

**Spain - Barcelona - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona****2017-2018****Report 1**

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

faculty/college	Humanities / School of Liberal Arts
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	Barcelona, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	07 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	Although I found it very clear, it was heavily bureaucratic. A lot of documents are needed, and motivations are required. Besides, the deadline on 1 December might seem far away, but in order to complete all the documents required, it went a lot sooner than expected.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Good! The International Office is very helpful and has always responded quickly.
academic preparation	
	Since I applied for exchange during my third academic year and the exchange itself took place in the first semester of my fourth year, I felt I had enough academic 'luggage' for my exchange. The fact that the subjects I applied for bore resemblance to some courses I took at UU already, helped as well.
language preparation	
	During high school I started learning Spanish, and at UU I took a minor Spanish Language. Besides, my travels in various Spanish speaking countries have made me feel comfortable enough to break language barriers and adapt quickly to local dialects and variations of Spanish. The Catalan language, though, was new for me, and it took me quite some time to manage. Fortunately, UAB Idiomes Campus (The Language Service) offers two Catalan courses, Catalan Basic 1 and Catalan Basic 2, free for exchange students!
finances	
	By working in the Netherlands I had already acquired some savings. This combined with the Erasmus grant and the luck I had living together with friends in a cheap place, made it easy. Although food and leisure activities are generally cheaper than in Holland, housing can be expensive in some neighbourhoods especially in the centre (Gracia, Eixample, etc.).

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

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study programme (content and organisational issues)
Rather than choosing for a program adapted to Erasmus exchange, I decided to subscribe for the so-called Selected Courses, meaning that I took classes given in Spanish and/or Catalan together with local students. The UAB offers a great variety of courses, with an interesting combination of different subjects (such as the interdisciplinary course Human Ecology, and the culture critical course Music, Identity and Gender). Nevertheless, the language spoken during the course depends on the teacher, which means that the language can change shortly before hand.
academic quality of education activities
Generally good. The courses I took belonged mostly to the '3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> grade', equal to a level 3 course at UU. The only 1 <sup>st</sup> grade course I took was unfortunately little challenging and highly conventional in its approach, i.e. little student participation and discussion.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Welcome Point, teachers, and other students were very helpful, the Gestió Académica (Academic Administration) a little less.
transfer of credits
Apart from the differing credits per course (6 ECTS instead of 7,5 at UU), I have had no difficulties with the transfer. I would recommend, though, to bear in mind the reduction of grades obtained at UAB when incorporating credits into your UU study programme.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
Although I have not participated in any of the welcome activities organized by either international student organizations or Erasmus, I did go to an introductory Catalan course provided by the UAB. This workshop was refreshing and fruitful, and inspired me to take a free Catalan course (Català Bàsic 1) offered during the first weeks of the first semester.
accommodation
I did not partake in any offers from UAB, but came to know that the Vila Universitaria, located in the mountains right next to university houses students from €280. Most of my friends chose to live in the centre, a more pricey option (€300 - €400+ per room). I lived cheaply in Sant Andreu, one of the popular, working-class, 'barrios' of Barcelona.
leisure & culture
Barcelona is well known for its lively going out, art and music scene. Since I am into alternative music and cultural activities, I enjoyed many concerts and workshops ( <i>talleres</i> ) offered in various (squatted) social and cultural centres in Barcelona.
suggestions/tips

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! It was really nice to get to know parts of Barcelona that don't appear on tourist maps or in travel guides. Barcelona has so much more to offer: mountains surrounding the city, quiet beaches at the outskirts of the city,

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alternative (music) events, its local Catalan language oppressed yet being spoken actively, and people willing to guide you through their city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Although it might seem a small detail, I would recommend to bear in mind before departure where your university of preference is localized. I was unhappily surprised to find out during the first week that I would be travelling minimum 2 hours per day, for I had no idea that Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona was located in the mountains and about an hour travelling with public transport. Nevertheless, I have never had such challenging and adventurous bicycle rides on my way to school and do not regret my choice in any sense.

**Report 2**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> e.vanhelvoirt@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	Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	Barcelona, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	06 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	There are some documents to be filled in and sometimes I found this very unclear. But when I handed these in it was all very good organized by the UU. Also the UAB is very late with giving the information needed, so I knew the application was okay just one month before I was going and this was sometimes a little stressful. In conclusion, their systems are very different and late compared to the UU.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office of Utrecht University is very helpful, they respond fast to e-mails and my insecurities about the application were solved by them.
academic preparation	I took my subjects as a minor and these were quite different than the subject of my bachelor. I am used to write papers and this academic skill was needed at UAB.
language preparation	I took some subjects Spanish at UU, but this was not really needed because the main language is Catalan at UAB. I did join an extra language school that I arranged myself in Barcelona centre. This was very useful and fun. The UAB also offers Spanish lessons, but this price is more expensive than the language schools all around Barcelona. Also they offer Catalan courses and these are for free. It is very important that your English level is okay enough otherwise it is very hard to understand anything.

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## Finances

I had some savings from my parents and the Erasmus grant was very useful as well. In Barcelona I worked in a bike shop and this gave me the money to spend there. Supermarkets, like Mercadona, are cheaper than in The Netherlands and drinks in bars as well. The houses are the same price like in Amsterdam, like 500 euro (for the centre).

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

I choose 5 subjects in the faculty Humanities. These subjects were very interesting and I learned a lot about the global change and geographic aspects. This was new for me and I really enjoyed it. I also took an images of art class what was fun. The content was mostly paintings from around Barcelona and it was very nice to talk about subjects in the environment I was living. I really enjoyed the classes and the teachers were very nice.

## academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is a little less than at Utrecht. It is more like in high school where teachers are controlling and checking your homework. But it was nice to be in a different school.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

I did not use it but the international office was very helpful.

## transfer of credits

They have not been transferred yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

I did not really attend everything. there was a day where International Students got welcomed and this was nice! Also there were mentors that could help you anytime, I did not really need this but it is nice to have people that know the system and can help you out.

## accommodation

I organized my house on my own and it was in the centre. It was great

## leisure &amp; culture

Very nice! Barcelona has a lot of nice museums and cultural heritages that I visited.

## suggestions/tips

Look for an apartment in Barcelona centre instead of staying in the Villa.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! Barcelona is a city with so much nice things to offer. Beaches, cultural heritages, shops and super nice restaurants and bars. The UAB is also nice, but I would recommend to live in the centre because UAB is not really in Barcelona, 35 minutes by metro, so this is not that easy when you are going out late and travelling back. I had an amazing time at UAB and in Barcelona so I would definitely recommend it.

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

No. I had a great time and if you have a positive and open mentality everybody will enjoy it.

**2015-2016****Report 1**

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

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The application process went well, no comments.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It went ok. For some reason I did not get all of the information, but eventually the UU helped me out with a couple of things, for instance the application for my Erasmus grant.

academic preparation

There was not really any preparation that needed to be done.

language preparation

There was not really any preparation that needed to be done.

finances

I worked fulltime for four months to financially prepare myself for the exchange.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Really bad. UAB is the worst university in both teaching and organising things. A lot of information about classrooms, deadlines etc. are told and isn't digital available. I do not think I actually learned anything, but I did improve my English.

academic quality of education activities

Very bad, it is like you are in highschool again. Also a big negative point was that the books we needed were not available (in English).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very bad. The people who work at the International Office at UAB are very rude, even though you have been standing in line for 30 minutes.

transfer of credits

UAB did not transfer them yet, so no comments.

**STUDENT LIFE**

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welcome & orientation programme
It was okay! A couple of events were organised to welcome you to UAB.
accommodation
Great!
leisure & culture
Also great, Barcelona has so much to offer in a lot of ways.
suggestions/tips
None. Actually one: do not trust the website of UAB.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Barcelona as a destination to go on Erasmus, but UAB is just awful.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

**2014-2015**  
**Report 1**

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process went fine. The only difficult part was finding courses that were in English and would fit my study program. However, I really wanted to go to Barcelona and I choose to adapt. That is the reason why I studied something completely different ( English Studies) instead of what I am studying at University of Utrecht.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support of the International Office of Utrecht University was really good. I asked many questions and always received answers pretty fast.
academic preparation
I didn't do any academic preparation.
language preparation
I did not do any language preparation, because my courses were in English.
finances
The Erasmusscholarship, 300 euries loan per month and some help of my parents.

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<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
English studies with the following courses: History of the United States, English grammar (1 and 2) and Use of English Language. Everything was second year courses, except for English Grammar 1.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was fine. The way of teaching was different, because it was more intensive and more controlling. Although it was different than the University teaching manner I am used too, it was nice to try a different study and different kind of education.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't really needed the facilities of support, so as far as I used it, it was fine.
transfer of credits

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Erasmus Students Network (ESN) offers many opportunities to get in contact with other people. They organize parties, speed-friending, trips etc. It is really nice, because you can choose whatever you like to join.
accommodation
I got my apartment through erasmusflat.com, which was really nice and central with 5 nice roommates.
leisure & culture
There are many things to do in Barcelona, but in my opinion spending the days at the beach is really nice. Even in the winter it is nice, because there are always people sporting, skating and wondering around.
suggestions/tips

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this destination to others, because you will feel immediately at home in Barcelona. The University is also nice, but a bit more faraway.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Although I passed all my courses and I really liked it, it might be better for your study programm to choose courses (and the city) which fit your study.

**2012-2013**Report 1

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process

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I wanted to go to Barcelona, because I felt attracted to the culture of Catalonia within Spain. Because I study Spanish Language and Culture I also wanted to learn to speak some catalan by talking to the people. I chose for the Universitat Aut3noma de Barcelona, wrote a motivation letter and applied.
<b>counselling/support at home university</b>
Because some of the teachers within the department of Spanish Language and Culture also did their exchange in Barcelona they could help me a lot making my final decision. They also motivated me for applying.
<b>academic preparation</b>
There has been enough academic preparation in order to go abroad. Although I would not recommend to a second-year student to go abroad.
<b>language preparation</b>
Sufficient. Within my own study programme I think the level of Spanish, by following all offerend language courses is enough in order to be able to follow courses abroad and earn study credits.
<b>finances</b>
By making a financial plan beforehand, you are able to estimate the amount of money you will need when going abroad. If you are able to make this plan approximately seven months before departure, you have enough time to earn all the money you'll need abroad. Also I had to take into consideration that, for example, a job abroad is not realizable. I have been able to earn all the money I needed to go abroad.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
<b>study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)</b>
In Catalonia there is a huge language issue regarding the offered classes at the university. Therefore it was really hard for me to pick courses because I knew beforehand that my catalan would not be sufficient in order to be able to follow courses. When I arrived at the university, I had to visit all the clases that I picked beforehand and see whether this class was being offered in Spanish or in Catalan. Most of the courses were offered in Catalan so I had to change a lot of courses in my original plan. Organizationally I think that this university could learn a lot form the organizational structure that is being applied in the Netherlands. There is a big cloud of things that were unclear, so personally I think I really had the luck of speaking Spanish at an accurate level.
<b>academic quality of education/placement activities</b>
Academic quality is sufficient at the Universitat Aut3noma. However I think that the academic level in Spain is a bit lower than in the Netherlands. Although, the teachers really know what they talk about and can be regarded as specialists in their field of study.
<b>counselling/support at host institution/organisation</b>
There is enough support for international students at the host institution.
<b>transfer of credits</b>
The International Office of the faculty will be sending the "transcript of records" to my faculty in Utrecht.
<b>student life</b>
<b>welcome/orientation programme</b>
There is a nice welcoming programme for International Students. The University offers a huge programme for international students. There is, for example a tandem programme and they organize trips through Spain. They also offer a mentor-programme in which you get to know a local student that introduces you to other students. They even organized a tour through Barcelona in the beginning of september in which you also got to know a lot of other international students.
<b>accommodation</b>
The University offers accomodation at the University Campus. It seems like they offer you a nice room but I think this is false information. They let you feel as if there is no living-space in Barcelona available and that the costs are higher if you want to live in Barcelona self. However, it turns out to be more expensive to live at the campus, because there are almost no facilities (i.e. supermarket etc. you literally get to live in the mountains) and you have to share a room with another student. Also de buildings are really old and dirty.
<b>leisure/culture</b>
Barcelona has everything to offer. They have really nice musea and there is a tremendous offer of cultural activities. The University also offers a sports-center in which, for €35,- per month you can practice every kind of sport.
<b>suggestions/tips</b>
none.
<b>conclusions</b>

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

I would, but with an important end-note, and that is that people that want to go to Barcelona need to speak sufficient Spanish and a little bit of catalan. Also people have to know that the language-issue in Catalonia is important. They have to know that at least 80% of all courses that are being offered at the University are in Catalan (and most teachers that are Catalan do not want to change their language to Castilian) That, in my opinion is really a pity regarding the fact that Catalan is a minority-language that is not widely spoken through Europe. Barcelona in itself is a great city to live and study, the cultural offer is huge and Spain in itself is one of the most open and tolerant countries within Europe. Another note is that the Universitat Aut3noma is quite far from Barcelona itself. From the plaza Catalunya (the heart of the city) it takes you approximately 40 minutes to get to the university. Costs of public transport therefore also have to be taken into account. Students younger than 25 years old can apply for a T-jove for two zones, which costs €160,-.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

no