



University of Leicester

2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Applying wasn't as hard, however, I had to fill a lot of forms to meet the application deadlines. Also, me being a non EU citizen I had to apply for a Visa which an extra hassle but in the end the end it was worth it for sure.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
In the beginning I had a few issues with my Visa and the Interational Office at UU was very supportive and they helped get through with it.
academic preparation
You do not need to have a specefic average to be able to apply to for exchange to University of Leicester. The only thing that took some time from me is choosing my courses and fixing my timetable as the timetable system in University of Leicester isn't as straight forward as here in Utrecht.
language preparation
If you are studying in English at Utrecht University your langauage skill comptency should be more than enough. The only the thing that you might notice different is the accent of the Midlands in which Leicester is located is fairly strong but you will get used to it no time.
finances
I'm glad I received the Erasmus grant, it was really useful and it helped me enjoy finance my life in Leicester. I also subrented my room in Utrecht so that covered my accomidation costs in Leicester as they are fairly the same price or even slightly cheaper for my case in Leicester. Also, Leicester is considered one of the cheapest cities in the UK for students. I found myself spending much less money on groceries over there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Study programme is very different from Utrecht, but that doesn't mean you should be worried at all! Its just different. Attendance is mandatory to tutorials/seminars AND lectures. You have to sign in to all classes with your physical student card that you receive in the orientation week.
academic quality of education activities
I saw so myself not doing an group assignments at all Leicester as all 4 courses that I did where bases on exams or individual assignments. I also didn't have any classes that you had to do a presentation. It could be just pure luck or its just how they do it over there.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There is a student desk in the middle of the campus in Charles Wilson building that is always handy if you have an question regarding anything and they could always direct to the right person you need solve your issue.
transfer of credits
Grades take a long time to be published therefore credits aren't tranfered before mid March.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
During the first week we all had an orientation programme to get acquainted with logistics of the university plus there were a few free sports events. Also we were offered the so-called "Fresher's Wristband" for 50 pounds. I believe that would guarantee access to all parties and events during this week. I have to admit this band was too overpriced and I wouldn't recommend it at all.
accommodation
Although the private housing market in Leicester isn't that bad and you could get cheaper rates than the university accommodation, I would still go for the university accommodation. For exchange students as long as you apply on time the housing is guaranteed. I would recommend either Nixon Court or Opal Court and you should avoid Oadby Village at all costs.
leisure & culture
Me being an international in Utrecht already I found myself way more integrated with locals in Leicester than here in Utrecht. Also for leisure, the university organises a few trips during the semester around the UK for a pretty decent rate.
suggestions/tips
I often found myself carpooling with friends in an Uber which ends fairly cheap in this city as the average trip is around 5 pounds so each person will end up paying roughly around 1.5.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. In my opinion, courses in University of Leicester are relatively easier so if you go you will get some time off an experience other things in your student life apart from academics such as sport and extracurricular activities.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I know that going on exchange is a huge step that you could be scared of, but no matter what, it's still worth it.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process was really good. I found it easy to find the courses I was interested in and the application process behind it also felt the same. The process was quick and I received quick replies from all sides which meant the process was very fast.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support at Utrecht University was very good although I didn't need it much because the steps to prepare were very well specified and detailed. We held meetings that were very detailed. The IEOs were very helpful in their emails and were very quick to respond.
academic preparation
Have enough credits and no retakes by the time I left for the exchange
language preparation
I speak English natively
finances



Most of my finances were split between the money from home, the erasmus grant and money i had saved up over summer for the exchange programme so i could have as much fun as possible without worrying about money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied 4 courses. The industrial economics course was a lot like most economics courses and was surrounded by mostly game theory was very easy to grasp and practice. The two sociology courses were mainly to do with my minor and were very coursework heavy not exams which i wasn't used to but it is very doable as long as you manage time well. Finally, investment management was my favourite course after scoring 80% in it. As long as you kept up with the workload it was fine. Ive been invloved in finance before so it wasn't a shock to the system when i started the course. I had no organisational issues.

academic quality of education activities

The lectures were actually very interesting and brief. Usually 2 hours max. The workload wasn't too much but also kept you on your toes. Tutorials are a must attend as they are the best way to gauge the material perfectly. overall 10/10 experience

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very fast and useful. I didn't really need any unless i was asking questions to do with the Erasmus programme

transfer of credits

I had no problems with this because it is quite similar to the uu style.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Orientation programme was really fun and quick. At Leicester it was

accommodation

For the price you pay, the rooms are very adequate. I came here wanting a big kitchen and decent bed with a sink that is what I got. Nixon court is very close to the campus and it's such a stress reliever knowing you don't have to leave so much time to get to lectures . I feel awful for the people at Oadby having to get a bus every morning. The team at reception are very helpful, I haven't had any issues regarding questions or issues that I have had. The cleaning is done through external contracting and I have to say I haven't been that impressed with the level of cleaning they do. The accommodation doesn't clearly set out what it is the 'cleaners' clean so it was always unclear for my flat at least. The social experience is very determined on what kind of flat mates you get, I had a flat full of fluent english speakers who were eager to talk. I made a lot of good friends that i still keep in contact with now.

leisure & culture

My main forms of leisure at Leicester was playing football every week with my friends at the local astro turfs. Chilling in the common room with my friends and my exchange group playing table tennis and playing on the PS4. The majority of my leisure time spent there was built mainly around socialising and meeting new people all the time. The culture there was very alligned with mine. Just the ability to mingle and mix. A lot of culture nights from the student union met that you have the opportunity to feel integrated and opportunities to meet people.

suggestions/tips



none

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes as the night life was very fun, the quality of education was great as the lectures were very captivating, the workload wasn't too much that you couldn't have fun. All in all a good experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

none

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was very smooth as all the instructions were clear and concise. The English language test was the only challenging part as the host school were reluctant to accept my language skill level.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support here at UU was quite good as the people in charge were always there to assist me when I had a question.

academic preparation

Have enough credits and no retakes by the time you are leaving for the exchange

language preparation

Language was no issue for me because I am a native English speaker and English is the language spoken at my destination.

finances

I was well financed by the Erasmus program on top of the money I received from my family. It was enough for me to live comfortably.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study program was easy to construct as most courses were

academic quality of education activities

Educational quality is quite good. Good one on one assistance from teacher during the weekly office hours

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the receiving institution was incredible. From having student resident officials in every accommodation coming to check on you once a month to even having a 24hr line for any student to call whenever they are going through any emotional hardships.

transfer of credits



I had no problems with this because it is quite similar to the uu style.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation program which lasts for almost a week is fun filled with lots of activities and opportunities to make friends.

accommodation

Accommodation was very easy to find and not too pricey as well. You just need to apply online for a place to stay and you are guaranteed to get a place.

leisure & culture

The social life in Leicester is quite good as it is easy to make friends. Bars, events, restaurants and sports events is where you will find yourself mostly.

suggestions/tips

Be friendly and open minded to get to know people.

Put yourself out there from the first week to avoid getting left out.

Keep up with your studies as you will take 4 courses at once which is more than you are used to. Try not to fall behind.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would. It was a very fun experience for me as I travelled, learned new things and made very good friends for life

do you have any additional advice or comments?

none