

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII**2018-2019**

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

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<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: charlotteboin@gmail.com
faculty/college	Universiteit Utrecht
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	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris Diderot 7
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Paris Diderot was mijn tweede keuze, dus ik had er niet superlang naar gekeken. Uiteindelijk is het allemaal gelukt met de nodige informatie vakken en dergelijke vinden, maar je moet wel echt goed graven op de sites om die brochures te vinden! Ga er dus vooral ook echt even goed voor zitten en gun jezelf de tijd. Contact vanuit Diderot is ook heel erg matig maar de informatie is in principe online te vinden.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
De International Office Utrecht is echt helemaal top. Ze reageren mega snel en duidelijk op vragen en hebben documenten ook snel ondertekend bij je terug. Ook bieden ze veel en duidelijke begeleiding in wat er allemaal moet gebeuren voor de uitwisseling.
academic preparation
Was bij mij niet van betrekking
language preparation
Diderot vereist niveau B1 Frans. Ik zelf zat door VWO Frans officieel op dat niveau, maar ik denk in de werkelijkheid er misschien iets onder. Ik heb aan mijn Frans gewerkt door middel van grammatica oefenen en boeken lezen, maar ik had zeker meer kunnen doen naar dit doel en raad dat ook sterk aan. Hoe meer jij je thuis voelt in de taal, hoe meer je je ook thuis voelt in het land! Wel heb ik mij opgegeven voor SILC, de intensieve cursus Frans die door Diderot wordt aangeboden - een volle week Frans les en culturele excursies. Voor mij onmisbaar, een goede manier om contact te leggen met andere uitwisselingstudenten en om je meteen onder te dompelen in de Franse taal. Ik zou het zeker aanraden; er hangt een flink prijskaartje aan (250eu in mijn jaar) maar ik vond het het waard. Je gaat ook veel musea af.
finances

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

Mijn ouders hebben mij veel geholpen. Parijs is een hele dure stad, vooral om te wonen. Ikzelf heb 800 euro voor een kamer betaald, en dat is in Parijs geen extreem hoge prijs maar ligt voor uitwisselingstudenten rond de norm.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Diderot (en Frankrijk in het algemeen) kent veel meer contact uren dan ikzelf gewend was bij de uni Utrecht. Colleges zijn 2 of 3 uur lang, en het hangt van de docent af hoeveel pauze je krijgt. De meeste docenten gebruiken dan ook geen Powerpoint en er komt niks online - in principe praten ze gewoon 2 of 3 uur lang, zowel in werkcolleges als in hoorcolleges, en dat is dan de stof voor het tentamen. Voor het tentamen moet je dus ook leren van je aantekeningen - pittig als het Frans je nog niet helemaal lekker ligt en je, net als mij, na drie kwartier ook niet meer op kan letten. Wat ik aan zou raden is om het programma OneNote - standaard in elk Microsoft pakket - te gebruiken voor de aantekeningen. Hierbij kan je het college opnemen, en bij de notities die je maakt herinnert hij ook het moment in de opname zodat je het terug kan luisteren. Is voor mij ontzettend handig geweest!

Over het algemeen is de uni veel minder goed geregeld dan Utrecht. Vaak moesten we lastminute van klaslokaal wisselen omdat er opeens iemand anders in ons lokaal zat, zodat de hele klas op sleeptouw werd genomen door het gebouw op zoek naar een lege ruimte.

De vakken zijn over het algemeen ook veel minder ECTS credits waard dan in Nederland, waardoor je er een heleboel moet nemen en dus veel uren op de uni zit. Buiten de uni om hoef je daarentegen niet mega veel te doen.

academic quality of education activities

De kwaliteit was opzich prima (ik volgde derdejaars vakken omdat ik ook derdejaars ben), maar het niveau ligt denk ik wel iets minder hoog dan de UU. Dit kan wel weer fijn zijn als het Frans je iets minder lekker ligt.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Via mail zijn ze ontzettend moeilijk te bereiken. De international coordinator van die uni is ook niet heel erg goed in wat hij doet. Ik had vooraf veel moeite hem te contacteren, en ook aan het begin van de uitwisseling had ik stress met het hem laten ondertekenen van documenten en het krijgen van mijn student card. Mijn advies hiervoor, en eigenlijk voor de hele uni: Stuur geen mail (wat hier wel zou werken) maar ga direct naar hem toe, je hebt 100% hogere slagingskans. Dit geldt eigenlijk voor heel de uni. Docenten letten minder nauw op hun mail en verwachten gewoon dat je op hun af stapt. Uiteindelijk moet je heel veel zelf regelen wat hier de uni voor je zou doen, maar dat is gewoon even doorbikkelen en je leert er wel het een en ander door. Voor je vakken inschrijven gaat ook niet als hier online maar je moet ervoor naar de coordinator van die studierichting. Het is even moeite instoppen en frustrerend, vooral als je van het Nederlandse systeem komt, maar uiteindelijk zijn alle docenten er om je te helpen en zullen ze dat ook graag doen. Mijn advies hiervoor is doe het zo snel mogelijk, stel het niet uit, want het gaat sowieso langer duren dan je verwacht. Ik was uiteindelijk een volle week elke dag op de uni om mijn vakken proberen te regelen.

transfer of credits

Dit weet ik nog niet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

In principe is er niks. Ik had dus zoals eerder gezegd SILC gedaan, intensieve cursus Frans die voorafging aan de start van uni. Ik zou deze aanraden, heb hier wel veel contacten gelegd die heel prettig waren de eerste maand en dergelijke, ook omdat iedereen dezelfde dingen probeert te regelen en je elkaar daarmee kan helpen! Daarnaast heb ik er ook vrienden gemaakt die ik de rest van mijn uitwisseling gezien heb.
accommodation
Ik heb een kamer gevonden via erasmusu.com. Er zijn nog een paar andere sites. Kamer zoeken in Parijs is gewoon vet moeilijk en dat is natuurlijk eng, maar de kans op scanners ligt echt hoog dus nooit geld geven voor je hem in het echt gezien hebt!! Ik ben naar Parijs gegaan en heb toen daar terplekke een kamer gezocht. Voor de een gaat het sneller dan de ander, maar uiteindelijk vindt iedereen wel iets.
leisure & culture
Er is aaltijd iets te doen in Parijs. Zowat alle musea zijn gratis voor EU <26, wat superfijn is, en er is echt van alles te doen. Niet een stad waar je je snel verveelt.
suggestions/tips
Over het algemeen gebruikt iedereen de metro. Ik heb als echte Nederlander een fiets gekocht, tweedehands op leboincain.fr, wat ik gewoon heel fijn vond want Parijs is mooi en dan fiets je er doorheen ipv onder de grond te gaan in busy metro. Maar alles is goed bereikbaar!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Dit is niet een supergoede universiteit maar voor het verbeteren van mijn Frans was het wel helemaal prima. Het is niet heel goed geregeld of iets dergelijke dus ik weet niet of ik het heel sterk aan zou raden maar ik heb hier wel fijne uitwisseling beleefd.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

2017-2018

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> j.g.t.tekelenburg@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	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris VII, Université Denis Diderot
start date	05 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 05 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	For the application process you need to fill in quite some documents, but everything is explained. The International Office organises meetings where they explain things and Diderot sends also a document with the most important information. The application process takes some time so do it as soon as possible, but it is doable.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Utrecht University really helps you when you have questions or want advice. Don't hesitate to send a mail to the International Office when you aren't sure about something.
academic preparation	
	I did not do any academic preparation in particular since I study French Language and Culture
language preparation	
	Since I study French Language and Culture I did not do much language preparation. I read some books in French and watched some series. The first week in Paris I started with the SILC (Stage Intensif de langue et culture française) and I can really recommend it. It is a good way to meet other international students, you improve your french (il y a des language classes every morning) and you get to know Paris better (whe did guided tours in musees or walked throught the city with our teacher).
finances	
	I always wanted to study and live for a year in France, so I saved every summer and my parents gave me a bit extra, because they knew it is important for me. For the rest, you will get Erasmusbeurs and you can even borrow it by DUO. I think the experience of studying in another country is worth it. Housing is really expensive, but public transport not (apply for Imagine R). Also cultural things are not expensive at all and for grocery shopping it helps to go to Lidl (5-10 minutes walk from the Universiy Paris Diderot)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	It is quite confusing to find the schedules and to do the inscriptions for the courses. You can't do it online and French students are placed first. But in the end it worked and I could follow the courses I wanted. You need to be aware that courses changes. You surely have to change your Learning Agreement. I did only courses in French and most teachers are aware that it is not your native language and help you when needed. There are French grammar course (level C1) and I can really recommend that.
academic quality of education activities	
	The lectures are really long (2 or 3 hours with only a small break of ten minutes or sometimes no break at all). The level is different between courses. For litterature it was quite high. They suppose that you have a certain basic knowledge of French Litterature and when you don't have it, it is more difficult. Le commentaire composé is also a specific method. If you want to follow courses d'Analyse littéraire ou Lecture de ... follow (if possible) Analyse Littéraire 1. There they explain how to write a good commentary. It really helped me with other courses. You will have around 20 heures lectures each week and during the semester you have to work hard but it is doable. Most of the exams are essay-exams and normally you can choose between two or three topics. Be prepared to write a lot ;)
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

When you have a problem you can contact your pedagogical coordinator or go to the Bureau des Relations Internationales. They are nice and help you.

transfer of credits

I can see my notes online and the university will send the transcript of records before the end of July

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome meeting was really a repetition of everything that you can read in the document they mail you. It was a bit useless. But as I wrote already I really recommend to do the SILC. It helps you to get in the French mood before the lectures starts and you will meet other international students who have the same questions. You can really help each other

accommodation

It is hard to find and expensive. The university doesn't have that much places and they are nearly all given to Asian students, so start looking by yourself as soon as possible. Uniplaces is a good way, they check the owners and the rooms and whenever there is a problem you can contact them. Search also in the near banlieue. It is less expensive and sometimes more easy to find something. I lived in Vitry sur Seine (just 6 minutes by train from Bibliotheque François Mitterrand (the University) and 15 minutes from Saint-Michel Notre Dame. Maybe it is better that you aren't to dependent of the RER (with strikes etc) so if possible banlieue close to a metro station will be better.

leisure & culture

There are so many (free) things to do. EIAP organises some nice activities, you can sport at the university, there are lot of free concerts and you can go to a spectacle in Opera Garnier for only 25 euro (go to the ticket office and ask category 5)

suggestions/tips

Opening a bank account takes really a lot of time. Be prepared :). An other organisation that organises nice activities for international students is Iconnect. It is a branch of the GBU (a christian student organisation) but everyone can come. They just started a buddy project, so that can help you also. If you want to have cheap coffee or tea go to Anticafé Louvre (you pay 5 euro per hour).

CONCLUSIONS

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

I really enjoyed my time in Paris. The city is wonderful and I met lots of nice and interesting people. the courses at university where really interesting and now I know lots more about the French Litterature. Of course, you will improve your French. The advantage of Diderot is that there are lots of courses and you are really free to choose what you want. I really liked the possibility to follow courses about the history of music.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go for it. The last weeks before I moved to Paris I often asked myself why do I want this. It is so scary and complicated, but it is really worth it. And try to find a French organisation what interests you, so you will not only meet international people but also French. There are lots of possibilites like sports or a choir.

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII**Report 1**

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process started about 10 months before my departure. At the beginning there was a meeting during which the exchange application process was explained. There were quite some deadlines and forms to fill in. However it was very doable, there were a lot of reminder emails to help you keep track of the deadlines and you could always contact the international office if you had any questions or problems.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

You could always contact the international office to gather more information or to ask questions about the exchange application process or the universities that were proposed for the Erasmus Exchange.

academic preparation

I substituted my minor for an Erasmus Exchange so I had to obtain 30 ECTS during my semester in Paris. I made sure that the courses I followed in Paris did fit to the courses I followed at Utrecht.

language preparation

I'm a French language and culture student so I already had had a lot of French courses before going to Paris.

finances

The Erasmus grant and the student grant were sufficient for the accomodation and the public transport. However, because Paris is a very expensive city you have to set quite some money aside for groceries, cultural outings etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I stayed in Paris for one semester (about 5 months) and followed diverse courses. A total of 8 because I had to obtain 30 ECTS. My courses were a mix of litterature, history of art and philosophy.

On an organisation level things were a bit more complicated then at Utrecht University. For example the enrolment in the first week of september was very chaotic, it was difficult to find the time tables and to obtain information about the classes that were proposed. Some courses were already full and in that case you had to ask permission to the teacher if you could attend the course and needed to ask his signature for the secretariat to enroll officially. I needed to do this for four courses who were already full before I could even enrol (there was a problem with the students cards for the international students so we needed to wait one week before we could start the enrolment process).

academic quality of education activities

The academic level of the courses was quite high. The teaching method was very different to what I'm used. For some courses we didn't have any books but only the notes we had to take during class. None of the teachers used powerpoints and sometimes it was difficult to ask something during class because normally it was only the teacher who was speaking. However the classes were very interesting and at times very

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

complicated but I did learn a lot from them, mostly because the level was so high.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was not a lot of counselling and support at my university for Erasmus students. However there was a pedagogical coordinator who could help with the enrolment process and give advice concerning the courses. There was also an international office which was open 4 days a week where you could go to get information. The problem was that everything was very chaotic and that you were constantly referred to another secretariat.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits has not taken place yet, however I'm supposed to receive my final results before the end of february by post and I can consult them online.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
In the first week of september we had a "welcome" day for international students, the international office coordinator explained how we had to enrol for classes and some basic things about the university. To be honest the welcome & orientation programme was quite minimal, it was an one hour meeting with the other international students. Especially compared with the experience a friend had who went to La Sorbonne. She told me that the first week of university was totally dedicated to the welcome & orientation programme for international students and that each international student had a tutor to help them. However, there was also an Erasmus group that you could join who organised cultural outings at least once a week.
accommodation
I found my accommodation thanks to a friend who stayed in Paris as well for an Erasmus exchange.
leisure & culture
Paris is a city that offers an enormous amount of possibilities when it comes to leisure and culture. A very big advantage is that almost all the museums are free of charge for european students. There are a lot of student discounts aswell for movie theaters, theaters and exhibitions.
suggestions/tips
Paris is an amazing city when it comes to culture, events and theater. The museums are almost always free for european students and there are so many student discounts for other cultural outings, so take advantage of that! Le château de Versailles is also very nearby, you can get there very easily by public transport. On the website quefaire.paris.fr you can find all the latest exhibitions, activities and events.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would not recommend the university that I went to because everything was very chaotic but I would absolutely recommend Paris as a destination and in general the Erasmus experience which is very interesting and rich. Your language skills will improve significantly, you will learn a lot about the culture of the country you go to and on top of that you will meet a lot of international people while being in one of the most interesting and beautiful cities in the world.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

Start looking on time for an accommodation in Paris because it's very difficult to find a place to stay for a reasonable price.

Report 2

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There were a lot of forms to fill in. I suggest to start early, so you don't get stressed. But if you know the deadlines it will be okay.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office was a big help. With all your questions you can contact them.

academic preparation

I took two courses of French (TV1, LC1) in my first year at university.

language preparation

I took two courses of French at the university in my first year. Besides that I practiced a lot on my own, before leaving. I also took a language course in Paris, before the start of my studies.
Also, the university offers languages courses/workshops in exchange for credits.

finances

I worked a lot in summer to save money. Together with the Erasmus grant I saved just enough. Paris is expensive, but you will find a way to survive. There are a lot of places that are okay, you just have to discover them.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied some French language courses, some courses in French (art and movie) and some courses in English (mostly history). It was a lot of work to subscribe for these courses, because they don't work with online subscriptions. You have to go to the offices (not always open) and subscribe. If a course is full, to bad, you have to pick a new one. Because I didn't know the subscription dates I was really late and almost everything was full. This makes clear that the university wasn't that organised, at least, they didn't correspond it well to the international students, because everyone I knew had troubles with it.
So prepare on not taking the classes you prepared for, or be on time!

academic quality of education activities

The level is lower then at home. Especially the English courses. The French were a bit more difficult, because of the language ofcourse. Also the seminars are a bit like lectures. There is not that much room for students input. There are lectures of 3 hours, with a 10 minute break. And you can absolutely not eat during class!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office is helpful, if you contact them.

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

They also organised a mentor-system. A group of international students got a mentor, and you could always contact them with question and do fun stuff with them. Unfortunately this didn't work at all. The mentors were not motivated and the programme started really late. Like this you already went through the 'hard' part of integrating at university.

transfer of credits

Instead of 4 courses, I had to take 9 to get to 30 ECTS. The classes are shorter ofcourse, but still; focusing on 9 different subject is harder. I didn't get my grades yet, so I don't know how they are getting transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a organisation which was called EIAP. They organised trips and activities throughout the entire semester. You can participate whenever you want, they are totally free of any obligations. Especially in the first weeks this was very helpful to meet people and get to know the city.

Next to that the university organised a welcome day. This was very short and not that helpful. Nice to meet other students though.

accommodation

I found a apartment together with an other international student. For me it was very easy to find, but I was lucky. I heard a lot of stories of other students who had way more trouble finding a room. But in the end, everyone find one.

leisure & culture

It is Paris! Everywhere you look there is culture and it is absolutely amazing. I was already in love with the city, but now even more. You will never be bored here.

suggestions/tips

Look on Facebook-pages for rooms in Paris, or try to contact people who know people living there to find a room.

Prepare your French: mine was not that amazing, and it was very difficult in the beginning. I managed to also participate in some courses where the teacher spoke English, this was a big help for me.

Try to find french friends from the university; you can improve your French like this and they can help you with the paperwork/way of exams etc.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Paris is amazing and you will have the most amazing time living here. In the end I prefer Utrecht University, due to the quality and way of education, but it is a great thing to discover yourself.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Buy a bike! At least, if you are a confident driver (Dutch people are always). It is often really faster and also a lot of fun.

2013-2014

Report 1

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The process of applying and preparing was rather confusing at times, since I had to find all the information from the host university myself. The websites were not up to date and very difficult to navigate through, and it was not clear to me who were supposed to sign all the paperwork in Utrecht. For example, the departmental coordinator and the institutional coordinator turned out to be the same person. It was useful to go to the preparation meetings and meet others who were going abroad, so that I could ask them about their progress. It's a lot of work in the end, and I think it caused me to spend less time on my studies at that moment.
counselling/support at home university
I got little personal support, but the faculty meetings were useful. It's not really clear who you should talk to about your stay abroad: the study advisor, exam commission or exchange coordinator.
academic preparation
I did the minor French language and culture, which helped me with some of the courses in Paris. I feel that overall, I had sufficient knowledge to follow the courses. However, I was forced to enroll in two courses in the Literature faculty (no one ever told me why, I'm not a literature student) and one of those was really hard and not interesting for me since I didn't have any preparation.
language preparation
As forementioned I did the French minor, which helped me to get by in French. Mostly this and the fact that I made French friends, spoke French at home and with my Erasmus friends as well contributed to a good level of understanding as well as speaking.
finances
Paris is a very expensive city. I spent a lot more on housing, groceries and going out than I normally do, so I really needed the Erasmus grant and my own savings.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
It was very hard to find out how to enroll, the timetables were changing all the time, courses were cancelled two days before the start of the academic year, etc. You have to stand in line to enroll, and the enrollment offices (different ones for different faculties) have limited opening hours and would be closed without reason, or give you false information. Very badly organized overall. The courses were mostly different than what I expected because of a very limited course description on the website. There were many courses that I thought were not supposed to be in the Linguistics faculty, for example an introductory course to learn Spanish while there is an entire faculty dedicated to foreign languages.
academic quality of education/placement activities
To be frank, I didn't like the university very much. Most of the professors knew very much about their subject, but they planned the courses in such a way that it was almost impossible to stay interested or focused, and the efficiency of the teaching was far below what I expected and was used to. No textbooks, visual aid in the form of a powerpoint or handout, exercises, group work, use of the internet, use of any external sources, etc. I had 4 hour-long classes with one 10 minute break, and in all the courses (7, which is too much to my liking) there was a professor just talking and all the students writing like crazy because the notes you take are the only source you will have to prepare for the

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

exam. Overall you have to work hard and make long hours at the university, but the efficiency is so low (no way to prepare or repeat the contents with anything other than your notes, for example) that I don't feel I learned that much. Also critical or academic thinking is not appreciated, you repeat what the teacher says and asking critical questions or try to see a bigger picture was actually disapproved of. The professor is the only source since we didn't read any articles or books, except if the professor himself wrote them. To me this is unacceptable at a university, but it seems to be the case in all of Paris and maybe France from what I've heard.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
They changed my coordinator one week after my arrival, so I had to go through the learning agreement with two different people. The second one knew very little about how everything worked, so in the end I had to find out from the other students what to do and how to enroll. When I was finally enrolled, I didn't encounter any more problems so I didn't need any more help.
transfer of credits
student life
welcome/orientation programme
There was a welcome meeting which was hardly useful, but the SILC-course I did afterwards was very nice. We had French language class and culture class, also we visited some places in Paris like the Opera, the City Hall and the National Assembly which was a good way to start the stay, get to know the city and meet people.
accommodation
It's very difficult to find an accommodation in Paris. The rents are insanely high and lots of people are looking, so you have to be willing to spend a lot more than at home or live less comfortably. I chose to live with someone else, but unfortunately there are no student houses like in the Netherlands. I ended up with an older man who sublet a room in his apartment, it was okay but I would have liked it better to live with other students. There are a few university residencies, but they are full really quickly and some of them are very expensive as well. The average price in my introduction group was around 600 a month for housing.
leisure/culture
I loved living in Paris. Luckily I met many nice people so I had lots of friends in the end, and there's always so much to do that I was never bored. Museums are free for those under 26, and the university offered sport and cultural courses for a reasonable price. It really helped me to learn about other cultures, even countries that are close to the Netherlands can be a lot different than what you're used to. It's a great city to spend a semester.
suggestions/tips
Get a bike, the Parisians will call you mad but it's much faster and you see more of the city when you take the bike now and then, instead of always taking the metro. Watch out for the crazy drivers though!
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
It depends, I would recommend Paris because of the city itself and the great time anyone would have there, but the university itself was a real disappointment. But from what I've heard the other universities in Paris are not much different (the Sorbonne included) so if

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

you want to go to Paris, you might as well choose this university because it has a wide range of subjects and a nice campus. If you're determined to go to a good university and make a real contribution to your program, don't go to France except if you can get in a Grand Ecole like the Ecole polytechnique or Ecole de commerce.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you speak French, because nobody at the university speaks English and you will get all of the information you need in French.

2012-2013**Report 1****preparation**

exchange/placement application process

I attended the information seminars given by the international office. They told us what forms you need to fill in, get signed and send to the host university. Make sure you do everything as soon as possible. In the beginning there are quite of things you need to fill in, write or look up.

counselling/support at home university

My exchange coordinator (French) as well as the international office helped me with all the questions I had.

academic preparation

I didn't have any extra preparation or anything else in particular.

language preparation

Besides my normal French courses I followed I didn't have that as well.

finances

I saved money upfront, applied for the Erasmus grant. In France you can get a CAF (something like huursubsidie/ money for renting) but only if you meet certain criteria. Working abroad besides your study was in my case basically impossible so make sure you got everything arranged before you go. And don't underestimate how expansive Paris is, it's one of the most expansive city's of the world.

study/placement abroad period

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

I compared universities on the internet and compared the programs they offered. Unfortunately I didn't know anybody who had some experience with any of the universities so in the end you go with your guts. The internet couldn't provide all the answers to mt questions which was a shame since it's the only place where you can find information. In the beginning I wanted to follow literature courses but when I arrived not all courses indicated on the internet were given so I had to choose some other courses at the end. That's why when I was already abroad I decided to basically make a new work plan. I decided to follow completely different courses like philosophy and sociology. it was a challenge since my knowledge wasn't always at the same level as the students who all followd these courses a couple of years. So it took me a lot of time to follow all the courses but in the end it worked out.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of the different courses was really different. I had some courses given by professors who were really good, but I also had some courses which were really a mockery. The quality was absurd. In the end it was balanced out but some courses didn't motivate me at all. A different thing as well were the length of the courses. They take normally three hours and you don't always have a break. In the beginning this can be quite tiresome especially when you have 6 hours of college straight on and also in a language that's not your native language. And compared to education in Holland, my

France - Paris – Université Paris Diderot VII

university almost didn't have any books you had to read. You really have to listen to the professors and in the end you get an exam.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
You get a tutor assigned, but I only saw here once and that was because I needed an signature. Their international office was really helpful when needed.
transfer of credits
I didn't need much ECTS, only one cours and my bachelor thesis, but in the end I aimed for 30 ECTS.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
I missed the welcom programma, because I arrived a week later.
accommodation
That was the hard part. The universities don't help you at all, which is frustrating especially if you find out that there's a cité de l'université where they've houses for al sorts of nationalities (the dutch live in the belgium house). All the people I knew didn't have anything for me as well, so I looked at the internet but didn't find anything I wanted. But that's also my doing, I wanted something for myself which is really hard to find. I found a litte little studio with help from a broker but you pay him 600 euro for it so it's expansive. But Paris is expansive, better to let that go as soon as you arrive. But if you want to live with other students, the internet can help you. The ironic thing is that once you know people how live there, housing gets more easy.
leisure/culture
There are all sorts of things you can follow or participate. In paris there's an organisation called EIAP, it's for foreign students, and they organise tons of stuff to do. And on Facebook there're a lot of groups you can join, meet people and do stuff. Paris is an awesome city with so much stuff to see and to do, just got to love it!
suggestions/tips
Here in Paris the administration drives you crazy in the beginning. When I arrived I didn't have an electricity contract (EDF), which I couldn't get without a bank account. So first I had to open an account, which takes time, and than I could fix electricity. And there're more things like that. Make sure you know upfront what you have to fix and know how and where to do it. In France everything takes time and is always that efficient.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Paris, but the university was a little bit of a let down. In retrospective I wished I had choosen La Sorbonne, but I don't regret it. It's al worth it.
do you have any additional advice or comments?