



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be made available (anonymously) to UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> @l
faculty/college	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Human Geography and Planning

destination city & country	Hamburg, Germany
name university abroad	HafenCity Universität
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was rather long and complicated. I had to fill out a lot of forms for my receiving university. However there was quite a lot of support and the process was clear. Germans however do very much like stamps and signatures, so chances are that you will have to scann certain forms more than once.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at the UU is good for the most part. They reply quick to your questions and try to reassure you if you did something wrong. However, if you stay more than one semester, the procedure is slightly different and demands for a lot of your own attention to deadlines.
academic preparation	My accademic preparation was sufficient to study at another university, I didn't lack any skills to follow the courses.
language preparation	I did quite a lot of preparation before I went to Germany, since I knew all my courses would be in German. My preperation consisted of doing German for 6 years at highscool, and then I also followed some courses from



the German faculty at the UU. Besides that, I went earlier to the HafenCity Univeristy to follow a languages course there.

finances

I made a financial overview before I went to study abroad and made sure my finances were sufficient for the time I stayed in Germany. I also looked and applied for various sholarships to make ends meet. This is a good tip for other students as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content of the courses was overall quite good. There were some courses that were not organized very well, or that I felt like I didn't learn that much, but that's okay. Organizational wise, the HafenCity University wasn't the best. For example the system that they use to subscribe for the courses doesn't always function. You also probably won't get into all the courses that you would like to do. For me this wasn't a problem because there were no specific courses that I had to do, but if you do have that, make sure you talk to the administration or even to the teachers to see if they will let you into the course.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality different between the courses. some of them were at a lower level then at my home univeristy, but most were around the same level.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Since the HCU doesn't have an international office anymore, I found it difficult to communicate with the receiving university. It felt like there was a big threshold to go up to them to ask something.

transfer of credits

Since the semester hasn't ended yet, I'm not sure how this process will go. But I think it will go fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome week was a lot of fun, it was nice to get to know all the Erasmus students and the programme was well organized.

accommodation

The accomodation was absolutely perfect. I got a room through the university, which meant that I already had a place to stay before I went to Hamburg and that I also didn't have to pay too much. It also meant that I stayed in the same building as most other Erasmus students from my university which was very convenient and a lot of fun.

leisure & culture

Hamburg is a great city for leisure and culture. At the beginning we even go a card with which we could visit all the museums and theaters for free, which was great! Hamburg is also a good starting point if you want to visit other cities in Germany.

suggestions/tips

Visit also other cities (in Germany) on the weekends, it is a lot of fun and it doesn't have to be expensive. Explore the world a bit more by for example using Flixbus.

CONCLUSIONS



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

I would recommend this univerisity to students as an exchange. It is a nice university for the most part and if you choose wisely you can have very interesting courses. Also the city is really really nice and offers a lot of oppertunities. It is also a very international university with nationalities from a lot of different countries. Don't get scared by all the administrative work you have to do. Just hang in there and it will all be fine :)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

See *Erasmus+ Studies timeline and instructions* for more details. Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students.