

**2019-2020**

**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	By bus
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	13 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 04 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I took plenty of time to orientate on the possible destinations. Since I study English Literature and love British culture, it made sense to go to the UK. In the end I chose the University of Kent because the modules seemed very interesting, the university offers on-campus accommodation and Canterbury seemed like a nice town.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The application process is quite extensive and involves a lot of paperwork, but the International Office sends many reminders so you won't have to remember everything by yourself. There are many steps to be taken and Osiris is not always that straightforward, so sometimes I got a bit confused - however the International Office always replied quickly when I asked them for help and clarification.
academic preparation	Since I stayed within my field of study (English Literature), there was no need for academic preparation.
language preparation	Since I was already used to study in English, there was no need for language preparation. You are obliged to take an online language test prior to your exchange though, but the result won't affect your application.
finances	Rent in the UK is very expensive: I paid roughly 600 euros per month for on-campus accommodation, which had to be paid up front. Luckily I was able to cover some of this with the Erasmus Grant. I recommend saving some money before you go on exchange, because you don't want to worry about spending money all the time while you're there.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took two modules (at the University of Kent, courses are called modules) within the School of English. One was about utopianism in philosophy and literature and the other one was a Creative Writing module which focused on autobiographical writing. For both my modules I only had 3 contact hours per week (so 6 hours in total). I

<p>especially enjoyed the Creative Writing module (it's called Passport to Oblivion and I really recommend it if you're into Creative Writing or want to give it a try).          The modules were well organised and applying for them was easy, the Module Catalogue is very informative. Keep in mind that you will have to chose modules which are graded by coursework only (since all the exams take place in Summer Term). I recommend chosing 2 modules with 30 credits/15 ects instead of 4 modules with 15 credits/7,5 ects, because the more modules you choose the more deadlines you will have... My modules were 15 ects each, but the workload was very comparable to a 7,5 ects course in Utrecht.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>I really enjoyed both my modules. The topics were very interesting and my teachers were very enthusiastic and passionate. Seminar groups are small (10-15 people) and the seminars were always very interactive, with a lot of interesting discussions. Unfortunately I only had classes for five weeks, due to a national strike in the UK and the outbreak of the Coronavirus.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>The Erasmus office at the University of Kent was always fast to respond if I had any questions.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>Hasn't happened yet.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>
<p>I had to arrive on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January during the reception opening hours, to collect the key to my room. So keep in mind that you will be asked to arrive on a specific day in the week before the term officially starts. In the following days there were some orientation activities for the international students to get to know the University and each other. There were some informative talks, a walking tour through Canterbury, an afternoon tea and a trip to Dover Castle. During the first week it was still very quiet on campus, since most of the English students arrived in the weekend before the official start of term.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>The University of Kent offers on-campus accommodation for international students, which is a big advantage. It's expensive, but it saves you a lot of time and stress. Applying for accommodation is quite easy and as far as I know, everyone who applied before the deadline got a place. I lived in Parkwood, which is a sort of student village. It's next to the main campus, which is 10-15 minutes away. Parwood looks like a bungalow park, with lots of rabbits and squirls, so the environment is quite peaceful. However if you want to socialize with your flatmates I recommend signing up for Darwin instead. Though many international students lived in Parkwood, all of them lived in different houses. My flatmates were all longterm students who weren't interested in making new friends and also didn't clean up their own mess. Many international students shared kitchens in Darwin, which is a big building on the main campus, so if you live there it will probably be easier to connect to the people you live with. I had some friends living there and we usually hang out in their kitchens, which are also a lot bigger than the ones in Parkwood.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>
<p>On campus there are a lot of student societies you can sign up for. In one of the first weeks of term there was a Big Fair where you could check them out. There's a lot to choose from: all kinds of sports, hobby clubs, charity networks, and very random stuff like a Wine Tasting Society or a Hogwarts Society. There's also a gym on campus - I believe membership is very expensive but you can get a discount if you only stay for one term.</p>

**UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

The town is very nice, with a lovely old city centre and beautiful parks and canals. You can get there easily by bus, but I often walked there, which takes approximately 30-45 minutes depending on where you live and where you want to go. It's a nice walk and it saves money as the bus is quite expensive (2,30 pounds for a single ticket). There are some nice coffee places and pubs in town and also some places to go out if you want to, but it's quite small, so don't expect a vibrant and bustling city. To be honest I was glad that the term was relatively short (only 2,5 months) because towards the end I was getting bored. There's lots to do in the environment though: I enjoyed visiting the Kentish coastal towns such as Whitstable and Margate, which are easily to access by bus. Brighton and London are also not far away, so if you start to miss the hustle of a big city you can always go there.

## suggestions/tips

- travelling to Canterbury: I took a night bus from Utrecht to London but please don't do that, it was very cheap but really exhausting. I recommend taking the Eurostar from Rotterdam to London, because it really does not take much longer than flying if you take into account the hassle in an airport. Also you can take a lot of luggage without paying extra money, the train is very comfortable and last but not least it's better for the environment :) From London you can take the train or bus to Canterbury; the train is more expensive but easier since it leaves from the same station.
- transport in Kent/Canterbury: if you get a Railcard, you get a discount of 33% on all your train tickets. So if you're planning to travel a lot by train that might be worth your money (a Railcard is 30 pounds). Also check long distance bus services such as National Express because it's a cheap way to travel (you can get a single ticket from campus to London for only 6 pounds). Usually if you book tickets in advance, for trains as well as buses, it will save money because tickets get more expensive the longer you wait.
- nice places in Canterbury: if you love coffee, go to Canteen, Fond Coffee, Micro Roastery or Curiosity Coffee. For lunch I also recommend The Veg Box Café (if you're into healthy food and fermentation). My favourite store in Canterbury was Kent Unboxed, a plastic free/zero waste store. Finally if you like to shop vintage clothing there are a lot of charity shops in town, so check them out.
- day trips: London is an obvious destination, but also visit Brighton! I went there twice and really loved it.
- when to go: I went to Canterbury during Spring Term, but I think actually it would have been nicer to go during Autumn Term if that's an option for you, because I think Canterbury in autumn will be very pretty.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would say it really depends on what you want from your exchange. The University of Kent is a good place if you're looking for interesting Literature/Creative Writing modules which you won't be able to follow elsewhere. It's also a good choice if you want to experience campus life and if you want to live in a city which you can get to know in a short time. However, if you want to experience the excitement of living in a big city I would recommend going somewhere else. Canterbury and especially the university campus can feel like a small world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think going on an exchange is a very valuable experience, even though (or maybe especially because) it is not always fun. It's very exiting but there will also be moments when you feel homesick or just bored and you're not sure what you're doing. And that's okay! It's easy to feel the pressure to have the time of your life, but keep in mind that normal life also goes on, only in another place.

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Canterbury, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	By coach
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	14 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I received login information for their application website, which was pretty straightforward but it still took some time to fill in all of the documents. After some time I received an email saying I was accepted to the university and then I had to apply for housing and had to successfully complete a short course 'Expect Respect', on how to respectfully treat other students and staff.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of Humanities was very helpful, either via email or at the helpdesk. They replied quickly and all of my questions were always answered. While in Canterbury, they were still interested in my well-being and this made me feel confident; there was a team who could help me if I needed it.

#### academic preparation

I didn't need to academically prepare for my exchange. I took three modules in Kent, and I was able to complete these modules without any special preparation.

#### language preparation

I didn't do anything to improve my English before I went to Kent, because my bachelor is English and I felt confident enough. International students get offered a language preparation week before classes start, and I think that this should be a good and fun way to get to know other international students and Canterbury before classes start.

#### finances

My Erasmus Grant, together with around 2000 euros of savings, were enough to cover my expenses in Canterbury. The housing is very expensive, around 550 pounds per month. We always got our groceries from the Aldi, which is far away but much cheaper than the other supermarkets. Going out at night is expensive as well, because you need to pay to get it. This could be more than 10 pounds, excluding any drinks you might want to buy inside. Day trips, such as going to London, are expensive but worth it!

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took three modules, all 7.5 ECTS. Two were about teaching English and teaching languages, and one about intercultural competence. I chose these modules as a preparation for my Master's programme. A staff member of the International Office of Kent emailed me, asking me which modules I wanted to choose. The University of Kent has a website on which you can find all of the modules, and you can select specific fields to make it easier to find suitable modules. I sent the staff member a list of my preferred modules and she checked which ones were still available. Before my classes started, I could check my timetable and the module guides on Moodle, which is their 'Blackboard'.

academic quality of education activities

I found that the modules were easier than the courses here in Utrecht. The teachers were amazing; very dedicated and they put in a lot of effort to help students. They always reminded us to send them an email if we had a question, while teachers in Utrecht most of the time don't want students to email them. Still, the classes were quite easy. The set-up was similar as the courses in Utrecht; we had lectures and seminars, but while we have 2 seminars of 2 hours and 1 lecture of 2 hours per week in Utrecht, in Kent we had 1 seminar of 1 hour and 1 lecture of 1 hour per week. It was also easier; if we had to interview someone for an assignment, we got the questions from our teacher or when we had to write a paper, there was always an example on Moodle. The seminars were always very interactive, most of the time we got a task to do in small groups and then we talked about the tasks with the whole class. The lectures were very similar to the lectures in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The University of Kent can help you with almost anything. There is a International Office, there is a support team in the building where you live which can help you with any question at all. There are mental health support teams, even a phone number you can call at night if you're not feeling well and need someone to talk to. Campus security is available 24/7 to help if you're feeling unsafe, and you can request someone to walk with you across campus at night. Teachers are amazing and really want to help you. I never felt like I was alone in something; I knew there were people to help me and that made me feel very confident.

transfer of credits

The University of Kent uses other credits than the University of Utrecht but they are easily transferred, this isn't a problem.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

I felt very welcome! I was sent a booklet about the first weeks at Kent before I went there so I knew what was expected from me. When I arrived at my accommodation on campus, I had to collect my key and there was a student who helped me find my room and get my stuff there as well. After this, I had to collect my student card and visited the welcome programme; I talked to a student and told her about my interests, and she told me about interesting societies and sport groups. After this, there was a whole Welcoming Week with presentations, a Freshers' Fair with all of the societies and sport groups, and fun activities. The International Office also organises meetings throughout the year with all of the international students, these are so much fun and it's a good way to get to know other students. There is also a Buddy Programme for International students, so that a British student can help you.

accommodation

After you've been accepted to the University of Kent, you can apply for accommodation on their campus. I would recommend this, even though it's expensive. It's hard to find accommodation in the city and it's quite far away from the campus. I lived in Darwin College; it's the least expensive accommodation together with Parkwood but it's on central campus while Parkwood is a 15 minute walk away. I lived there with 9 others, and this was amazing. I recommend Darwin because it's central, cheap and a lot of fun. The application process is

simple; you make a list of three accommodations and they will see which one is available. If I had to apply again, I would choose Darwin, Parkwood and then another one. You can find a list of all accommodations and the prices on the University of Kent website.
leisure & culture
There are hundreds of societies and sport groups; you will always find something that you like. You can find a list of all of these groups on the University of Kent website. I chose the Harry Potter society and Kent Sing, the choir. We met up every week, the people were all very kind and welcoming and I made a lot of friends there.
suggestions/tips
Join a society of sport group, go to all univeristy events and meet a lot of people! I even became a student representative for one of my modules and talked to university staff about the module and how it could be improved. This was out of my comfort zone but I'm so glad I did it; don't be scared and try everything. You will learn a lot and have a good time on your exchange!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes! The campus is amazing, the people are very nice, the teachers are so helpful and passionate, and Canterbury is a very nice town. I've had an amazing time in Canterbury and can't wait to go back.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
/	

### Report 3

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<b>optional</b> ; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: marritmeinema@gmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	<b>or</b>	
	<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	Humanities	
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Comparative Literature	

destination city & country	Canterbury, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	15 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process went fine. I had to give up three choices and write a motivation letter for my first choice. I actually received my first choice so that was really nice.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Whenever I had a question about the application process I could always email the International Office. They would email me back within two days (except for weekends of course). They always provided me with the information I needed so I was completely satisfied with the counselling & support at Utrecht University.
academic preparation	
	This was not really necessary since I already did my first year of the RMA Comp Lit. here in Utrecht, I had enough academic skills and knowledge to attend the University of Kent.
language preparation	
	As I already completed my BA in English Language and Culture, I did not have to do any language preparation for my stay in Kent.
finances	
	Due to my study loan I was able to afford going to England. The Erasmus grant did help me a little bit with the rent for my accommodation which was pretty steep, but for the most part I had to save up quite a lot to afford going. It helps that you don't have to pay the tuition fee there.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The two modules I took at the University of Kent were "Literature and Capitalism" and "Postcolonial Writing and the Environment". The content was completely in line with what I expected from the courses so that was great. Some organisational issues occurred because I had actually chosen a different course "Literature and Affect" when filling in the learning agreement, but due to some changes in the curriculum I had to do Literature and Capitalism instead. Apparently, at UoK these changes at the last minute are quite usual so keep that in mind while applying: you might have to take a different module than what you set out to do.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of the seminars was good - however, the discussions in class were a bit less lively than I am used to at Utrecht University. But that is more of a problem with the students than with the university because I have heard from other international students that their discussion were amazing. The professors I had, Paul and Matthew were very enthusiastic, knew a lot about their respective fields and were able to transfer their enthusiasm onto us.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	I haven't really needed any support or counselling while abroad.
transfer of credits	
	This has not yet happened. I did pass my course but I am still waiting for my transcript.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	

**UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

They had a very packed welcome & orientation programme. The events I went to were: the graduate information market, the on campus pub crawl and the afternoon high tea. The information market had stands for student unions, but also ones that handed out flyers about how you should approach research or how to structure your essays etc. The pub crawl was a very nice way to meet other international students and to explore campus and go to all the pubs on campus. I met three friends here with whom I am still in contact today. Finally, the afternoon high tea was nice - lovely scones, sandwiches and tea - and there was a quiz to inform you about Canterbury and the University. My team won and we received University of Kent mugs.

## accommodation

My accommodation was on campus, which made it really expensive (around 3100 euros), but it was also really fun to live among only students - in the Netherlands, as you know, campuses are not really that much of a thing so it was fun to experience this. I shared a house with 6 other housemates, which at times was a bit frustrating cleaningwise, some people would feel too 'busy' to do cleaning, yet it was also very nice because there was always someone in the kitchen to talk to. Moreover, our shared bathrooms and kitchen were cleaned every two weeks which was amazing since, as I said, some people did not clean at all. So, all in all, I would recommend staying in campus accommodation :)

## leisure &amp; culture

Even though Canterbury is quite a small town, there's loads to do. The city centre has many pubs and two night clubs, and the campus itself also has a few pubs which were quite nice. My favourites in the city were: Bramsley, a cocktail bar, and the Lady Luck, an alternative pub.  
Also, you can go punting, which is quite fun. You will hear about the history of Canterbury.  
And of course, there's the Cathedral which is gorgeous - if you show your student pass (of the University of Kent) you will get free access.

## suggestions/tips

Go to some of the small places surrounding Canterbury: Whitstable, Hems Bay. These are alongside the coast and they are extremely cozy and quaint.  
London is also only an hour by train, so definitely go to London! Just one tip, try to buy your trainticket somewhat two weeks in advance, as in the UK the rails are privatized, the prices of the traintickets always rise closer to the travel date.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, definitely. The University of Kent is an amazing place to go, I had a wonderful time. However, I would not recommend going longer than one semester though, at least not for the programme I did, but that is because your classmates will be going to a different country the second semester and I don't know how that works if you're an Erasmus student. If you're allowed to go with them to Paris, that would be amazing, but if you have to stay in Kent.. I would not do it, because I suspect the campus might feel kind of empty then.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

2018-2019

**Report 1**

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

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: annaderoest@hotmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yes: Annaderoest
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
<i>See end note for * and **</i>			
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Engelse Taal en Cultuur		

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	16 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
<b>exchange application process</b>
At first, the amount of paper work seemed very daunting. I was sure I was going to forget to upload something. However, the application process was a lot more manageable than I thought. If you pay attention and keep track of the different steps of the process, nothing can go wrong.
<b>counselling &amp; support at Utrecht University</b>
The international office has been incredibly helpful. Each question I asked over e-mail was answered within the same day or the day after and the same goes for all the forms that they needed to sign for me. I did not need a lot of guidance, but when I did, they were available for help.
<b>academic preparation</b>
Since I went on my Erasmus exchange in my fourth year, I already felt very well prepared. I did not do any extra preparations.
<b>language preparation</b>
Because my BA is English language and culture, I was confident that my level of English was sufficient, and it was. I did not do any preparations, but I did participate in the language assessment.
<b>finances</b>
The finances were perhaps the most tricky part of studying abroad, especially in the United Kingdom. It was very expensive, and I knew it would be. The most difficult part was that the University of Kent requires you to

pay your rent in one go, so I needed to make sure I had enough money on my account to pay rent for the entire academic term. With the Erasmus grant , a student loan and a job, I was able to afford it without problems.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took two modules from the English program and they were both really well organised. Applying for them was also really easy. The site the University uses instead of Blackboard is called 'Moodle' and works perfectly. We did receive the course manuals rather later than I am used to at the UU, but the reading lists were published in advance. The biggest difference in classes is that, at UKC, lectures only last one hour, or even fifty minutes, and you only have one seminar session. This means that there is a lot more self-study.

#### academic quality of education activities

The modules were of the same quality as in Utrecht, except that there was a lot more self-study. However, this resulted in very concise lectures and very in-depth discussions in the seminar sessions, so this worked surprisingly well. The teachers were highly qualified and were good at explaining and discussing the topics. The seminar groups were a little bit smaller than in Utrecht, about 15 students, which really helped the teachers give everyone the attention they needed.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not require any counselling or support, but students receive plenty of information on where to get all different kinds of help.

#### transfer of credits

The modules I took were both 30 Kent Credits, which transfers to 15 ECTS. Passing both modules, I will have received 30 ECTS.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The first week of the term is Freshers' week and is filled with fun activities, even some especially for international students. They have fairs with information about everything on the campus and the different student societies promote themselves. There was also a special talk for international students and a global hangout, to meet other internationals.

#### accommodation

Accommodation at the University of Kent is located at the campus. You have to search online for the different buildings they have and what they have to offer and then fill out a top four. I stayed in one of the cheaper, but most sociable colleges, where a lot of international students are staying. My flatmates were almost all international students, which was really great. All the colleges have a reception to receive your post, security and a bar/restaurant to hang out in. The campus is located about thirty minutes from the city centre, but there are plenty of buses that can take you there.

#### leisure & culture

There is a lot to do on the campus. Not only are there hundreds of societies to join, from sports to singing or creative writing, but there is also a gym, a theatre and a cinema on campus. All the different colleges have their own bars and there is also a club on campus, called Venue. If, however, you want to leave the campus for your entertainment, the city centre has plenty to offer. There are multiple clubs and pubs, it has a great theatre, and plenty of shops. Students from the University of Kent have free access to the Canterbury Cathedral, which is always worth a visit.

suggestions/tips
When it comes to accommodation: I would discourage people from choosing a catered college - you will have to eat at assigned times and it is a lot more expensive than cooking yourself. I would recommend Darwin College, because of all the international students that stay there. I would also suggest joining some kind of society or sports team, to make some friends outside of your house, especially if you don't really connect with your flatmates. I would also suggest going to the University library quite a lot: it has a lot of study spaces and even more great resources for your essays/assignments.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The University of Kent is a great university for an Erasmus exchange - the erasmus office is incredibly helpful, accommodation is managed by the university and there are a lot of international students. The education is really good and the campus is extremely sociable. I think you can have a great experience everywhere, but UKC has been really open and accepting, and has made me feel at home since the day I arrived.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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**Report 2**

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: Nadiajrezai@gmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
<i>See end note for * and **</i>			
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Media and Culture		

destination city & country	United Kingdom, Canterbury
name university abroad	University of kent
start date	14 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process

**UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

The exchange application process was not too complex. It was an easy process, but you did need to remember the deadlines, otherwise your application would have consequences.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support at Utrecht University was very comforting. They provided everything you need to know and kept in touch through e-mails.
academic preparation
Before applying, I needed to write a motivational letter. This was just a letter where you write about what studying abroad offers you on a more intellectual level. Furthermore, I needed to hand in my grades from UU. I had no hard time preparations the academic work. Also, I did not spend too much time in these requirements.
language preparation
Bln order to study abroad in Canterbury, I needed to participate in a language test. The test was not too hard and adjusted to your level. I needed to take it twice, before and after my trip. The instructions of the test were simple and there were no difficulties further.
finances
It was nice to receive a Erasmus+ grant as financial support. United Kingdom is quite expensive and a place to stay is something I did need to save up for.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I studied Hollywood Studios and Digital Domains. Hollywood Studios was a first year module. At first I really liked it, but as the weeks continued, I felt that we were moving too slow forwards. We kept talking about subject that we already had discussed. We discussed Hollywood in the period between ca. 1927 and 1940, specifically Warner Bros.. However, I really did like Digital Domains. This was a third year module. It was very fun to learn about the CGI and other aspects of films. I would definitely recommend it. Both modules offered once a week one lecture, one seminar and one screening (watching a film).
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good. Digital Domains had much better quality than Hollywood Studios. By participating in screening seminars, you would learn more about the subject that is discussed that week. In the seminar, the film will be discussed more intensively and this fulfills the academic purpose of watching films.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support was very nice in Canterbury. They even had special support for Dutch students. Furthermore, you could keep in touch with the counselling through mailings, but you could also visit them on campus. They are very friendly! Also, the lecturers are very supportive as well. When I had questions about my semester, they really did take action. I really appreciated it.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits went fast as well. I received my credits in March.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme was very fun. Also, there are also global meetings where you meet people from around the world. That was fun as well as you meet very different kinds of people with different backgrounds.

accommodation
I did not choose to stay in an accommodation on campus because I received an offer for my fourth choice. I needed to choose four options, two with en-suite and two without. The one that I was offered, was the least updated house-area on campus and I have not heard good stories about there. So I chose to search on my own for an accommodation in Canterbury. I found a nice place near the uni, but also near to the centre and railway station. I was happy with my accommodation and did not regret choosing for one off campus.
leisure & culture
I really liked the modules I participated in. Also, the student culture is fun and you will often receive mailing about different events. These events are very fun!
suggestions/tips
I did not participate enough with these events and would suggest to be more part of it because of the experience.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would recommend the University of Kent to others. I really like the cute city, the friendly staff of the university and the other students. If you are lucky, you will be given the accommodation that you selected. I liked the structure of the lecture and you will have much time to participate in other activities and events. Canterbury is however quite small, so I would recommend to study there for a semester, but not much longer than that.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Unfortunately, I did not participate enough with the events that the university offered. I think my experience would be complete if I had done that as well.	

### **Report 3**

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

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: annemijn@hotmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
<i>See end note for * and **</i>			
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	BA Kunstgeschiedenis		
destination city & country	Canterbury, Kent		
name university abroad	University of Kent		
start date	08 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)		
end date	08/ 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)		

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	It's a lot of work and it can be quite stressful, however it's all worth it in the end.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Good! I've asked for help a couple of times and the International Office was always happy to help.
academic preparation	
	Good.
language preparation	
	Good.
finances	
	Good.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Very interesting! I did not expect the English study programme to be that different from the Dutch one but my time abroad proved me wrong. The English study programme (in my case Art History) in my opinion is way more practical than the way courses are taught at the University of Utrecht which I really enjoyed. Thereby, the courses did not include any exams whatsoever but only asked for essays. Hereby, I had the opportunity to really focus on my subject of choice which was very interesting to me.
academic quality of education activities	
	Good. I feel like the academic quality of the University of Kent is very similar to the University of Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Good! Each time I dropped by Kent's International Office they appeared more than happy to help.
transfer of credits	
	Not yet completed. It takes quite a long time for the University of Kent to send me my Transcript.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
	Good. It's well organised and clears up any questions I had regarding my exchange. However it's all quite study-orientated. I would have liked more social-orientated activities as well.
accommodation	
	Decent, not anything fancy but it's sufficient. I've felt very safe and at home. Since the accommodation is on campus it's a huge factor regarding establishing a social life as well.
leisure & culture	

suggestions/tips

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely yes. University of Kent is a very well organised, warm, welcoming University.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
-

**Report 4**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	master's
name study programme	Religious Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, Kent , United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	14 / 1 / 2019
end date	5/ 4 / 2019

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
This was a stressful situation for me, as I had to fill in many documents, send them around, and do it all in time. I often lost track of what should be done, but I am particularly sensitive in this regard. Also, the University of Kent could only confirm that they had accomodation for me three weeks before the start of the term, this totally stressed me out.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The people at the UU international office were very friendly and willing to help, even if I felt stupid for getting lost so easily in the process of application.
academic preparation
I was not allowed to finish my course in Utrecht because I went to Kent, I could have prepared this better. Otherwise no special preparations for the University of Kent were necessary.
language preparation
Not necessary, as my study program in Utrecht is already in English.
finances

DUO helped me out with this one (student loan)

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study program was content-wise very interesting and offered something new/different in comparison to Utrecht University. The workload was relatively low.

academic quality of education activities

I experienced the quality as equal to that in Utrecht, by my standards it was a good quality. Good selection of readings, discussions involved critical thinking, broad range of topics yet grounded discussions, time for individual advice, etc. Also, there are many additional educational workshops, both for exchange students and for all students. They are easy to join, free of charge, and I experienced most to be of good quality and helpful.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The University of Kent offers many counselling & support services, I always experienced a willingness to help, friendliness, and direct and good help. Also, they offer free and directly accessible student counselling for exchange students, and they have a 24/7 crisis team on campus.

transfer of credits

The University of Kent states the amount of credits on their website, also for exchange students (NL / UK differ in their system). I experienced no problems so far in transferring these credits.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Just super! The University of Kent offered a broad program for newcoming exchange students, with both mandatory and optional activities. The welcoming event was nicely arranged such that you immediately meet many other students. They also offered clear information that is relevant for newcoming students. Other activities included a free bus tour to a big supermarket, a guided tour through Canterbury, a high tea, and a tour to a castle. All of them were useful and nice!

accommodation

I had an accommodation on campus. It was not nice to hear only three weeks before the start of the term that I actually had a room. The accommodation was very nice though. All Erasmus students are located in the same houses, so we were together as international housemates. The housing itself was good; medium room size, it is cleaned regularly, and it is on campus so everything is closeby.

leisure & culture

There are many options for activities at the University of Kent. There are many student organizations, which you can meet at introduction days (go there!). It is also very easy to go to London by bus, which I did very often. Canterbury also has some nice places for cultural activities. There are also many sports activities on campus. There are good places to meet/drink/eat on campus. It is impossible to get bored here.

suggestions/tips
Find your student organization! It is easy to join as a temporary resident, or even just to join once to try out something you never did before, and the choice is almost endless..

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Certainly! It is a beautiful location, very student friendly, there is a lot to do and try, it is very easy to meet new people and make friends (even for me, and I am generally shy&introverted), and the education program is also of good quality.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 5**

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: mijntjelvs@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Media & Culture

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	8 / 1 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	5 / 4 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The exchange application was complex, but if you ask for the help you need you will figure everything out eventually. Don't hesitate to ask other people what to do! Also, if you ever meet up with the people who are going to the same university as you are, exchange phone numbers so you can help each other. If I had done this, it would have been less stressful.
counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support Utrecht University offered was very good. The international office was very helpful and they were very available to help you whenever needed. If you go to the international office yourself you will get your answers quickly and they'll help you almost immediately.
academic preparation
On academic level I was well prepared as a third year student. The level of the courses was about the same level/maybe a bit lower than the courses in Utrecht. This gave me the opportunity to work on other elements as well (like a social life).
language preparation
My English was pretty okay before I left to Kent. It can be a bit scary to talk in English at first, but you will notice you'll be fine if you try.
finances
Life in Kent is a bit more expensive then life in Utrecht, especially the food and the accomodation. You have to keep in mind that an exchange is going to cost you some money, however, it is totally worth it! I do not regret it one second.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme in Kent is a bit different then it is in Utrecht. Everything is very free and the seminars are set up in a different way. Also, the seminar groups are way smaller; this gives you the opportunity to really connect with you peers and the professor and to really discuss everything you want to discuss in class.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the courses are about the same as in the Netherlands, maybe a bit lower. You are expected to read a lot more and to really participate in the course (sometimes you get graded for this). However, this invited you to really understand what is happening and to engage with the material.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
During my stay I received multiple e-mails for different kinds of support ((mental-) health, physical health, support for better studying et cetera), and that made me feel like the university really cared about the well-being of her students. I took an extra no credit course about writing essays at my particular university, which was really helpful. It made me aware of the differences between my home and receiving univerisity.
transfer of credits
This was fine, as long as you are in time with handing in your documents.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The first week was introduction week, the university did their best for you to get to know Kent and some people around you. There are multiple ways to get to know a lot of different people from all over the world, which is really nice. There were also opportunities of seeing the area around Canterbury, like the Dover Castle and a city tour.
accommodation
There are multiple 'Courts' on campus, I lived in the one that was the furthest away from the city centre. However, the court was really nice, there were five other students in my house. We all had small but nice

**UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

rooms and a beautiful kitchen. Everything is a bit basic but you have everything you might need. Also, the bus stop was around the corner and my court (Park Wood) also had it's own supermarket (so we didn't have to walk into town or the other side of campus to get our groceries).

## leisure &amp; culture

There were a lot of societies to choose from in the society fair the first week. Everyone is very open for new students and it is a good way to get to know a few people. I would very much recommend joining one or multiple societies while staying abroad.

## suggestions/tips

My suggestion is to try to meet as many people as possible, since that will probably give you the best experience. Also, try to be active! Join societies, go on walks or city trips, have dinner at your house with some friends, make the most out of it!

Suggestions for Kent specifically: try to see as much of the area as possible, it is really beautiful. Live on campus, the biggest part of the international students do.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend staying in Canterbury. The city is small but cute, especially when the sun is out. Going out is really fun as well! Also, there are a lot of other nice villages and cities (London) in the neighbourhood. The university is organised well and the people are really nice. Campus is not too far away from the train station and the city centre, so you'll be very mobile. Also, the university really gives you the opportunity to meet other people and expand your social life. The courses give you enough free time to do fun things on the weekends, but you'll learn a lot!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Ask someone (or me) before you leave for more specific recommendations. Where can I book a train ticket? Where do people go out? Where can I do my groceries? Those kind of things can be convenient to know, and it will save you a lot of time.

**2017-2018  
 Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Cultural Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	16 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process was quite easy. Both the international team from Utrecht Univeristy and the University of Kent replied quickly and clearly to any questions I had. All necessary forms can be found online. The most important thing is to check the timeline with all deadlines well in advance and note all the forms you need to get signed and hand in. Most forms need to be signed by both the sending and receiving institution and even though they are quick to reply, it saves you a lot of stress if you start with the process on time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Any questions I had were answered clearly by the International Office. I did not have a lot of questions or needed very specific counseling, but any contact that I did have was positive.
academic preparation	Since the modules I picked at the University of Kent were similar to the kind of modules I am used to taking at Utrecht University, I did not need to do any special academic preparation. If you do want to study something that you normally don't study in The Netherlands, the Univeristy of Kent has a specific type of module called 'Wild module', which you can take as a beginner in that specific area without needing any prior knowledge of the subject.
language preparation	Since the University of Kent teaches in English I did not need to do any language preparation. I did need to take a Language Test in order to apply for the Erasmus Grant, but the result of that test would not influence your application to the University. Also, if you get level C2 in this OLS language test you do not need to take it a second time after the end of your stay abroad.
finances	Life in the UK is quite expensive. I wanted to live on campus and the rent of a room there is even higher than renting a room in Utrecht, so be prepared to dip into your savings. I did apply for the Erasmus Grant and that helped a bit, and also received some money from DUO because I temporarily cancelled my free public transportation (studentenreisproduct). Going on trips will add to your overall experience of living abroad but it's not cheap to travel in the UK. So all in all: it's going to cost quite a bit of money to study here.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Picking modules is as easy as picking modules at Utrecht. You can just browse on the website and look if there are any modules in the area that you are interested in. I applied via email (the International team will sign you in), and would find out at Kent if my timetable would work with the modules I picked. Luckily there was no clash in my timetable so I could keep the modules I had picked before leaving.
academic quality of education activities
I think that University of Kent is typically 'you get out of it what you put in'. The 7,5 ECTS modules only have two contact hours each week, so there is a lot of spare time. If you want to do all the reading there is enough time to do so. Attendance is not always obligatory, so it might seem easy to just skip class and not do the reading. But the effort you put in will be reflected in your grades. And your time abroad is going to be boring if you just sit around doing nothing all day. There are intelligent seminal leaders at Kent and if you put in effort they will gladly help you and you will learn a lot. I honestly think that people who say that studying at Kent is easier than studying at Utrecht just didn't realize that you need to take initiative if you want to get the most out of your university career.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Team at Kent University are helpful and kind. I did not have any problems or a lot of questions, but they made it clear that if you did you could send them an email or visit them during office hours.
transfer of credits
n.a.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There were many activities to welcome new students when I arrived in September. Some were organized for all new students (including first-year students from the UK) but there were also events targeted at international students specifically. In the first few weeks all societies had 'taster sessions' so you could try everything you wanted to try before deciding to sign up for real.
accommodation
I stayed on campus in one of the Park Wood houses with 5 people in total (including myself). The communal areas were cleaned by the university cleaning service so there were no discussions about whose turn it was to clean the kitchen. The house I stayed in had quite simple bedrooms and the only shared rooms were the kitchen, bathroom and toilet. I had picked living in this kind of house because it was the cheapest on-campus option but I was not at all disappointed with it: the rooms were fine, and everything was as you would expect. Nothing was really luxurious but if all you want is a bed to sleep in and a kitchen to cook in, these houses are perfect. Also, I would greatly recommend living in Park Wood. Even though it's furthest away from the classrooms from all the on-campus living option, it's still only a 5 or 10 minute walk to class. And it really does feel like a park: looking out the window I would often see squirrels. It's really nice and green compared to the other accommodations. And it's nice to share a house instead of a hallway in a flat.
leisure & culture
Canterbury is a nice and quaint city. It's smaller than Utrecht but it has more than enough shops, pubs and clubs for people to have fun. It's a 40-minute walk from campus to the city centre which I did very often if the weather was nice. If you don't feel like walking you can just take the bus which leaves from multiple spots on campus about four times an hour (and you can pay for your tickets with a contactless card or NFC on your

phone). There are many societies that you can join to fill up your time and meet new people. There are many sports societies, but also societies about films or poetry, or cooking... too many to mention. There is definitely no need to be bored whilst studying here.
suggestions/tips
There's a National Express bus that leaves from campus and goes to London which only takes two hours and costs 10 pounds for a return ticket if you book on time!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would highly recommend going here. The people working at this University are very kind and I had fun talking to my seminar leader about the modules. I was very lucky to live with amazing people in my house; and even if you are less lucky with your housemates, you can always join a society to meet people. Canterbury is a really nice city and I am sure that I will go back someday.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Not really, no. Just try to meet people so you can do fun things with them and enjoy your time abroad as much as possible. It will be over before you know it!

### Report 2

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English language and culture

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	17 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
Went very well. International office of both Utrecht and Kent respond very quickly. Everything is explained. It takes a lot of time to read everything and arrange everything, so be aware of that.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Good. The presentations before you go abroad were very helpful, they responded to my emails very quickly and everything can also be found on the website of the University.
academic preparation
I study English language and I went to an English speaking country and followed English literature courses, so I was well prepared.
language preparation

Same as above.
finances
I lived on campus, which was awesome but expensive (around 2000 euros). I got a loan for this and used the grant and my savings to do stuff there. Apart from the rent, living in England is not much more expensive than in the Netherlands, but you go and make trips or do stuff more often. It is definitely expensive, so think about how you are going to finance it.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took a literature course and a creative writing course. Both were very good. You don't spend much time in class, I had 6 hours every week. There was a lot to read, but not much more than I am used to in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities
With my literature course we went on a tour and a museum in London. I met up with my teachers once or twice in the semester to go over my assignments.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They responded to my emails quickly and you can always drop by at the international office.
transfer of credits
Still in process.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
If you arrive in arrivals weekend, there are a lot of students to help you to your dorm and settle in. The entire first week is packed with events, parties, talks and fairs. If you go to a lot of things you meet a lot of new people. Kent has a lot of international students, which means there are many people like you who don't know anyone and also want to make friends.
accommodation
I lived in Darwin, which isn't that big or fancy, but I was very happy to live there. You share your toilet and shower with four people, and your kitchen with nine. I had lovely roommates so I thought having a big kitchen where you can hang out in was an advantage. Darwin is very central on campus, has an amazing bar (Origins) and several classrooms (I had classes in one of them which meant I could get up 10 minutes in advance). I would definitely recommend it. Another good one is Parkwood.
leisure & culture
The city of Canterbury takes around 15 minutes to get there by bus, and it is a 30 minute walk. You can be in London in 2 hours with the National Express, Dover in 30 minutes, and there are a lot of other beautiful cities nearby. On campus there is a lot to do as well. There is a gym (it's possible to get a gymmembership for 3 months), several bars and a club.
suggestions/tips
If you don't want to look for an accommodation yourself then I would recommend living on campus, because you are assured of an accommodation as long as you meet the deadline.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes! Living on campus is great. Canterbury and the campus are both lovely, there is a lot of nature. Because there are so many international students, it's easy to make friends. And it's close to London.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
As long as you meet the deadlines, everything should be fine! Go to Kent in arrivals weekend and not later. And go to as many events and societies as you can :)	

### Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	16 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
The application process can be a bit overwhelming in the beginning. It is a lot of paper work and several documents have to be signed by different institutions. Therefore, it is very important to fill in everything on time.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The workers of the international office were really helpful. Mostly, my questions were answered within a day and I always had the feeling to be able to ask anything. Sometimes, they sent the document I needed again because I was confused by the paper work.	
academic preparation	
Approximately a half year before the study abroad began, I had to choose my courses. On the one hand, it seemed a bit early, since my partner University was not even sure if they would give the courses the next year. On the other hand, I already knew what to expect of the courses and my university had time to check if the modules I chose were suitable for my study.	
language preparation	
Since I study English language and culture, I only had to take the Erasmus language test. Furthermore, I did not do anything specifically in order to prepare for a different language in another country.	
finances	
Luckily, my parents supported me financially and paid the costs for the rent on campus. Moreover, I worked much in order to be able to save enough money for a great time abroad. Additionally, the Erasmus+ grant helped to secure my financial situation in Canterbury.	

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
	study programme (content and organisational issues)
	The way in which the courses were given were similar to my home university. I had two courses which consisted of two seminars and one lecture each.
	academic quality of education activities
	The courses were well-structured and similar to the ones of my home university.
	counselling & support at receiving university abroad
	Everyone at the University of Kent was really supportive. Mostly, emails were answered within a day. Moreover, the instructors embraced one-on-one feedback talks about the essays, which were inspiring.
	transfer of credits
	The University of Kent operates a mark system of a maximum of 100 percent.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
	welcome & orientation programme
	My partner university held a big freshers week with different events and activities for everyone. Because of that, I got to know many different people who turned out to become good friends.
	accommodation
	I lived on campus in the Parkwood houses with four other people. The rooms were simple but big enough to put an air mattress on the ground for visitors or have a movie night with a few friends, for example. We had a simple but nice kitchen, but I really missed a living room where everyone could come together. We were happy to have a cleaning lady come around once per week. Unfortunately, I think that housing was quite expensive, but I understood that this is the case in whole of England.
	leisure & culture
	Canterbury has the most bars per square metre and a nice night life for such a small town. On campus, there is a club as well, which my friends and I really enjoyed. Moreover, the University of Kent has a really big offer of societies. I joined the acapella society and absolutely loved it. Because of that, I got to know many English people as well. In general, there was always something going on on campus.
	suggestions/tips
	Join a society! That will help you to get to know English people and have a great time with many open people who share the same interests like you. Try to join as many events as possible, because firstly, they are fun and you will have a great time; and secondly, you will find new friends very quickly. Do not be afraid to try new things and also new clubs and pubs and do not do the same things the whole time, so you will be able to make the most of your stay abroad! The beach is not far away and also Dover Castle is worth the visit and the 19 pound.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
	would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
	I would definitely recommend the University of Kent. Living on campus was a great experience! They do so much for the students in order to let them feel welcome and safe. The town is small but so lovely and because it is a student city, there are many restaurants and bars that offer student discounts.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 4**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Comparative Literary Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, Kent
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	16 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	We were well-informed and prepared
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international Office was helpfull and supportive
academic preparation	Was not necessary
language preparation	not necessary
finances	Erasmus funding and Student Financial Support

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The teacher were very easily approachable, supportive and kind
academic quality of education activities	Utrecht University proved to be much, much more challenging than the University of Kent
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not make use of this, so I wouldn't be able to judge
transfer of credits	

Still not sure if this all went well

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

A lot of time was invested by the university in order for the international people to get their footing, which was very much appreciated

accommodation

Accommodation was fine and clean although very expensive

leisure & culture

Lots of leisure time compared to Utrecht University, which also enabled me to explore a lot of the country

suggestions/tips

I don't have any suggestions or tips

### CONCLUSIONS

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

On the one hand I would definitely recommend the University of Kent because everything is so well-organized, the teachers were very kind and the whole atmosphere is easy-going. However if you want to be challenged intellectually I would advise not to go here: stay in Utrecht instead.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

### Report 5

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication and Information Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

I would very much recommend going abroad, but do not underestimate the amount of effort you have to put in for the application process. You will need to complete a lot of documents and you will have to collect a lot of

signatures. Make sure you have enough time for this and really look into it, so everything will go as smoothly as possible.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office of Humanities is very helpful. You can always email them and they will respond quickly, or you can visit them at the Student Desk.
academic preparation
I had some troubles with choosing the modules, since at Kent they allow you to only pick modules within your faculty. However, you can choose some 'Wild Modules', with a maximum of two modules. Since Kent does not teach Communication and Information Studies, it was hard to find modules that fit within my degree.
language preparation
Since the language for instruction obviously is English, as an Erasmus student you will not have to do an exam to prove your level in English. However, you do need to complete an OLS language test online before and after your stay, so your improvement in English can be seen. If your level in English is lower than B2 before your departure, you will need to do an English course. I was really nervous for the OLS test in advance, but eventually it was nothing to worry about.
finances
Living in England can be very expensive, so it was necessary to figure out well how I was planning on affording everything. The Erasmus Grant was very useful.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
At the University of Kent, self study is very important. For most of the modules, you will only have two hours of classes each every week. Therefore, I needed to read a lot at home. I kind of regret that I did not know in advance that it would have been much easier to pick two modules of 15 ECTS each for one term, instead of four modules of 7.5 ECTS each. That would have reduced the work pressure a bit, since I had to hand in eight essays in total.
academic quality of education activities
Overall a good academic quality of the education activities. Some teachers were definitely better than others, but that is probably the case at every university.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
University of Kent really values student support, therefore they organise several meetings and everyone has an academic adviser. Additionally, you can always go to the International Office and they will be prepared to help you.
transfer of credits
Since they use a different grading system in England, my grades had to be converted.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
In the first week I arrived at Kent, they had Welcome Week. They organised loads of activities to allow you to really get to know the students, the university and its environment. I really loved how they organised this week, since it made me feel at home quickly.

accommodation
Even though it is quite expensive, the accommodation on campus was absolutely wonderful. I was living in Park Woods, in a six bed house, which was definitely better than the five bed houses. It kind of looked like a Centre Parks accomodation, with lots of trees, squirrels and rabbits. Since Park Woods is the furthest accommodation place on campus, I had to walk quite a lot to get to class. But it was really worth it and also refreshing to walk a bit every day.
leisure & culture
Kent offers lots of societies, with lots of variation. They have societies for almost every conceivable interest. Additionally, Kent is a very international university. I met loads of international students, who gave me the opportunity to see a lot of different cultures. For example, I celebrated Thanksgiving there for the first time and I introduced my international housemates to Sinterklaas.
suggestions/tips
Join as many societies as you can and try to go to as many activities as you can. In this way you will make new friends in no time and this will really help to make you feel at home.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend University of Kent to others. It is a lovely and welcome university, in a beautiful environment. It does look a lot like the Netherlands, even though during my exchange it did not rain as much as in the Netherlands. I feel that my English has improved, the speaking becomes easier everyday. The exchange also has given me more confidence, since it definitely pulled me out of my comfort zone. The Welcome Week was very useful as well, by allowing you to meet as much new people as you can in the beginning.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
In the first two/three weeks, I felt really homesick. But do not let this stop you and make sure that you push yourself through this, because it is really worth it! In the end it will be hard to go back home. I would also recommend to email Kent a lot if you have any queries, so they will know who you are.

**2016-2017  
 Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Religious Studies

destination city & country	Canterbury, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	10 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 03 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process is a long one, but it is spread over a long period of time. Therefore you have enough time to contact the receiving university and let the UU sign all the documents required. It is all very clear what you need to do, fill in, sent and sign before a certain deadline and because of that the whole application process went in my case rather smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The UU is very clear on what you need to do; there are step-by-step documents for example that show you how and when to apply etc.
academic preparation	I didn't need any academic preparation, because my study abroad period was part of my current study.
language preparation	Accept for the Erasmus language assessment, I didn't have to prepare for the language.
finances	Finances were a bit more difficult than the application process itself, because you have to apply outside the UU on Duo etc.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I studied the Viking Age and I wanted to study the crusades. However, a week before a deadline at the UU, the University of Kent sent me an email that the crusades-module was full. I had to choose a new module last minute; a module about Asian traditions.
academic quality of education activities	

I thought the academic quality at the UKC was a bit lower than at the UU. There was much more guidance during the modules and this left very little space to critically analyse a subject in a paper for example. In my experience the education was easier in Kent than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Again, there was a lot of guidance in this area, which was really good because it can be quite confusing at another university. Fortunately, I didn't have any problems and i didn't need any counseling or support, however, I heard from other students that the counselling and support was really good and helpful.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits is taking quite a long time, because all grades are finalised in June or July, even when you are finished in April.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There were a lot of welcome events, such as some welcome talks explaining the basics of life at university and on campus. There were also more social activities, like a tour through the city, afternoon teas and dinners with other Erasmus students.
accommodation
The rooms are quite small and expensive, but in my accommodation every room had its own sink, which was really convenient. The fact that you had to go outside to go to the kitchen was less convenient. A cleaning lady came every week, however, when the kitchen was too messy, she wouldn't clean it. We shared the kitchen with ten people, which meant that it was almost always messy.
leisure & culture
There were a lot of leisure options on campus and of course off campus too. There was a gym on campus with a lot of different classes for example. I really liked just to walk in Canterbury, because it is a very lovely, historic city with a lot of cultural activities to do. By bus you are only half an hour away from the beach and it takes approximately an hour by bus to get to the White Cliffs.
suggestions/tips
The things I just described.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I will definitely recommend this university to others. The University of Kent is one of the only universities in the UK with a big campus that works with the college system. Wherever you live on campus, you are only a ten minute walk away from your lecture or seminar rooms, which is very convenient. The best thing about this accommodation is Canterbury itself. If you like a small city that has everything (from pubs to fancy restaurants and from Primarks to museums) Canterbury is a great choice. I personally love historical cities and Canterbury is definitely historic. It is also close to London, the beach and it lies in the middle of the beautiful Kent landscape.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 2**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Canterbury, U.K.
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	17 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>The application process was fairly straightforward. It was clear what had to be done and there were lists on the Easmus page and in information emails about which forms had to be filled in. There were quite a lot of forms and sometimes there were minor problems, for example when your host university cannot send something you need before the deadline, but usually when you email them or call them they are very prepared to help you. Calling is the most efficient way, both the staff from our home university and host university are very friendly and can help quickly.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The information provided in both the preparation meetings and via email is very useful and clear. I also really liked the opportunity to talk to the students who had already studied abroad and the fact that there was attention for possible homesickness or culture shock among the more official and practical information, which is quite an important and personal element of studying abroad.</p>
academic preparation	<p>The programme at Utrecht prepares you quite well for the modules at the University of Kent. I took modules in English Literature and the only difference was that there were less classes and more novels to read in the U.K. They work with a different online system than Utrecht University does, but they have a very clear website where they explain it to you or you can ask them about it during the first week, where lots of people on campus are prepared to help anyone with problems or questions. The seminars were arranged similarly to the system in Utrecht: a small group where you have the opportunity to participate and discuss the relevant topic. I did not know which modules I was going to take until quite late, which meant that I had a shorter timespan in which I could read the novels compared to my class mates. It was manageable, but not ideal.</p>
language preparation	<p>The level of English at my host university was about the same as at my home university, due to the many native speakers of English that teach courses in Utrecht. During classes I did not have any difficulty to catch up with the other students, who were for the most part native speakers of English. I did get really immersed into the language, since I did not know many other Dutch people at the University of Kent, and was mostly among native English speakers or other international students. That can sometimes be a bit much or exhausting, but is really good for your proficiency and your confidence in speaking the language.</p>
finances	

The U.K. is quite an expensive country. The Erasmus grant and the 'O.V. vergoeding' are a huge help, but you have to be prepared to cover some costs yourself, as you will probably want to travel and do fun things, in addition to accommodation costs, traveling to the country and back etc. There are also costs like laundry, public transport within Canterbury (to and from campus), and the costs for essential items within the accommodation (some do not have kitchen utensils for example). There are quite a lot of these costs that you might not necessarily anticipate, so be prepared to cover these kind of costs and bring enough money.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took two modules on English literature (both 15 ECTS). The modules were really interesting and of the right level. Even though most of the fellow students were native speakers of English, I had no trouble participating. It was really nice to be able to take modules on specific writers and movements in literature, as Utrecht University do not offer such courses. The modules were organised very well, there were 'module handbooks' available in the online learning environment, which listed all the requirements and the topics to be discussed. There was also a clear timetable of where you were supposed to be and who you were supposed to email with any enquiries.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses was very good. The teachers were very interesting and knew a lot about their respective topics. The seminars were very engaging, everyone was encouraged to participate and there was a nice atmosphere to work in. It was very nice to work in small groups (there were only about 10-15 participants in each group), it made it possible for everyone to engage and be heard.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

University of Kent has an extensive body of organisations that can help you with all kinds of issues. At the beginning it is a bit confusing where to go when you have a problem, but they are all very helpful and will direct you in the right way. There are a GP and nurses on campus, and there are several organisations to go to. For example Kent Hospitality, for accommodation issues, and the Kent Union, for student welfare. They also have very good campus security, which is available 24/7, and a campus walking service, where they walk you home if you are alone at night, coming back from a party or the library.

transfer of credits

Since I do not have my transcript of records and my official marks back yet at this point, I cannot say too much about this. They will send your transcript of records to you by mail, about three months after your term ends. They are quite quick with marking your work, usually about three weeks after you have handed it in. There are conversion tables available on the internet, so you can see about how you've done. You also get to read all the comments of your teachers on your work online, as well as having special meetings to discuss your essay with your teacher personally (at least, when you are in the School of English).

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcoming programme is great! There are lots of events to go to and special programmes for international students, where you can meet people from all over the world. Additionally, there is a Freshers' Fair, where all the societies introduce themselves and many different parties. There are also programmes for the more practical stuff, such as library tours, stands where they can help you with the wifi and online library and such, and introductions by organisations for student's wellbeing, religion etc. Most of this takes place during the first week.

accommodation
I stayed in the accommodation on campus, where I chose for a house with a kitchen (as opposed to the accommodation with a kitchenette and a meal-plan, where you eat in the dining hall or one of the other dinner places on campus). The accommodation was very nice and clean. I was living with four other people, which was really nice. The disadvantages to the accommodation were that it is quite expensive (city living is generally cheaper) and you have to travel to city centre to get your groceries, since the small stores on campus are not sufficient. However, city living is a bit more difficult to arrange from abroad, whereas campus accommodation is easier to arrange and you can be more sure of a decent accommodation.
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in and around Canterbury. Canterbury itself is quite small, but the cathedral is beautiful and the city centre is quite varied for such a small city. There are also some really nice towns that are easily accessible by bus, such as Whitstable and Dover. London and Brighton are also easy to get to by train, although trains are quite expensive. If you want to go a bit cheaper, you can take the National Express buses. On campus there are also a lot of leisure and activity societies and sports teams, as well as a gym with student discounts. I would certainly recommend joining any of these, as it is a great opportunity to meet people, and there are many different societies, so there is one for everyone. I joined the art society for example, which arranged courses in life drawing and visits to museums.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to just go to all the events and parties and trips and societies, because it will really make your experience abroad worth it! Additionally, if you are planning on living on campus, you have to options: living in a house with four or five others, with you own kitchen, or living in a house with many other people (up to 10), where you share a kitchenette and receive tokens of money to eat in the dining hall everyday. Both have upsides and downsides: I personally really liked the option to cook my own food, but the accommodation where you live with many other people has more parties and connections with other people. It is really up to you which one you would prefer.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend the university to anyone else! The university has very interesting courses and many events, parties and things to do in and around campus. The university is very international, so you are sure to meet people from all over the world and make lots of friends. The atmosphere on campus is really nice and everyone is very helpful and friendly. Especially the many events in the first week will make sure you meet many people, as most of the people taking part are first-years and internationals who do not know many people either and are keen to make new friends. My experience at the university has been great!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just to enjoy your time abroad to the fullest and take part in everything and try to travel a bit while you're there. You should study and pass you courses as well of course, but try to make the most of your time there, because it will fly by!

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Literature

destination city & country	Canterbury, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	17 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The process is quite clear generally; UU gives a complete oversight of what needs to be done and Kent is quite clear about it too. It's a lot of work but absolutely worth it! Both universities are always willing to help you out, but the Kent Erasmus Office can be a bit hard to contact; during the summer holidays they're usually closed/low-staffed, and as September comes closer they're extremely busy with all the foreign students. Don't hesitate to call them if they take a long time to respond! They're generally quite polite and it's a lot quicker than mailing, especially if you only need a signature for example.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Excellent support, International Office is always ready to help. I never even needed to come over in person/call them, they took care of everything punctually and were quite willing to sign/fill in any documents via email.
academic preparation	I took some literature courses at Kent that expanded on subjects that were only touched upon very briefly at Utrecht. Especially the first few weeks were hard, because I had little previous knowledge or needed some time to dig up any knowledge again (as I did my exchange in the first semester). It was difficult, but I did make a conscious choice to take some more challenging courses/courses that I could not take in Utrecht so I was more or less prepared for it. Do keep this in mind though when you choose your courses - you might want to do some background reading before you go, because my teachers at Kent dived in right away and did not take it easy in the first few classes like teachers at UU sometimes do, and that can be overwhelming.
language preparation	I didn't do any preparatory courses because I study English, but some housemates did mention something of the kind. It's possible to arrive around a week before Welcome Week/Arrival Weekend to take some courses on how to write essays and do research etc. and possibly also some language courses, so if you feel like you need this, just email Kent and I'm sure they'll be happy to give you some more information.
finances	I received uitwonenden stufi on top of my basisbeurs, I exchanged my free OV for a monthly OV-vergoeding and I received Erasmus+ funding. All this together is more than enough to cover your expenses with regard to food, trips, and clothes if you don't go too crazy, but the housing fee is quite big and you'll need to pay it all up front. You might also need to buy a bedding pack at Kent when you arrive (if you can't bring it with you) and this is another fifty pounds or so (not sure about the exact amount!). You'll get only the bare necessities in your

accommodation, so a bed + mattress + pillow (no covers/duvet), desk with some drawers etc, and there were some plates, mugs and cutlery in the kitchen, but only one set p.p. and not the best quality/hygiene, so do save some money to buy the necessities when you arrive or bring some if you can. Especially pans can be an issue, because you can't buy those on campus (you can in the city centre though).

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took two level 6 literature courses, but I didn't know which until a few weeks before I left because I did not know how to get into the courses. So, PRO-TIP: to get the courses you want, email the Kent Erasmus Office as soon as possible and they will take care of it and let you know whether there's a spot for you/whether they recommend the course in your case. Just filling out on your application which courses you'd like to take is NOT ENOUGH!!! As for content, the courses were really quite advanced and challenging, so don't underestimate them. Try to get as much of your reading done as possible before you leave, because in the case of lit courses you'll probably need to read one book each for every week. You might think you have more free time than in Utrecht because you usually only have one seminar and one lecture and all the locations (Canterbury Campus at least, don't know about Medway) are walking distance, but if you want to do all the homework you really need all the time you can get. Also make sure to choose courses that are graded via essays/in-class assignments if you're staying only for the semester; weirdly enough Kent thought it a good idea to have all (written) examinations in a separate summer semester.

### academic quality of education activities

Quality was comparable to Utrecht, but I found the courses more demanding. Not just workload, also the level of the in-class discussions. Essays are also tricky, because you'll probably need to teach yourself an entirely new referencing system (some teachers allow you to use MLA, others don't; make sure to ask beforehand!), but there are PDFs online that explain everything. Classes consisted mainly of discussing what we'd've read either in small groups or with the whole class, some presentations (English students apparently don't have to go up in front of the class if they don't want to and just 'present' from their seats!) and some secondary material.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Kent offers a whole range of support and counseling, but I did not feel the need to make use of these. Judging from what I've seen, they'll probably do their utmost best for you if you ask them. The Erasmus Office (located upstairs in the Registry building) was easy enough to find and you can walk in there whenever you need them.

### transfer of credits

I'll receive a transcript of records somewhere in February/March, which is quite late, but I expect to receive my grades earlier than that (there's a three- or four-week deadline for teachers). There's a PDF available online where Kent shows you how their grading system translates to various other countries, so you can take a look at that once you've received your first grades. The English grading system is kind of weird (you can't score below 40 or above 80 I believe; it's impossible to get a full score), but clear enough and you'll receive plenty of feedback (either online via Moodle or written on a pink sheet attached to your assignment).

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

Kent has a Welcome Week with all kinds of activities. You don't have class during this first week, so you have plenty of time to party, explore the city, find a supermarket (the ones on campus are quite expensive, never have what you want and the one on central campus is really busy while the one in Parkwood is incredibly tiny) and basically just settle in. During Welcome Week you can participate in all sorts of activities, usually advertised

**UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

via Facebook, email or flyers. I'd personally recommend the Freshers' Fairs where you can join all sorts of societies (there are two separate fairs on two different days! One for social societies and one for sports societies, make sure to attend both!) and there are usually some trips and welcome events organised by the Erasmus Office. There were also some poster sales on campus in the first few weeks, where you can buy fun posters quite cheaply to decorate your room.

**accommodation**

I stayed in Marley Court, Parkwood. I believe this is one of the older courts and it really needed some upgrading. Even though it was one of the cheapest options it came down to about double what you'd pay in Utrecht (Uithof) for a larger room with 3-4 housemates. Good thing was that accommodation services are included in the price and they usually respond quite quickly to fix stuff. There's also a cleaning service, they will come to your accommodation once a week to clean the kitchen and bathroom(s), and they're generally a very friendly lot. I think the 6-person houses (mine was 5-person) are about twice as big (at least the kitchens), more modern and not much more expensive, so maybe that's a better option. Don't know about the flats, but most of those are on central campus, so depending on whether you mind a 10-15 minute walk to get to class you might want to opt for those instead. Parkwood is quite beautiful though, with lots of rabbits and squirrels if you get up early!

**leisure & culture**

Plenty of opportunity to go out and have some fun, both on and off campus. Especially the city centre is amazingly beautiful. Kent students get free access to the Cathedral if you show your student card, so definitely visit that as it's quite impressive with lots of stories surrounding it! Kent itself is also quite beautiful, so if you get the chance definitely go on some walking/cycling trips (be mindful that the university is on a steep hill though). The societies are also awesome, they'll definitely make your time at Kent worth it and there are so many that there's bound to be one that's a good fit for you.

Do keep in mind that travelling in England can be quite expensive. If you're staying for the full year it's wise to invest in a Unirider bus pass, which you can buy for a reduced price on campus in the first two weeks or so. It's quite expensive, but this allows you to travel within Kent for your entire study period as much as you like. In the long run it's bound to be worth it, and you won't feel as restricted as you might feel if you have to buy a bus ticket every time you want to go somewhere. If you're only staying for the semester, get separate dayrider tickets, which you can buy from the driver. These give you five day tickets that you can activate on any day you like and remain valid for the entire day (I believe you can use them at least in and around Canterbury, but perhaps also in the rest of Kent). You can also rent a bike on campus for a semester, so if you don't mind some hills you can rent a bike for your trips into Canterbury and surroundings.

The Erasmus society also organises some fun trips for exchange students, so that's both an excellent opportunity for relatively cheap excursions and a great way to meet people from around the world!

**suggestions/tips**

Join a society! Simply because it sounds like fun or because it's something you might not normally do. First meetings are usually free of charge, no need to buy membership right away. It's an easy way to make friends, try out new stuff and learn some fun things in the process.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Absolutely! I've met some great people here, the classes are demanding but rewarding, and I've simply had an amazing experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

## **UK – Canterbury - University of Kent**

Not all machines will accept your Dutch bank cards, or charge a small fee if you use them to withdraw money or pay for things. I'd recommend getting a credit card just in case your restaurant/shop/whatever doesn't accept your regular card, and in any case to carry cash with you at all times. It might be cheaper to just withdraw around a hundred pounds cash every few weeks and use that to pay for groceries/trips/etc. rather than use your Dutch card all the time. That way it's also easier to keep track of your expenses.

Make sure to have all your documents both in print and scanned on your laptop and keep them all in an orderly file, so if you need anything you can find it easily. I'd also recommend printing any Erasmus documents before you leave, that way you won't have to depend on uni printers and it's less likely you'll forget about them.

Kent offers one of the shorter exchange programmes (around three months), so depending on your preferences you might want to keep this in mind.

**Report 4**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal en Cultuurstudies

destination city & country	Canterbury, England
name university abroad	University of Kent
start date	16 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process costs quite some time and effort. You have to keep track of what documents you need to submit very well. However the most important part of the application process is doing research. Research on the universities you would like to go to and the countries there in. If you know what you want, the hard work is worth it
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The people at the International Office have helped me throughout the application process and were always there when I needed help. The support they have given has made the application process way easier. When I encountered problems I could contact them and they would always respond very quickly.
academic preparation	I have experienced the academic level at the University of Kent as equal to Utrecht University. I believe that my academic preparation at Utrecht University has given me a very sound foundation. Due to this foundation I think that I have been able to finish my exchange period succesfully
language preparation	Before I left to England I had done the Erasmus language test. The outcome of this test was that I had already obtained C2 level in English. So according to this test I already had the highest able proficiency in English. However I certainly believe that I have improved my English. With this I mainly mean my academic English.
finances	I did not have much financial preparation. I did not have a lot of savings before I went to England. My parents mainly supported me during the exchange and the Erasmus grant certainly helped as well.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I have followed four different courses with a variety of topics. Three of them were Politics orientated and one of them was a History course. The first one was about international security. the second one about EU foreign policy, the third one about politics in the Middle East and the last one about American history. I had not followed a lot of politics courses so it was refreshing to learn more about this field. However I had to adapt to this discipline.

The organization of the classes and examination was different to what I was used to. In Utrecht I was used to following two courses at a time and then have examination periods at the end. At Kent University you follow four courses at the same time and then you have four exams at the end of this period. I prefer the system in Utrecht, because all the information is fresh when you have to make exams.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education was very similar to Utrecht University. Seminars and lectures were of high quality. What I found most refreshing was that seminar teachers were always there to help and answer questions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not encounter a lot of issues whilst I was in England so I did not need a lot of help. However the correspondence with the Erasmus Office went really well and the people at the office were always there to answers questions, mainly before coming to England
transfer of credits
As I am writing this I did not yet receive my grades

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I arrived at the university at the 10 <sup>th</sup> and the term started at the 16 <sup>th</sup> of January. In the days after arrival there were some short lectures with some general information about the university and England. In these lectures information was given about the rules of campus and who to contact in case of an emergency. This was quite helpful. There were some small other activities like a High Tea and a trip to Dover Castle.
accommodation
I lived on campus in a small house with four other people. Facilities like showers etcetera were very decent and my room was fairly big. The only thing th house lacked in my opinion was a common area. Partially due to the absence of this the interaction with other housemates was not that much. However living on campus gives you a lot of opportunities to meet new people
leisure & culture
Canterbury is a very beautiful and pleasant city. It has a lot of history and a decent amount of sites to visit. It also has relatively many shops for such a small town. To be honest after 5 months I thought I had seen everything in Canterbury, so in the end it got a bit boring. However I still like the town very much.
suggestions/tips
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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would certainly recommend this university to other people. This because I believe the facilities like housing and the library for instance are of very high quality. But most importantly the quality of education is very high. If you would like to improve your English, Canterbury and the University of Kent could be a very good destination. To conclude I am very grateful I had the chance to go to the University of Kent and have no regrets at all.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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