

2018-2019

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Celtic Languages and Culture

destination city & country	Rennes, France
name university abroad	Université Rennes 2
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Having to collect all sorts of documents was overwhelming at first, but if you take your time and don't start the night before, it is really not all that difficult. Also, make sure you have a strong argument for your university of choice; many of the Erasmus students in Rennes only got there because they didn't get into the Sorbonne (Paris). So make a good argument for yourself, it can save you a long four months of disappointment! (for the record: Rennes was my first choice.)
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I found the support at Utrecht University to be adequate before I went to Rennes, but they really helped out a lot when I was actually in Rennes. You learn to appreciate the work they do when you're out on exchange and you're feeling overwhelmed.
academic preparation	Really, if you study at Utrecht University (and unless you want to go to Oxford or somewhere where you don't already speak the language) you'll do absolutely fine. With the courses I followed, I was able to take on an almost completely new language and be top of the class without even really trying.
language preparation	I already speak fluent French and English so there were no real issues concerning the courses. However, and this is important to know if you want to go and study in France: anything administrative is so complicated that even the French don't really understand what they're doing. And if they do, they will treat you like a five-year-old for not understanding.
finances	I implore any student to make a thorough budgeting schema for themselves, as it helps out tremendously. Some things are considerably cheaper than in the Netherlands (in the case of Rennes, everything is cheaper except maybe the beer, and fresh food). Try to find out whether you're eligible for some funding even outside Erasmus; for example, I was able to get the CAF (housing aid) which took 85 euro off of my rent per month!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

First of all, I have, in my 13 weeks of courses, received no homework. Also, not to forget, the university was blocked once in October by angry students, and then again in December, right in the final exam period. And instead of rescheduling or giving out take-home exams, the university just told us that the marks we had received would count as our average, and no further exams would take place.
academic quality of education activities
As I took language acquisition classes, this doesn't really apply. I did, however, have to hand in an essay on a word in Old French, for which the teacher insisted we would NOT include a bibliography of our sources as he thought "that would be too difficult for us". This was a second-year course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Adequate. I received e-mails when they were necessary, and I did get an answer every time I asked a question.
transfer of credits
As of handing this in, I have not yet received my marks for all of my courses.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	This was quite nice. We got to go to the Mont Saint Michel for free, and I got to bond quickly with other Erasmus students. However, the welcome drink in the main hall was a bit underwhelming as it was very disorganized and not many people showed up.
accommodation	The room was good, but the community kitchen was absolutely terrible. There was nowhere to stock your kitchen gear, meaning I had to walk down the hallway every single time with all my pots and pans. The induction plates were always dirty as the Spanish Erasmus students (I know it's them because I've seen them do it) muddy up the kitchen and never bothered to clean. To the accomodation's credit, the kitchen was cleaned twice a week.
leisure & culture	Fantastic. Rennes has a very quaint city centre with bars upon bars upon bars, good crêperies (a Breton specialty!). There are enough leisure activities to fill spare time with such as the two musea, Thabor Park, the churches, and of course, warming up with a pint of cider. Go to a fest-noz!
suggestions/tips	Try to get housing aid as it helps tremendously. Try not to eat too much prepackaged food, and cook for yourself (as it is cheaper). Get to know other Erasmus students, they are going through the same thing as you are, and you'll be able to relate. Budget yourself, but don't forget you'll only be here a few months. Look into traveling around the region, especially if you're going to Rennes like I am (go to Vannes!). Do NOT get cider in the Irish pubs. If this section meant "tips for the receiving institution": get it together.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Go here for Breton. If you're considering doing anything else, it's really a very average university which is mostly known for the people who have studied there, not those currently present (except for the Breton department, which, again, is very good). If you want a culturally interesting experience, definitely come here.

do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.