



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

faculty/college	Psychology
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology
destination city & country	Izmir, Turkey
name university abroad	Yasar University
start date	06/02/2016
end date	10/06/2016

PREPARATION

exchange application process

When I chose to go abroad, the first application process was already over, so I could choose from the spots that were left. I chose Izmir, and the application process was rather easy. There's a lot of forms that need to be submitted and also a physical letter needs to be sent to Izmir, which takes a while to arrive, but at Yasar University they are not too strict about the process, so it worked out well.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The IO at Utrecht University has been very helpful when I needed help, and they were always quick to respond and give me the necessary documents.

academic preparation

I didn't need to do any academic preparation in order to study at Yasar University.

language preparation

The courses are given in English, and my English was already sufficient before coming to Turkey. Also, don't be surprised if your English is better than the professor's. All of them speak English in Yasar, but the level of English can vary a lot.

finances

Life in Turkey is not expensive. It's cheaper to eat out than to eat at home, transport is cheap and easy, and living is also not expensive. In Yasar University there is a very active Erasmus Network, though. This increased the cost of my stay in Izmir a lot, as there is a trip almost every weekend.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme in Yasar is easy to sign up for. You have a lot of courses to choose from, and it also won't be too hard to sign up for courses from other departments.

academic quality of education activities

Academic quality is very low. The 4th year course that I follow here, could be compared to a 1st year course in Utrecht. The exam questions are very basic and superficial, more based on facts than on actual understanding of the material.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The IO at Yasar is very supportive. There is one person doing most of the things for the international students, but she is very quick and always helpful.



transfer of credits

I do not know yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Orientation programme was fine, nothing too special but it was nice to meet all the other students. Since before this semester there was some negative news about Turkey, there was just a small group of international students and we got to know each other quickly. Also, just being present for 3 days in the orientation programme, already gets you 1 ECTS.

accommodation

Through facebook, accomodation is very easy to find. There are a lot of flats, near the university and also in one of the small centers near university (Turkish cities have usually more than one 'center'). You can find very cheap accomodation (around 150 EUR), and the most expensive rooms I have seen were around 230 EUR p/m.

leisure & culture

Turkish culture is amazing. People are friendly and always very helpful. Also, Izmir is a big city so there is lots and lots to do in and around the city. Just a 1hr bus drive gets you to some amazing beaches, and the weather is good most of the time.

suggestions/tips

Izmir is a big city, but by using public transport it feels very small. Taking the metro or ferry is very cheap and gets you around the city quickly. Also, it's possible to take the train instead of the ferry, but the ferry is way more fun.

CONCLUSIONS

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

For Erasmus, I would definitely recommend this city and university. The level of education is low, so you can focus on the other things in your Erasmus, and there is so much to learn beside university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Izmir may seem like a big city (around 4 mln people), but especially within the student community, it feels like a village. Everybody knows each other and you run into people all the time, since there is just a few places where a lot of people hang out. I would recommend it to anyone to come here. It is a city that feels very safe, and it's not really Europe and not really Turkey, which makes for an amazing experience, especially since there is also a lot of international students from outside of Europe. Having them as friends will teach you a lot about your own views and their countries and I am very happy that I got to experience this.