



Temple University

2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>After I was accepted by my home University, I had to make an account at the website of the University of Auckland. I went to Auckland in the second semester (feb-jun), so I didn't hear anything until late September. The application progress was not hard, but it takes some time, because the University of Auckland needs some documents (your secondary school certificate as a proof of English for example). After the University of Auckland accepted me, I could enrol in courses. I advise to do this as soon as you can, because some fun courses are full quite fast. Also, I when you enrol early, you could schedule your timetable in a way that gives you long weekends. If you don't like one of your courses, you can swap during the first two weeks of the semester.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>During the application process, you can always email the International Office of the UU for questions. During my time in Auckland, the international office of UoA was very helpful. They answer quickly to emails and will give you tips on how to open bank accounts etc. The University of Utrecht was supportive during the Corona outbreak. They regularly sent me emails how I was doing. I decided to stay in New Zealand during the pandemic.</p>
academic preparation
<p>My exchange semester was the last one of my degree, so I did not need a lot of academic preparation.</p>
language preparation
<p>I felt like my English was sufficient enough to study abroad, so I did not follow any extra English courses before I went on exchange.</p>
finances
<p>New Zealand is an expensive country, especially rent (mine was 284 NZD a week). I started saving money a year before I left with working a part time job. However, I heard some horror stories about the New Zealand prices and it is not extremely bad. Groceries are slightly more expensive, but if you buy the veggies that are on special, you should be fine. Alcohol is more expensive, but the student bar on campus (Shadows) has good deals.</p>

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
welcome & orientation programme
<p>Before the orientation week, I attended the Waipapa noro marae program. I highly recommend signing up for this! You'll get emails about this program in November/December. Make sure you don't miss these emails and sign up for it. It is a very cool experience. You'll meet a nice group of international students and learn a lot about the Maori culture. I met my closest friends during this program. The first day of the O-week, there will be so many international students, that it might be hard to find friends there. The Waipapa Noro Marae program is perfect! The rest of the orientation program is nothing in comparison to our "UIT-week." The only thing you should check out is the Club Fair. Make sure you sign up for some clubs!</p>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I followed the courses Introduction to Common Law (mandatory), Air&Space Law, Intellectual Property Law and Pacific Studies. You are allowed to follow one "non-law course" and I would recommend doing that. UoA has a lot of fun courses and I enjoyed Pacific Studies. I would also advise to take the masters version of introduction to common law. The course (LAW 443) was co-taught with the masters course "LAW 701". The</p>



courses were basically the same. The only difference was that the common law course started in week 5. For some reason, the 701 course was 30 credits and the common law course only 10. You need 50-60 credits in total, so if you take the 701 course, you'll only need three courses. The Common Law course was a lot of work (I had to write three essays, the biggest one was 4,000 words), so I feel that I did not get enough credits for this course.

The other courses were 15 points. All the lecturers are really passionate about the subject they teach. Intellectual Property law is not easy. You'll have to read a lot of case law, but because I want to become an IP lawyer, this was my favourite course.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is similar to Utrecht University. I think I spent a similar amount of time on my school work, maybe a bit more, because academic writing in English took me more time than in Dutch.

transfer of credits

I am currently in the exam period, so my credits haven't been transferred yet.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The University of Auckland really cares about your mental health. I felt a lot of support which made it easier to continue the semester online. The University always communicated clear, offered weekly support to study online and sent me personal emails to check how I was doing. Because of these challenging times, the University also decided to step up everyone's grades, so a B+ will be an A-.

support guidance of home university

The UU tried to be helpful too. They tried to convince me to come home, but I felt more safe in New Zealand. Eventually, they respected my decision. I am glad that I was not forced to come home and could make the decision myself. A lot of my international friends were forced to come home. Their programmes got cancelled. Most people wanted to stay, because New Zealand was very successful in fighting the corona virus. I am happy the UU gave me a choice. If I would have decided to come home, the UU would have paid my plane ticket. They were very helpful and sent me emails regularly to see if I was doing ok.

online offer and quality of digital courses

Most of my courses only had lectures. I only had one zoom tutorial a week. I am used to watch lectures online. I watched my UU lectures online too if they were recorded. Therefore, it was easy for me to adapt to online learning. The University of Auckland gave us a teaching free week, which they used to transit to an online environment. They were very successful with this transition.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Try not to stress too much. In the exchange student group chat, a lot of people were panicking once the number of cases in New Zealand started rising. Some people booked a flight home the same day and regretted that later, when it turned out that New Zealand eliminated the virus. "When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you are responding to what's happening." Stay calm.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I answered this question before: Before the orientation week, I attended the Waipapa noro marae program. I highly recommend signing up for this! You'll get emails about this program in November/December. Make sure you don't miss these emails and sign up for it. It is a very cool experience. You'll meet a nice group of international students and learn a lot about the Maori culture. I met my closest friends during this program. The first day of the O-week, there will be so many international students, that it might be hard to find friends there.



The Waipapa Noro Marae program is perfect! The rest of the orientation program is nothing in comparison to our "UIT-week." The only thing you should check out is the Club Fair. Make sure you sign up for some clubs!

accommodation

I stayed at Te Tirohanga, the newest university accommodation. Signing up for university accommodation is easy (make sure you do it in time!) Living in a hall is quite expensive. Te Tirohanga is the cheapest hall and it is still 284NZD a week (+/- 700 euros a month). Te Tirohanga has advantages and disadvantages. The location is perfect! You live in the CBD of Auckland, very close to uni and the city centre. You will also meet a lot of nice people in this hall. There is always someone to hang out with. This made lockdown much easier. However, in Uni halls, there are a lot of rules. It felt a bit childish sometimes: alcohol bans in communal spaces, noise ban after 10 pm, very silly& inconsistent social distancing rules during lockdown. Also, Te Tirohanga only has two kitchens and two elevators for 488 people. You'll have to be patient for the elevator and the kitchen is never clean. Overall, I do not regret living in TT, mostly because of the amazing people I met (and the Skydeck is great on a sunny day!!). If you have the choice, I think I'd recommend the Carlaw accommodation. That is the nicest one in my opinion (it is a building with 4 person apartments).

leisure & culture

Auckland is a big city with a lot of nice parks, restaurants and bars, but my advice is to go on a lot of trips! Renting a car in NZ is cheap and there is so much to see in New Zealand. If you love the outdoors, this is a destination for you.

suggestions/tips

Join Clubs!! I joined the kitesurf club (really cool and chill people), the Canoe club, the Tramping club and the Veda club (just for the very cheap and tasty vegan lunches). Because of the virus, I did not join any of the tramping and canoe trips, but I did go on one trip of the kitesurf club and this was one of the best weekends of the semester. Also, bring your hiking boots, because you really want to explore New Zealands stunning nature!

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! The University of Auckland is very welcoming. They really care about your mental health, so you will feel at home immediately. New Zealand is amazing. I really fell in love with this beautiful country. Everyone you meet is so friendly. Auckland has a nice climate and New Zealand is the prettiest country I ever visited. I did not consider myself 'outdoorsy' before I went here, but hiking is one of my biggest hobbies now.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Whatever the destination is you'll pick, go for it. Exchange is a fantastic experience.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Try to not do everything last minute. Give yourself enough time to write a motivation letter and to get your study plan checked and affirmed by a study counsellor. As for the rest, just follow the steps on the UU website.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

You can always ask questions at the International Office and there are a couple of meetings and presentations prior to the exchange where you get information about what to expect and what you need to do before you go abroad.

academic preparation

I didn't have any academic preparation before going abroad.



language preparation

I didn't have any language preparation. Dutch people are pretty good in understanding and speaking English. If you're not the best at it, don't worry! Studying in the US will be the best practice you can get and you will get used to the language in no time.

finances

Living in the US is more expensive than living in the Netherlands. I needed some time to accept it, but after some time you will get used to it. The rent, groceries and living in general are quite expensive, but you can save a lot of money by bringing your own lunch every now and then and cooking your own dinner. On the other side, this is a one in a lifetime experience! Go do some fun stuff, visit sports games and go on trips. I had some savings left and of course DUO to finance my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

For international students there is one mandatory class (Legal Research and Writing) and one recommended class (Introduction to the US Legal System). You can choose up to 3 extra classes. For some you get a final exam and for some you have to write an essay. I took 4 classes (the two above and Contracts and Intellectual Property) for a total of 13 credits (31 ECTS). Choose wisely, because after you choose, you only get one week to make changes. It's definitely possible to take 5 classes, but it's a challenge and you have to spend some more time in the library.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is good. In my opinion the difficulty at the UU is a bit higher than it is at Temple, but the classes at Temple require much more preparation. The professors expect a lot from you and most of them will cold-call you. This means they will ask you to tell something about a specific case or to answer a question in class. I would suggest that you read the materials before class and write a case brief (or look one up on the internet ;)) so that you can answer the professors' questions or at least give it a try. If you keep up with the readings and take notes in class, you will do just fine during the final exams.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at Temple is great. Karen (you will know who I'm talking about when you get there) is always happy to answer any questions you have. She is, among other things, there to be sure your time at Temple is as pleasant as possible. It's also very normal to go to office hours. If you have any questions about a specific class, you can just go to that professor and they will be glad to help you.

transfer of credits

You can choose between a pass/fail system or the grading system (A, B, C, D, F). I chose for the grading system, but for the UU it doesn't matter what you chose as everything will be converted to either pass or fail. So it comes down to personal preference. Transferring credits is easy. Once you have received every grade, you can order a transcript. This can be done digitally. It doesn't take a lot of time for the UU to convert the credits to ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme is great. It's a two-week introduction where you get to know your international classmates, Temple, the American way of studying law and Philadelphia! Some professors come to talk about the way of lecturing and what to expect. You'll visit a court and get a tour through the city and around campus. In the beginning everything seems so big and unreal, but after these two weeks you'll know your way around campus. After a couple of days you will know everybody's name and probably will make plans with a couple of



international students to do something fun!
accommodation
<p>Temple has a building for graduate students, which is called the Podiatric Residence Hall. That's where I lived. It's located in Chinatown, which is a 15 minute walk to city centre. There is a subway station really closeby, so getting to campus doesn't take too long. There also is a bike station really close, so if you choose to go by bike, that's also a possibility. It's quite expensive, but it's in one of safer area's of Philadelphia so it's not really a problem to go outside during the evening and go for a walk or run. There also is a gym in the building next to Podiatric where you can to for free as a Temple student. A couple classmates lived in North Philly (Skyline Apartments for example). I don't think there was much of a difference in rent, but it's much closer to campus (and that can save you money) and some popular bars and a grocery store are really nearby. It's in North Philly though, which is a bit more of a dangerous area.</p> <p>Also in most of the appartments where you will live, there's not much there when you arrive. Only a bed, desk and drawer in your bedroom and a table and some chairs in the kitchen. You have to buy your own bedsheets, pillows, cutlery, pans and EVERYTHING else you can think of. So keep that in mind.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>There is so much to do in Philadelphia. The city has a lot of history and beautiful places to visit. Ofcourse city centre with its skyscrapers and city hall. East Philly where you can visit old city and relax at the piers with a beautiful view of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and the Delaware river. South Philly where you can go shopping and ofcourse try some Philly cheesesteaks. The Schuylkill River is an amazing place to go for a run. There are also a lot of street festivals, where you can party and eat some good food. It's also a must to visit a Temple Football game! As a student you can go there for free and the ambiance is just amazing, because sports are such a big thing in the US. During the week you can go to bars (if you're 21+) near Temple.</p> <p>Philadelphia is relatively close to some other big American cities. It's a 1,5 hour bus drive to New York and a 4 hour bus drive to Washington and the tickets are not really expensive.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>It's easy to get caught up in trying to keep up with all your classes. But the best tip I could give is that you should enjoy your exchange. Explore Philly, go on trips, have fun! I went to Washington and New York and even hired a car with some friends to make a road trip to Toronto and Chicago. There is so much to do and in the blink of an eye, you're studying for your final exams. So, make the most out of it.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>Yes. Philadelphia is a great city. There is so much to do and even though it's a big city, you'll immediately feel at home. You'll will fall in love with the City of Brotherly Love! Temple is a great university. Everyone is willing to help you get through the semester and most of the American students are really kind and willing to help you with your classes.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>The exchange application starts with picking your top 3 destinations. After you've been selected for your designated university, you'll quickly receive emails from both Utrecht University and your university abroad. The application differs from destination to destination, but in case of Temple (other than remembering your</p>



password, which I didn't) it is pretty straightforward. Just start your application progress as soon as you get your hands on it, to prevent you from unnecessary stress. Don't overdo your motivation letter (I never heard anything about that, so chances are likely that no one reads it). Also, don't stress selecting your classes for the study plan, since you will not be required to make any real decision on that until actually starting the classes. As for all visa related topics, you can always contact Felicity Baker. For university related topics, you can contact Karen McMichael.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need much counselling or support from Utrecht University. I did attend the lectures for all students from the faculty who went abroad and emailed the International Office for other students who were also planning to go to Temple. We made a group chat which was really helpful and nice.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation and I think this is not necessary at all. Your academic/legal English will approve majorly by just attending classes at Temple, don't stress it in advance.

language preparation

Same as for the academic preparation. All Americans told us that Dutchies are really good in speaking English. For all European students, the language certificate will be waived.

finances

If you are travelling on a F-1 visa (which you are if you are not a U.S. citizen), you have to show that you possess 10.000 dollars, which can be done by screenshotting a bank statement. Besides that, rent is more expensive (I paid 1048 dollars a month), books are very expensive (my books were over 700\$ just for renting) and living expenses are just higher than you are used to. However, after ordering your first overpriced coffee, just take a deep breath and let it go: you are going to spend money anyway, don't let your experience be ruined by the high costs. Just be smart, bring your own food to campus and share costs with your roommate(s) or friend(s). Another financial tip is to get a English statement that you have a health insurance, which saves you from getting an American health insurance.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

If you need 30 ects, you will need around 12 credits: officially, one Temple credit transfers for 2 ects. However, if you get an extra statement from Karen, saying that your courses are L.L.M. level (which all of them are), they transfer for 2,5 ects. For example, I took 15 credits at L.L.M. level, which gave me 40 ects. Two classes are mandatory (and unfortunately, very boring): Introduction to the American Legal System (very easy!) and Legal Research and Writing (no exam, just a paper). My other classes were Constitutional Law (which I would really recommend, especially if the professor is still Mr. Green!), Environmental Law and Immigration Law (also very interesting!!). Karen helps every student when applying for classes and in the first two weeks, you can still switch classes. I really loved my classes, but it was a lot. I had classes from Monday till Thursday, but I was in the library on Fridays as well. In the exam period, me and my friends spend a lot of time in the library. I think I studied more than I do back home, but I also got way higher grades than I would get at home. If you don't feel like studying that much; it is almost impossible to actually fail a class in an American school so you'll probably still be fine.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is about the same, but professors are way more involved and the classes are way smaller (as in, the amount of students). The classes do require more preparation: there are no assignments ('werkgroepopdrachten'), but reading materials which you can get called on. This means that the professor publicly asks you a question about the book. However, professors tend to skip the international students, so no need to stress about that. Class discussions are lively and interesting. However, sometimes the topics are far from law-like, but more political/history/philosophy-like discussions. Most professors are very passionate about



their classes and are always willing to set up an office hour to help you. For me personally, I learned WAY more about the world at Temple University than I would have done back home.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Karen McMichael is your go-to! Karen will be happy to sign any form and answer any question. You also have T.A.'s (teacher assistants), which are older (mostly) Americans students who sit in the classroom during the introduction week and can also help you out. Tip: ask your T.A.'s for their outlines/summaries for your exam preparation.

transfer of credits

I am still in the middle of transferring my credits but so far its been really easy. At the end of your semester, both Temple University and Utrecht University will send you a detailed email on how to arrange the transfer of your credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

My big tip would be to apply for the fall semester (which starts in August). This way, you'll get a two-week introduction program which is really nice and helpful. During these two weeks, your T.A.'s will show you around campus, you will get all the information you'll need on classes/books/activities/studying/everything. Most importantly, you will meet all your friends and spend some time getting to know them before starting law school. My friends were mainly from The Netherlands, Germany and Spain and we did a lot of activities together, already during the orientation programme.

The downside of the introduction program is that Karen and your T.A.'s will scare you about study load and everything. This is a very American way of doing things, don't take it too heavily and just use your Dutch brain: if you are able to pass your classes in The Netherlands, you will pass your classes at Temple as well without basically living in the library. Don't worry.

accommodation

Temple is situated in North Philadelphia, which is known as a high-crime neighborhood. Don't be scared by this, just use your brain wisely and don't walk the streets alone, drunk, in the middle of the night. I switched between using the subway and my bike to commute to campus. The Indego bikes are 17\$ a month and I really enjoyed having one (once a Dutchie, always a Dutchie!). I lived in the Podiatric Graduate House, which is located in Chinatown (almost Center City). I had the BEST roommate ever, which made the living really nice. However, it is really expensive and there is literally NOTHING there: you have to buy your own pillows, blankets, toilet paper, kitchen utensils, everything. The same goes for the Nest flats in North Philly. I think the best option is to find something yourself (on Facebook or other websites), and if that doesn't work, pick the Podiatric building. Podiatric also has a gym.

leisure & culture

I loved Philly. You should definitely use your first weeks to explore Center City (City Hall, Reading Terminal Market, Chinatown, Art Museum, Liberty Hall), Old Town (Society Hill, Race St Pier, Cherry St Pier) and South Philly (South St and South St bridge), which are all lovely. A summer activity that me and my roomie loved was the free yoga on Race Street Pier, check that out! Philadelphia has a lot of outdoor fests and markets, which are really worth it. Other than just strolling around and getting coffee, you should go see a Temple game a few times, go celebrate Halloween, go to a frat once or do some other really typical American thing. I'm really into working out, and as a Temple students you have access to literally 4 gyms and two swimming pools: way better than working out at Olympos in Utrecht. We also did a trip to the beach twice (Atlantic City and Ocean City), Washington (3 hours by bus) and New York (2 hours by bus). Really lovely! Also: introduce your international friends to Sinterklaas and celebrate it with them.

suggestions/tips



I was very nervous before my departure, I think that is normal. As soon as I unpacked my stuff and met my roommate, I loved everything. Don't stress law school too much (coming from a very stressful student lol) and enjoy Philly while the weather is still good. As soon as it gets cold, being outside is a challenge in itself. For other tips, just send me a text or call me and I'm willing to tell you everything that I forgot to mention in this report.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes!! Of course I can only speak for myself, but I hope this report shows my level of enthusiasm. My classes were really interesting, I really enjoyed the American academic setting, I met a lot of great people and literally would go back as soon as I got the chance.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No! :-)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Not too bad, just read through everything carefully and you should be fine. The most complicated part is receiving your I-20 (a form which you will receive from Temple by mail (not e-mail!)). This form is essential for getting a student visa. Start early and make your visa appointment (in Amsterdam) as soon as you have received the form. There's a couple of other things you will need to take with you on that appointment, but they will tell you. Also keep in mind that US identification photos (you will need one for your visa) are square as opposed to rectangular like we have in The Netherlands.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU does a great job at giving help if you need any. Paula was kind enough to give me the email addresses of the other two students who were joining me to Temple. This is a great tip, as you can help each other with the application process and get to know each other before your big flight.

academic preparation

If you're a third year law student you should be absolutely fine. Some courses you might be taking will be first year courses where they still focus a lot on 'how to think like a lawyer'. You will probably already have that mindset, which will make studying a lot easier.

language preparation

I took some English courses during high school, which gave me some confidence. However, legal English was still a surprise. I had a hard time concentrating reading those big fat books at the start. But after two weeks you really get into it and it gets much better. It's more a transitory period in which you will have to look up some words, but those words get used a 100 times on every page. Once you understand those, you get the rest.

finances

During the visa appointment in Amsterdam they might ask you for papers proving that you have enough finances. I went to my bank beforehand to ask if they wanted to print out a financial statement showing that I had enough. They were kind enough to do so, but not every bank may be so compliant. You may have to translate something yourself as long as it looks formal enough and you give the original Dutch version with it.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Things got a little complicated. Temple will send you a link with their study programmes but beware: Legal Research and Writing and Introduction to the US Legal System are mandatory. The last one not necessarily, but they really advise you to take it. You can decide not to. The problem was that (a) those two courses fell in the middle of your day and thus I couldn't take some courses that I wanted because they overlapped (and they don't allow for a 5 min overlap) and (b) a lot of courses have limited space and/or are advanced (you need to have taken prerequisites). Temple students can already choose their courses in May, unlike you, who will choose them at the start of the semester. Thus, a lot of limited space courses will be taken. Really pay attention to which courses you want to take, what time they are, how many spaces, and if you can even take them. Keep in mind you can drop Intro. to US Legal System if you want to take other courses that overlap within that timeframe.

Something else: books. there's four ways of doing this. Books in the US are crazy expensive. A friend of mine paid around 800USD just to rent them for a semester (you aren't allowed to highlight those). So, you can (a) buy them (even more expensive) and they are heavy, thus not ideal to put in your luggage on your way back home, (b) rent them, (c) buy 1 edition earlier on amazon for 5% of the original price (you might be missing 2/3 cases in a book) and (d) the library has the newest edition of each book, you can borrow those for free and make copies for on your tablet/notebook, the scanning machine works outstanding. I did a combination of c and d and used some of the money I saved to buy a tablet to read the scans on.

academic quality of education activities

Quality in the US really depends on the professor. They don't have curriculums for courses like in The Netherlands. The professor has all the power and teaches you whatever they find necessary. Some professors might focus on casefacts, and others on the holding (the court's argumentation). If I were to compare it to The Netherlands: you read a lot more (you have to due to the Socrates-method) but actually study a little less as you learn a lot on the go. Temple Law stands relatively high in the national rankings so quality overall should be pretty good.

One part which we found to be very annoying is that they tried to scare us a lot during the orientation program as to how hard law school is "you will be in the library the whole day, night, sleep there & have maybe 3 hours left to have fun". This is NOT true. The workload is a little bit more than in The Netherlands but the level isn't any higher and you don't have exercises every week like we do at the UU. It's just a lot of reading, not much more than you're used to.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Karen was very helpful with choosing my courses and informing me on which ones I could take or not.

transfer of credits

I took contracts (4CR), Intro. to Intellectual Property (3CR), Intro to US Legal System (3CR) and Legal Research & Writing (3CR). The main rule at Temple is 1CR = 2 ECTS. However, beware! US Legal and Reseaech & Writing are part of a LLM program, for which the UU gives you 2,5 ECTS per credit. That LLM program also included any first year course (such as contracts), for which you again get 2,5 ECTS per credit. Thus, I received 31 ECTS. If you know what's part of the LLM and what's not it's much easier to choose your courses accordingly to get the ECTS you need.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation program was OK. Like I said, they try to scare you a lot during this period, don't let it get to you. They give a nice tour of campus and explain a lot of the facilities. There's not that much, but it's useful.

accommodation



I slept at Podiatric because a lot of UU students before me slept there aswell. It's in Chinatown, about a 15 min walk from the city centre and 15 min subway travel or a 20 min bike travel to campus. It's about a 15-30 min walk to the best areas in Philly (south street and the harborside). There's a chinese store very nearby where you can buy vegetables and chicken for a very good price. Also it's a safe area.

However, I noticed that I spend a lot of my time near campus as most student bars and activities were there. The area around campus is far less safe than Chinatown, but I never felt threatened there as there are always a lot of students walking in the streets.

Personally I might have preferred to live near campus after all because I only visited the nice areas at the start of the semester in tourist-like fashion and spend the rest of my time with friends near campus.

leisure & culture

We went to a lot of parties and activities in Philadelphia. I would strongly suggest to check out the fratparties & club markets at the start of the semester (you can sign up for sports teams, debate teams, comedy activities and many more!) to get the vibe of a US university. The city itself also organises a lot of activities like free yoga near the harbor and foodtruck festivals where you're allowed to drink beers on the streets (crazy expensive though, bring your own). The Law School specifically organises a lot of seminars about interesting subjects. Northeast Philly has a lot of great bars and beergardens where you can casually play some pool or tabletennis.

We did a lot of trips with other exchange students such as weekends in NYC or DC (rather close and cheap to get to by bus) and even went on a roadtrip to Chicago. Travel as much as you can to experience more of the US.

The university itself also has a lot of FREE facilities. Students there pay a lot to go Temple, but they get a lot in return. There's multiple gyms, a swimming pool, game areas, a climbing wall, dancing rooms, basketball, football and soccer fields. All free to use. There's also a lot of free food if you know where to look so you can save some money that way. Talking about soccer: Temple also organises competitions for several sports within its own school (they're called intramurals). We made a soccer team with the exchange students. Lost pretty much every game, but it was great fun! Watch out for those. Temple also gives free tickets to their students for any national league competitions such as football and basketball. It's really fun to go to those to feel the student vibe of cheering for your team.

Culturally there was not that much of a difference. People start a conversation much quicker. Get used to asking and answering "how you doing?" with "good, you?" and that's it.

suggestions/tips

Yes, if you walk from the lawschool to the student center (you'll know soon enough what i'm talking about if you go there) there's usually about 3 falafel food trucks next to eachother parallel to the student center. Always pick the one closest to the taco truck!!! You'll get a stunning meat of choice over rice for 6USD with a free drink! It's one of the cheapest places around and it really fills you up.

Also, for transportation: a single subway ride is 2,50 USD. If you don't live near campus you might be spending a lot. You could also hire a bike (they're called indego). Where you pay around 20 USD a month to pick up and drop off a bike at any of their stations (there's a lot of them spread around the city). It's a good money saver, but beware that US road traffic isn't the same as in NL. A friend of mine broke her leg this semester biking. But she wasn't dutch ofcourse.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. While Philly isn't necessarily the prettiest city in the US, it's very approachable and I had a blast with



the people I was with. Also it's very close to great spots at the eastcoast.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2018 – 2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not hard if you follow the steps on the website. The only thing I recommend is that you start the process as soon as you have decided you want to go.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is always happy to answer your questions.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation. Everything you need to know will be explained to you in the introduction weeks.

language preparation

You don't need any language preparation. You can only make it a bit easier for yourself to search some legal definitions. However, you pick up legal words very fast when you are there.

finances

America is expensive. The rent is expensive and groceries are expensive. Besides that, you want to do some fun things when you are there. So make sure you have saved enough before you go. You have to show the University that you have \$10.000 before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You can chose up to four courses. Two courses are mandatory (when you go in the first semester): Introduction to the American Legal System and Legal Research and Writing. Besides that, you can chose any subject you want. I picked Evidence and International Trade Law. If you need the credits, you have to pick at least one 4-credit course.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that the academic level is comparable to the Dutch level. My professors were experts in the area. All professors have office hours, so you can drop by after class to ask additional questions.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Karen McMichael is your contact person at Temple. She is doing this for many years now and can answer all your questions.

transfer of credits

For me, the transfer of credits was an easy process. As soon as I got my grades from Temple I gave them to the Studiepunt Rechten and within a week, the credits were transferred. Like I said before, check before you choose your courses if the American credits will give you sufficient ECTS.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first two weeks are for introduction. You meet all the other international students from your semester and you get to know the campus area and Philly.
accommodation
I lived at Podiatry Hall. This is a university building, but in center city. I would recommend this, because it is in a safe neighborhood.
leisure & culture
There is so much to do in and around Philadelphia. Philadelphia has a lot of history for starters. Besides that there are food festivals and other events every week. New York and Washington D.C. are also pretty close. So you can easily visit those cities.
suggestions/tips
I highly recommend to attend sport events. From the university teams and the professional teams of Philadelphia as well. These are not only games, but there is also a lot of entertainment surrounding the games.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Temple. It is a good university and Philadelphia is a great city. It is also a pro that it is so close to New York. The people are very friendly.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try to do as much fun things as possible next to your studies.

2017 – 2018

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The only thing I would like to mention about the application process is that I would recommend you to start as soon as you are sure about your desired destination. There are a couple of things that could take some time, and you don't want to wait with those until days before the deadline. For example, you need to get a study plan checked and affirmed by a study counsellor, and possibly make some adjustments if this counsellor does not agree with your plan. Moreover, you don't want to underestimate the importance of your motivation letter. Make sure you have others read your letter, and ask/be open to feedback. I found the feedback of friends and family very helpful.
counselling/support at home university
I did not feel the need to contact my home university a lot during my time abroad, but they were very helpful before departure. I was informed about possible culture shocks I could experience, and about the differences between Dutch and American teaching. If you have any questions, make sure you ask Paula Banning at the international office, because I am sure she will happily answer all of them.



academic preparation

I did not do a lot of academic preparation before my departure to Temple University. You could read about the teaching style at American law schools. However, it's barely possible to acquire substantive knowledge beforehand, since you are not sure if the courses you would like to enroll in, are open to you. What you could do is read about the United States legal system, as the course about this subject is mandatory to international students. So, if you get picked for a semester at Temple University, you know for sure that you will have a course about the American legal system (only if you'll go in the first semester, though).

language preparation

The only language preparation I personally did, was a 2-day legal English course offered by the study association (JSVU). However, I don't think anybody at Utrecht University should worry about their capabilities regarding the English language. Before my departure, my friends always made fun of my English, and even I did not experience any serious trouble. Exchange students from several countries are required to show their English skills by making a test beforehand, and it's not without reason that Temple University has waived this test for its European students: Temple University found that these always fit in quite well without any major problems.

finances

Make sure that you have enough resources to study a semester in Philadelphia. You'll find that having to pay in dollars is favorable to you, since you get more than a dollar for every euro, which is nice. However, there are several expenses that are higher than you are used to, the rent in particular. I paid 900 dollars per month for my apartment. Other internationals paid around 700 dollars per month, but that is probably still a lot more than you are paying for your room in Utrecht. I believe you have to show that you possess around \$10500 to get a visa. You should be able to get all your necessities with that amount of money, but be prepared for extra expenses, since you probably want to go on a Thanksgiving trip (to Canada for example), or some sport/music events.

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

I cannot tell you if the difficulty level at Temple University is higher or lower than at Utrecht University, but I can tell you that the classes require a lot more preparation. Professors will cold-call you with questions about the cases you had to prepare before class. Since some classes take preparation and attendance into the final grades, and since you don't want the slightly embarrassing experience of being called on unprepared, you should read all of the materials before class. I would advise you to use the library a lot during the week: There are more seats than students, and a lot of other internationals will be there as well, so you're able to suffer together. If you study from Monday to Friday, you should be able to take the weekends off.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education is excellent, in my view. The American students pay over \$20000 dollar per year for their law education. I was told that the professors in the United States therefore know that the expectations of



their students are very high, and that they want to live up to those expectations. This is for example reflected by the fact that the professors have office hours: Students are welcome to stop by the offices of professors with any question they might have, outside of class hours. Moreover, a lot of professors are very passionate about the subjects they teach.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

There is a lot of counselling as soon as you arrive at Temple University. The international office at Temple University does not only help you with any question (study-related or not) you might have, but also helps proactively. They regularly send out emails with important dates and issues. They basically solve every problem before it occurs: For example, before you are even worrying about your exams yet, they've already organized a session to explain all exam procedures.

transfer of credits

The American way of grading is with letter grades. So, you're able to pass with a D, C, B or A, or to fail with an F. Passing grades will give you credits, which are different from ECTS. I needed 30 ECTS for my bachelor programme. 13 US credits gave me 31 ECTS, but I cannot guarantee that this will be the same for you. Utrecht University requires you to get your courses checked as soon as you are enrolled in them, so at that point you should ask how many ECTS the courses will give you. Transferring the credits was fairly easy. As soon as Temple has your grades, you can order a transcript. Because this can be done digitally, it does not need to take more than a couple of weeks to get your credits transferred and acknowledged.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The orientation programme at Temple University is excellent. At least, when you go the first semester. Namely, in August, before classes start, the international office organizes a two-week introduction programme. You get a tour around all important campus buildings, you'll get a tour, by bus, through the city of Philadelphia, you'll get a brief introduction to the American legal system and the American culture, and you'll get instructed in some basic US law school skills (case briefing and outlining). After these two weeks, you don't only know your way around campus, but you will also know your fellow internationals really well, and you will know Karen and Louis really well. These two members of the international office will make sure your stay will be as smooth as possible, and will go out of their way to make sure that you are able to study to the best of your abilities. They are amazing: After the two weeks they will know everyone's name, but they also still remember the names of exchange students that were at Temple five years before you, if you ask them.

accommodation

Temple University has a campus in the north of Philadelphia. Staying in Temple Housing on campus is only for undergraduate students, and not for exchange students enrolled in law school (a graduate school). There is a lot of rentable housing around the campus, though. However, that neighborhood is sketchy, and Temple does not recommend you to go outside after dark, at least not on your own. So, you'll rather want to live in Center



City. Temple University has one building for graduate students, and it is in the heart of the city: The Podiatric Residence Hall. This is where I lived during my exchange. The rent is high, as I mentioned before, but you are in the heart of the city, instead of in one of the less attractive parts of town. The commute from Podiatric to campus is no problem at all, since there is a subway station just outside of the building. Getting to campus should only take you about 15 minutes. The Podiatric Residence Hall in principle only offers housing for a full study year. However, when not all apartments are leased, you'll be able to lease a room for just a semester. I believe they will know if there are apartments left around the end of June/at the start of July.

leisure/culture

The culture in the United States is very different from the one at home, and I loved every minute of it. There is a great feeling of community in Philadelphia, and everyone will help you out as soon as they see you are facing difficulties. That started on the first day, when I had some trouble with figuring out the train from the airport to the city of Philadelphia. Immediately, there were at least three people helping me with the procedure. This is no different on campus: The American students in class really liked the fact that they could show their culture to the internationals at their university, and included us in a lot of their activities: After the first class already, a group of American students asked us to join them for a game of basketball, and to come and watch a football match with them in a pub nearby.

suggestions/tips

A nice way to meet American students, is joining an intermural sports team: There are various sports that have competitions on campus. When you join an intermural sports team, you'll play against other teams of Temple students.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Absolutely. You'll just be amazed by the fact who structured and organized everything is. The first two weeks really help you getting around the university, and after the two weeks the members of the international office will keep supporting you on a regular basis. Moreover, the professors are really passionate about their courses, and the American students are really passionate about their culture. You'll feel at home immediately, and the only real problem you'll face is the fact that you don't want to leave in December.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I hope that the above gives you an idea of how a semester at Temple University would be. It's of course impossible to summarize a complete semester in a document like this. So, if you are interested after reading the above, but you are still in doubt, or you have any other question, feel free to ask the international office in Utrecht for my email address. I would be happy to help you with any question regarding the application, or my stay at Temple University.



preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process went easy. I just had to write a motivation letter and attach my resume to my application. The application process speaks for itself, you just have to follow the steps that are indicated.
counselling/support at home university
I didn't have that much counselling. We only met once with all the students who were going to the exchange. During that counselling we were told what to send to the exchange university and how to send it. You can ask a lot of questions during the meeting.
academic preparation
I did not have any academic preparation. I just made sure that I passed all the courses of year 2, to make it easy for myself.
language preparation
Did not had any.
finances
I took money from my savings and a loan from DUO.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I chose to take 4 courses in order to gain the 30 ECTS. I had 2 mandatory courses (Introduction to the US System and Legal Research and Writing) and I took a course of 3 credit hours and one course of 4 credit hours.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of Temple University is not that high in my opinion. I think that if your average at the UU is higher than a 7, you will be just fine at Temple.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
At Temple they were very helpful. If you have any questions feel free to ask the professors or students.
transfer of credits
It was easy to order a transcript of your credits. You could just order it in PDF and let it send to UU immediately.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
I had an orientation week. It was mandatory to attend, but not really needed in my opinion. At the orientation week they will show you around the campus and the important facilities of Temple.



accommodation
From other student experiences, the campus was not all the best place to stay there. It was not that safe and almost everybody is aware of that fact. I stayed at International House (IHP), which was located in University City and it was a 20 min. ride with the trolley to school. It was a very safe neighbourhood and I highly recommend this place. The only downside was that the rent was 890 per month.
leisure/culture
I did not connect with the JD students, because everybody invested more time in themselves and they were really competitive. I did connect with other international students.
suggestions/tips
I highly suggest that you spend time to find a good place to stay, as it could be unsafe or expensive. You can also contact Temple University because they might know some places.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would recommend Temple University. Philadelphia is a beautiful place to see and I found overall that the U.S. people were nicer. It was a great experience and it is also not that far from New York!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
preparation
exchange/placement application process
The usual process. I needed to submit a motivation letter, my resume and my grades. Philadelphia was a popular destination in my year, so there were more students who signed up for Temple University than actually could go.
counselling/support at home university
I went to the presentation about studying abroad. During the presentation it became very clear what you have to do for the application of an exchange. You can also e-mail the international office or walk by the international office for further questions, but that was not necessary for me.
academic preparation
I did not do any extra courses for the exchange.
language preparation
I did a short Legal English training.
finances
Savings and some support from my parents. Living in Philadelphia is more expensive than in Utrecht.



study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I already obtained all my credits that I needed for my bachelor, so I decided to do only three courses. It is mandatory to do the course Legal Research and Writing and Introduction to the American Legal System. Besides those, I also chose to do the course Introduction to Intellectual Property. I think the two mandatory were a little bit easier than most courses in Utrecht, but Intellectual Property was a little bit harder.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality really depends on the course and the professor. You can sign up for almost every class only for some courses It is required to have passed another course.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The professors and the people at Temple University were really kind and very helpful. The professors have office hours outside class, where you can just walk in their office to ask questions.
transfer of credits
For these three courses, I obtained 21 credits. If you want to obtain 30 credits, you can do 4 bigger courses or 5 smaller courses.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
I really enjoyed the orientation program. It started two weeks before our classes would actually start. It was a really nice way to get to know the University, the staff and the other international students.
accommodation
I lived in Podiatric Residence Hall. I can really recommend this place. It is the only hall of Temple University where graduate students can live. (as a law student you are a graduate student). I shared an apartment with an American girl. We each had our own bedroom and shared a living room, kitchen and bathroom. The location was really good. It was in city center. Commuting to the law school on campus took only 10-15 by subway.
leisure/culture
There is a lot to do in Philly! It is a big American city and has a lot of history. Furthermore, it is really close to New York and Washington DC. I made a lot of weekend trips to these places. Going out is also definitely possible in Philly. I liked to go out in Old Town, but there are also a lot of other fun places. I also have been to American college parties (fraternity parties) a few times, which I think is a must see. At Temple University you can also do a lot besides studying. There are a few gyms, a swimming pool and you can join sport teams, which you can do for free as a Temple Student. I think it is also really fun to watch the Temple sport games. I went to a lot of football games. And there is much more!



suggestions/tips
I can really recommend living in Podiatric Residence hall or somewhere else in center city. I also had some friends with a nice AirBnB. There are also a lot of student apartments near campus which are nice, but you should know that Temple University is located in North Philly and the area around campus is not really safe during the evening/night.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes I would really do. I had a lot of fun. Philly is a really cool city and I made amazing friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process was pretty easy. The Law department gave a presentation where they explained everything that was important for the process. It is advised to start early with the preparations. Your motivation letter can require a lot of work.
counselling/support at home university
Student service and International Office were always able to answer any questions I had.
academic preparation
I did not really do much of an academic preparation before leaving. It wasn't really necessary but if you do want to have an advantage on the rest of your classmates at Temple, you could familiarize yourself with the American legal system before departure.
language preparation
I took the 'Legal English for Academic Purposes' course that is offered by Babel. It did make me more comfortable with speaking English when I started at Temple. I noticed that it also had broadened my legal vocabulary.
finances
Studying abroad can be quite expensive so I started saving money that I earned with my job. My parents also helped me out with the expenses.



study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
We got to choose our own courses so that was awesome. The content was adequate and made sure we were getting the courses that were necessary, such as Introduction to the American legal system.
academic quality of education/placement activities
<p>The quality of education at Temple is really high. The professors motivate you and do their best to make sure you are as prepared as you can be for exams. They have office hours and are always prepared to see you or answer questions via email.</p> <p>What I also noticed was that that the quality of the classes given to only international students was significantly lower than the classes with mostly JD students. My advice would be to take as many classes possible with mostly JD students.</p>
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Karen and Louis were both really nice and helpful. You could always drop by their office if you needed help with anything.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credit, from what I know so far, has been a bit unfair. Some courses deserve more points than others, this is something you also notice when studying at Temple. Make sure to get an extra course back in Utrecht, just as a back up plan.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The welcome programme was interesting and fun. We go to meet our class, the dean and even had a tour through Philly. It was fun!
accommodation
It was pretty hard to find accommodation. My advice is to start early with your search. Sent Karen (Temple) and email if you need any help. I lived in an Air-bnb for a month before finding a place. I stayed at the International House in West-Philadelphia. It's a great neighbourhood, very safe and you're in city centre within 13 minutes.
leisure/culture
Philadelphia is an amazing city! You can find amazing museums but also good parties. There is something to do every weekend and the city is close to other cool cities such as: New York and Washington.
suggestions/tips
Start early with finding a place but do NOT live on campus or around it! From what I saw, the



neighbourhood is not safe.

Try to do ,as much as you homework allows, you when in Philadelphia. Football game, parties & sightseeing but also going to meetings with law firms and connecting a lot. You are going to miss it more than you think when you leave.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. Not only is Philadelphia a great city, there is also a lot to do! Temple is also a very good University. Students get motivated and they get a lot of opportunities to connect with law firms and other law students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?