



Temple University

2018 – 2019

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was not hard if you follow the steps on the website. The only thing I recommend is that you start the process as soon as you have decided you want to go.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International Office is always happy to answer your questions.
academic preparation	
	I did not do any academic preparation. Everything you need to know will be explained to you in the introduction weeks.
language preparation	
	You don't need any language preparation. You can only make it a bit easier for yourself to search some legal definitions. However, you pick up legal words very fast when you are there.
finances	
	America is expensive. The rent is expensive and groceries are expensive. Besides that, you want to do some fun things when you are there. So make sure you have saved enough before you go. You have to show the University that you have \$10.000 before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	You can chose up to four courses. Two courses are mandatory (when you go in the first semester): Introduction to the American Legal System and Legal Research and Writing. Besides that, you can chose any subject you want. I picked Evidence and International Trade Law. If you need the credits, you have to pick at least one 4-credit course.
academic quality of education activities	
	I would say that the academic level is comparable to the Dutch level. My professors were experts in the area. All professors have office hours, so you can drop by after class to ask additional questions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Karen McMichael is your contact person at Temple. She is doing this for many years now and can answer all your questions.
transfer of credits	
	For me, the transfer of credits was an easy process. As soon as I got my grades from Temple I gave them to the Studiepunt Rechten and within a week, the credits were transferred. Like I said before, check before you choose your courses if the American credits will give you sufficient ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The first two weeks are for introduction. You meet all the other international students from your semester and you get to know the campus area and Philly.
accommodation	



I lived at Podiatry Hall. This is a university building, but in center city. I would recommend this, because it is in a safe neighborhood.
leisure & culture
There is so much to do in and around Philadelphia. Philadelphia has a lot of history for starters. Besides that there are food festivals and other events every week. New York and Washington D.C. are also pretty close. So you can easily visit those cities.
suggestions/tips
I highly recommend to attend sport events. From the university teams and the professional teams of Philadelphia as well. These are not only games, but there is also a lot of entertainment surrounding the games.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Temple. It is a good university and Philadelphia is a great city. It is also a pro that it is so close to New York. The people are very friendly.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try to do as much fun things as possible next to your studies.

2017 – 2018

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The only thing I would like to mention about the application process is that I would recommend you to start as soon as you are sure about your desired destination. There are a couple of things that could take some time, and you don't want to wait with those until days before the deadline. For example, you need to get a study plan checked and affirmed by a study counsellor, and possibly make some adjustments if this counsellor does not agree with your plan. Moreover, you don't want to underestimate the importance of your motivation letter. Make sure you have others read your letter, and ask/be open to feedback. I found the feedback of friends and family very helpful.
counselling/support at home university
I did not feel the need to contact my home university a lot during my time abroad, but they were very helpful before departure. I was informed about possible culture shocks I could experience, and about the differences between Dutch and American teaching. If you have any questions, make sure you ask Paula Banning at the international office, because I am sure she will happily answer all of them.
academic preparation
I did not do a lot of academic preparation before my departure to Temple University. You could read about the teaching style at American law schools. However, it's barely possible to acquire substantive knowledge beforehand, since you are not sure if the courses you would like to enroll in, are open to you. What you could



do is read about the United States legal system, as the course about this subject is mandatory to international students. So, if you get picked for a semester at Temple University, you know for sure that you will have a course about the American legal system (only if you'll go in the first semester, though).

language preparation

The only language preparation I personally did, was a 2-day legal English course offered by the study association (JSVU). However, I don't think anybody at Utrecht University should worry about their capabilities regarding the English language. Before my departure, my friends always made fun of my English, and even I did not experience any serious trouble. Exchange students from several countries are required to show their English skills by making a test beforehand, and it's not without reason that Temple University has waived this test for its European students: Temple University found that these always fit in quite well without any major problems.

finances

Make sure that you have enough resources to study a semester in Philadelphia. You'll find that having to pay in dollars is favorable to you, since you get more than a dollar for every euro, which is nice. However, there are several expenses that are higher than you are used to, the rent in particular. I paid 900 dollars per month for my apartment. Other internationals paid around 700 dollars per month, but that is probably still a lot more than you are paying for your room in Utrecht. I believe you have to show that you possess around \$10500 to get a visa. You should be able to get all your necessities with that amount of money, but be prepared for extra expenses, since you probably want to go on a Thanksgiving trip (to Canada for example), or some sport/music events.

study/placement abroad period

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

I cannot tell you if the difficulty level at Temple University is higher or lower than at Utrecht University, but I can tell you that the classes require a lot more preparation. Professors will cold-call you with questions about the cases you had to prepare before class. Since some classes take preparation and attendance into the final grades, and since you don't want the slightly embarrassing experience of being called on unprepared, you should read all of the materials before class. I would advise you to use the library a lot during the week: There are more seats than students, and a lot of other internationals will be there as well, so you're able to suffer together. If you study from Monday to Friday, you should be able to take the weekends off.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education is excellent, in my view. The American students pay over \$20000 dollar per year for their law education. I was told that the professors in the United States therefore know that the expectations of their students are very high, and that they want to live up to those expectations. This is for example reflected by the fact that the professors have office hours: Students are welcome to stop by the offices of professors with any question they might have, outside of class hours. Moreover, a lot of professors are very passionate about the subjects they teach.



counselling/support at host institution/organisation

There is a lot of counselling as soon as you arrive at Temple University. The international office at Temple University does not only help you with any question (study-related or not) you might have, but also helps proactively. They regularly send out emails with important dates and issues. They basically solve every problem before it occurs: For example, before you are even worrying about your exams yet, they've already organized a session to explain all exam procedures.

transfer of credits

The American way of grading is with letter grades. So, you're able to pass with a D, C, B or A, or to fail with an F. Passing grades will give you credits, which are different from ECTS. I needed 30 ECTS for my bachelor programme. 13 US credits gave me 31 ECTS, but I cannot guarantee that this will be the same for you. Utrecht University requires you to get your courses checked as soon as you are enrolled in them, so at that point you should ask how many ECTS the courses will give you. Transferring the credits was fairly easy. As soon as Temple has your grades, you can order a transcript. Because this can be done digitally, it does not need to take more than a couple of weeks to get your credits transferred and acknowledged.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The orientation programme at Temple University is excellent. At least, when you go the first semester. Namely, in August, before classes start, the international office organizes a two-week introduction programme. You get a tour around all important campus buildings, you'll get a tour, by bus, through the city of Philadelphia, you'll get a brief introduction to the American legal system and the American culture, and you'll get instructed in some basic US law school skills (case briefing and outlining). After these two weeks, you don't only know your way around campus, but you will also know your fellow internationals really well, and you will know Karen and Louis really well. These two members of the international office will make sure your stay will be as smooth as possible, and will go out of their way to make sure that you are able to study to the best of your abilities. They are amazing: After the two weeks they will know everyone's name, but they also still remember the names of exchange students that were at Temple five years before you, if you ask them.

accommodation

Temple University has a campus in the north of Philadelphia. Staying in Temple Housing on campus is only for undergraduate students, and not for exchange students enrolled in law school (a graduate school). There is a lot of rentable housing around the campus, though. However, that neighborhood is sketchy, and Temple does not recommend you to go outside after dark, at least not on your own. So, you'll rather want to live in Center City. Temple University has one building for graduate students, and it is in the heart of the city: The Podiatric Residence Hall. This is where I lived during my exchange. The rent is high, as I mentioned before, but you are in the heart of the city, instead of in one of the less attractive parts of town. The commute from Podiatric to campus is no problem at all, since there is a subway station just outside of the building. Getting to campus should only take you about 15 minutes. The Podiatric Residence Hall in principle only offers housing for a full



study year. However, when not all apartments are leased, you'll be able to lease a room for just a semester. I believe they will know if there are apartments left around the end of June/at the start of July.

leisure/culture

The culture in the United States is very different from the one at home, and I loved every minute of it. There is a great feeling of community in Philadelphia, and everyone will help you out as soon as they see you are facing difficulties. That started on the first day, when I had some trouble with figuring out the train from the airport to the city of Philadelphia. Immediately, there were at least three people helping me with the procedure. This is no different on campus: The American students in class really liked the fact that they could show their culture to the internationals at their university, and included us in a lot of their activities: After the first class already, a group of American students asked us to join them for a game of basketball, and to come and watch a football match with them in a pub nearby.

suggestions/tips

A nice way to meet American students, is joining an intermural sports team: There are various sports that have competitions on campus. When you join an intermural sports team, you'll play against other teams of Temple students.

conclusions

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

Absolutely. You'll just be amazed by the fact who structured and organized everything is. The first two weeks really help you getting around the university, and after the two weeks the members of the international office will keep supporting you on a regular basis. Moreover, the professors are really passionate about their courses, and the American students are really passionate about their culture. You'll feel at home immediately, and the only real problem you'll face is the fact that you don't want to leave in December.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I hope that the above gives you an idea of how a semester at Temple University would be. It's of course impossible to summarize a complete semester in a document like this. So, if you are interested after reading the above, but you are still in doubt, or you have any other question, feel free to ask the international office in Utrecht for my email address. I would be happy to help you with any question regarding the application, or my stay at Temple University.

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application process went easy. I just had to write a motivation letter and attach my resume to my application. The application process speaks for itself, you just have to follow the steps that are indicated.



counselling/support at home university
I didn't have that much counselling. We only met once with all the students who were going to the exchange. During that counselling we were told what to send to the exchange university and how to send it. You can ask a lot of questions during the meeting.
academic preparation
I did not have any academic preparation. I just made sure that I passed all the courses of year 2, to make it easy for myself.
language preparation
Did not had any.
finances
I took money from my savings and a loan from DUO.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I chose to take 4 courses in order to gain the 30 ECTS. I had 2 mandatory courses (Introduction to the US System and Legal Research and Writing) and I took a course of 3 credit hours and one course of 4 credit hours.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of Temple University is not that high in my opinion. I think that if your average at the UU is higher than a 7, you will be just fine at Temple.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
At Temple they were very helpful. If you have any questions feel free to ask the professors or students.
transfer of credits
It was easy to order a transcript of your credits. You could just order it in PDF and let it send to UU immediately.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
I had an orientation week. It was mandatory to attend, but not really needed in my opinion. At the orientation week they will show you around the campus and the important facilities of Temple.
accommodation
From other student experiences, the campus was not all the best place to stay there. It was not that safe and almost everybody is aware of that fact. I stayed at International House (IHP), which was located in University City and it was a 20 min. ride with the trolley to school. It was a very safe neighbourhood and I highly recommend this place. The only downside was that the rent was 890 per month.



leisure/culture
I did not connect with the JD students, because everybody invested more time in themselves and they were really competitive. I did connect with other international students.
suggestions/tips
I highly suggest that you spend time to find a good place to stay, as it could be unsafe or expensive. You can also contact Temple University because they might know some places.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would recommend Temple University. Philadelphia is a beautiful place to see and I found overall that the U.S. people were nicer. It was a great experience and it is also not that far from New York!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
preparation
exchange/placement application process
The usual process. I needed to submit a motivation letter, my resume and my grades. Philadelphia was a popular destination in my year, so there were more students who signed up for Temple University than actually could go.
counselling/support at home university
I went to the presentation about studying abroad. During the presentation it became very clear what you have to do for the application of an exchange. You can also e-mail the international office or walk by the international office for further questions, but that was not necessary for me.
academic preparation
I did not do any extra courses for the exchange.
language preparation
I did a short Legal English training.
finances
Savings and some support from my parents. Living in Philadelphia is more expensive than in Utrecht.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I already obtained all my credits that I needed for my bachelor, so I decided to do only three courses. It is mandatory to do the course Legal Research and Writing and Introduction to the American Legal System. Besides those, I also chose to do the course Introduction to Intellectual Property. I think the two mandatory were a little



bit easier than most courses in Utrecht, but Intellectual Property was a little bit harder.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality really depends on the course and the professor. You can sign up for almost every class only for some courses It is required to have passed another course.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The professors and the people at Temple University were really kind and very helpful. The professors have office hours outside class, where you can just walk in their office to ask questions.
transfer of credits
For these three courses, I obtained 21 credits. If you want to obtain 30 credits, you can do 4 bigger courses or 5 smaller courses.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
I really enjoyed the orientation program. It started two weeks before our classes would actually start. It was a really nice way to get to know the University, the staff and the other international students.
accommodation
I lived in Podiatric Residence Hall. I can really recommend this place. It is the only hall of Temple University where graduate students can live. (as a law student you are a graduate student). I shared an apartment with an American girl. We each had our own bedroom and shared a living room, kitchen and bathroom. The location was really good. It was in city center. Commuting to the law school on campus took only 10-15 by subway.
leisure/culture
There is a lot to do in Philly! It is a big American city and has a lot of history. Furthermore, it is really close to New York and Washington DC. I made a lot of weekend trips to these places. Going out is also definitely possible in Philly. I liked to go out in Old Town, but there are also a lot of other fun places. I also have been to American college parties (fraternity parties) a few times, which I think is a must see. At Temple University you can also do a lot besides studying. There are a few gyms, a swimming pool and you can join sport teams, which you can do for free as a Temple Student. I think it is also really fun to watch the Temple sport games. I went to a lot of football games. And there is much more!
suggestions/tips
I can really recommend living in Podiatric Residence hall or somewhere else in center city. I also had some friends with a nice AirBnB. There are also a lot of student apartments near campus which are nice, but you should know that Temple University is located in North Philly and the area around campus is not really safe during the evening/night.



conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes I would really do. I had a lot of fun. Philly is a really cool city and I made amazing friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process was pretty easy. The Law department gave a presentation where they explained everything that was important for the process. It is advised to start early with the preparations. Your motivation letter can require a lot of work.
counselling/support at home university
Student service and International Office were always able to answer any questions I had.
academic preparation
I did not really do much of an academic preparation before leaving. It wasn't really necessary but if you do want to have an advantage on the rest of your classmates at Temple, you could familiarize yourself with the American legal system before departure.
language preparation
I took the 'Legal English for Academic Purposes' course that is offered by Babel. It did make me more comfortable with speaking English when I started at Temple. I noticed that it also had broadened my legal vocabulary.
finances
Studying abroad can be quite expensive so I started saving money that I earned with my job. My parents also helped me out with the expenses.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
We got to choose our own courses so that was awesome. The content was adequate and made sure we were getting the courses that were necessary, such as Introduction to the American legal system.
academic quality of education/placement activities



The quality of education at Temple is really high. The professors motivate you and do their best to make sure you are as prepared as you can be for exams. They have office hours and are always prepared to see you or answer questions via email.

What I also noticed was that the quality of the classes given to only international students was significantly lower than the classes with mostly JD students. My advice would be to take as many classes possible with mostly JD students.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

Karen and Louis were both really nice and helpful. You could always drop by their office if you needed help with anything.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credit, from what I know so far, has been a bit unfair. Some courses deserve more points than others, this is something you also notice when studying at Temple. Make sure to get an extra course back in Utrecht, just as a back up plan.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The welcome programme was interesting and fun. We go to meet our class, the dean and even had a tour through Philly. It was fun!

accommodation

It was pretty hard to find accommodation. My advice is to start early with your search. Sent Karen (Temple) and email if you need any help. I lived in an Air-bnb for a month before finding a place. I stayed at the International House in West-Philadelphia. It's a great neighbourhood, very safe and you're in city centre within 13 minutes.

leisure/culture

Philadelphia is an amazing city! You can find amazing museums but also good parties. There is something to do every weekend and the city is close to other cool cities such as: New York and Washington.

suggestions/tips

Start early with finding a place but do NOT live on campus or around it! From what I saw, the neighbourhood is not safe.

Try to do ,as much as you homework allows, you when in Philadelphia. Football game, parties & sightseeing but also going to meetings with law firms and connecting a lot. You are going to miss it more than you think when you leave.

conclusions



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

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. Not only is Philadelphia a great city, there is also a lot to do! Temple is also a very good University. Students get motivated and they get a lot of opportunities to connect with law firms and other law students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2016-2017

preparation

exchange/placement application process

On basis of my motivational letter and my grades I got chosen to go to Temple University.

counselling/support at home university

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academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation. If you can keep up with classes in Utrecht, you should be fine there.

language preparation

I didn't do any language preparation. You should be able to at least understand English. If you don't speak it fluently, you shouldn't worry.

finances

America is a really expensive country. It is one of the most expensive countries to go to. For instance my rent was already around the 1000 dollars a month. I had saved around the 10.000 euro before going. Plus I borrowed an extra 1000 euro a month when I was there. If you want to stay in Philadelphia the entire, time less than 10.000 could be enough, but I also made some trips during the time when I was there. So I needed more money.

study/placement abroad period

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

Even though the level of education is lower compared to Utrecht; it does take a lot more time to prepare the classes. You have to read a lot. You really need to read all the stuff they give you, because it is the only thing you have when preparing for the exams. I think I generally spend my days from Monday till Friday from 9am till 4pm in the library reading books. When you do this, you will notice that you can take the weekend off to do fun things.



academic quality of education/placement activities

It really depends on the courses if the academic quality is good or not. A certain course can be taught by two different professors. The reading material the professor gives can differ from the reading material the other professor gives, even though it is the same course. So every professor can teach the course however she/he wants to. This results in that some courses are really good and some are not so good. The classes are different as well. You don't prepare questions like you do in Utrecht. You have to read the given materials twice a week and during class you will discuss what you have read. So it is more like a big group discussion.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

At Temple University Karen will be your "Temple Mom". She will be able to help you with whatever problem you have. It doesn't need to be related to Temple. For instance when I needed to see a doctor, she helped me with where I should go to and how to deal with the insurance. She is really nice. Her office door is always open and she is always in for a talk.

transfer of credits

My credits haven't been transferred yet.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The first week you are there you will get an introduction programme. Karen will show you around at Temple and will tell you how everything works. Already before coming to America you must have chosen the courses you would like to attend. Luckily does Karen give you time to switch courses the first two weeks of classes. So if you find out you don't like a certain course, you can still switch.

accommodation

Finding a room is not that easy to be honest. Most rooms can only be rented for the entire year. Only rooms in Podiatry and the Edge can be rented for one semester. I have lived at Podiatry. It is really expensive, but I thought it was worth it. Podiatry is the only campus which is in centre city. I really loved living in the centre of Philadelphia, it was a beautiful experience. All the other campuses are around Temple University which is 15 minutes away from centre city with the metro. The area around Temple is really unsafe during the night. I highly recommend you to no come there during the night. This means that if you want to leave Temple area at night you need to take an Uber (they are not expensive) or the metro in the weekend. You don't have this problem in centre city; I have never felt unsafe at centre city. Living around Temple also has his advantages. It is cheaper than Podiatry, you can walk to Temple and all the student parties are around Temple.

leisure/culture

You should keep in mind that even though the culture of America might not differ that much from the culture of the Netherlands as for instance China, it is not the same as going on exchange to London. America really differs from Europe. I am not going to tell in what way it is different, because I think you should experience that



yourself. Just keep in mind that you might be getting more of a cultural shock than you thought you would have.

suggestions/tips

Don't stress too much during the semester. The amount of stuff you need to know might be feeling as a lot. But it is really difficult in America to fail an exam. And if you don't get something, the professors are more than willing to help you personally.

conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend Temple University. If I would get the chance I would do it all over again. Living in Philadelphia was just amazing. I made lots of new friends and I already made plans to go back again.

If you plan well you will definitely have time to see more of America than just Philadelphia. We went a couple of times to New York and Washington. We even went to the inauguration of Trump, which was quite the experience. During spring break we went to Florida and after the semester to New Orleans.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't wait too long searching for accommodation.

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The process to get into my exchange and get placed at Temple University was very smooth. Don't stress out about the work you have to do in order to make your exchange happen; just do everything at its time and you will be perfectly fine. If you're not sure about something, just contact the international office of the UU and I'm sure you will get all the information you need!

Counselling/support at home university:

The support at Utrecht University was good. I was made aware of the possible cultural shocks I would be having and was given enough information about my partner university. However, by reading a lot about your future destination for an exchange you will learn by far the most about what you can expect once you start your exchange.

Academic preparation:

The academic preparation did not really exist. I just started reading myself about the American Law Schools and started contacting students who'd gone to a US Law School before me. That was about it when it comes to academic preparation.

Language preparation:

I did not prepare myself in a specific way when it comes to the language. Most students will already be quite fluent in English and I was happy that I could improve my fluency while living in the US.



Finances:

The US are an expensive place to live; be prepared for this! If you follow the guidelines of the UU about how much money is necessary, you will be fine. Some extra money, however, is always very welcome and I would advise to try to get some more money than necessary to be able to go on some trips within the US.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

The study programme was very clear. At my first day at Temple everything was explained very clear. I experienced no problems with this whatsoever.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of the education at Temple University is good. You cannot really compare the way of teaching and what is taught at an American Law School with what we learn at our own Law Faculty at Utrecht University. For me, this was a big part of what I found very interesting about my exchange.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The counselling at Temple was very good. We felt more than welcome and they were always available to give advise on study matters or any other subject you would experience problems with.

Transfer of credits:

Although the process of transferring is not yet finished, the exam board of UU has already given me a positive feedback on the classes I intended. I expect no problems with this. I would advise to just use your common sense when choosing classes and make sure you do not take classes that are similar to classes you already took (or plan to take) in Utrecht.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The welcome programme is good; especially the introduction to the university and how things work is good. The introduction to the city did not really exist, so you will have to find your own way in the city which is no problem at all!

Accommodation:

I stayed at the Podiatric Halls which is a graduate housing complex of Temple in Chinatown, almost in Center City. This is approximately 15 minutes by train to the campus and 10 minutes by bike. When you live on campus, you are more part of the academic community over there, but living outside of the campus gives you more feeling of the city. I liked living here a lot and would recommend. However, if you want to go for the full 'American university' experience, you should definitely try to find housing on campus.

Leisure/culture:

Philadelphia is a great city and has some cool other cities and things to do in the neighbourhood. I



loved walking through the city and studying at cool coffee spots, of which there are a lot. Also, Philadelphia has some great museums that you should definitely visit when you're there!

Suggestions/tips:

Like I already said when it comes to accommodation there are really two options in Philadelphia which is exceptional for the US. Most American universities are outside of cities and you will always be living on campus. Because Temple is a university within the city of Philadelphia, you have the unique possibility to live in the heart of a big American city. I would definitely recommend this!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would surely recommend an exchange to Temple University to others. Philadelphia is a very lively and interesting city in the US. Furthermore, Temple is a good university where you will get a good feeling of what American legal and academic culture is like. My experiences at Temple and in Philly are some I will never forget and carry with me the rest of my life.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Don't be afraid of going to a further destination for a couple of months. The months will pass in no-time and you will experience that, no matter the circumstances, you will manage! Good luck with all your preparations for a great exchange!

2014-2015

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The first thing you have to do is choice a destination. As soon as you know which destinations have your interest, you should start writing your motivation letter. In my opinion this is the most important document of them all because it's a great way to show them why you should go to your number one destination instead of someone else. Furthermore, you should have a look at the course catalogue of the host university to see which courses you can follow and make a study plan. Some courses have prerequisites and without them it is pretty much impossible to take that course because you lack essential knowledge. Also, take some time to make a good financial plan. This doesn't seem all that important but you should take your time to do research and make a solid financial plan. Lastly, the US requires you to get a visa before you are allowed to enter the US. This is not a big problem but it will take you some time to get one. Make sure you have all the required documents and make an appointment at the US consulate as soon as possible. After your interview at the consulate it will take a couple of weeks before you actually receive your visa. Right before the summer vacation it is really busy at the consulate so I recommend you make an appointment in May or early June to avoid this.
counselling/support at home university
The International Office is a great place to go to with all the questions you got. Moreover, the UU site offers a



lot of information as well.
academic preparation
I didn't really had an academic preparation but I followed the course Comparative Constitutional Law which showed me the basic foundation of US law. Its good to know a little bit about the US legal system before you start you semester abroad.
language preparation
In preparation I followed the course LEAP (Legal English for Academic Purposes), which helped me improve my English a lot. It is quite a big step going all on your own to a different country but this course made me feel really comfortable speaking English. This made it a lot easier to make contact with the American students and just settling in, in general.
finances
In contrast to a lot of the destination within Europe, studying in the US will cost you quite a lot of money so you have to start saving as soon as possible. You wont receive a so-called "Erasmus beurs" when you are studying at a university outside of Europe. In the application process you have to make a financial plan and I recommend you doing some research on the expenses you're likely to make. Having a solid financial plan is really important.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Most of the host universities have an online course schedule. In preparation of you time abroad you should definitely have a look at the course schedule to see which courses have your interest. It's a good thing to have a general idea of which courses you would like to follow. During the last week of introduction you can make an appointment with Karen to discuss these courses and make a preliminary schedule. Every course has a different time slot so it really depends on which courses you take how many day you will be in class. Some students had all their classes in only two days while I had class from Monday till Thursday. Instead of preparing question for your lectures, in the US you just have to prepare your cases. This sounds like less work than you do now but you have to know the cases inside out. In the US they use the so called "Socratic method" which means the professor can ask you anything about the cases you should have prepared. The point is to create discussion in class in which way you really get to know the core meaning of the case. A great help to study all the cases is to make case briefs. What a case brief is and how you make one will be discussed during orientation. For you exams you are allowed to bring these case briefs.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Most students will pick four courses for a semester but every course has a different amount of credits. You will have two weeks to try out these courses before you will have to make your final decision. Mandatory is the course Legal Research and Writing for LLM students. This course is a great help for the other courses because one of the things you will learn is how to correctly answer exam questions. A clear structured answer is essential to get a good grade. Besides Legal Research and Writing, Temple recommends you to follow



Introduction to US law and Contract law. Personally I didn't follow the course Introduction to US law but I did follow contract law and I do too recommend this course because you will learn a lot of basic principles of US law that you will need for other courses. These classes will consist (mostly) of international students and the overall level is equal to the courses you will follow in Utrecht. Besides the mandatory and recommended course I also follow Secured Transactions and Immigration law. These are courses the JD students follow in their second or third year. These classes consisted mostly of JD students and were a lot harder. You can definitely pass these courses but they are challenging. That being said, I did enjoyed these courses a lot because it gave me the real US law school feeling. The JD's are graded on a scale which means only a few can get an A, a certain percentage a B etc. For the international students however, they've got the option to do pass/fail. This means you will either get a pass or a fail (it is really hard to get a fail). That being said, when you do belong to the top of your class you will gat a S+ which means you would have got an A in that class. Like most international students I chose the pass/fail system because it's a lot less pressure and you can still get an A.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

During the introduction period you will spend a lot of time with Karen McMichael and Louis Thompson and they are your go-to persons with every question or problem you will face. Both are really friendly and willing to do everything to make sure you will succeed in your classes and have an overall great time at Temple University. Moreover, during the introduction you will be introduced to the people from student counselling, library personal and the technician guys. They are all really friendly and always willing to help you with any problem you face.

transfer of credits

Personally, my credits are still not transferred so I cant tell you much about this but what I know from previous years is that this never was a real problem.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The semester will start with a three-week introduction period. Each day you will have between 2 and 4 hours of classes. In these classes you will get the basic knowledge about the US legal system and a couple of courses that they recommend you following. For instance during the introduction we had a couple of contract law classes. Furthermore during the introduction there are a lot of fun activities to get to know each other. At the end of the introduction you will get a tour through Philadelphia where you will get to see thing like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. At the end of that day, the university organized a happy hour to celebrate the start of the semester. I had a lot of fun during the introduction period and it is a good way to get to know your fellow international students. Therefore, I really recommend attending the full three-week introduction.

accommodation

There are numerous accommodations to stay at during the semester. The university recommends a couple organisations that rent out places on campus. You can find these organisations on the Temple site. This is ideal



if you're going to spend a lot of time on campus (which you will probably do). Another option is to look for places in centre city. Friends of mine rented a place in centre city through Airbnb. Both options have there pro's and cons.

leisure/culture

I didn't really experience a big cultural difference between Americans and us. One of the few differences is the fact that Americans are overly friendly, which is obviously not a bad thing. Another difference is the fact that you have to include a tip with every meal or drink you have. This is something you will get used to soon enough. As you probably know, in the US you have to be at least 21 before you can buy alcohol. They are really strict so make sure you got your passport with you when you go to a bar or restaurant. Philadelphia is located in-between New York and Washington, which makes it really easy to spend a weekend there. Also, as a student you get free tickets for the university's sport teams. Personally, I really liked going to the temple football games, especially the homecoming game.

conclusions

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

All in all I had a great time in Philadelphia and I definitely recommend studying here to everyone who is interested. Philadelphia is a great place with lots of history but also some great restaurants and bars. Everyone at the university is really friendly and always willing to help you with every problem you may face. You can have a lots of fun during the semester and challenge yourself with some interesting classes from great professors.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The only real advice I would give is to make sure you have enough fun in between the studying. During the week you will spend quite some time studying and reading all the materials but make sure you do some fun stuff during the weekends. Philadelphia has a lot to offer from great bars and amazing restaurants to some of the best museums in the US. Make sure you enjoy every minute of your semester abroad!

2014-2015

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I applied for my semester abroad in November 2013. I always wanted to study in the United States, so when I had to pick a destination for my exchange I knew it was going to be a city in the USA.

I chose Philadelphia because of its perfect location. Philadelphia is located about one hour by train, bus or car from New York City and two hours by train, bus or car from Washington D.C. Three of the best cities America has to offer. Philadelphia is an awesome city with a lot of amazing people. I wrote a motivation letter, a study plan, a financial plan and asked my professors to write a recommendation. In march I got the great news that I would attend Temple University January 2015. After that I had to finish my application at Temple University by filling in a lot of forms. I chose courses, applied for a F1 visa and made preparations to get an i20 form. This was a lot of work and I would recommend starting your preparations, finding a room and buying a plane ticket as soon as possible.



Counselling/support at home university:

It's wise to contact the International Office sooner than later. Some weeks are very busy at the international office. In general the International office is really helpful and they are willing to answer your questions. Just remember that you have to ask them for help. They won't come to you. Also make sure you know their opening hours. The home university was not supportive at all regarding the semester overlap with the end of the 2nd period (January- February). If you miss Dutch classes as a result of having to go to the United States to start your semester in January they will fail you on attendance.

Academic preparation:

It is important to plan the rest of your studies in Utrecht. Especially when you are graduating at the end of your exchange you should think about writing your Bachelor thesis in the first semester. It is not a good idea to write your bachelor thesis abroad because you won't have all the books available at any time. Choose your foreign courses wisely. You can ask the International office abroad to help you with this.

Language preparation:

If your English is not good enough try to practice this a lot because they expect you to be able to explain the material you had to read and analyse the cases almost every day. You don't want to have a black out there. I personally didn't have this problem because my English was very good already.

Finances:

Make sure you save more than enough money! Studying abroad is very expensive and especially in the United States. You have to pay the University a lot of money for administrative work. You need an apartment or dorm, you will eat out a lot and you will probably travel while you are there. Make sure that you saved enough money because your visa won't allow you to work in the USA.

This is maybe the most important thing.

Make sure that you know the exchange rates and maybe ask someone to advise you on when to convert your money. I also opened an American Bank account for free at Bank of America. This was very helpful.

For the United States you will probably need to bring 10.000 euro for a semester. You always spend more than you think.

Make sure you have a credit card. You can't pay with your debit card anywhere. If you want a loan or a tuition fund you will need to arrange that as soon as possible and not wait until the end.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took 4 courses while I was there for a grade: Corporations, Introduction to Intellectual Property, Civil procedures, Legal Research and Writing II. On top of that I was an auditor at Constitutional Law. You are not allowed to work with this visa. Apply for your courses on time because the popular courses and professors are taken fast. Rent your books at the bookstore instead of buying them.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The Academic quality was outstanding. The courses at Temple University are great and the professors are phenomenal! The professors were very inspirational. I have learned more in one semester at Temple than in my whole bachelor. This is an opportunity of a lifetime because the law school is amazing.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The International Office at Temple is very good. They are there every day from 8.00- 19.00 to help you. Dean Thompson gave us a general common law lecture the first day to help us understand our other classes better. The whole staff is very nice and they are very helpful. All professors and even the lady from the reception knows your name and they are like one big family. The teachers are very nice as well and they really take the time to get to know you. You don't feel like a number at this university. There is always someone to help you. The international office even takes you to the hospital if something happens. You can call them day and night and Karen the head of the international office calls herself the mother of the



exchange students. She even helps you when you have housing problems.

Transfer of credits:

Temple has the A,B,C,F system. After your exchange you send your transcript to the international office of Utrecht and you send an explanation of how to transfer the grades. Temple will provide you with this.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The first day Karen the head of the International office told us everything we needed to know about studying at temple. She gave us a lot of hand-outs with our schedule, information for a transport pass, health-centre information, places to eat, grade-system and lecture system . She gives you a tour of the building and helps you get your temple id-card and the rest of your administration.

Accommodation:

There is temple campus housing. It costs about 1000 a month. There is also off-campus housing a lot cheaper but you need to be careful to stay in the right neighbourhood. You can check their facebook page for that and post a message that you are looking for a place. Never just take the first one. Ask Karen from the international office if that is a good neighbourhood first.

Leisure/culture:

Philadelphia is an awesome city with a lot of amazing people. Temple University is a very good university with outstanding professors that are very inspirational. The city is beautiful. There is old city with liberty bell and lovely bars around 2nd and 3rd street. The centre is called centre city. There are a lot of amazing restaurants and special events like the Italian festival, the beer festival, restaurant- week and a lot more. There is a lot of art especially the art museum is amazing. They also have the oldest prison in the Unites States, the eastern state penitentiary. It is a museum now.

The Benjamin Franklin bridge is beautiful and you are very close to New York and Washington D.C. for a weekend.

Suggestions/tips:

Make sure you are 21 cause they always ask for ID, Go get chicken over rice at the food trucks and try to get your room in centre city not north Philly. Also try to get professor Harris as your professor he is amazing!! Also professor Ramji Nogales is very good. Make sure you get an account at bank of America.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I WOULD DEFINITELY RECOMMEND TEMPLE UNIVERSITY!! This law school is amazing!!! You will have the best time ever and meet friends for life!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

See suggestions / Tips. Just do it cause this is a lifetime opportunity!!