



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p> <p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: yentl_heimstra@live.nl</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>
	<p>faculty/college Faculty of Social Science</p>
<p>level</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD</p>
<p>name study programme</p>	<p>Neuro Psychology</p>

<p>destination city & country</p>	<p>Tromsø, Norway</p>
<p>name university abroad</p>	<p>Norges Arktiske Universitet</p>
<p>start date</p>	<p>08 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)</p>
<p>end date</p>	<p>14 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)</p>

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

<p>PREPARATION</p>	
<p>exchange application process</p>	<p>First I had to write an application letter to my first choice university. To decide to which university I wanted, I looked at other UU reports and checked the websites of different universities to look which courses they offered. After this I wrote the letter and sent my top 3. In the end I could not go to one of the universities of my top 3. The International Office offered me the university of Tromsø and I agreed.</p>
<p>counselling & support at Utrecht University</p>	<p>The presentation about studying abroad was really clear, and it motivated me to go studying abroad. After this I attended the UU site a lot, to look which steps I had to follow before I could go on exchange. This website was also really clear. I also went some times to the UU international office desk to ask questions or I wrote an e-mail, which were always answered.</p>
<p>academic preparation</p>	<p>I had to switch my study program. Because I do neuropsychology, the only option to study abroad was in the second semester. In the first semester there was a mandatory course I had to follow in Utrecht. In the end it turned out that the semesters in Tromsø and Utrecht overlapped. This is the reason why I have study delay of one year.</p>
<p>language preparation</p>	<p>I did not have to do a lot of language preparation. In Norway they speak really good English. At the university there were also a lot of courses given in English. The only thing I had to do was an English test before departure and after departure so that Erasmus could see if my English was approved during my stay abroad or not.</p>



finances

With the finances, I got the Erasmus Grant, but Norway is a very expensive land so this could not cover all the costs I would make. For this reason, a year before I studied abroad, I got a job and saved a lot of money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses I followed were really different than the courses I follow in my psychology study. I studied English Literature, Norwegian History and a Peace, Education and Development course. I choose to do this, because I wanted to widen my horizon. There were not a lot of organisational issues, I had to switch two courses when I arrived in Tromsø, but you could do that easily at the university. You had a month to decide if you wanted to change the course or keep the course.

academic quality of education activities

I think the Norwegian school system is really good organized. Everything is really clear, for instance you know exactly what you have to do and who you can ask question if you do not understand something. There were classes of only 10 to 20 people, which made it very personal.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I think the receiving university was really nice. I felt really welcome to study there. They offered also a lot of courses in English, even a Norwegian history course, which gave to my the indication that they really want that international students come to study there.

transfer of credits

The courses I followed were 10 ETCS or 5 ETCS courses. The 10 ETCS courses were big courses where you had to write an assignment and had to participate in an end examination. The course of 5 ETCS was a two week course, where you had a lecture everyday and in the end you had to write a take home exam. The exams were of 6 hours, which gave you enough time to finish it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first three days, there was an orientation programme. Where they gave you a lot of information about the university, about the student housing and living in Tromsø. During this orientation programme, you also had a lot of time to meet all the other international students. During the introduction week, also a lot of trips were planned where you could participate, for instance a trip to Sommarøy, a cross country ski trip and a trip to Jekta (a big shopping center).

accommodation

Before I left I already had a room, because the university told you how to get a room/which organization offered rooms to students. The student housing organization was at the airport by arrival, there they gave you the keys and told you which bus you had to take to get to your student housing.

leisure & culture

What I learned about the Norwegian culture and people is, that the people are very polite and friendly, but they never start a personal conversation with an international student. A really nice day was the 17th of May, which was the Norwegian National Day. All the people were wearing the national clothes and ate breakfast with champagne. About free time, you had a lot of free time. You only had to go two or three times a week to University. We also had easter holiday.

suggestions/tips



I would say, that studying at Tromsø university is really nice. The workload of the university is not that high, so you have a lot of time to discover the surrounding area. Also the island Tromsø is not so big, so you could easily go from north to south and the other way around.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend you to study in Tromsø, if you like nature. It is not that far away from the Netherlands, but it felt like it. This is because it is destinated in the arctic circle, you have the polar nights, the midnight sun, the northern lights and a lot of snow (if you go the second semester). If you want to study abroad and party a lot, than Tromsø might not be the place to go.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I will give as an advice, that there is a difference if you decide to study at Tromsø the first or the second semester. If you go the first semester you will have less snow, which gave more opportunities to hike in the mountains and there is no midnight sun. If you go the second semester you have a lot of snow, which gave you opportunities to ski a lot and you will have the midnight sun and the polar nights.

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permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: v.b.l.diepmaat@students.uu.nl my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:	or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences (FSW)	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Pedagogical Sciences - Youth, Education and Society	

destination city & country	Tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	Universitet i Tromsø
start date	06 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There is a lot of paperwork to go through, and it is important to keep check what you have to hand in when. I made a separate folder in my computer with the paperwork (both past and what I still needed to hand in). Sometimes the paperwork is a bit depressing, but the work is definitely worth the experience!



counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office answered any questions and my study counsellor helped me choose and prepare as well. It was very nice to have this back-up if you faced any troubles. The responses were very quick.
academic preparation
I did not need a lot of academic preparation before my stay. I think it's important that you are used to university life, it will make the transition to a foreign university easier.
language preparation
You get quite far with your high school English and your English improves a lot during your stay. I think it's nice to be used to English literature and classes before you go. But don't let your level of English scare you off. Remember that there are people from many countries going on exchange. The Dutch are generally regarded as very good in English. Even if your level of English is closer to Dunglish... You will still be better than some other exchange students, and they too make it through their stay.
finances
I looked critically at what I spend here in the Netherlands and what costs differ in Norway. I saved a little, but I didn't spend that much more than I would in Utrecht. The groceries were more expensive, but you buy less snacks and don't go out for movies or dinner. So I think I balanced it quite nicely.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I had 2 psychology courses and 1 history course. It's build up very much like in Utrecht. The courses were very interesting and the level of English was very good.
academic quality of education activities	The quality of the education is very much like in The Netherlands. It's just more laidback. I believe that we tend to focus on efficiency a lot in our country, and in Norway they don't care that much about cramming as much as possible in the time given. So it was very nice to study and live there. If you're used to the Dutch standard, it also meant that there is some time to do 'holiday activities'. On exchange you are as much as a student as a tourist. The combination worked very well in Norway.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The counselling centre was great! I struggled with the darkness quite a lot and they helped me out very nicely. They also sent a weekly email with all the activities that we could go to. This was very nice, it saved you a lot of detecting on facebook... The ladies at the counselling centre were very warm and made you feel right at home. They helped you in any way they could to make sure that all students have the time of their lives!
transfer of credits	My credits aren't transferred yet, but I don't see any troubles ahead in it.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The university in Tromsø is very good at making the students at home and helped you in any way they can. Even before arrival they were always there to answer any questions. They also organised welcoming days at the airport so you could pick up the keys to your new house right next to the baggage belt. It saves you a trip down their office. I met a lot of people during the orientation week with who I spend a lot of time during the rest of my stay. I still wonder sometimes how we got to know each other so well, I think it's partly due to the university. Part of it is probably because of the very open attitude everybody has; we are all new and everybody



wants to get to know people.
accommodation
My room was very nice. I lived in Asgardveien with 3 Norwegian and 1 French girl. It was nice to have this mix. You can apply through Samskipnaden, make sure you are in time, because there is not enough space for all students. The university arranged temporary housing for those without a home. 2 weeks after our arrival everybody had a place to stay. The university guides you quite well I believe. There are different types of housing. In a dorm like me, or apartments. Whatever you prefer. If you come with your partner or with a child, the university makes sure you have housing fit for you.
leisure & culture
Norway is a beautiful country. I highly recommend walking in the mountains and travelling around. I went reindeer sledding as well, which was high on my bucket list. Other people went to do a whale safari. Apart from that there are plenty of things to do on the island itself (plenty of shopping opportunities as well). And Tromsø has many museums which are free or discounted for students. There is a cinema and many restaurants and bars to spend all your savings ;) The Norwegians are very kind and always ready to help or explain things. Apart from that, they are very good in English! I had a 8 year old ask me which bus he had to take, and after realising my Norwegian was pretty horrible, he managed to converse with me in English.
suggestions/tips
I know it can be quite daunting to go so far up North with the darkness and the cold. But it's definitely worth it! I'm not much of a winter person (sometimes I wonder why on earth I went to Tromsø..), but even I survived and had the time of my life! Everybody is in the same situation, the Norwegians take vitamin pills and fish oil just like the internationals. It's a remarkable experience and really cool to look back on. And the weather isn't that cold. It's all very doable. But bring thermopants and -shirts... And when it gets darker, it also means that it gets more likely for you to spot the Northern Lights. And that is a truly amazing and unforgettable experience! They are gorgeous! If you like chocolate btw, make sure to bring some.. We all know that alcohol is very expensive in Norway, but the government has a tax on sugar as well.. So chocolate is insanely pricy. I found, however, that electronics are the same price and sometimes even cheaper! You can also download the apps 'TooGoodToGO' and 'Mattilbud'. The first also works in The Netherlands and gets you food from bakeries and restaurants at a discounted price. The latter is an app with all the offers of the different shops. Keep track of the offers and you'll save a lot of money!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I definitely recommend going to Tromsø. It's nature and climate are very unique and provide excellent oppurtunities to widen your horizon. The university also is very popular with students from all over the world, so you'll definitely meet people from other cultures. The quality of education is very good and the Norwegians are always there to help out. These 5 months will stay with me for the rest of my life!!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I understand that it is a very big step to travel to Tromsø, I was quite nervous about it and wanted to pull out last minute at some times.. I'm glad I didn't. Going abroad is a wonderful opportunity to let yourself grow and do amazing things. It's scary sometimes, and yes, sometimes you're just lost in the supermarket, trying to find the ingredients for your favourite dish. But this is all part of it. So please don't be held back by any of these insecurities, don't let the climate frighten you and just go out and explore! And don't forget to pack your hiking shoes ;)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Tromso, Norway
name university abroad	University of Tromso, UiT
start date	06 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process was quite easy. The ones responsible for this provided me with all the information I needed to have.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I was really happy with this. You always got response within a couple of days, if not the exact same day. Besides, they informed you well with stuff you had to organize for your stay abroad.
academic preparation	For Tromso there is not a real preparation needed.
language preparation	The courses will be taught in English. So, there was no real language preparation.
finances	I saved some extra money, because Norway is quite an expensive country in food and drinks.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I really liked the course I had about the history of Arctic Norway and the Barents Region. I had more excursions to interesting museums, than I had lectures. The other two courses I had were Psychology of Gender and Psychology of Attitudes, both were very duable if you compare the content to Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	You will only have lectures for each course. These are somewhat comparable to Utrecht University.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	This was organized really well! They are very helpful in Norway!
transfer of credits	I don't know yet. You will have to send the examen commissie an email yourself when you're back in the Netherlands.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
Really nice! You will meet a lot of different students within a few days. Also, they will talk a lot about extra stuff you can do besides studying. They have so many different things you can do! The activities they offer during this programme are also really fun!	
accommodation	
I lived at Asgardvegen, "the big building". I was really happy with my accommodation! This is also very well organized and also here people are very helpful with finding an accommodation for you!	
leisure & culture	
You will have a lot of spare time, but you will never get bored. There are lots of different activities, lots of different views, lots of different people from different countries. You will always have enough stuff to do!	
suggestions/tips	
Enjoy the nature in and around Tromso. It has so much to offer, it is so beautiful!	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend this university! Tromso university may not be the best university, but you will definitely learn a lot about yourself, about different cultures, about natures and about traditions!	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Pack your bags & go! :)	

UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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	Tromso, Norway
name university abroad	University of Tromso
start date	07 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process was fine. It just took a while and there was a lot of paperwork.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
During my preparation the international office was very helpful. I e-mailed them several times and they always answered soon.	



academic preparation
I didn't really do any academic preparation.
language preparation
My courses were in English so I didn't had to take a language course. I only did the language test. I found it pretty easy to switch from talking in dutch to talking in English. At the beginning I was worried about how that would be but it was really easy for me.
finances
To prepare my finances I made a financial plan in which I calculated all the costs and all the incomes. Norway is really expensive so I had to save money and borrow money fom the government, but it was manageable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took the courses Business English, Introduction to English sound patterns and Attitudes. Compared to the Utrecht University the University in Tromso is very laid back. It is not a big deal if you don't stick to a deadline. I had some troubles with signing up for my courses and I went to a woman of the Psychological department who told me that everything would be fine and I dind't have to worry about anything. But apparantly, I did have to do something so the woman didn't give me the right advice. This happened to me very often, which was a bit annoying. Therefore, I think that when a problem occurs you should take it serious and not rely on others if they tell you to do nothing.
academic quality of education activities	The level of education was very low compared to the Utrecht University. All the lectures and exams were pretty easy so you do not have to worry about failing your courses. However, I heard from others that courses in biology actually were pretty difficult. But all the courses that I had were really easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The international office in Tromso was very helpful. They always answered quickly and always helped me out with problems.
transfer of credits	I don't have my Transcript of Records yet so this part is not completed for me.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The University had organised a debut week, which was a nice opportunity to get to know other exchange students. They also gave a lot of information about the courses and how to find the classrooms etc.
accommodation	I lived in Orndalen, which I found very nice. I would definitely recommend to choose Orndalen as a place to live. It is a bit far from the center but it is really the place to be for an exchange student. The houses are nice and clean and you share a bathroom with 2 others. There is also a common room where you could throw parties and every other week there were waffle evenings.
leisure & culture	The nature in and around Tromso is really beautiful. I did a lot of hikes which was really cool. I also went dogsledding and whale watching. I would definitely recommend to do this as well, it really was a great experience. You kind of have to get to know the Norwegians. In my opinion it is true that a lot of Norwegians aren't very social. You really have to start a conversation with a Norwegian to get in contact, which is



sometimes difficult but once you're talking to a Norwegian they are often really nice.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to join the debutweek and to do a lot of activities. When the weather is nice; go outside.

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you like outdoor activities I would definitely recommend Tromso. It is a really nice place to go hiking, fishing or cross-country skiing (in winter). If you want to go to a big city Tromso isn't the place to be. There are nice pubs and places to have dinner or a drink (very very expensive though) but I would not recommend Tromso if you are looking for a place to go out and have parties.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Tromso is a really beautiful place for people who like outdoor activities. The nature is so beautiful and I especially loved the time in the snow. It really turned into a winter wonderland



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Pedagogical Sciences

destination city & country	Tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	UiT The Arctic University of Norway
start date	15 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process was quite easy. Some people told me that you have to fill in a lot and prepare a lot, but I don't think this is true. You had to choose your top 3 of destinations, hand in a motivationmail and a financial plan. However, once I applied for the university in Tromsø, it took them soooooo long to let me know whether I was accepted or not.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I mailed the International Office a lot, because I wanted to be sure about everything. They were always really supportive and helped me through all my problems. They also replied fast. One time (I was already in Tromsø) I needed two signatures before the next day, I was really stressed out, because I thought I couldn't make it. I called them and 30 minutes later I had the signatures I needed.
academic preparation	I didn't prepare anything. I think you don't have to stress about that, because the academic level is lower than in Utrecht.
language preparation	I didn't prepare anything. I knew my English isn't the best, so I was quite scared to write, talk, read everything in English. However, you shouldn't stress about that as well, because you will get used to it within one week. After a while, you will even start to think in English.
finances	Norway is a really expensive country. It IS true what everyone says. But with the erasmusbeurs, the extra OV money and some savings, it is not that bad. It took some time but I got used to it. Some supermarkets are more expensive than the others. And actually, I stopped caring about the money, because it's a once a lifetime experience!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	In the beginning I choose three courses, one of the courses was a master course (because I read in earlier exchange reports that it's possible), then they told me that I should choose a bachelor course instead, so I did. Everything was fine by now. However, when I got there, I found out that one of the other courses didn't exist?? This was really weird, but I had enough time to choose another course. I ended up chosing a master course again (this time it was possible again). It was not really stressful because we had a lot of time to find out,



change it and everything.
academic quality of education activities
I took the courses: Attitudes, Pedagogical Psychology and Social Psychology. The quality was lower than in Utrecht. I didn't do a lot during the semester, I had like 6 hours a week. The Attitudes class was a master course and the academic level was the same as the level of a bachelor course in Utrecht. The Pedagogical Psychology was really nice organized! The teacher was always really excited and every class was different because she lets the students decide. The weird thing about the attitudes and pedagogical psychology is that you don't have to attend the courses -at all-. I still went there because I liked it and I think that is the thought behind it.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Also this International Office was always really supportive. I had no problems with it.
transfer of credits
The credits aren't transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The orientation program was actually really boring. It was well organized, we got a lot of the information we needed. I expected activities everyday but it wasn't much. However, I still got to know all the international students really fast.
accommodation	I lived in ørndalen, which is quite far from the centrum. But this place is the best! Almost every erasmus student lives here and it's like a little village. There are a lot of parties in the laundryroom (organized by students) and the view is just beautiful.
leisure & culture	Norwegian people are really nice, but they are just really really shy. You won't get to know them easily because of this. However, I got to know a Norwegian family when I was hiking with a friend one day. They invited us for a real Norwegian dinner, which was really nice. As a dutch girl, the culture isn't a shock. Even the language looks similar sometimes.
suggestions/tips	Go explore the places around Tromsø!! You have a lot of time and this place is simply the best to explore Northern Norway. Lofoten, Senja, Lyngen Alps.... I have never seen views like this before.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I would definitely recommend this place to everyone! It is so pretty and you will experience really special things. Everyday is different! The university itself is not the best, but you don't have to do a lot which gives you lots of days to go travelling!
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Don't be afraid of the polar nights and the coldness!! (I was afraid) The polar night is something really really special, with a lot of northern lights and cozy evenings. I fell in love with this place.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Onderwijswetenschappen

destination city & country	Tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	UiT- Arctic university of Norway
start date	15 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was managed very well by the University of Utrecht, we received a lot of information and the International Office was always very helpful. I had to hand in some documents, that was fun to do, I felt like I was preparing and got even more excited to go abroad.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office guided me through all the things I had to do for the preparation. Also while being abroad they were always there to answer my questions.

academic preparation

I did not need specific academic preparation.

language preparation

All my courses were in English, so I didn't really do a language preparation. Even though I started an online Norwegian course, which was fun but it is not needed for going abroad to Tromsø. In Tromsø they offered a Norwegian course for the international students.

finances

I saved €2000, so I was able to do all the things I wanted. The living is quite expensive in Norway, but I didn't spend a lot of money on activities. But it gave me a good feeling to have some savings, just in case.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

What I really liked about my courses was that they were different from what I normally do in Utrecht. I was involved in 3 courses. Social Psychology, Minorities & Culture & Human Rights, Aspects of History; The Barents Region. This gave me the opportunity to broaden my view on different subjects and observe different ways of education, which was interesting for me as an Educational Scientist. I took some different courses from what I had chosen before going abroad, they help you by finding the right courses and they organize it very well.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality differs between the different courses. Overall, they take more time for each subject what makes it a more easy going programme.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The student counselling centre in Tromsø responds fast and the people are very helpful. I felt very welcome at UiT.

transfer of credits

I do not know this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They organised a Debut week for all the international students. I really recommend joining all these activities. I met most of the people there and they guide you through the first week. This was a really warm welcome and I immediately felt like home.

accommodation

I lived in a big student house called Asgardveien. We shared a big kitchen with 10 people and lived on our floor with around 20 people. We had 4 toilets and 4 showers. It got cleaned by the cleaning staff almost every day, except for the kitchen. A lot of international students lived in this building and that created a good, friendly and nice atmosphere. It was close to a lot of grocery stores and the bus stop was in front of the building. I really enjoyed living in this building. From Asgardveien to university took me 45 minutes by walking, 25 minutes by bike and between 10 and 20 minutes by bus.

leisure & culture

Tromsø is a perfect destination if you like to be outside. The island itself is a small island and there is a cosy atmosphere. It is so close to nature that we went hiking and camping a lot. Beautiful places are located in and around Tromsø, we often rented a car and went a bit more out of the area of Troms. For example, we went to Finland, Sweden, Lofoten, NorthCape, Alta. Nature kept surprising me in and around Tromsø. It might get cold and dark, the darkness was the hardest part for me. You really have less energy and it really surprised my how my body reacted to this. But at the same time, it is really interesting what happens with you. Just keep in touch with Norwegians to learn how to deal with this.

suggestions/tips

GO TO THE DEBUT WEEK! ENJOY NATURE! MEET NEW PEOPLE! DO NOT BUY BEERS FOR 10 EUROS!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this place. It is so different from the busy western culture. It is more like a village with beautiful nature. You can enjoy the city life and after a 20 minutes bus ride you can hike up in the mountains and feel like you are the only person on earth.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Yes, the Northern Lights are amazing!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

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

destination city & country	Tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	UIT the arctic university of Norway
start date	09 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was fine, there was a lot of information available online. It was quite a lot of paperwork, which took some time, but it was ok in the end.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had some problems/questions during my application and the international office at UU helped me very well. Their response to e-mails was very quick and helpful.

academic preparation

I did not really need any academic preparation.

language preparation

My courses would be in English, so I did not need very much preparation. However, I started to read and watch more things in English, to get more used to it. I also tried to look into Norwegian, but that was not very succesful. I took a Norwegian course after my arrival in Tromsø, which was more succesful.

finances

Norway is a very expensive country so I took a summer job to save enough money. Savings and Erasmus money should be fine to cover the expenses, at least it was for me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had some problems with organizing my studyprogramme, since there were no psychology courses for my semester on the website of UIT. In the end, after a lot of emails, there turned out to be three psychology courses after all. I took only one of them: The psychology of prejudice and stereotyping, because the other two had too much overlap with some of my previous courses. The other courses that I chose were English subjects: Language acquisition and Introduction to English word and sentence structure. Even though I expected to do all or at least two psychology courses, I was happy with the English ones as well.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality was quite good. However, most of my courses were a little easier than in the Netherlands and there is less workload. Most of my lectures were in quite small groups and there was a lot of interaction, which was useful and nice.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
When I was still in the Netherlands it sometimes took a while for the international office to respond. Sometimes they did not respond at all, or only to the UU international office instead of to me. After my arrival here I did not need much help with anything, but I know that it was much easier to reach them in person.
transfer of credits
They printed my transcript of records for me at the university. I have to take it to STIP when I come back to the Netherlands, so this part is not completed yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The university organised a Debut week for all exchange students which was great. There were two arrival days: Students were waiting for us at the airport to give us our key and lead us to the taxis or buses. After those days we met at the university and we got a lot of information about the university and about living in Tromsø. There were also a lot of activities and we had time to get to know other students.
accommodation
I lived in a place called Breivika. I shared my building with 44 other students. Every room had its own bathroom and there were two kitchens in total. The positive things about this student housing are that it is near the university (a 5 minute walk) and you meet a lot of people. I also lived with a lot of Norwegians, which gave me a chance to socialize with them as well instead of only international students. The negative thing is that it can be messy and sometimes there were just too many people. I liked living here, but if I could choose again I would probably choose another students housing.
leisure & culture
Tromsø has very beautiful nature, so the best thing to do is to go outside. You can go hiking, skiing, riding a bike, dog sledding, whale watching etc. (it all depends of the weather of course). I also really enjoyed going out here, although it is expensive. People always say that Norwegians are not very social, but I don't really agree with that. Most of the Norwegians I lived with were very nice and social and I liked that they were very involved with international students.
suggestions/tips
Go to the debut week to meet people and go outside as much as possible (even though it is way too cold sometimes, it will be worth it).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this place to others. It is a beautiful place, with amazing people and unique things such as the northern lights and midnight sun. The university and city are both quite small, which makes it personal, cosy and easy to meet people.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
-



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	psychology

destination city & country	tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	the Arctic University of Norway, UIT
start date	08 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the exchange application process I had to go through the steps that are given on the website of the University of Utrecht. I had to apply on Osiris and had to make a plan for my studies, which consisted of which subjects I planned to follow and when I want to follow them. Furthermore I had to write a motivation letter. I also had to send my CV and a financial plan in which I showed that I would be able to pay the expenses.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Because I'm always a person that likes to arrange stuff all by myself I did not ask for too much help and support. But at times that I needed support t Utrecht University they were there for me and responded pretty fast.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation as fas as I know.

language preparation

Also I did not need to do any language preparation. There was just an English language test that I had to take at the beginning of my stay and when I was back. This is for the Erasmus scholarship.

finances

As I already said I had to make a financial plan. Here I wrote about my incomes and expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I study psychology. In Norway I did one psychology subject: psychology of the attitudes; one history subject: Arctic Norway, history; and one English subject about phonology, phonetics and the social aspects of language. At first I just wanted to choose psychology subject, but the assortment of psychology subjects was not that big, which meant I had to choose other subjects. In the second semester I followed two Psychology subjects and one English sibject.

academic quality of education activities

The education did not take too much effort to follow. Actually it was quite easier, for me less difficult than what I am used to.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This was also given when I needed it. They responded fast and accurately.



transfer of credits

They were kind of slow with the transfer of the credits. I am still waiting for one subject to be graded.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme was excellent. I met a lot of people during this programme who are still my friends. Also I learned a lot about the university, about the city and surroundings, and about student life in general. The programme consisted of a week of activities and lectures about all these things.

accommodation

The accommodation was great. I was placed in Ørndalen, with five other students in my house. You live nearby a lot of students, which is great if they become your friends. You are never alone and you have everything you need. The only problem is that there were no pots or pans when we arrived and the tv did not work. But if there are problems you can contact the housing department and they will resolve it.

leisure & culture

There is a lot of hiking to do in Tromsø. Also there are a lot of free museums. Going out is more difficult, because you need to be twentie, which I was not, and everything closes around three in the morning.

suggestions/tips

Go and hike at tromsdalstinden. It is really nice. Also, go to the full orienttion programme, because you will meet a lot of people and potential friends. Never say no in the beginning if people ask you to join.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university, because it is not too big, there are a lot of other international students and you will not be too busy with your studies. Also Tromsø is a beautiful place, especially regarding to the nature. It is a small town, so you have people around you. At the other hand it feels like a village because you are so close to the nature. Everything is so clean and pure. But keep in mind that life is expensive over there, although it was not as bad as I expected it to be in advance.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice and comments are available in earlier answers on the questions.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	I took the following courses: - Introduction to English phonology and phonetics (10 ECTS) - Psychology of attitudes (10 ECTS) - Social psychology (10 ECTS) - Psychology of experiences (10 ECTS)

destination city & country	Tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	UiT Arctic University of Norway
start date	08 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process took some time but I got a lot of guidance and it was easy to just fill in all the different forms. The grant application was delayed but the university gave enough information to not be uncertain about that. A lot of information was given to really know what you had to do and when.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht University was really good because they answered all of my questions quickly. They sent me all the information I needed and they arranged meetings to talk about the things I had to do before I left. They also gave the opportunity to get in touch with others who had been to the same university or to meet people who would go to the same university.

academic preparation

I did not prepare in a specific way before going to Norway. I expected my academic level to be high enough without doing more.

language preparation

Before I went to Norway I tried to study a bit Norwegian but not that much. I do not think it is really necessary to do because the Norwegian people have a good level in English. In Norway I took Norwegian lessons and it was helpful to have a basic level of Norwegian. Understanding Norwegian was really easy because it was so similar to Dutch. I would recommend looking into some Norwegian before going so you can have small conversations in Norwegian. I really liked that.

finances

Before going to Norway a lot of people warned me that everything would be really expensive. I did not prepare financially in a specific way. I knew I already saved a lot of money and I would be able to manage everything. In Norway I found out that there are a lot of ways to save money. I think my expenses were not very different from the expenses in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Organizing the study programme was really easy and they informed me really well when I had to change one subject. I could pick any subject I was interested in and I could even do a master level course. The content of the different psychology courses was pretty similar to each other. The master level course was really good and I think I would definitely recommend taking master level courses. My English phonology and phonetics course was really good and the content was really interesting. Although I took 4 courses (instead of the recommended 3 courses) I found out in the beginning that I got bored really quickly. Because of that I contacted my professors to ask for an internship and after a week I got an internship as a research assistant for the psychology department. So even being in Norway you can still change the study programme easily.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was okay but I think it was really easy compared to the Netherlands. The master level course was of higher academic quality than the other courses and was similar to the level of the Dutch courses. Especially the normal psychology courses were really easy and the seminars were of low quality. The English phonology and phonetics course was better arranged and of higher quality but maybe this is also influenced by the fact that I never studied English phonology and phonetics.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling at the university was really good. There were a lot of activities to get to know the culture and to deal with the differences in the amount of daylight. You could always send an email and they would respond really quickly. I experienced the counselling and support as really good.

transfer of credits

It took some time before I got my results of my exams. That is why I do not now yet how the transfer of credits will be.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the airport I got my key and they arranged a taxi to get me to my home. Soon after that the international Debutweek started. I would really recommend to participate in this week full of nice activities for all the international students. You can get to know a lot of people and they arranged everything really well. They arranged food for almost every day and they had a lot of helpful activities. They helped you in registering for your courses and they showed you around.

accommodation

I got a room in a little red Norwegian house in åsgårdveien. For me this was a perfect place to live because it was close to everything. I shared my kitchen with four others and we had two bathrooms. It was really cozy and a lot of other international students lived at the same place. The room had good furniture and it was a good size. The kitchen we had was also really nice because you could easily invite people.

leisure & culture

Hiking is one of the nicest things to do in the area. The hiking trails in the area are really nice and it is one of the things I have spent most of my time on. Even in the snow the environment is amazing. The culture is not that different from the culture in the Netherlands although I think it is all more relaxed here. Busses will most of the time be late and people do not worry about that.

suggestions/tips

Go backpacking or explore the environment! Every outdoor activity is amazing.

CONCLUSIONS

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



I would recommend this university and destination to others. The environment is really nice and the university is really nice as well. I would not go there to get a lot of academical challenge but to explore another university. The destination is defenitely worth visiting, I was never bored. The nature is beautiful in every different season. Don't worry about the differences in daylight because there are a lot of ways to learn how to deal with it. For myself it was no problem at all.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	psychology
destination city & country	tromsø, Norway
name university abroad	the Arctic University of Norway, UIT
start date	08 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

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