything sorted and signed, but I never felt like I did not know what to do.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University helped a lot with knowing what to do. There is a nice overview available and there are many places you can go if you have questions.

academic preparation

I did not experience the need to academically prepare myself for my time abroad, as the modules I would do in Ireland were part of the space in my study programme where I can choose what I want to do.

language preparation

The language that is mostly spoken in Ireland is English. A lot of my study has been in English and therefore I expected that I would be able to understand everything just fine. The only thing that I was warned about was the Irish accent that may prove to be challenging, this was not the case.

finances

For the application process, we had to fill in a financial planning. This helped a lot. It made clear to me that with the help of the Erasmus Grant and my savings that I had already collected I could afford my time abroad. A lot of fellow Dutch students used the student loan to finance their stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was fine, and I thought the academic level was right as well. The organisation of the modules was somewhat different than what I am used to in the Netherlands. For most modules we did not receive an overview of the upcoming semester and therefore we got to know some deadlines quite late. It was not very difficult to deal with for me personally but some students did struggle with it.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was comparable to that of my home university. There is a noticeable difference between modules meant for first year students and modules meant for second or third year students. For academic usefulness I would recommend selecting second year modules as those have the depth that I was used to.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Maynooth University has a wonderful support system. There are different people and places students can contact when bumping into problems, whether those are financial or psychological. There are official adults that can help but every type of problem has an appointed student as well, in case somebody finds it daunting to speak to an official member of staff.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received my credits. But we did get an explanation about how the Irish grade system worked, so we could understand how we did when we would receive our grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Maynooth University was very welcoming. There was an entire week to welcome the international students and try to get them into contact with each other. A lot of my friends I met in this week. It is also very nice that they explain everything so when the modules start, students can focus on those modules and not try to figure out how the system works.

accommodation

Accommodation was hard to find and my biggest worry before leaving to Ireland. Accommodation is expensive and most of the times international students end up in a house where the host family lives themselves. Maynooth University offers help by having a page where advertisements are posted but that is not of the most desirable housing. The campus places were all given away to American students so Erasmus students could not even apply.

leisure & culture

The time I spend in Maynooth was wonderful. Although the town looks small at first, there is a lot of life. There are a lot of nice pubs and cafés to spend your time. On campus there is also the SU Bar, a great place to hang around after a lecture.

suggestions/tips

When looking for housing, keep in mind that when you are in a different town than Maynooth that you have to travel almost every day. Consider buying a bicycle and keep an eye on if Bus Dublin reaches your town, because if not, traveling to Dublin is more expensive.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Maynooth University to others. The people are warm and welcoming and life was constantly brewing. You can go to Dublin as often as you like, but Maynooth itself is a great place to spend your time too. The campus might not be the most beautiful of places (South Campus is, that is the old part), but students are constantly buzzing and studying here is a wonderful experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If somebody ends up in a host family occupied house, make sure that you have communicated the rules of their house well. Like if guests can stay over and if you have to cook or will eat with the family. This seems logical to communicate but as you are part of a family for a half year you will want to make sure that everybody involved is gaining from the experience.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.rongen@students.uu.nl</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>	
faculty/college	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	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	19 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>The application process was very clear. I had no difficulties filling in the forms and questions were answered very quickly. The application process is mostly based on your first choice of university, for me this wasn't Maynooth and therefore my focus was on another university for the initial application (writing a motivation letter, looking at courses, etc.).</p> <p>However, after being granted a place at Maynooth the application process continued. Both Utrecht University and Maynooth University were very helpful and gave enough information. This made that the process went very smooth. There are quite a lot of forms to be filled in and signed, but everything could be done through e-mail which made it a lot easier. Still, it is important to start on time with all the forms so you don't have to stress about them last minute.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>As mentioned before everything went very smooth. The International Office was very quick with responding to questions and signing forms. As a lot of information is provided I didn't need any extra support from Utrecht University.</p>
academic preparation	<p>As I planned on taking courses within my own discipline I didn't need extra academic preparation.</p>
language preparation	<p>As they speak English in Ireland there was no need for language preparation. I already followed a few English courses in Utrecht, so I felt like I was prepared well enough. However, I was a bit worried about the Irish accent at first, but I got used to this very fast. It's nothing to worry about!</p>
finances	



I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and the public transport grant. Next to this I kept my standard student loan and made use of my personal savings. Housing in Ireland is expensive, but all the other costs were pretty much the same (apart from alcohol) so I had no problems with my finances. I did spend a lot more money on fun stuff, so if you would like to make the most of your experience make sure to save enough money before.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Maynooth University offers a lot of courses that are available for international students. However, I found the sociology courses offered a bit limited. Luckily, you are allowed to choose courses within all disciplines. On the website you can find a clear list of all the courses, with a description and the amount of ECTS.

In Maynooth you follow courses for the whole semester, which means you'll be taking more courses at the same time. Some courses are 7,5 ECTS, but most of them 5 ECTS. This meant I had to follow 5 courses at the same time in order to obtain enough ECTS. This took some time for me to get used to, as in Utrecht I always followed 2 courses at the same time.

Before arriving in Maynooth you'll have to fill in an online form to apply for your courses. However, at the time this had to be done there was no timetable available yet. This meant that I had to change some courses on arrival as some of them ended up to overlap. However, Maynooth is very flexible with this and it worked out fine. The first two weeks you can follow all the courses you want and make adjustments to your original study programme.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality really depended on the course. Most courses I followed just had lectures and no tutorials. This meant that even though I was following a lot of courses at the same time, I still didn't have a lot of contact hours. As a first semester student you'll not be taking exams, but writing an additional essay for most of the courses instead. As writing an essay is also part of the normal programme for most courses this meant you had to write 2 essays or 1 longer one in December. Resulting in a high workload at this time of the year. Throughout the semester you have to keep up with the literature, but for most of the courses there was just a very large list of suggested literature and no clear indication of what actually should be read. This made me feel a bit overwhelmed at the beginning, but I got used to it eventually.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Maynooth offers excellent counselling and support. On both academic and personal level. The International Office is very helpful and there are a lot of places to go at the university if you need help with something. You can get help with, for example, writing essays, there's a free doctor on campus and there is a lot of attention for mental health. Most teachers are very involved and you could easily talk to them.

transfer of credits

As I haven't received my grades yet this didn't happen yet. However, the Irish grade system works different than the Dutch one. They give grades in percentages, and at Maynooth it is very unusual to receive a grade above 70% (which is seen as a top grade), however this will only be transferred to a 7.5 back in Utrecht. Which is something I'm very unsatisfied with. Make sure to take this into consideration when it's important to take home high grades.

Some of the courses were seen as a first year course by Utrecht University, even though they were third year courses in Maynooth. Most of my courses were transferred to 'lower' year courses back in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



In the first week a few activities were organized for international students. All information we needed to know was presented and there was a small tour around campus. They also organized a scavenger hunt and a tour in Dublin, which was a nice way to meet some people.

accommodation

It is hard to find accomodation in Maynooth, which is why a lot of students live in hostfamilies in towns nearby. I was able to get a room on campus, which is quite expensive but I would advice to still try to apply for it as finding another room can be hard and quite stressful.

Living on campus is a great way to meet new people. I lived in a building with a lot of international students and shared my apartment with 4 others. We did a lot of activities together and the atmosphere was nice. You're very close to all the things happening at university and to everything else you need.

However, living on campus also comes with a lot of rules. Make sure you know about them and you're able to live with them. When signing your contract you give permission for people of the university to enter the apartment. This meant that quite often there were people for maintance without any notice at all, something I found very frustrating. Also, your apartment, and bedroom, will be checked once a month (it needs to be clean and they will look for prohibited items). You are not allowed to have parties and noise after 22:00 is not accepted, when you still hang out with too many people you risk security entering your apartment and issuing you a warning (which can come with serious consequences).

I found these rules very frustrating, but still I'm happy I got to live on campus. The people you'll meet and the perfect location will make up for all of this. Don't let the rules hold you back too much, but make sure to be aware of them.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of things to do in Ireland. Maynooth is a small town, but you can go for some nice strolls around the beautiful south-campus and there are a lot of nice pubs and coffee places in the mainstreet.

From Maynooth you can easily take a train or bus to Dublin, from where you can take nice trips to other places in Ireland. Ireland offers stunning nature and is the perfect place to go for hikes. Also, there are a lot of nice cities worth to visit and most museums are free.

Maynooth University also offers a lot of clubs and societies, which all offer different types of activities. You can join them for just €2 and it's a perfect way to try out new things and meet new people. There is really something for everyone. You can also make use of the Universities sport facilities for free.

suggestions/tips

Join a club or society! It's a nice way to also get to know some Irish people. On campus you can also find a cheap bar, which often has livemusic, make sure to check it out.

Get a student Leapcard, this will save you a lot of money while traveling with public transport.

Make sure to look for housing on time and don't be afraid to reach out to people if you need help with finding a room.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Maynooth wasn't my first choice of destination but I'm really happy I got to stay here for a few months. Being a small town, it has a great atmosphere and it was easy to settle in. Irish people are extremely friendly and helpful and I felt welcome immediately. The town has enough to offer and Dublin is around the corner, you'll definitely not be bored here!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Feel free to send me an e-mail if you have any questions or want some more information :)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Social science
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	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	19 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite long and involved a lot of paperwork, but it was well organised and clear. The international office answered all of my questions so I didn't encounter difficulties with my application. Just make sure you start in time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I went to Ireland after I finished my thesis and in the beginning I didn't know if this was even possible. My tutor helped me to figure out when was the best time for me to go on erasmus and showed me the different options. This was really helpful for me, so if you have any struggles planning your study abroad I recommend to talk to your mentor or the international office. Also the international office in Utrecht replied to my emails and questions very quick.

academic preparation

I didn't do much for academic preparation. The only thing I could do was to look at the courses they offer in Maynooth and already make a selection of them. For most courses there are no special requirements so I could just sign up for all the courses I liked.

language preparation

I did not follow any courses to improve my English because we have been learning English since primary school. This was sufficient. Don't worry about the English lectures and tutorials, you get used to this very quick.

finances

Before I went to Ireland I made a financial plan, including the costs of my room, groceries, the money I wanted to spend on trips etc. For me this was a good indication of how much I did actually spend in the end, except for the money I spent on trips, which was more than I expected. Keep in mind that the housing is quite expensive in Maynooth/Ireland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed 4 courses in Maynooth, a total of 22.5 credits. I started with 5 courses but because in Utrecht we are used to following only 2 at the same time, 5 can be too much. I chose to drop one of my courses after a few weeks because then I still had enough time to do nice things next to my studies and see more of Ireland. You can only register for the courses when you are in Maynooth, but on the website they show all the available



courses. I wanted to choose some courses that would be complementary to my studies in Utrecht but sadly most of them had too much overlap so I was not allowed to choose them. So make sure that the courses you choose are approved by the examination committee.

academic quality of education activities

I think the workload is quite much since you are expected to choose approximately 5 courses. However, in my experience the teachers expected less from us than in Utrecht. I heard more often that they were surprised by the quality of the essays of the internationals, which could imply that the level of the Irish students was somewhat lower. The quality of the lectures really depended on the lecturer. I had some really good teachers and some that didn't teach me a lot...

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Irish people in general are very nice, and so are they at the university. You could always go to the international office for questions or send them or your teachers an email, and they often react very quick. The campus also has 'student services' where you can go to see a doctor or get help with mental health very easily.

transfer of credits

I didn't receive my transcript of records yet so I don't have an experience with this. But I also did not get many grades back, even though it is January now, so that can take a while. The grading system in Maynooth is different than in Utrecht and often the highest grade you can get in Maynooth is 80%.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Everybody in Maynooth University was very welcoming towards the internationals. In every talk we had they said that the most important thing for us to do here is to have fun and enjoy ourselves. The orientation programme was nice to see the campus and to meet more people. You can also join an Irish dance class which was really fun and a nice way to meet other internationals, I would recommend this!

accommodation

I was lucky to be in one of the student residences on campus, the village apartments. If you want to apply for this you have to be really quick because many people who wanted a room on campus were too late. Living on campus was very nice because we lived in a flat with mostly internationals, which made it very easy to make contact with people and meet new friends. I heard that finding an apartment off-campus could be quite hard so start early when looking for a room!

leisure & culture

I loved the Irish culture and the nature. We went on many trips across the country, which is easy to do because Maynooth is close to Dublin. We had several Irish dancing lessons which were fun to do. The university has many clubs and societies for which you can sign up, they are only 2 euros and very easy to join. This could be especially nice if you want to meet Irish students because most internationals are mostly friends with other internationals and not so much with the Irish. The societies can be a nice way to get in contact with them.

suggestions/tips

Ireland has beautiful nature. I really loved the cliffwalks. You can of course visit the Cliffs of Moher which is very beautiful but on the other side of the country. However, Howth is a very beautiful place close to Dublin where you can walk along the cliffs and have stunning views. I really recommend going there because it's quite close and very beautiful! Another place I loved were the Wicklow Mountains/Glendalough. This is also pretty close to Dublin and the views are beautiful.

CONCLUSIONS

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



Yes I would definitely recommend this university. I liked living in a smaller town like Maynooth and the people and atmosphere were very nice. Moreover, most of the courses were interesting and Ireland is a beautiful country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy! Of course studying is very important but make sure you also have enough time to discover Irelands culture and nature because it's beautiful. Just say yes to all the chances to go on trips and meet new people because that is really worth it!



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	Cultural Anthropology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	18 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Overall, I didn't encounter any issues during the application process. All the information can easily be found on the UU website. However, there are quite a lot of documents to fill in and to get signed by both the international office here and the one at the receiving university. The documents themselves have clear instructions and can be filled out easily, but it can be easy to lose track of all the documents that you need to gather.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Aside from the orientation meeting the International Office organised right after your application is accepted, there were no set meetings. I personally found the information given at the meeting not as useful as it maybe could have been, but I did get to meet the other people who would go to the same university as me. We kept in touch and helped each other when necessary during the application process (and afterwards). The International Office can easily be contacted when you have any questions and they sent out a few emails with reminders for documents that need to be submitted which I thought was very useful.

academic preparation

I had no issues regarding the academic preparation.

language preparation

Since I would be taking English courses, there was no need to take a language course. So, there wasn't much to prepare.

finances

Getting my finances together went well, I would say. As part of the application process I made an estimate of how much I would spend during my time abroad. I later made a more detailed estimate for myself, to figure out how much I would need, assuming I would get the Erasmus grant. During my stay, I found that I spent less than I thought I would on living expenses. However, I did spend a little more money on trips than I thought I would. I would say it's a good idea to make an estimate, and make sure you have a little more money at your disposal than you think you will spend, to have something to fall back on.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I ended up taking courses that were different than the ones on my learning agreement. This was partly due to the timetables for the courses being made available very late. This meant that I had to change some courses, because they were being taught at the same time.



academic quality of education activities

The courses that I took were interesting, the lectures for some could be better. The grading for these courses for international students usually consisted of an essay to substitute the exam that the Irish students would be taking. This overall meant that I had to apply very little of the material that was taught in the lectures, instead I had to write about a specific topic. I'm not sure if this is the best way to grade someone's understanding of the entire course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office at Maynooth University is very accessible. You can just come by or email them if you have any questions.

transfer of credits

As of writing, my credits have not yet been transferred, but I expect there to be no issues.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week after arriving, there was an orientation programme lasting three days, where you get useful information about facilities on campus and where you get to know some of the other international students. It was fun and pretty well organised. It definitely helps you get around campus once lectures start.

accommodation

I was very lucky to have been able to book an on-campus room (which I don't think will be possible for Erasmus students anymore, if I'm correct), so it was nice not to have to worry about accommodation. The rooms were nice, the maintenance team was usually quick to response when something needed fixing and the location was also good, of course.

leisure & culture

Maynooth University has a lot of clubs and societies you can sign up for (most of them are really cheap), which I did. They met up once or twice a week and were a good way to meet other students and have a good time. Since Irish culture is not that different from Dutch culture, there were no instances of culture shock, or moments of confusion in general.

suggestions/tips

I would definitely recommend joining some clubs/societies, since there a great way to meet new people and there usually cheap to join. Additionally, I would recommend starting your search for accommodation early. Even though I was lucky, I did hear that it was difficult to get a room somewhere.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely! Maynooth is a very amicable place, full of students. There many activities organised by the student's union or by the different clubs and societies, so there's enough to do. The courses that they offer are interesting (at least the ones I took were), but aren't too difficult. Even though Maynooth is not one of the most exotic places to go to, Ireland is very beautiful and I had a lovely time.



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	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	16 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	The exchange application process was not too bad, since it was pretty clear stated and on top of that were the required documents rather clear. There was some unclarity but this became clear after contacting the International Office.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht Univeristy was pretty good as well. I could just come by or call with questions. Besides that, did I receive rather fast responses to my emails.
academic preparation	The overview of modules of Maynooth University were very clear and extensive.
language preparation	There was no mandatory language preperation since I went to an English speaking country. I had to make an language test prior to leaving though to receive an indication of my English level.
finances	This was fine as well, worked a lot in the summer beforehand so this worked out fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme was really nice. There was an rather extensive list of modules you could choose from. Besides that, they offered many interesting modules in various disciplines so that was a big plus
academic quality of education activities	The quality was overall pretty good. The university itself is however not too organized, which brought up frustrations from time to time e.g. lecturers not putting slides online or still waiting in January for grades from October and November. The lectureres where evertheless incredibly friendly. The bond student lecturer was rather informer which was really nice and they were more than willing to help you if you asked for it. This was really pleasant.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	This was fine.
transfer of credits	



Fine. It is, however different than at Utrecht University since over there you have a semester which is divided in two blocks. In every block you have two courses. This means that you always have tops two courses at the same time. In Ireland on the other hand, you have modules for an entire semester and the modelus are normally of 5 ECTS. This entails that you need to follow six modules for an entire semester in order to receive the standard 30 ECTS. I followed 5, so for 25 ECTS, and this was already really a lot.

Also in regards to the grade conversion system, the table that University Utrecht uses to converse grades, is based on the comparison between Irish and Dutch high schools. This is completely different than universities since it is highly exceptional in Ireland to receive a 70+ %. Conversed according to the table, is it not even possible to receive higher than a 7,5 in Ireland. I find poorly arranged by Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The introduction week was incredibly nice. Also the week in which you could try all the courses before you had to chose them, was really beneficial.

accommodation

The accomodation was not the best. I lived in a campus residence but it wasn't properly cleaned before we moved in there. Besides that, there was mould in my room and the insulation was really bad since there was nonstop water on the inside of the window. We had inspections from time to time instead of just in the end, which I also find rather strange. And we had to rent the room till the end of January even though the semester ended in December. They oblige us to pay for another month even though we're not even necessary there.

leisure & culture

Incredibly nice. Really nice and open athmosphere. Students were really nice. The Irish are really nice. The lecturers are really nice. So overall really good.

suggestions/tips

Improve the conditions of the campus residence. This was seriously quite bad.

CONCLUSIONS

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

For sure, Maynooth is an amazing place, the Irish are extremely friendly, there is a lot of choice in modules, the lecturers are extremely friendly and the university is rather small which makes it a cosy and familiar place in which you'll feel comfortable in no time. On the other hand, the campus residence was quite bad and the grade conversion system is absolutly not fair for Dutch students and works really in your disadvantage.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Look at the negative feedback



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland Maynooth
start date	25 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the exchange I had to hand in a lot of forms and documents. In the beginning it seems hard and a lot, but in the end it is totally worth it. Thanks to Utrecht University I could follow the emails I got from them, this helped me to arrange the documents I needed in the right order. I noticed that it was useful to start with these documents in the beginning of the first semester (already). This gives you more time to figure out what to do and how to do it. I also had contact with Maynooth University when something was not clear for me. The international office there will always help you with any problems. A student should not underestimate the number of documents that have to be signed and handed in. Even during and after your stay, a student needs to fill in some forms.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office in Utrecht is really friendly and will always help you with anything. Getting signatures is not hard at all, I could just send them my forms and within a few days (sometimes even within the same hour) I had the signature I needed. Do not wait for the one hour per day they are open at the University. Just email them, that goes a lot faster. But in the end, filling in the forms is something the student him/herself has to do, so I sometimes felt like the exchange is something you as a student have to arrange.

academic preparation

Besides choosing courses, I did not really have to do any academic preparations. Most preparations are more focused on your stay and your Erasmus Grant. In the first week of the semester in Maynooth, students are able to follow any course they want, to see if this course fits their expectations. I found it really useful, because through this I noticed that some courses, and the way the course was given (teachers might use a different way than students from Utrecht are used to), was not something I would enjoy.

language preparation

English is the official language in Ireland, and my English was OK before I went to Ireland. That is why a preparation was not really necessary for me. However, I followed an course with English as official language, in Utrecht in the semester before I went to Ireland, to get a little more used to English.

finances

For me, this was not a problem. I was lucky that my parents supported me financially with everything. But it is important to know that accommodation in Maynooth is expensive. I paid 400 euros for accommodation, outside campus, and this was one of the cheapest options. Of course it is necessary and useful to save some money before you go. You will notice that you spend more money on things like going out for dinner, trips and traveling. Furthermore, in Ireland the groceries are also slightly more expensive. For all these things you can use your Erasmus Grant, but only this grant won't be enough. Please, do not think it is a common thing to find a job



there. You are only on exchange for a short period. Finding a job is really hard.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme in Ireland is very clear. By email you get to know how, when and where you have to register for your courses. At Maynooth you can choose courses up to 35 ECT's. I did 30 in total and that was perfect. Most courses are 5 ECT's but others might be more or less.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality in Maynooth is a bit lower then that at UU. However, the marks are different. They say that the highest they give at Maynooth University is around 70%. I still have to figure out what my marks will be in UU.

The courses I followed (6 in total) had all 2 hour every week. Most of them were mandatory. For only 1 course I had tutorials, which you can compare to 'workgroups' at UU. I thought this course (International development, migration) was the most interesting one, because through these tutorials, more depth came into the course. I missed this by the other courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Maynooth University is known for its support and international interest. Therefor, the emails and instructions are really clear. Furthermore, the international office at Maynooth is very helpful. At this university you always know where to go when you have a question.

transfer of credits

1 semester in Maynooth has a maximum of 35 ECT's. In UU we have 30 ECT's and I followed 6 courses, and in total 30 ECT's. One course is around 5 ECT's, some are 7.5 ECT's. The ECT'S system is the same in UU so I can add these ECT's to my studyprogramme at UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN (the Erasmus students network) organises a lot of nice activities, where you get to know the city and your other international students. The activities were put on the Facebook page, so everybody knew what was going on. Furthermore, the university itself organized a good orientation programme the first 2 days. So in these days I already made a lot of friends.

accommodation

I found accomodation on the Facebook site 'Maynooth accommodation 2018'. I had contact with some other international students. I recommend other students to find a place in Maynooth and not in a town nearby. Maynooth is not that big so where you are, it will (probably) be OK to walk from there to town and university.

leisure & culture

Maynooth is a small but really nice town. There are some nice pubs and clubs and it is close to Dublin so enough to do! Ireland is so friendly and the pub culture is really nice to get to know. The streets and houses look cute and the environment is beautiful too.

suggestions/tips

Please visit Galway and the original Irish pubs to hear nice Irish music. Moreover, download the National Geographic book about Ireland from the Maynooth website, there are a lot of tips about Ireland. Visit as many places as possible! Ireland is beautiful!



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Maynooth University to others. It is an amazing place to get to know other international students. The university is so open for internationals and therefore staying in Maynooth won't make you feel alone. Irish people are so friendly and that is what you notice in Maynooth and within the university as well. They are always willing to help you. Furthermore, the level of education is Ok and there are a lot of accommodation options.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Email home and/or receiving univertiy with any problems. The international offices will always help you and this can make things clear when you do not know what to do.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology & developmentsociology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	24 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For me the application process started with the first informary meeting organised by Utrecht University in my first year. In this first introductory meeting the process of studying abroad was very glabally outlined and the next steps in the going abroad process were clearly explained. After this meeting I looked into the possibilities, mainly the involved partner universities, and based my univeristies of preference on my personal research. Deadlines were clearly outlined for me and information on the going abroad process was easy to find on the website of Utrecht University. I didn't get a univeristy listed as my first three favourites. Due to this I had a chance to enlist to one of the remaining partner universities, this is how I eventually choose Maynooth Univerity.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was very easy to get in touch with the international office in Utrecht. In general their responce to either questions or forms that need to be signed is very quick, which in very convinient for the enrigestering with a partner university. Next to that the deadlines were always very clear to me. The international office was also very flexible. I was due to personal reasons not able to atent one of the organised meetings. This was no problem at all, I was invited for a replacing appointment with a smaller group, in which everything was very clearly outlined.

academic preparation

There wasn't neccesarily a lot of academic preparation needed for me personally, the only thing I needed to take into account was that I would bring back enough ECT's. My bachelor leaves a lot of "free space" for a minor or going abroad, so in theory I could follow whichever courses I wanted that didn't need to be bachelor related at all. The only incovienience I experienced is that my first semester in Utrecht was still on going, while the second semester in Maynooth was starting. However this didn't cause a lot of major problems, it just needed to be finetuned with some of my teachers.

language preparation

I didn't need to follow language courses or anything like that because all my courses in Maynooth were taught in English. I did take the Erasmus language assesment.

finances

Finance wise I didn't need to take extraordinary actions. I had enough personal savings and financial support that I didn't need to organise anything else. I did make a scheme of my personal savings and money I should be able to spend.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Originally I choose anthropology courses since I'm an anthropology major. The courses available were all on the website, the website however was by times a little hard to navigate. When I arrived in Maynooth I was made aware there was also an Irish Cultural heritage minor that could be chosen, with field trips to Irish cultural heritage sites. This seemed like a good opportunity to learn more about the country i was studying, so i decided to switch courses so I could obtain the Irish Cultural heritage certificate. Next to that I still followed two anthropology courses, so I eventually obtained 30 ECT's. The courses were very interesting and the teachers spoke with a lot of enthusiasm, which made me enjoy the courses very much. The teachers very easy going and tried their best to make the courses as enjoyable for everyone following them.
academic quality of education activities	For me personally the level of education at Maynooth was lower than the level of education I experienced in Utrecht. I experienced a clear difference in the amount of time I had to spend on schoolwork, outside of contact hours. I had 12 mandatory hours a week, which is the same as my mandatory hours in Utrecht. So eventhough the level of contact hours were similar, i didn't spent as much time on schoolwork as I am used to in Utrecht. I very much enjoyed the fieldtrips that were part of the Irish cultural heritage certificate, they were definitely a nice bonus to the educational programme. As I mentioned above the teachers were very involved and tried their best to give every student the best educational experience as possible. An example is that it was no problem at all to get an extention when it was related to personal issues or something alike. The two anthropology courses I followed were of a higher educational level than the courses that were part of the Irish Cultural heritage certificate, I did do more for those two courses. They were also acknowledged as level 2 courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The international office in Maynooth was very helpful when it came to questions about the scholarly problem, they were always ready to help out in any way needed.. They were very supportive and helpful.
transfer of credits	I took home 30 ECT's, since I passed for all my courses. The Irish grading system is different than the Dutch one however, so I can be difficult to tranfer Irish grades to Dutch grades.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	There was a welcoming speech by the dean, and a campus tour organised. Next to that there was a scavengerhunt in which I participated. The first week there was the option to follow any lecture you wanted, so you could try out every course you might be interested in, and base your course decision on that.
accommodation	At first I was living with a family, together with 4 other students. I found tis hound because of the Maynooth accomodation site from the university. At first I was very content living there. This changed however when my landlord place a security camera in one of my roommates her bedroom without telling her. He assured us it was for security and insurance purposes, but after that incident I didn't feel comfortable living there anymore and decided to move out with two of my roommates. I never got my deposit of 300 euro back, but I didn't feel comfortable staying there anymore. I went with this issue to the accomodation office on campus and was immidiatly able to get an on campus room. The accomodation office was very unerstanding, and we're also very sensitive and helpful towards the subject. After this I moved into a twin room on campus, which means I was sharing a room and bedroom with an Irish girl. I shared a living room and kitchen with 3 other students. Living on campus is relatively expensive, but the atmosphere on the campus accomodation is very nice. One of my best friends in Maynooth was living in the building next to me, so I very much enjoyed living on campus.



leisure & culture
<p>There are a lot of clubs and societies you can join for a single semester. I join the disney club which held weekly meetings in which disney movies would be shown in the lecture halls. I would definitely recommend joining one or multiple clubs or societies, everyone is very welcoming eventhough you're just staying for a single semester. i would definitely recommend going out in Maynooth during the week and going to Dublin on the weekends. There is a night bus coming from Dublin so there is the option to go out and take the bus bac to Maynooth in the night, which takes approximatly 45 minutes.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>When studying in Maynooth the Student Union bar (SU bar) is definitely a place to visit. It is located on the North campus and there is often live music and relatively cheap drinks. The food is also very good. For going out I would recommend Brady's on Wednesday and the Roost on Thursday, the Roost often has live music which is always very nice. Eventhough Maynooth is a very small town there is still a booming bightlife which I very much enjoyed. I would also recommend seeying as much of Ireland as possible, because it is a really beautiful country and the people are very nice.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>I would definitely recommend Maynoot Univeristy. It is a very nice university and I trully had an amazing experience. The people are very friendly and helpful and there's a very nice atmosphere on campus. the staff as well as students are very nice and do their best to give you the best experienced possible. It is a relatively small town but because it is a student town the town is very lively and I very much enjoyed living there.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social and Behavioral Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	29 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I followed the instructions online in order to apply for an exchange. I listed Maynooth as my third choice but I'm now very happy to have gone here. Start looking at universities early as there are many things to take into consideration when making the decision (eg. available modules).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was always available when I had questions. I didn't need much support though, most things are explained pretty clearly on the website and in e-mails.

academic preparation

I didn't need any specific academic preparation. Do keep in mind that you need to meet certain requirements for some modules (if they are more advanced)

language preparation

As the main language is English, I also didn't need any language preparation. You get used to the English lectures fairly quickly so don't worry about that! The university also offers modules on Academic English (on multiple levels) of which I attended one.

finances

With savings, Erasmus grant, Dutch public transport grant and the standard student loans I was able to make do. Housing is quite expensive in Maynooth (and very scarce), but the other living costs are quite similar to back home (except for alcohol, which is pretty expensive).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The procedure of choosing modules for your study programme is pretty clear and straightforward. The modules are on the website year round, so there's plenty of time to prepare. Upon choosing, make sure that the module is available in your semester, that you meet the requirements and that there are no timetable clashes with other courses. After picking your modules online (before you arrive) you have the first week of the semester to go to any class you want and change your modules if necessary. They warn you to be quick as some classes can be full quite quickly, but I have not experienced this myself.

academic quality of education activities

There are some clear differences with UU. First of all, the year is divided into 2 semesters and so there are 2 big exam periods. This means that you have the exams for 30 ECTS in a very short amount of time. I had six



modules in total (4x 5 ECTS, 1x 2,5 ECTS and 1x 7,5 ECTS) and thus six exams in two weeks. I also didn't have any midterms and only the 7,5 ECTS course and the Academic English course had a few assignments. This means that there is a lot of pressure on the last few weeks of the semester, but also that you have a lot of spare time during the semester. The exams are pretty different than what I was used to. Except for the English class, they all had essay exams, providing multiple questions from which you could choose what you wanted to answer. On top of that, most lecturers gave hints (or the exact questions) of what the exam would look like, so that you could prepare a killer essay.

The most modules only have lectures with bigger groups and no interaction. The quality of the lectures really is different with each lecturer, but the general quality is less than at UU. It is nice that the lectures are only 1 hour at a time. If you take 30 ECTS, you will probably have 12 lectures a week, which is really doable. For most modules you don't have to buy books, as the lecturers provide a reading list with mainly academic articles or other online material.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The people at the International Office in Maynooth are really nice and always happy to help

transfer of credits

I don't know much about this yet, I don't even know whether I've passed my exams. Their grading system is very different from the Dutch one. They measure in percentages and see 70% (which is translated to a 7,5 back home) as a top grade. What I've heard so far is that it is very hard to get a grade above 70%.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I was absent for this part since I still had an exam back home, but I was perfectly able to find everything without the orientation. All the information was given to me later by the International Office, which was great.

accommodation

As I said, accommodation is scarce and expensive. It is worth it to try for campus accommodation but the application opens only a few weeks before the starts of the semester and you have to be super quick to get a room. I would also recommend joining the available Facebook groups to find accommodation as this is how I found my room. However, most landlords don't want students who only live here for one semester and it is usually more expensive (and less reliable) than campus accommodation.

leisure & culture

There's loads of things to do here! You are only 45 minutes (bus or train) away from Dublin, which is a great city. There are also various places to go on pretty hikes (things close are Howth, Bray or the Wicklow Mountains). It is hard to travel across the country with public transport, but there are many coaches from Dublin to the other cities that aren't that expensive. There are also plenty of pubs and clubs in Maynooth to keep you happy if that's your thing.

suggestions/tips

In the beginning of the semester, they offer you to buy a students Leap Card (public transport card) for 10 euros, definitely get it! With this card you can use all the public transport in the Dublin area and it's way cheaper and more convenient than paying with cash. A bus ticket to Dublin is €2,60 with the Leap Card and you can travel by bus the entire day in Dublin area and they will only charge a maximum of €5,-.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would! Although the quality is less than back home, I would not have wanted to miss out on this experience.



The available modules really interested me and were different from what I could have taken at UU. The people are very happy to help you out if you have any problems and it doesn't rain nearly as often as people say it does! :)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I've said it all.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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

destination city & country	Maynooth, Dublin, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth
start date	12 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was easy, but included a lot of paperwork. The international office at Maynooth Univeristy was very helpful and answered my emails with questions very quickly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

We had a pre-departure meeting, where the people from the international office explained everything about our preparation. They noticed important dates and it was kind of useful. However, everybody was preparing their own exchange to different destinations, so they obviously couldn't tell specific things about your own preparation and application process.

academic preparation

I actually didn't do anything for my academic preparation.

language preparation

I didn't have to do any language preparation, since the main language in Ireland is English. Utrecht University or Maynooth University didn't ask for language competence proof, because every student at the Utrecht University is considered as competent enough in the English language.

finances

I the months before my exchange I saved money. I earned money with my job, but also saved some money from DUO. Furthermore, I got the Erasmus grant and compensation for my OV-card. The general expenses are a bit similar to the in the Netherlands, but you'll spend more money than at home, because you'll want to do trips and fun stuff.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did some free electives when I was in Ireland, so I could basically choose every course (without to much required specifif knowledge). It was also very easy to change courses after I arrived at Maynooth. You get a few weeks to go to your classes and change courses if there are any problems with time table clashes or so.

academic quality of education activities

I wouldn't say that the quality of education at Maynooth University is higher than at Utrecht University. I think it depends on your courses and teachers, but for me, it felt like the quality of education was a bit lower than at home. It doesn't mean it was bad, it was just different and not what I was used to. For example, they usually



don't give a reading list of book and articles, they more often give a list with 'recommended' literature. For me this was a bit weird, because I wasn't used to this. Besides that, I had a lot of work at the end of the semester, because the first semester international students don't sit the exams in January. Instead of exams, I got an additional essay for most courses. So I had a lot of study load at the end of the semester, but the content of the courses wasn't very difficult. I think main difference between Utrecht University and Maynooth is that the lectures and assignments are easier at Maynooth University, but you maybe have more work to do.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at Maynooth University was fine. I didn't had so much trouble, so I haven't used the support, but at the beginning of the semester we had a meeting with all the important student support and counselling. I was a nice feeling to know that the facilities were there, although I never used them.

transfer of credits

I don't know yet how they are gonna transfer my credits and it will probably take some time.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a orientation programme for the international students during the first week. Some activities were nice and useful, but I didn't go to all the activites.

accommodation

I lived on campus, which was nice. I really wanted to live on the campus, because you're close to the university and you live with other (international) students. It was a bit stressful to get a room on campus though, because there are not enough rooms for all erasmus students, so you have to make sure you're well prepared when they start the application proces.

leisure & culture

Maynooth is about an hour away from Dublin city. I did some bus trips, which departed from Dublin city, so sometimes I had to get up very early.. But it is worth it. If you like nature and are not afraid of some rain or cold, Ireland is a really beautiful country. Also around Dublin are some nice places where you can walk along the coast and if you're luck enough have some nice views with blue sky
 Furthermore, Dublin is a nice city with a lot of pubs and bars with live music every night. You can have a Guinness and listen to the traditional music, or dance in for example the club Diceys, where a lot of international students go because of the cheap drinks (in contrast to the prices is Temple bar...)
 In Maynooth town is also a nightclub and a bar/nightclub. The last one, The Roost, is kind of the place to be if you want to go out in Maynooth. It is quite big and there is often live music, but also DJ's, escpcially later at the evening/night. There is a lot of dancing, but also tables to sit down and have a drink.

suggestions/tips

If you're studying in Maynooth, you should go to Belfast and the Giant Causeway. There can be many tourist, but it is really cool! And of course all the other main sights in Ireland.
 Oh and bring your raincoat, but don't be afraid, there will be sunny days as well, the weather is not always that bad in Ireland;)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the destination! There are different trips you can do across the country and the Irish people are so so nice. They like to have fun and a few beers, or more..
 However, if you're looking for the best academic quality, this is probably not the place for you. The education is not bad, but in my opinion it really depends on the teacher if your lectures are useful or just not at all. I think



that the overall quality and organisational skills of Maynooth University lays a bit lower than at Utrecht Univeristy, but it didn't bother me too much.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Have some good craic (Irish for fun)!