

2019-2020

Report 1

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | bachelor's |
| name study programme | Literatuurwetenschap |

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|---|---------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| how did you travel to your destination? | by car |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon 2 |
| start date | 30/08/2019 |
| end date | 26/01/2020 |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

During the application process, I was not officially a student at Utrecht University, because I was on a one year break from my studies. However, after coordinating with the International Office, I found out I could still apply for the exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

My study advisor and the international office helped me in organising my application for the exchange programme, even though I was on a one year break. I had to remind them to send me emails every now and then, but otherwise the communication went rather smoothly.

academic preparation

Because I had just been on a one year break from university, I re-read some of my text books that I thought might be relevant for the courses I would be taking in Lyon.

language preparation

I studied French for six years in high school, and obtained a DELF B2 diploma. After high school, I spent in total around 5 months in France, and my comprehension and oral production level improved a lot during this time.

finances

I managed to pay my rent and food with the erasmus grant and the money I got as a replacement for the student public transport card. I already had a student loan and I continued this to pay for other expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was allowed to choose any courses at Lyon 2 on a bachelors and first year masters level. Finding the courses proved difficult, however. There was no comprehensive overview of all the courses taught at the university, only some documents on separate faculty websites, that were hard to find in themselves. For finding out the timetable of a course, I had to go to the faculty offices, where the timetables for (most) courses that were a part of that faculty would be put up on the wall next to it. Luckily, it was still possible to enrol in courses after they had already started. Officially registering for a course happened by filing the course details on a form and getting the lecturer to sign it, and then bringing this form to the office responsible for exchange students.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I ended up taking were all quite interesting, and of a similar academic level to the courses I've taken in Utrecht, with the difference that there was usually less secondary material and theory used.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the beginning of the year, I had the option to meet with a lecturer at Lyon 2 who could help me register for courses. The employees of the exchange office (Direction des Relations Internationales) also made it quite clear to us that we could come to them if we had any issues, also personal ones.

transfer of credits

I have received my final grades only a few days ago. For every course you complete at Lyon 2 as an erasmus student, you will obtain 5 ECTS, even when students at Lyon 2 would get another number of ECTS for the same course.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme at Lyon 2 is not very extensive, which was fine by me, because I was not really that interested in it to begin with. We had an introductory information talk after which they offered us some appetisers, and a "cocktail night" where they only served water, orange juice, and appetisers again.

accommodation

I was lucky enough to already have some friends in Lyon who had an empty room where I could stay during my exchange period. I also applied for student housing, but this is only available for a small amount of students.

leisure & culture

There were three excursions to other cities organised for erasmus students during the semester, but I was not interested in participating in them. Lyon itself has some very interesting cultural events and museums. I am personally quite interested in alternative (sub)culture, of which there is plenty in Lyon, for example Grrrnd Zero, a big hall with concerts and political events, or La Luttine, a screen printing workshop and café.

suggestions/tips

A big part of student life in France, and especially at Lyon 2, is political engagement. There are many political groups on campus, for example different student unions, and in times of social movement, there will also be student general assemblies. These are an interesting way to meet French students and get another perspective than the official one on the university and society in general.

There are also many nice bookstores in Lyon, like Librairie Terre des Livres, right next to the BDR campus, and Librairie La Gryffe.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I had a great time at Lyon 2, and in fact wish that I could have stayed longer. I definitely recommend going there, although you do need to be ready for some level of disorganisation when it comes to registering for courses etc.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If it is at all possible in your study program, I recommend staying for a full year instead of just one semester like I did: I found one semester too short, because I more or less had to leave when I felt like I was really getting to know the city and making more friends. Almost everyone else I've spoken to about this had a similar opinion.

2018-2019

Report 1

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|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | French language and culture |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lyon 2 |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 20 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| My application process went rather well in the beginning. I think my sending institution was quite clear about all the documents and deadlines. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| I think that my university was supportive about my exchange. They encouraged us in a good way to go abroad and improve our language skills. |
| academic preparation |
| I felt prepared before my departure, since I am studying French language and culture, I felt like my language skills were sufficient and my knowledge about the country was good as well. |
| language preparation |
| As I said my language skills were good enough to be able to understand courses in French. Of course it was a bit hard in the beginning because the teachers in France speak rather quickly, but after a while you improve yourself. |
| finances |
| I have to say that my Erasmus was kind of expensive sometimes. When you are abroad you want to do a lot of fun activities in the city and elsewhere with your friends. Lyon is an expensive city too, the prices in bars and supermarkets were rather high. But with the Erasmus grant and the money I earned in the summer I managed to survive. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| When I arrived in Lyon I changed almost all of my courses, because I found out that there were some courses that I didn't know about that existed. The university in Lyon was very flexible and they told me I could basically enroll myself for any course I wanted. On the one hand, I found this very handy, because I wasn't bound to anything yet, but on the other hand, it was very irritating, because I changed everything and it was a big puzzle to sort out my timetable. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality was lower in Lyon than in Utrecht. The way of teaching in France is rather different than in the Netherlands. Often teachers didn't use any Powerpoints for example, they were only reading out a piece of paper in their hands. There wasn't a lot of interaction and we hardly had to read or prepare anything at home. Still I feel like my listening and speaking skills have improved, but this is more thanks to the social contacts that I had and not really thanks to the courses. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The International Office abroad provided a clear and helpful introduction. It was clear when the office was opened and they always answered my questions quite quickly. |
| transfer of credits |
| All the courses that I did contained 5 ECTS. |

| STUDENT LIFE |
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| welcome & orientation programme |

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| As I mentioned above the welcome programme was nicely done. They explained to us how to enroll for courses and where to find all of the information. |
| accommodation |
| I was very satisfied with my accomodation. I found a room thanks to a classmate who had lived in Lyon before. I lived in a house with 5 other students. I was really lucky with the room that I had, mostly because of my roommates , we did a lot of activities together. Some of my friends lived in a 'Crous' accomodation provided by the university. Some of the buildings were modern and good, but others were very old and small. |
| leisure & culture |
| During my stay in France I have really discovered a lot about different cultures. Before my departure I was expecting to learn about France, but I met people from all over the world and that way I learned a great deal more. Sometimes we would speak in French, but also in English. I would say it was 50 / 50. Lyon is an amazing city with a lot to offer. It's not too big, not too small, it's colourful, vibrant and divers. I would recommend to anyone to visit this city. |
| suggestions/tips |
| To any Erasmus student I would suggest to make a lot of contacts and participate in as many activities as you can. A big part of the whole experience is to meet new people and to speak other languages. I would say go out and be open to people from all over the world, it may sound cliché, but it certainly broadens your horizon. |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Lyon as a city is definitely a destination I would recommend to others. It's a wonderful city, well located, the people are nice, the weather is good, the architecture is beautiful etcetera. But when it comes to the university itself I am not too sure. For half a year it was fine, I learned about the French way of teaching, which was very interesting, but I wouldn't say that my academic skills have improved a lot. But still you learn a lot about yourself and about others. The university is not that structured and this can be frustrating of course. But then again, french bureaucracy is something you have to deal with anywhere in the country I think. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| In the end I can say that I am very satisfied with my semester abroad. It was a pleasure to live and study in France and I would gladly go back in the future. |

Report 2

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| permission to publish contact details** | <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: mantas@planet.nl |
| <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 |

Lyon – Université Lumière II

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| name study programme | French language and culture |
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon II |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 20 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

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| exchange application process |
| This was all pretty good I would say. Lyon was not my first choice, but in the end I was still happy with my choice |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Pretty good and clear, they kept me well informed on the deadlines, and the things I had to do and hand in. They were also very fast with signing the documents that were required |
| academic preparation |
| When I went on exchange, I was already in my third year of the bachelor French language and culture, plus I did a minor in Public administration and organisational sciences. In terms of academic skills this was sufficient for the courses I did. |
| language preparation |
| Two years of studying French in university was sufficient for me to follow courses and to get by in daily life. I do suggest anyone who hasn't studied French in university to at least follow some courses from the French department in Utrecht. The university in Lyon does offer language courses for international students, I personally didn't do them, but I heard from others that the level was not very high and that they didn't have the feeling that they learned a lot. |
| finances |
| I would strongly recommend anyone who is going to study in Lyon to have sufficient savings, especially if you want to travel during your stay. Lyon is an expensive city both in terms of housing (expect to pay around €500), as well as life in general (groceries, restaurants, cafes, clubs) I found that basically everything was more expensive than in Utrecht, and it takes some time to find the cheap spots in town. |

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| All courses were worth 5ECTS, plus if a course consisted of a tutorial and a lecture, you got 5ECTS for both the lecture and the tutorial. This made that the pressure of work was much lower than in Utrecht and you had much more free time. Since all the courses were worth 5ECTS and were mostly given on the same campus, it was pretty easy to put together a timetable without any conflicts. The university also offered courses only for international students. For example: French media and journalism, French law, and History of Lyon |
| academic quality of education activities |
| This varied greatly, some courses were good and interesting, while others were taught by teachers who were completely incompetent. For example, I followed a course in French sociology, which was given by a Korean |

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| professor whose French was almost unintelligible. I think especially if you take courses from L2 or L3 the level in general is pretty good |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The people at the international office were all very friendly and helpful, although they were quite slow with signing documents (you had to hand them in, and then pick them up a week after) I didn't run into any problems during my stay, but I'm sure that if I had, that they would've helped me. |
| transfer of credits |
| Hasn't happened yet, so I can't comment on this |

| STUDENT LIFE |
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| welcome & orientation programme |
| The university organised several meetings during which they gave general information on how things were done within the university. There were also meetings organised by each faculty during which they handed out schedules and details on which courses were interesting for international students. |
| accommodation |
| This proved to be a real pain in the ***. The university does offer basic rooms at a very low price. I applied for this, but at the end of July the university let me know that there were too many demands and that they couldn't give me a room, so I had to look for a room myself. This was very difficult since most French landlords preferred people who would stay the entire year, and also demanded a French guarantor (which I didn't have) In the end I found a room through leboncoin.fr (the French equivalent of Marktplaats), most French people who have a room available post on this site, so I would recommend anyone who is looking to consult this site. I stayed with a French guy in his 50's in his apartment together with an Australian student, in the middle of the city centre. The room cost me €600 a month, this is expensive but given the fact that even a room in the suburbs costs €500 on average so it wasn't too bad. |
| leisure & culture |
| Lyon is an absolutely great and beautiful city, the city centre was nominated the title of Unesco World Heritage, because it is so diverse. Several cultural festivals were held during my stay, including the Cinema festival and the festival of Lights. The latter was one of the most magical things I have experienced in my life. Overall it's a great city to walk around, and you'll find something new everyday! |
| suggestions/tips |
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| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Yes most definitely |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
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| faculty/college | |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon II |
| start date | 09 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 19 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

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| exchange application process |
| The exchange application process was easy to follow. It does however take a while to assemble all the documents needed. The only thing that was a bit strange was that I needed to say what courses I was going to take abroad, because there was no affirmation this was going to be possible. But I do understand that counselors at UU want to know this because of your studie programme. In my case i just put in the courses I would want to follow and then changed them where needed after I arrived in France. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| The support at Utrecht University was very good. The counsellor at the International Office really looked with me what options there were for me and what we could do to achieve the specific Erasmus wish I had. They are very much available and respond quickly to questions by mail or phone. |
| academic preparation |
| I didn't have a lot of academic preparation. Beacause my university lets Erasmus students choose in what year they want to follow courses I could see when I was there what suited me best. I wanted to follow courses in education and I had a few weeks to try out different courses before I had to make a definitif choise. |
| language preparation |
| My university only offers courses in French, so all of my courses were in French. I didn't do a lot of preparation because I already spoke French. I did read some more scientific articles in French to prepare myself and that was enough to get a more into the academic language. |
| finances |
| I made the financial plan offered by the UU to see where I would be at financially. For me I didn't need to borrow any extra money from DUO or use any of my savings, but the Erasmus+ grant was of course welcome. |

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| I didn't know what courses I could take before arriving because there is no online inscriptions. When I arrived I could go to the office of the study programme I wanted to follow to ask for more information. All information on the courses was done by talking to the office, there was no specific information online or in brochures. At the Education office they gave me a timetable and explained the courses and then I could just go to the courses at had to ask the professor for a signature. |
| academic quality of education activities |

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| The education activities were different than in the Netherlands. There is more testing done orally with presentations or answering questions. Sometimes there are reports too but a lot shorter than in Utrecht. The depth of the courses is a little less also, I think this is especially because there is less discussion. It's more listening to the professor and responding to his questions and less a two way communication. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The International Office at my university is very welcoming and very friendly. They really try to help you as much as possible and you can pass at their office at any time you need. If they can not help you themselves they will always give you the adress of where you do need to go. |
| transfer of credits |
| My university automatically sends back the results to the International Office in Utrecht. If you want to have the transcript of credits yourself too you have to ask for it at the International Office and go pick it up when it is available. They do not send it to your personal address. |

| STUDENT LIFE |
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| welcome & orientation programme |
| There was a general welcome presentation where the Direction de Relations Internationales explained the functioning of the university. They also explained how to go about choosing the courses and how to fill in your Contrat Pédagogique. |
| accommodation |
| The university can help you find accomodation if needed. This can either be a student apartment if they have any available, or they can help you give the right websites and phone numbers to find something yourself if you're stuck. I personally didn't need any help from them. |
| leisure & culture |
| Lyon is a beautiful city with a lot of cultural and fun outings to do. There are several musea, a Roman theater and the churches are amazing. Also the Lyonnais people are very friendly and helpful and will make you feel right at home. |
| suggestions/tips |
| If you're a bit at ease with looking for an apartment or a room at distance, do it! The apartments/rooms offered by the university are usually not that great and very expensive. Again, I didn't live in one during my mobility but I did a few years ago. Also my Erasmus friends who lived in a university appartment said the same. Also keep in mind that the way of evaluation is very different than in the Netherlands. There is less clarity, no study guides etc., so if you don't like that you might want to go to a more organized country. |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Yes, for a French institution it was good enough organized and Lyon is an amazing city. The fact that all courses are in French is great, it not only boosts your comprehension of real situations, but also facilitates the contact with French classmates (because they know you speak their language). |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| If you can do without an Erasmus+ grant, don't apply for one. It is a lot of paperwork, and way too many deadlines to keep check of while you're also trying to integrate in a new environment. After mobility they also send you forms via e-mail to complete within either 30 days or even just one week. So if you are on holiday |

then that can be annoying. Also important: for me it was extremely difficult to get my grades approved, because there is no official course description for the faculty I was in. So keep that in mind when choosing your university.

Report 4

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| <p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p> | <p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p> <p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: babkeweenk@hotmail.com my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Babke Weenk other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: babkeweenk</p> |
| faculty/college | Geesteswetenschappen |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Liberal Arts and Sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lyon Lumière 2 |
| start date | 07 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 28 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| The application process was pretty simple! Via Osiris you could choose a country and a university, and beforehand you knew the offer. That made it very easy to apply. Also, the steps were clearly demonstrated. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| The counselling & support at Utrecht University has been a while, but what I can remember it was always good. We had one meeting where we talked about culture shock, and I really got the impression that the counsellors wanted the best for us, which was a really nice feeling and give trust. |
| academic preparation |
| I didn't do any academic preparation, because the courses I was gonna follow there were "extra" for my program. I mainly took courses revolving cognition though, which I already had some base for because of my major (cognitive and neuropsychology) |
| language preparation |
| I followed three french courses, of which two were language learning-based (1 & 2) and one was cultural preparation (La France Contemporaine 1). All really helped me because they mainly spoke in French. I could really see my level rising in The Netherlands already. |

finances

I saved up some money and still had my loans from the government which I could take from if I needed it (I needed it). I also got some financial support from my parents in terms of rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

before I came, I thought I was gonna take all kinds of stuff, because I felt a bit lost in my own programme and wanted to "discover" something new, which I would like. Finding courses though, was very very difficult. Lyon 2 has a site, but the information is very scattered and incomplete. You will not find course descriptions. They told us to check out the printed out schedules for each subject (for which we had to go to the university), and go to the first course to see if you liked this. For a lot of people, this was very chaotic.

academic quality of education activities

The qualities of the education was pretty okay in my opinion. It differed per course, at best everybody was super conscious of the material and was very active with a very knowledgeable professor. At worst, everybody talked through the professor and there were barely any slides to learn from. It really differed. I also really think that there is a big difference between the material during the course and the material when it's being tested. The course material seemed very easy and minimal, but I found almost all tests I took way more difficult. This could also be the language barrier.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling was in the beginning, and I was warned that it was gonna be horrible by other reports, but it was pretty good in my opinion. Yes, the International Office is not open very often and they are very administrative, but they were really nice people and the first few meetings really explained everything we needed to do. This was a lot, which caused for chaos and panic for a lot of students including myself, but it all turned out well. I really do think that they could do a better job on the social integration though, but I will get to that :).

transfer of credits

This is still in the process of happening, therefore I cannot comment on this yet. I fear it's gonna be difficult, because it is almost impossible to get an English description of the course, which is what the university of Utrecht demands.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the beginning, when we had a reunion where we got all the information, it seemed like the student life was gonna be very active and that there were lots of activities. There was gonna be a buddy programme, some trips and parties. However, this wasn't as good at all. We got our buddy, I think somewhere in March when we were already integrated on our own. It was also said that we were gonna do activities with all of the buddies and all of the international students, but this never happened. There were three trips in total. I cannot comment on the quality of them, because I haven't been. The goodbye-party was planned mid June, when everybody was already gone (and therefore it was cancelled). If you want to make friends, do not rely on their programme, because it barely exists. They were very nice and hardworking people, but there was just one young girl responsible for the integration programme. That's not enough. We found other introductory activities from other groups or universities and joined there, but these were also very scarce.

accommodation

I got my accommodation via ChezNestor! It's very expensive (you pay 500 euros just to be able to book a room, and the rent is always between 450-700 euros). That said, the room is already furnished and they have really good locations. Mine was just 4 minutes by foot from the university and the Rhone and 15 minutes from the city centre in Presqu'Ile, but the life in Guillotiere (where I was) was also very vibrant. I also got a discount from ChezNestor for being last minute (instead of 500 euros I paid 200). There was no living room however and my roommates barely talked with each other. I therefore recommend it if you are sure you're gonna build a social life outside of your accommodation, because the service is pretty good.

leisure & culture

Most of my time I spent studying in cafes (they have lots of nice ones!) near the university, going to bars with people (the "peniches" are very nice to go out and the city centre is very vibrant) and strolling around the city centre. I didn't take up any specific hobbies but from what I've heard, the sports programme at Lyon 2 is pretty nice. Via FB you can find lots of activities to do as well.

suggestions/tips

I wrote this in a bit of a rush, so if you have any questions feel free to contact me! This is my general advice:

- Talk to as much people as you can, be open, don't be afraid of the english/french. The levels were very different. Some international people could only speak english, some only french, some could neither. You'll find a way to communicate and connect!
- Make use of the nature around you, there's lots of beautiful mountains and lakes (Mont D'or, Miribel). The rivers are amazing too.
- Lyon has not one centre, you have Vieux Lyon, Croix-Rousse, Guillotière, Hotel de Ville, Confluence, and so much more. All have their own charm and beauty.
- Spend on accommodation. Find something that is close to either the mainstream centre (so Hotel de Ville) or near the university. Everything is walkable in this city (or bikeable, do that as well!!). One source of friend making was my place being super close so very fitting for hangouts/bag drop offs before going out.
- Day trips!! Lyon is in the centre of France, you can get anywhere with a Flixbus.
- Join every Facebook group that is even remotely related to you and your activities.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. I was super hesitant before I came, because no one was really super enthusiastic and the city wasn't known.

But, I love it. I love Lyon, I really fell in love and I cannot wait to go back. I feel like it is to Paris what Utrecht is to Amsterdam + nature and better weather. People are nice, the place is beautiful and I just look back with a warm heart. Like I said, feel free to contact me, I'd love to ramble on about why I love it!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I said a lot already. Studying wise: I know it sounds scary, but take the TDs. With bad luck, you'll have to do group projects with french people that are not open to befriend you, and then you can drop out easily. With good luck, you'll have French friends and an easy way for extra study points (plus more soft skills).

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2017-2018
Report 1

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|----------------------|---|
| e-mail address | <i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> d.e.dewit@students.uu.nl |
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | French Language and Culture |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon 2 |
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 20 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION | |
|---|--|
| exchange application process | <p>The Utrecht University website for study abroad was very well-organized. I selected all French universities and looked at their programmes, and I finally had found the best three with a linguistics programme. That's how I found my three choices. The application was very clear too, you needed five documents, a Study Plan, a Motivation Letter, a CV, a Financial Plan and a Proof of Language Proficiency. I don't think all of those documents are necessary. In the Study Plan you have to name the courses you want to take. However, seeing that we had to hand it in before December, I knew nothing about the courses, and I haven't actually taken any of the ones I initially said. Besides, it was extremely difficult to find any courses at all on the Lyon 2 website. I don't really think the Financial Plan is useful either, none of the expenses or incomes I wrote down were close to what they actually were in France.</p> |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | <p>Counseling and support started with an information meeting, followed by a conversation with a person specialized in France. This was both very useful, and it reassured me. After the University I was sent to was announced, it took a few months until there was another meeting, which I found useful too. I didn't actually do it, but I knew that I could send questions to the International Office and the person I'd already spoken to anytime I wanted, which was very reassuring. In the summer vacation one thing bothered me, I did not have any paperwork left to do, while everybody constantly said that it was so much, I didn't realize it would only really start after my arrival in France. I did not know I had to deactivate my student product on my OV-card (Dutch public transports) in order to receive the compensation, I found out while I was already in France, luckily my family was still there, otherwise I would have missed that money, I don't think anyone told us we had to deactivate it during the meetings.</p> |
| academic preparation | <p>In academic perspective I've prepared for two full years. I think almost every course taken (French Language acquisition, French Culture and Literature and French Linguistics) attributed to the knowledge I needed to go to France. Especially linguistics courses were essential, they formed the basis of knowledge I needed to take the 2nd and 3rd year French Linguistics courses in France.</p> |

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| language preparation |
| As I said, I started language preparation with my very first course of the French Bachelor, French language acquisition. Afterwards I had two more language acquisition courses, and almost all of my other courses were completely in French. I also took a French language and culture course at level C1 in Lyon. This was my only course with only Erasmus students, it's where I made the most friends, and it was the place I knew I could ask any question I wanted about how things worked at the Lyon 2 university. |
| finances |
| I initially wanted to pay everything with the Erasmus Grant, the OV-card compensation and some of my savings. This was before my rent turned out to be double as much as I anticipated. I started a student loan at DUO, which I don't really like, because I always wanted to avoid a loan at any cost. But with the student loan I had enough money. The things that bothered me about the Erasmus grant were that I could only receive it for four months, while I was there for five months, that we got only eighty percent, the other twenty I'll get long after I've been back, so it was no use for my actual stay abroad, and lastly that we didn't get a certain amount of money every month, that way the grant money would have lasted longer. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
|--|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| There was no way to choose subjects before arrival or before term started. All foreign students had three weeks to attend to all the classes they wanted, try everything, and choose. But it started with an introduction week, in which we had several appointments, a meeting for all Erasmus students with general information, a conversation with a teacher about the courses you wanted to take and a meeting and test for the language course I'd taken (for which we had to apply whilst applying for the university, around may/june I think). We also had to go to the office where they made student cards. The meetings were fine, very general but the conversation with the teacher was not such a good idea. A name was given to me, so when I contacted the man, he said he couldn't help me because he knew all about music courses, not about linguistics. They'd given me a random name which was no help at all. There was no way to find all available courses online or in one catalogue or something. You had to go to a secretariat. We could choose all courses universitywide, but every academic year of every different study had it's own secretariat. So you had to run from office to office if you wanted several timetables. This was really annoying, and there were some academic years without any secretariat, so I didn't have a chance at finding those timetables. After the three weeks deadline of choosing courses we had to wait another eight weeks or so to really be signed up for the courses. This meant that I didn't have access to the online learning environment all that time. I was happy with the courses I'd chosen, but I was very insecure about whether or not they would be accepted at Utrecht University. I only heard whether they were applicable in my study program after I'd returned to the Netherlands, which is of course super late. If they wouldn't have been accepted, there would've been no way to get my ECTS and graduate this year. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality of my courses was good, the teachers were stricter, and they had a rapid talking pace with no pauses whatsoever. This has been very useful since I've been back, because the teachers in Utrecht are a little more relaxed. I took courses of a 2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor, and the level was comparable to the level in Utrecht. The only big difference was that there was no homework whatsoever. I had three seminars, but they were actually the same as the lectures. The courses were more in depth, because they took the entire semester in stead of the half-semester courses in Utrecht. I didn't really like that there was usually only one big exam per course, while in Utrecht I always receive several grades per course, which is easier. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |

Counselling and support was not great, with problems or questions you had to go to the "international office" or to one of the secretariats. At the International Office they knew very little, they couldn't look up courses or tell any specific information whatsoever. The secretariats were more useful, even though they were not always happy to help. I had several exams planned at the same time, and they helped me very resentfully and practically said that it was my own fault, even though this was absolutely not the case.

transfer of credits

Until my return in the Netherlands I was not sure whether I would receive any credits for my courses in Lyon. The Exam Commission was slow, and it got me really stressed. In the end my courses were accepted, but all as level one courses, meaning that they were introductory first year courses. This was not correct, because I'd taken in depth 2nd and 3rd year courses. They said they didn't have enough info to check from which academic year the courses were, but this was not true. I sent them two huge catalogues with all the info of the academic year of linguistics year 2 and 3, with the course descriptions somewhere in there. It were the course descriptions they needed. They did not notice the big "licence 2" on the first page, which means "bachelor year 2". If only they'd looked at it a little better, they would have instantly known that it were 2nd and 3rd year courses, and it would have saved me a lot of trouble. I now have the confirmation that they will all be valued as level 3 courses, but it is not done yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They did their best regarding welcome and orientation. Having to go from secretariat to secretariat was far from ideal, but the welcome we got was good and they tried to help as much as they could. In the orientation we got a sports catalogue (apparently that's possible, whilst a course catalogue is too difficult to make or something). I was planning on taking a sports course, especially to make friends, but eventually I didn't. A sports course could be taken without ECTS, but then you had to pay a little, I think it was €10 for the entire semester. There were excursions organized for the foreign students, but I didn't go, because they always had two components, one of which was visiting a vineyard and tasting wine, but I don't drink alcohol. I could have gone either way of course, but I just wasn't interested in vineyards.

accommodation

The accommodations were fine, the university library seemed fine, but it was not accessible via internet, as in Utrecht. The printers worked, it took me an hour to figure out, because they don't work on wifi, so you had to print on a library computer, but once figured out it was easy. To my surprise and delight, there was always a free computer when I needed one. The only difficulty was that the university printers couldn't scan, which was difficult, because I constantly had to scan Erasmus documents. There were apart from inside the library no study spots. Only the canteen could be used accordingly. The canteen was pretty good, with good food and a lot of space to sit. The one huge issue was that there was no toilet paper anywhere. You had to use paper hand towels and often there was none of them either. I really hated this, and it resulted in me walking around with toilet paper in my bag 24/7. I found it unbelievably undeveloped. There was a good public transport connection. There were two campuses, both accessible with a tram. I hardly used public transports, because I had taken my bike. That was the best thing I could have done. The city was small enough to go everywhere by bike, and I really didn't like the always busy tram.

leisure & culture

There was a lot of culture in Lyon, churches, museums, theatres, cinema's with special french culture movies etcetera. There was a huge shopping mall and several nice parks. You could take a sports course at university or practice another sport throughout the city, there was plenty of choice.

suggestions/tips

Lyon – Université Lumière II

I would take as many classes with Erasmus or other foreign students as possible. I had great contact with the people of my language course, but in my other courses I was the only foreigner, and basically nobody talked to me. It's difficult to make friends with the French, so make sure you're close to the others. I also suggest to take your bike if it's possible, there are cycling lanes (if you search hard enough) and sometimes you need to cycle on the sidewalk. It's definitely not as safe as in the Netherlands, but you're usually the only cyclist, and it's very much worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would, I don't think the difficulties I encountered were university-bound as much as country-bound. The French are bureaucratic and they love paperwork, they simply aren't very modern. I really chose Lyon 2 because of the good linguistics programme, and I can really recommend all linguistic courses. I loved the city, it's not filled with tourists like Paris, but it's big and there's loads to do. The Erasmus student community is very open and it's easy to make friends with people of all nationalities (except French). My language skills are much better and I've learned a lot, in and out of university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I don't know how it can/should be changed, but I really had an overload of deadlines for forms to fill in, sign, and get signed by others. The combination of bureaucratic France and form-filled Erasmus made it difficult. I was constantly afraid to miss a deadline. Especially the uncertainty whether or not I'd receive ECTS made it difficult to enjoy my time in Lyon.

2016 – 2017

Report 2

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | French culture and language |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon II |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 18 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION | |
|---|--|
| exchange application process | For the application process I had to write a motivation letter, why i wanted to go to Lyon. I had to make a study plan, to explain my plans for the last year of my Bachelor's. And i had to make a financial plan, to show how I could pay this exchange. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | After this, Utrecht University decides if you will be admitted or not. They sent you an email with the answers and the things you have to do. |
| academic preparation | There was no academic preparation. |
| language preparation | I didn't do really a language preparation because my French was already on a quite high level. The language proficiency form show's that also. It's a form that your professors have to fill in that shows your level of French. |
| finances | I had to save more money, because the living in France is quite expensive, also the rent was really expensive. It was 530 euro. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|---|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I followed 5 courses. They separed by TD's et CM's. - Introduction à la vie politique française TD and CM - Anthropologie des religions CM -Psychologie clinique TD and CM - Mutations de la société franççaise CM - Unité de l'homme, diversité des cultures CM |
| academic quality of education activities | |

| |
|---|
| The academic quality of education activities was really bad. I didn't expect this. Sometimes I had the feeling of being at highschool..(see answer at : would you recommend this university?) |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| There was no counselling or support at the receiving university. |
| transfer of credits |
| Above 18 out of 20 Exceptional Pass - 16 to 18 out of 20 Excellent Pass - 14 to 15 out of 20 Good Pass - 12 to 13 out of 20 Satisfactory Pass - 10 to 11 out of 20 Sufficient Pass- Under 10 / 20 Fail Fail |

| STUDENT LIFE |
|---|
| welcome & orientation programme |
| There was one welcome reunion which the university organised. The Erasmus organisation is really active, so they organise a lot of activiteis. Also in the beginning to know people. |
| accommodation |
| I found my accomodation already in the Netherlands. A girl in my class went one year ago to Lyon, she gave me the mailadress of the landlord. So I lived with 5 other girls in a house, what was great! |
| leisure & culture |
| Lyon is an big city, so you can find everything. They have their old centre wich is part of UNESCO. |
| suggestions/tips |
| start early searching for accomodation, and do not apply for a students residence, that's not the best option... |

| CONCLUSIONS |
|---|
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| I would not recommend the university to others. It's actually a really bad university. Very bad quality of the education, included the professors. The reason for this is the system of France. They have public and private schools, the private school are better and cost more money. So the public schools don't have good education. I think it's a shame that the University of Utrecht sent their students to this university in Lyon. But i recommend the destination.. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| no |

Report 2

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Universiteit Utrecht |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Franse taal en cultuur, Nederlandse taal en cultuur |
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Universite Lyon 2 |

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| start date | 01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION | |
|---|--|
| exchange application process | There were a lot of administrative things to take care of, apparently there's no other way but if there would be I would strongly recommend to lower down the administrative things you have to prepare. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | Good |
| academic preparation | Better than in France |
| language preparation | Good because I study French language & culture. |
| finances | I knew it was going to cost money so I borrowed some extra money and luckily my rent was way lower in France because they have lower rents for students. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|--|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | Really difficult to find out where and when the subjects were. In the end I was still able to organize an interesting combination of courses. |
| academic quality of education activities | Less academic than in the Netherlands but okay and understandable. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad | It was possible to have that, and the International Office was also available (although there was a lot of times a long queue). |
| transfer of credits | I don't know because I didn't do it for the points. I don't want to try and transfer them because I already had too much administrative things to take care of. |

| STUDENT LIFE | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| welcome & orientation programme | They did a good job. There were lots of things to do and there was a small team of students who organized things. |
| accommodation | |

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| There was too much noise in the apartment, we were too close together so there were frustrations at a certain point. |
| leisure & culture |
| Lyon is the perfect city for leisure and culture, and at the university I could choose every sport I wanted for 20 euros, so I chose scuba diving (that one costed a bit more), wall climbing, swimming and fitness. |
| suggestions/tips |
| Go to concerts and cultural stuff like theater plays, classical concerts, ballet etc. In France they are way more evolved when it comes to this kind of cultural leisure. |

| CONCLUSIONS |
|---|
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Yes, Lyon is exactly the right size, not too big, not too small. It's really beautiful. There's a lot of Erasmusstudents. And from Lyon you can travel to anywhere in France and even Italy for nearly nothing. Lyon is like Paris, without all the tourists and stressed people, and with more sun. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| Try to oversee all the administrative things you have to take care off.. But I think this isn't an advice that will work for people who are naturally a bit less organised, because it's just impossible. I hope that the Erasmus-organisation will try to make the administration a bit less for everyone. |

Report 3

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | French language and culture |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Lyon, France |
| name university abroad | Université Lumière Lyon2 |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION |
|--|
| exchange application process |
| There is a lot of reasearch and paperwork to be done to applicate for an exchange and it all has to be done in English. I had to translate my CV to English for example and write a motivation letter. But before you can do that, you have to know what you want, so first you'll have to do a lot of researching. After that it is just filling in, signing and submitting a lot of documents. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |

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|--|
| The international office organised some information meetings which I found very usefull for answering all my questions. Yet, if afterwards I would think of a question or a document needes signing, they helped/answered me very quickly. |
| academic preparation |
| This was easy: the courses at my receiving University were easy to find online, I just had to choose. Also, an exchange fitted easely in my bachelor program. |
| language preparation |
| I do a bachelor in French language and culture, so doing this bachelor is preparation enough to speak good enough Franch to go on an exchange in France. |
| finances |
| Because I didn't want to spend my time in France working, I saved as much money beforehand as I could. Also I counted on the Erasmus grand and the OV money and I was lucky to have parents that supported me a bit financially. When you go to France you can also apply to get CAF (money to help you pay the rent). So, beforehand I calculated a lot and it all worked out fine. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| I followed mostly sociology and some anthropology courses. Those courses fitted well together, because they completed each other concerning content. To organise my courses was a bit more of a puzzle, because it was quite difficult to find out the time tables and ECTS, but that all worked out fine. However, a good thing about the organisation was that I could try as many courses as I liked during the first weeks of my stay so I really got to know what kind of courses I chose. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| In my opinon, the courses were of a good academic level. Especially the seminars were focussed on a critical reflexion of the subjects. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| Université Lumière Lyon2 has a cood internationnal office (Service des Relations Internationales, SRI) where they had the time and experience to answer all my questions. This I could do by e-mail, but also by passing by at their office. |
| transfer of credits |
| This still needs to be done, but the SRI in France assured me that they will simply send the list of my grades to Utrecht University and that it will be done soon. When the grades are known, I also can download the sheet myself. |

| STUDENT LIFE |
|--|
| welcome & orientation programme |
| In Lyon, they had an elaborate welcome and orientation programme. The University itself organised a lot of information events and welcome events and in Lyon itself (so for all the international students of all Universities) there were a lot of possibilities to get help, information or to get to know other (international) students. |
| accommodation |

Lyon – Université Lumière II

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|--|
| I had a fine room at a good location which I got because I already knew someone who did an exchange to Lyon. |
| leisure & culture |
| Lyon and the cities around Lyon have a lot of nice places to visit. This you can do by subscribing to group activities with other Erasmus students (I for example went on a trip to Beaujolais to learn about and to taste wine), but you can also easily go and see nice things yourself (or with friends). |
| suggestions/tips |
| I recommend to look for a house with roommates (a "colocation"), because this is a nice and easy way to get to know some people and you will never feel lonely. |

| |
|--|
| CONCLUSIONS |
| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| I would definitely recommend to go on an exchange to Lyon, because it is a lovely city: not too big, not too small and a lot of students. I definitely fell in love with this city. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| France in general has an awful administration/bureaucracy, but this shouldn't hold you back. There are a lot of organisations for international students (you won't need to look for those organisations, they will find you), that can and will help you with this. If you get there one or two weeks before courses start, you should be able to have done most of the paperwork without stressing too much. I recommend to go there a bit before courses start anyway, because this allows you to get the city better, to get to know people and to have some fun before University starts and you'll have to worry about choosing courses for example. |