



Universidad de Granada

2018 – 2019

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	To apply you have to fill in all the documents you need for the Utrecht University. Do this before the deadline and remind yourself that this is somewhere near december. You need a motivational letter, in English, as if you write it to the University you are applying for. The UU will send you somewhere between January/February the news if you are accepted. Then the only thing left is applying at the University of Granada. This is easy, it only scared me that I already had to choose my courses, but don't worry about this. I didn't do it, they filled it in and when I arrived at the beginning of the semester I had a few more weeks to figure out which courses I wanted to do. In Spain you will choose those, so don't put effort in finding them in advance because you won't understand the system until this is explained to you.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	They helped where they could, it is just a strange proces with all the courses in Granada, so they didn't know how it worked either. In Granada everything will be clear.
academic preparation	
	I did my exchange in my 3th year first semester. In Granada I followed 2 criminology courses and 2 political science, so it didn't have that much to do with law. I wasn't prepared for these courses, but it was easy to follow since the level is lower in Spain. I did 2 first years and 2 fourth year optional courses. In my opinion it was all the same level.
language preparation	
	My Spanish level when I arrived was between B1 and B2, more B1. It is hard to follow all the courses, even at the end of the semester I was still struggling with clases, but it is really really worth it. You will see progress fast, since you will hear and speak Spanish every day almost all day. I agreed with my international friends to speak Spanish together, and also in my flat we always spoke Spanish. My recommendation is to have at least B1 level, and be open to improve, you will be fine. At the end of my exchange I reached B2 level of Spanish with C1 on listening since that is what you basically do all the time.
finances	
	Granada is a cheap student city. The flats cost between €150 and €300, depending on the location. Food is also cheap, if you go out for tapas, with every drink you will get the best free tapas. Drinks are between €1,80 and €3,00, and with 2 or 3 drinks you have enough food for dinner. Sit at the high tables, otherwise the tapas is not free. Trips are cheap as well with the student organisations, I will write about them later. To go to other cities without an organisation it is easy to book ALSA busses, or use blablacar, you join someone who is going somewhere, like carpooling. To go out you have a lot of free erasmus nights, otherwise entrance is maximum €15.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The first month is going to be chaos, prepare. To make your own schedule is a bit of an issue, since it is up to



you and totally free with the possibility of choosing different courses from different faculties. The people at the international office will help you with this, and you just have to take your time to understand the system and find a schedule that fits your lifestyle. I chose to only have courses in the afternoon so I never had to put an alarm and could go out every night. Notice that the courses are worth 6 credits, so to have the minimum of 22,5 ECTS you should at least follow 4 courses and to have 30 ECTS 5 courses. This is doable.

academic quality of education activities

As I said before, I followed 2 firstyear and 2 fourthyear courses. You can choose out of all the courses the university has, also when it has nothing to do with law. I followed 2 courses at the faculty of political science and Sociology and 2 at the Law faculty since Criminology is part of law. There are no lectures and smallgroupsessions like in Utrecht. Depending on the amount of credits you have 4 or 6 hour lectures, with everyone who follows the course. The teacher will talk for 2 hours straight, without a break, and you have to just take notes. It is a good practice for your Spanish and I learned a lot. It is not obligated but with some teachers you will get credits for attendance. Spanish people barely bring laptops, just plain paper to take notes, that's it. The semester is september until december, without any exams, and the whole month of January you will have exams. Since every teacher makes their own course, with own recommended books and own tests, some give you tests or asignments during the semester. This is why you, before you choose a course, have to go check the course with different teachers, which one you like best, understand their accent of Spanish the best and see if they are tolerant with Erasmus exchange students.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The boy who was responsible for the international office related issues was the most helpful and patient boy ever. He helped me with everything, explained everything in Spanish, and if I didn't follow it he would directly switch to English. He responded really quick and, even after I showed up every day in the first few weeks, he was always just as nice and helpful.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first day you will go to a general introduction for all erasmus students from one faculty. I study law and I had to go to the faculty Fuente Nueva. Here they explained all erasmus related information, and after this meeting I was really confused with everything I had to do. The day after we had a meeting for only law students in the law faculty where they gave us the subjects we could choose. Here they will only give you the law courses, but since I wanted to have other courses as well, I had to find all these on the website. It is a complicated process to make your own schedule, and you should really take the time to make this. In the guia academica from each section you can find which course is given in which period, and the international office counselar will help you with all your doubts.

To make your own schedule you have to check the catalogus, see if you want to have class in the morning or afternoon and if they fit with each other. Also check if the exams in January aren't on the same date. Don't rush, you have until the end of september to make your schedule. If you want to you can change it every day, or just take your time and change it all at once at the end of the month. Try to matriculate as soon as you can, so you can enroll in the school system.

accommodation

It is easy to find accomodation in Granada, don't worry about this. You can find a flat on forhand, but you can also come and visit flats so you know what you say yes to, since the conditions aren't that good. There are lots of facebook pages where you can find appartments and studentflats.



Also, you can look on the website of Aluni, this is an organisation that rents studentflats. Please note that in the winter in Granada it can get cold, so make sure you either have central warming or a good heater. I didn't know this, and all winter it was cold inside.

locations: If you are going to study at the law faculty, or anywhere near the center, the best locations to look for an apartment are

- pedrio antonio = cheap flats, student street with a lot of bars to go out. This is close to camino de ronda as well, but this street is long, so don't live too far.
- city centre, this is close to everything.
- Plaza de Toros, far but cheap and close to Cartuga, where a lot of faculties are located.
- Albaycin, far from most of the faculties, but lovely neighbourhood, lots of climbing though.
- Realejo, far from most of the faculties, but nice neighbourhood and close to the city centre.

leisure & culture

There are three big students associations active in Granada for Erasmus students.

ESN: an association based on local volunteers. Cheap, since it is all volunteers, nice people, lots of interesting activities, communityfeeling.

Bestlifeexperience: Based on fulltimers and volunteers, the best trips, the people who work here speak a lot of languages, nice activities and day, - and weektrips every weekend!

Emycet: didn't do much with this organisation, didn't hear good stories, offers the same trips as bestlife, so I would prefer them.

Visit the Alhambra, it is beautiful. There are some days that students can visit for free, worth a look on the internet.

Traveling: Marocco since you are so close is definitely worth it to visit, don't forget to bring your passport since you will be leaving Europe. Andalucia, lots of easy daytrips.

Sierra Nevada: You definitely need to make a (ski/snowboard)trip to the Sierra Nevada, the mountains near Granada. Easy to go there by bus from the busstation, or with organised trips. You can buy cheap skipasses on the website of the Sierra Nevada club. Lots of shops to rent stuff, and you can decide for how long you want to rent it all.

suggestions/tips

For going out, when I was here, the following clubs were worth a visit:

Monday: mezquita 14 for karaoke night and lemon rock for a language exchange and concerts

Tuesday: Chupiteria 69 and club Legend for 1 euro shots

Wednesday: Palabarab for predrinks and Mae West for a good big party

Thursday: Hannigans and Sons for karaoke, entresuelo for alternative partys and there are some places with free dancing clases

Friday: camborio and teatro

Saturday: Techno partys such as Sala el Tren or Industrial Coopera, other clubs are Granero and Sala Vogue

Sunday: free salsa class outside of the centre and Sarao for brazilian liv music

CONCLUSIONS

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

Granada is the best city ever for Erasmus students who would like to improve their Spanish, live a cheap and easy life, party every day and go out for tapas almost every day. Sometimes that is even cheaper than cooking



yourself. If you like outside activities go here, since it is close to the Sierra Nevada. You can walk everywhere, the centre is really small so you never have to think twice if you want to go somewhere because everything is close and you just always join for a bit. The university system is not the best and the classes are really different than back in The Netherlands, but it is a fun change and you start to appreciate the organized structure back home even more. If you would like a siesta every day, a lot of culture, party, nature, free tapas and an international environment Granada is the best. I had the time of my life and remember that Granada is known as THE international student city of Spain!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

GO, you won't regret it. If you do regret it, the flight tickets to go back home are cheap.

2017-2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application is a bit stressful, but it's worth it. In the beginning I had to fill in a lot of forms. I had to look for the right courses and sometimes, not everything was clear, but luckily the international office in the Netherlands always helped me out and also the international office in Granada always answered very fast when you needed something.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was going well, if I needed something I could always ask and they answered me on time.

academic preparation

Everything went good, although I didn't expect that there were no English subjects at there. There was actually one, but because of clash I couldn't apply for that subject.

language preparation

I had taken Spanish courses in Valencia a year before I went to Granada. I started from A1 and finished B1 in 7 weeks. But the Spanish accent in Andalusia is very different (fast and they don't pronounce everything clear), but you will get used to it after a month or two.

finances

Everything is quite cheap there. You can find rooms in Granada for even less than 200 euro's. But if you want to stay in the centrum, then you will have to pay more than 250 euro's, which is still very cheap if you compare this to other countries.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had some issues in the beginning because of not attending the orientation week (I was lost), but I had my buddy who helped me out with choosing the subjects.

academic quality of education activities

The education there was very different. In the beginning we were in some rooms and all I thought was: where am I, in which century? Later I realized that the rooms are still oldfashion, because it's something that belongs to the building itself. The education there is different because there you don't have lectures where more than 500 people can attend and listen to the professor. In Granada you everything is just in class, you listen to the teacher and you make notes.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I was not very satisfied in the beginning, because one lady showed me the wrong subjects a few times and because of her I missed the orientation week.
transfer of credits
The credits are different there, there are subjects with 8 credits which was new to me, but when you pass for it you will also receive your 8 credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I missed the orientation week.
accommodation
The accomodation where I lived was 2 minutes by walk from the University which was very good to me, because normally I travel from my town to Utrecht 1,5 hour and back also 1,5 hour. The place itself was not my number one option, but the distance from my accomodation to the University was the reason why I stayed. I stayed in a residence, it was not only for students, but also for random people who wanted to stay for a few days. I had a room and I shared the bathroom with my friend. The livingroom and the kitchen was shared by me, my friend and two other Erasmusstudents.
leisure & culture
I really loved the culture, but I was attracted to the Spanish culture earlier. The people are so friendly, the food is good and cheap. The beautiful cities, the beaches and at last but not least the magical mountains! Every city in in Spain has it's own beauty. But Granada is my favorite.
suggestions/tips
I know that for a lot of students it's important to pass your subjects, but don't forget to meet all those lovely people there, don't forget to travel and discover the beauty in Spain. You will pass your exams anyways!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
YES! for sure. The university in Granada is an old university, the rooms are old also, but for some subjects you have to go another location which is 5 minutes by walk (this counts only for the faculty of law).
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't doubt, just do it! You won't regret!

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I had gone to a information day and they gave me some information about how the application process, but most of it can be found on the website and if I had any questions I could always go/mail to international office and got a reply pretty quickly. So they application process was very easy because of the help I received.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I consider this to be good. At the beginning I was very lost and struggled with the applicacions but I was guided



well.
academic preparation
I went abroad in my last year of my bachelor. Therefore I was already accustomed to an academic level of teaching. I have already finished my courses and I noticed that there are some similarities between the Dutch laws and Spanish laws. Which is not very surprising given the fact that both are influenced by European guidelines.
language preparation
My mother is a Colombian native so I grew up speaking Spanish myself. But even though I had a good basic in Spanish there are still some differences between the Spanish from South America and the Spanish from Spain. Especially in Granada they have a very strong accent. In the beginning I struggled to understand them properly. But after a while I got accustomed to the accent and it was not that difficult. However I strongly suggest that if you are thinking about an exchange in Granada to have a proper basic in Spanish, because the amount of English subjects are pretty slim.
finances
My finances were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loan from Duo - Scholarship from Erasmus - OV chip

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>The beginning was very stressful. Because I did not find the Granada website very helpful and therefore I made the mistake of thinking that, like most other faculties, the law faculty would also start their semester at the 15th of february. However one day before the orientation week started at my faculty I received an email from 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' stating that the orientation week would start the day after. That was roughly 3 weeks before I thought it would start. I had booked my flight at the 5th of february thinking that I would still have plenty of time to figure things out in Granada and would be on time for my orientation week. However that was not the case and the semester had already started when I arrived the 5th. I directly went to 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' to talk to them about this mistake and they told me not to worry.</p> <p>The courses I had chosen before going to Granada were not available for me because: they were from the first semester, the academic level was lower than Utrecht required, timetables did not add up. So therefore I was forced to choose different courses than I had anticipated.</p> <p>Having missed the orientation week I lacked some important information such as that the law faculty has two buildings. So the first week I followed one course in the wrong building. I was sitting in the course 'contratacion publica' instead of 'contratacion privada'. The reason I found out was that I found it really strange that they were teaching about taxes when we were supposed to learn about contracts.</p> <p>The first month was really stressful because everytime I had to switch subjects and they approved some subjects that didn't even exist anymore. But after the first months I had my real courses and I had already spoken to all my teachers about being an Erasmusstudent and why I enrolled later than most students in the courses. After that I could finally start studying.</p> <p>Also many teachers showed up half an hour late to the classes. So I had to get used to that as well.</p>
academic quality of education activities
The first weeks of studying in Granada I felt pretty lost. Even though I was confident in my level of Spanish I struggled with understanding my teachers. Some had a very thick accent and used some different words than I



was used to. Also there is a difference between 'normal spanish' and 'legal Spanish' so that took me a while to figure out. One thing that really stood out to me was the fact that most teachers don't work with a manual as we are used to in Utrecht. In Utrecht before starting the course it's very clear for the students which book to purchase but in Granada it's not. The students learn mostly by going to the class, making notes and reading different manuals in the library for additional information. This is very weird for me because when I went up to the teachers and asked them about a manual they gave me a big list of manuals I could 'use if I wanted to'. But I learned that that was not really necessary, I just had to make good notes of everything the teachers were saying in order to get a good grade. Seeing how I had missed some classes and my notes weren't that good because my writing in Spanish isn't as quick as in Dutch I felt a bit stressed about that. But the Spanish students helped me and my friend (also a Dutch Erasmusstudent from University of Utrecht). Also the teachers helped us with our studies and made sure we understood the lessons.

The academic level of Granada and Utrecht is very different I believe. I believe that the courses in Utrecht are far more difficult than in Granada. The students in Utrecht have to read so much more and get more indepth questions. In Granada there was one course (which I failed) that I had to memorize the law. For me this is very strange as I am used to being able to have to law with my while making and exam in Utrecht. In this course they would ask me questions like: what is stated in art. 404? And I had to had memorized that. I really prefer different kinds of exams because memorizing to me is very boring.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I think that they are very friendly at the 'oficina de relaciones internacionales' and eventhough many things went wrong at the beginning they really calmed me down. They were very relaxed about everything so that helped me a lot.

transfer of credits

The only subject that I got less credits for is the subject: instituciones y derecho de la union europea. This was because it had some overlap with courses I had already followed in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I missed the orientation week

accommodation

A friend of the family had a contact with a woman who owned a residence. I directly contacted her and I got a room next to the faculty.

leisure & culture

Granada is a city with a lot of history and culture. It has the Alhambra which is a beautiful palace and worth the visit. If you want to get tickets make sure you do that on time because they get sold out very easily. You have the centre where the are shops and places to get tapas ect. and you have the albayzin and sacromonte which are beautiful neighborhoods. Granada was once an islamic city and there is still lots of influence. In calle Elvira there are lots of morrocan teahouses which are delicious and very beautiful.

As for fun there are lots of clubs where you can go out. My favorite is Mae West. It is the biggest I believe and it's always busy. The music they play is reggeaton. The Wednesdays is usually the Erasmus days and you can get in for free I recommend going there. I believe that two club also has Erasmus parties on Fridays. Often organisations such as best life and emycet organise events like 'tapas and karaoke' or 'mojitos and crepes'. For travelling best life and emycet also organise trips. You can travel cheap with these organisations and I recommend you to go. In the summer they organise a lot of beach trips. They also organise a trips to morocco, lisboa, ibiza, gibraltar, sevilla, cordoba, madrid, barcelona ect. So it's good to check those organisations out.

suggestions/tips



Make sure at the beginning of your stay you invest in hanging out with people and going to social events. The beginning is usually when most friendships starts :)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university. The faculty is in the centre of the city, which is better because you can find an apartment in the centre and the centre is very safe and nice place to live. The faculty is beautiful and the teachers are friendly. It's definitely a student city and therefore there are lots of activities for the students. The teacher help the Erasmus students because they are very used to having Erasmusstudents.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The albayzin is absolutely beautiful and I have been there many times and never felt unsafe and you can visit it without a problem. However I have been told that at night it can be quite dangerous so don't walk there alone at night.

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process at the university of Granada is fairly easy. In April you get sent a link to an online application, together with a how-to in both English and Spanish. In this you just have to fill out your personal data and upload a copy of your ID or pasport. The document number on this ID will be used for all kinds of stuff, so make sure you upload the ID you will take with you. You can also reference your application by this number. Once you get there, there will be a plenary introduction in which you give a copy of your passport and they finalize your application. Up until half of september, therefore, your application won't be final. All the other stuff has to be arranged after the application is already final (picking courses, buying books, applying for a student card, getting the password for the wifi). Don't expect this to be arranged before october.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

At Utrecht, we got a lot of information about the application process. It was a little complicated, but the international office was very approachable and helpful. Not only did we recieve support in the actual application process, but also advice as to what other things we should do before going abroad and what might happen when you actually live abroad.

academic preparation

The level of the courses in the University of Granada is very basic. Contentwise, you will probably get along just fine. As the culture in Granada is one of not studying more then you have to, you will definitely not fall behind if you put in a decent amount of work. You could go to the website (of the specific faculty) and read up on what courses are available, as it helps to pick your courses as soon as possible, but this is to not miss out on practical information.

language preparation

I really recommend reaching B2 in Spanish before the semester starts. I myself had the reccomended B1. However, nobody speaks any English and the University of Granada is not very organized; you have to often chase the information you need. Me only having B1 Spanish made this a complicated and tiring process.



Furthermore, right at the first week, friend groups of (international) students are formed. B2 is sufficient to comfortably socialize in Spanish. Your level of Spanish will go up rapidly during the school year, so don't worry about academic or legal Spanish, you will learn this as you go. The best way to do this is to just do your readings, even if you read slow in the beginning. The more you do it, the easier it will get. If you postpone readings, your reading skills will not develop quickly enough to keep up with the schoolwork (not because it is a lot, but because all your readings and assignments are in Spanish, and take a lot of time the first weeks). After the first few weeks, writing and debating in Spanish will not be a problem anymore, as long as you did your work the first few weeks.

As to reaching the B2 level: going up a level takes 3 weeks of an intensive course in Spain. Therefore if you take 6 weeks of Spanish in Spain, you should reach A2 before you arrive in Spain. If you take 3 weeks, you should reach B1 before you arrive in Spain. Learning Spanish in Spain is far more effective and efficient than in learning it in your own country, therefore don't spend all your time reaching B2 in the Netherlands.

finances

Granada is actually the cheapest city of Spain. To give you an idea: the rent of a room will be somewhere between 130 and 230, a beer (accompanied by free food, enough to constitute a meal) will be 2 euro's, a week's groceries are 40 euro's and a night of clubbing will cost you 15 euro's tops. With an income of 500 euro's each month, you will be able to live comfortably (rent, food, fun and occasional purchases such as a coat for the winter or a check up at the dentist). You could also make it with less if that is necessary.

Don't try to get a student job in Granada. The unemployment rate amongst youth is currently very high (in the 40%) and a lot of very experienced people with degrees that are fluent in Spanish are also looking for jobs.

There is no market for students that stay temporarily, are not fluent in Spanish and don't have a degree nor can work full-time.

I found applying for the Grant and "OV" vergoeding a complicated process, but it was worth it as it covered more than half of my finances. I recommend finding the forms, saving them and reading through them early, so you know what signatures/stamps you will have to collect.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the introduction week, there is a faculty specific information lecture. I study law, and we received a list of courses on paper. With this list, you have to make your own timetable. In my course choice, I went with the name of the courses, as there was no information on the content of the courses in some kind of course catalogue or study guide. On the website of the faculty, there was a list with the timetables for every workinggroup. The Spanish students get placed in groups and follow set courses, and a set timetable.

International students can cherry-pick courses and in which group (and thus at what time) they want to follow the courses, but it is a bit of a puzzle. You can switch courses for a month, so if you don't like a course, do not meet the requirements of a course, or cannot understand a professor, or the hours don't work for you, you can pick another course or another professor, or another timeslot. If you have figured out what courses in what groups you want to take part in, you have to go to the international office to register (something that was not clear to me). The international office is only open 10:00 -14:00, and there is a very long line in the first weeks, since everybody has to register.

The courses are all in Spanish, and every professor can decide for themselves what they want to teach in the course. Friends of mine had the same course, from a different professor, and there was almost no overlap in the material we had to read and the issues that were discussed in class. The types of courses you can choose are:

Cursos troncal: basic courses, such as history of law, theory of law, political economy. These are introductory courses and easy to follow. They are all 1st year courses

Cursos basicos: courses in Spanish law, criminal law, labour law, etcetera. They are numbered (e.g. Labour law



II), so you will know when a course can not be taken without having some background in the subject. Many international students took these courses and managed to get a good grade. The difficulty of the course depends on whether you pick 1st year courses or 4th year courses.

Cursos optionales: extra courses, such as legal argumentation, international economical law. These courses are all 3rd to 4th year courses and presuppose some knowledge in the area. (e.g. don't take international economical law without having a good basis in public international law)

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education activities is significantly lower than in the Netherlands. Students are simply required to be able to repeat what was said by the professor in the lectures. Students are generally not very engaged in the lecture, and because the groups are quite big (80 students) its not really possible to engage in group discussion. Some efforts have been made to make the lectures more interactive, in the form of assignments you have to hand in every week. However they usually amount to question to check if you have read the literature. Another difference with the Netherlands, is that students are expected to accept things like: "the definition of democracy is... " without any reflection or discussion.

Every course has a final exam, that usually counts for 70%, and a series of 'practicas', which are assignments. What the assignments are varies a lot, depending on the teacher. Some teachers ask you to read a book, summarize it and present it, other teachers put out a small assignment every week, or want you to go to a roundtable event, or read and reflect on cases.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before the lessons start, there is an introduction week. A lot of information on how the university works is provided the first day of the introduction week. The information is essential, so don't miss any of it. The international office of your faculty is your contact point; they are very helpful in helping you solve administrative problems. Use the introduction week to get in content with international students of your faculty, being in a group of international students will help you keep up to date with what you need to hand in/sign/copy/etc.

They also work with a mentor system, so you can actually make use of 1 on 1 advice and assistance (I did not use this opportunity, so I do not know to what extent this is helpful)

Information on your courses is a lot harder to obtain, because the content and even the procedures of your course depend on the teacher. Thus, things such as where to buy books, what form the test is in, what you need to prepare before the lecture and how the teacher will communicate with you, will be given during the course. At times, the syllabus clarifies these things, but more often not. Unfortunately, there is not a fixed bookstore or information channel (such as blackboard).

transfer of credits

As of now, the transfer of credits is not yet completed because of an administrative problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As alluded to in the sections above, there is an introduction week. It starts a week before the first day of class, and you will receive information about it some time before. The first day is on the science campus (fuenteneva) and consist of a welcom speech and some crucial information about how to finalize your application, as well as information on the services the university and related associations provide (more on those later). To speed up the process, bring a copy of your passport, so you won't have to wait in line. The speech as well as the information are translated to english. On another day (specified on the website) there is a faculty specific introduction. Here you will get information on your timetable, how to register for courses and all other information. This one is in Spanish, so make sure you are well rested and understand spanish quite well,



because the information cannot be found online and is pretty important. Make notes if you need to. Here you will receive a form that you can use to register for courses at the international office (of your faculty). The rest of the orientation programme consists of leisure activities. I would recommend to go, since this is where everyone gets to know each other and groups are formed. It also helps to know other students that speak english and have to deal with the same confusing registration proces.

accommodation

Most people, including me, only started looking for accomodation once they arrived in Granada. The price of a student room in a shared apartment is between 120 and 260 euros, the price of an entire apartment between 200 and 300. My experience is that the best chance of finding an apartment is walking around the area you want to live, and take contact slips of advertisements of appartments that you can afford. Then call the number and make an appointment to see the room or apartment. If you like it, immediately arrange to sign the contract.

Spanish people are pretty informal, and tend to arrange everything last minute. A good time to look would be august or september. You also have to be very proactive, they assign the room to the first person that is on their doorstep with the first month of rent and the deposit in cash and a pen to sign the contract. If you wait to long or expect them to take the next step, the room might be rented to someone else (this happened frequently). So don't stop looking untill you actually have the keys and a contract.

Granada is not a big city, so it is not hard to find a place that is from walking distance both to your faculty and the center.

Since a deal is not a deal until you have handed over the rent and deposit, and they want to show you the apartment physically and see you before they assign you the room, it is no use using internet to find accomodation. When you are already in the city, it might speed up your search, but don't look from home.

A good place to find a room or appartment is on the facebook pages:

- * pisos granada
- * ESN granada
- * Alquiler granada

(Watch that you look for accomodation in Granada CITY, as the province is also called granada.)

Don't expect anyone that rents rooms to speak english. They might, but most of them don't. It is therefore necessary that your spanish is good enough to make appointments, ask questions and make deals over the phone.

leisure & culture

Granada is a great city, with amazing student live. 3 student organizations are active (Erasmus, ESN, Emycet). They all organize nights out, trips to the beach, sierra nevada and even citytrips for a very reasonable prize. In the introduction week they organize events to get to know other students. The student life, throughtout the year is very active. There are an average 4 parties a week, and every other weekend, there is a trip. Since the acedemic level of the courses are not very high, this is doable (although I did not go that often). The libraries are quite empty, until 2 weeks before final, when everyone suddenly starts pulling allnighters.

The nightlife in Granada is, as I said very active. Granada is full of bars, and it is the use that you get free food (tapas) with every drink. Outside of the touristic part of the center, you can choose which foods and it easily constitutes a dinner. A night out always starts with tapas, and the tapas subsitutes dinner (which would normally be around 10). after that, you go to a pub/café, until 3. Then the clubs open. Everyone usually stays out till 7. Because alcohol is not expensive, and the food is free, people go out often and drink much - social live revolves around tapas and clubbing to a large extent.

I really recommend joining all 3 organizations. I soon noticed that certain bars have certain offers on specific day. The thing is, on days there is a special offer in some bar, all students are in that specific bar. If you choose a place to go at random, you might enter into an empty bar. Therefore I really recommend staying in contact with students you meet in the introduction week, as to stay in the loop.

Aside from partying, Granada is know for how ancient it is, and for being a meeting point between marrocan



and spanish culture. It is easily one of the prettiest cities of spain, so there is plenty to see (which is why i recommend going a bit earlier to play tourist). In the winter season (november - february) you can ski at the Sierra Nevada (one hour away). In the summer you can go to the beach (one hour away). The university facilitates sports clubs, varying from footbal and rugby to salsa and zumba, to hiking trips in the mountains. They also have a cultural center, where you can meet people and watch movies (for example). The weather in granada is 40 degrees (celcius) in the summer (june -september), 25 in fall and spring and 15 in the winter. It rarely rains. However, somehow, 15 feels chillier than it does here (in the Netherlands), so you will need to pack some winter clothes.

suggestions/tips

Most of these I have already mentioned, but here they are summed up:

- * Go to as many activities in the first weeks as you can, even if you are normally more introverted.
- * Make sure you are comfortable with speaking spanish both in social and professional settings before you go.
- * go before school starts to play tourist, get used to only speaking spanish and find a place to live. Also the activities start mid august.
- * If you want to better your spanish in Granada, and also have an accomodation and already meet people during the summer, follow an intensive course at escuela delengua (really really recommended). They also host excursions and lots of activities in the evening, so you don't have to get to know granada alone. I would really recommend this, to 'ease into' the daily life in granada (in a more foreigner friendly environment then a lecture full of spanish students that don't speak english and do not know what is and is not new for you).
- * Don't tire yourself trying to figure out 'the system' (books, timetables, etc). There usually is none.
- * stores open at 10:00, close at 21:00, and are closed between 14:00 and 16:00 in the winter, 13:00 and 17:00 in the summer (this really is very inconvenient)
- * All courses are offered in morning classes (09:00 -15:00) and evening classes (16:00-22:00). The slot 13:00 - 15:00 and the slot 20:00 -22:00 is for optional courses (optional for spanish student, for you of course, all courses are optional). Have your classes in the afternoon mostly (so between 13:00 and 20:00), this way you will be able to best adjust to the lifestile. And during exam week, that way you can go to the library in the morning, when there are still spots.
- * figure out where the studyspots are. It is very common to host dinner parties all the time, and have friends over constantly. I lived with locals and it was never quiet. Studying at home did not really work. Most faculties have their own library, but they are full around exam time. Also, during exam time extra buildings open up to study in, and all study places are open 24-7 (except 06:00-08:00 to clean); these buildings are also almost always full.
- * dinner time is around 22:00, lunch around 15:00. In exam time, this is a great time to find a study spot. After 16:00, but before 20:00, restaurants and take out places are closed.
- * You can get around by foot. There is also a pretty well functioning bus system and cabs are cheap. There is no need to buy a bike (unless you really like biking, which is great in the mountains around granada).
- * Go on some of the trips

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would defenitely recommend going to Granada for the social and cultural experience. Granada is an amazing city and has a unique mix of spanish and moroccan culture. The city is beautiful and the food and weather are great. Granada has the most active student life and nightlife and you will definetly a great time. However, if you want to really invest in your education, I would not recommend Granada. The style of teaching is rather rigid: you are supposed to write down what the teacher says and memorize it. I personally did not get bored because following classes in Spanish itself was enough of a challenge already, but if you like to be challenged academically i would choose another university.



do you have any additional advice or comments?
Since almost noone speaks English, you will have a hard time arranging things upon arrival if your Spanish is not up to par - it would be best to already have B1 before arrival. To properly follow the courses, B1 is not enough, B2 would be. Join the student associations, almost all social contact, parties, trips and events are arranged by them. The earlier you join them, the better. Arrive a few weeks before school starts to explore the city, get used to speaking Spanish all day and to find an accomodation. Buy a map and wander around the city, and try lots of random bars.

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Both the UU and the UGR have a relatively simple and clear application process. It still takes quite a lot of time, but then on the other hand it's logical that such things require some preparation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Since I'm pretty stupid in a lot of things concerning administrative procedures, I was very happy with the fact that the people helping you at the UU are very friendly and don't get frustrated when you don't get some things which are very obvious once you get them. Also I appreciated the fact that my international office always replied within (at most) a few days.
academic preparation
I didn't do a lot of academic preparation, because I wanted to start my adventure blanc. Looking backwards, it might have been a good idea to learn spanish before going to a spanish university. On the other hand, I really
language preparation
I did a small spanish course, but I would recommend other people to have at least B1 if they would go to Spain, also because almost all courses are in spanish
finances
The more you have the better

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
UGR is probably a very bad university. For me however that wasn't a problem, I didn't really go for the academic content
academic quality of education activities
Very poor
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Spanish people are nice and will help you, but don't expect a reply if you send them an email. Go to them in person and then you will have a change of succes.
transfer of credits
24 credits



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The UGR has a small welcoming programme, but there's lots of other student associations which offer a ton of different activities. It's absolutely impossible to get bored in Granada. Granada is party town, but for everyone: from hippie to posh prick, everyone finds his way.
accommodation
I lived in an UNESCO world heritage building with 17 other people. Really cool, but because of the coolness of those houses (called carmens) the landlords tend to be very, very fraudulent. I was pretty much ripped off without any services or niceness.
leisure & culture
Granada is a melting pot of cultures and has been like that for centuries. Because of that, and the relaxed Spanish leading culture Granada is a perfect city to live for half a year or a whole year.
suggestions/tips
Try to visit every barrio in Granada; every part of the city has its own culture and you'll find something else everywhere. Favourite coffee bar: Cuatro Gatos in the Albaizin. Not only because I lived only 50 meters from there, it's also the best coffee bar in Granada. And good coffee is a hard thing to find in Spain.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely yes. Granada is the perfect city to spend your Erasmus! The only bad thing I can think of is the fact that the level of education is low. But let's be fair: which law student goes studying abroad to learn Spanish laws? No one of course. Oh now I do know another bad thing about Granada: too much reggaeton, but you'll have that problem everywhere in Spain.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Do you want some rest once in a while but still want to live nicely and being able to go to the city centre quickly, then go live in the Albaizin, the most beautiful part of Granada and also not that noisy. Do you want to be in the centre of the parties: go and live in the city centre or between the city centre and 'Neptuno', a shopping centre. In that area it's party hard every night.

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I finished my Bachelor in February and had a semester left before starting my Master. I decided to use this time well by going abroad. Since I wanted to improve my Spanish I decided that I wanted to go to Spain, and preferably to Granada because most of the subjects here are taught in Spanish. The UU made it clear on their site how you had to apply for an exchange, and that made the application process quite fluent.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International office of the UU answered all the questions I had during their office hours or by e-mail. They responded most of the time quite fast and they were very helpful.
academic preparation



I chose some courses at home using the student guide, but at this university you can try all the courses you'd like to follow and also the methods of teaching of the teacher in the first few weeks. Every teacher teaches in a different way and with his own methods, so for me it was very usefull to be able to see how the courses and teachers were for the first few weeks and then base my decisions on my experiences.

language preparation

I have had 6 years of Spanish in High school, but I had to refresh it which I did with an online course and with the online course of the Erasmus Grand. When I came to Granada I followed a Spanish course at the CLM (Centro de lenguas modernas).

finances

I worked a lot in the months before leaving, so I saved quite some money, and I also applied for the Erasmus grand.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the first few weeks you can try out the different courses and teachers. I tried out some courses and also different teachers of the courses and made my decision based on my experiences. It is also nice if there are other Erasmus students in your class, because since you're in the same situation you can help eachother out when you don't understand something. I finally chose 3 subject at the law faculty and the Spanish course at the CLM. Two of my courses at the law faculty were in Spanish and one in English. This was the first year that they taught 2 subject in English, which is nice as a variation.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is not the same as in the Netherlands. In the courses I chose were only lectures where you have to listen to the teacher. A lot of teachers didn't use a powerpoint, so you had to understand very well what they were saying. This was for me the hardest part, because the Andalucian accent is very fast and because they pronounce words a little bit different it was quite hard to understand sometimes. Since everything is very theoretical here, the exams are aswell. You don't get any case questions, you just have to memorize all the information you study. This also means that during most exams you can't use the law or jurisprudence. Since I was not used to this the exams were pretty hard for me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling support is good at the Universidad de Granada. They were very helpful and tried to answer all of your questions.

transfer of credits

I am still studying in Spain while writing this, so I'm not sure how the transfer of credits will go. I hope the transcript of records will be send as soon as possible to the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a welcome day at the university, but that was just for general information about the faculty and about how you could pick your courses and other university related stuff. For social activities you have to go to the Erasmus organisations. They organise a lot of social activities every day in the first few weeks, from tapas evenings to visiting the beautiful places of Granada. It's quite easy to get to know people because of these activities.

accommodation



I found my room before I came to Granada through one of the Facebook groups (there are a lot of them!). Other people I know came here without booking a room in advance and they found one here quite easily. During the semester a lot of rooms remain empty, so you don't have to worry too much about not having any accommodation. I lived in the city center, which I can recommend because it's close to everything, and because Granada is very small you can walk everywhere from the city center. My room was quite expensive for Granada, but you should easily be able to find a room for around 260 euros.

leisure & culture

For me the most beautiful part of the city is the Albaicin. The Albaicin has a lot of charm and if you walk up to the "mirador the San Nicolas" you have a beautiful view over the Alhambra. The streets of the Albaicin are also very quiet, and it doesn't feel like you're in a city anymore. The Alhambra of course is as well one of the main attractions here! I went to 2 football games of Granada CF, because the CLM where I followed my Spanish course had promotions for those games, and this was absolutely amazing! Even if you don't like football the atmosphere is very nice so I recommend you to go there once! In Granada you get a free tapa with every drink you order, so eating out is quite cheap. There are some really nice places with good tapas, and most of the time you only have to order 2 or 3 drinks with tapa to be full.

suggestions/tips

Go on a lot of trips! The Erasmus organisations offer the trips quite cheap and it's an amazing experience. If possible go to Marocco with one of the organisations. Since you're in the south of Spain it's not that far and it's very nice to see the culture differences.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. There are a lot of Erasmus students in Granada and the atmosphere is always very nice. The city is very vibrant and there is loads of stuff to do. If you want to improve your Spanish this is a really good place, because most of the courses are in Spanish. This way you improve your Spanish a lot faster than when you only hear English during class.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Since the Andalusian accent is quite difficult I recommend to take some Spanish lessons before you come here. When you have time to come here a few weeks before the university starts do so, because it's very nice to know the city before you have to start studying.

2013-2014

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application website did not work well for some reason, fortunately if I send emails about it they were relatively helpful.

counselling/support at home university

They were helpful and gave us enough information. It's just a shame they don't have more office hours, it's easier if you can just walk by on more occasions.



academic preparation

Before leaving I already had enough ECTS to graduate, so I took mostly first and second year courses that I didn't specifically need to prepare for.

language preparation

I left for Spain about three weeks before the introduction started to take a language course. In Granada, but from what I know also in the rest of Spain, there are a lot of language schools to choose from. I chose Delengua, which was pretty cheap so I could afford three weeks of class. I already had about a year and a half of Spanish in University, but that was already two years ago so it was definitely good to freshen up at the start. If you're looking for a room after you've arrived, it makes your life a lot easier if your Spanish is good enough to have basic conversations with your potential landlords.

finances

Granada is a really cheap city, great because this way you can undertake a lot for little money. Rent is especially very low, I paid 180. The only reason you may spend more money here than at home is because you are abroad and want to travel and try as many new things as possible. There are also a lot of Erasmus groups, not just ESN, that organize trips to nearby cities, the beach, etc. These are often cheaper than if you go to those places yourselves via an ALSA bus.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

During the first few weeks, as an Erasmus student you go to the different courses and see if you like them. If you are serious about taking a course, try to go from as early on as possible, because you will end up missing things if you only decide to join after three weeks, even though it is allowed. Apart from the content, the teacher is the most important factor in choosing your courses. I had a couple of teachers with very heavy accents that were difficult to follow, it's better to look for some teachers that you actually understand. Also, try to talk to the teacher after class and see how he responds to Erasmus students. I had one teacher who let us take the exams orally which in that case was a lot easier, whereas another teacher wouldn't even give us some extra time to complete our written exam (as we of course needed a lot more time than the Spanish students). I only took courses at the Law Faculty and the CLM, as for instance the Humanities Faculty uses different timeslots (everything starts half an hour earlier than at the Law Faculty), so it can be hard to find courses that you can combine with each other. Criminology is also taught at the Law Faculty and can have some very interesting courses.

academic quality of education/placement activities

I think the contents are not necessarily easier, but there are still a lot of courses without papers and other assignments, that only have one final exam, and where you're really just expected to listen to the teacher and remember what he said for the exam. That is however, changing a bit I feel like, some courses have more than



others. Also take into account that for one course may have different teachers and (slightly) different examination methods and course contents.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

I didn't really need extra support, but the International Office was generally helpful.

transfer of credits

Can't really say too much about that, as the process isn't completed yet.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The orientation programme organized by the university was quite limited. Also, we for instance had our Faculty's introduction meeting (explaining us how to register for courses) after the courses had already started. Definitely look for all the Erasmus facebook groups, if they don't find you already. There was a group that organized somewhere to go every night for the first few weeks, which was a great way to get to know the city and what it has to offer, as well as your fellow Erasmus students.

Accommodation

There really is an abundance of student flats available, so the looking for room process is quite different from that in Utrecht. Whereas in Utrecht the other housemates select you, in Granada the landlords can't really be picky and if you want a room you can usually have it. So don't feel pressured to accept something too quickly. I lived close to Plaza Einstein (in Calle Sol), which I would definitely recommend. It is a nice student area and there are a lot of cheap restaurants and bars. Also a recommendation is close to plaza Trinidad, or close to Plaza Nueva. It's easy enough to find a room after arriving, so I would definitely recommend doing that. You'll have the chance to compare prices, location and insides of the apartment. You'll definitely encounter some landlords who will try to ask more for the rooms than they're worth, it is definitely possible to find something good for 250 max, including gas/light/water. Take into account that it gets pretty cold in winter here, mostly inside the houses. So try to find an apartment with central heating, and if there is central heating, ask if you can turn it on yourself or it is turned on during (very) limited hours for the whole building.

leisure/culture

There is so much to do and to see, Granada is a really great city! Lots of historic sites with of course the beautiful Alhambra as the most important one. Also countless nice places to go for tapas (usually you get a free tapa with a drink, so it's also really cheap), loads of atmosphere on the streets (if you can forgive the Spanish for walking so slowly and in your way - the Dutch go outside to go from A to B, whereas the Spanish are outside relaxing, hoping to walk into people they know, etc.). It's not very big so you can walk pretty much everywhere, and it really is a student city, somewhat like Utrecht.

suggestions/tips



Great places to visit are obviously Sevilla, the beach (if you go the fall semester go as often as you can in the first weeks as you'll have to miss it soon), la Alpujarra, Ronda, Córdoba, Cádiz. In Granada itself, the ones you MUST see are the Alhambra and the viewpoints Mirador de San Nicolas and Mirador de San Miguel.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, definitely. Maybe not as useful academically or professionally as going to for instance the US or the UK, but if you go mostly for the experience it's a great city with so much to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I got a SIM card from Happymovil at the Phonehouse, wouldn't recommend this provider (bad service), probably best to get to get a well-known name. The Blackboard system is really complicated, so ask around at the International Office in time if you can't get it to work. The International Office is open from 9.00-14.00, so make sure you come a bit early (not at 13.55) and they're still very helpful. You will have to register as a resident in Spain with the Extranjería. Go there early in the morning. It is a three step procedure and if you go in the afternoon the other steps will have to wait until another day, as you have to go to a bank with your form to pay a fee, and the banks close in the afternoon. This whole procedure is a great example of Spanish bureaucracy, so approach it that way and expect to be there for the large part of the day and it can only turn out better. Ask Spanish students for their 'apuntes,' they usually don't mind sharing them and it can be really hard to make useful ones yourself. Ask for a bus card (sort of OV chip card, but without the checking out hassle) as soon as possible (you can get them from the busdriver) as this is about twice as cheap as buying individual tickets each time. If your parents are visiting, you can also swipe the same bus card three times for all of you. Expect things to be slow and inefficient and nobody to speak English and you'll only be pleasantly surprised. A lot of Spanish students are, because of the crisis, very motivated to learn English - see if you can find someone to practice your Spanish and their English with. Learn the phrase for 'Could you please speak more slowly, I'm foreign' if it's not immediately obvious from your blonde hair. Have fun!