

2017-2018

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Aberystwyth, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Aberystwyth University
start date	23 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 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	The exchange application process went very well. Initially, it was a bit of a mess to find all the right documents etc., but after the presentations about the possibilities for studying abroad and information about the application process, it all became clear. The application process went smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The presentations done by and information provided by faculties and Student Services were really helpful. The contact with the International Office went very well. I could always e-mail and every time I received a useful and friendly answer.
academic preparation	The courses (which were part of my bachelor's programme) that I followed at Utrecht University prepared me sufficiently to be able to follow the courses in Aberystwyth.
language preparation	Most of the courses of my bachelor's programme were already given in English, so the language was not an obstacle for me. The OLS test before and after your stay abroad is a good way to know how proficient you are and if your language skills have improved during your stay abroad.
finances	Aberystwyth is not a really expensive town to live in. The University was able to provide a room in University Residences this year for a reasonable fee and the living costs were reasonable as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The courses I followed in Aberystwyth were not difficult and connected well with the courses I had already done in Utrecht. The course registration was well and clearly arranged, so I did not have any difficulties registering for the courses I wanted to follow. However, the department of Welsh and Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth offers a lot of courses taught through the medium of Welsh, which limited the options available, since I did not have that level of Welsh, but it was also possible to follow courses in Welsh and the options left

were interesting as well.
academic quality of education activities
The teachers were very adequate and knew what they were talking about, so I found the academic quality of the education good. The amount of work to be completed was very doable and the ways of examination fitted the content of the courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
From the beginning onward, it was clear who you could contact if you had any questions and which services were available. The teachers were very approachable as well and if I would have had any need for advice or support, I would have known who to ask.
transfer of credits
Aberystwyth University has an own crediting system: 20 of their credits correspond to 10 ECTS. At the moment of writing this, I have not yet received all my results, but I assume the transfer will go all right.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
A week before classes started, there was an orientation week with presentations and information about the University and the services etc., and a welcome ceremony for the international students.
accommodation
I stayed in University Residences, which I found very comfortable. The accommodation was well taken care of and close to the town centre.
leisure & culture
Throughout my stay there were weekly events for international (and Erasmus) students and you were able to join other societies/unions as well. Aberystwyth is a small (and isolated) town, so there is not a great range of leisure possibilities, but there is a small cinema, an Arts Centre (which hosts all kinds of entertainment), a sports centre and, of course, the National Library of Wales. There were enough possibilities for me and especially the students unions organised different activities.
suggestions/tips
The sunsets at Aberystwyth are beautiful, so make sure you get to watch those!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would definitely recommend others to go to Aberystwyth. It is a small, but very friendly town and after your stay abroad you know your way around (and not just to the university and back). There are a lot of students, which is very nice, and despite the fact that it is a bit isolated, it has everything you need.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

Report 2

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Keltische Talen en Cultuur

destination city & country	Aberystwyth, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Aberystwyth University
start date	20 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 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	
	The process was actually simpler than I thought it would be. It all looked very difficult, but it really wasn't.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Whenever I had questions, the people of the International Office were very quick to reply.
academic preparation	
	The academic level of Aberystwyth is comparable with that in Utrecht, so don't worry about things being too difficult over there.
language preparation	
	It will come in handy if you speak English, and they will love it if you can speak a couple of words in Welsh, but they won't assume you can.
finances	
	Life in Aberystwyth is slightly more expensive than in The Netherlands, but again, don't worry about it too much, it's not that expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The content of the study programme was good and much like I'm used to in Utrecht, there were hardly any unusual things. The organisation was very good as well.
academic quality of education activities	
	The teaching in Aberystwyth is very good. The teachers are very nice and they and other academic staff are more than willing to help you if you have any problems or questions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The people are all very friendly and helpful. They are more than willing to help you out if you have any problems or questions.
transfer of credits	

Half of the points or credits are ECTS, so 20 points would be 10 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

A very warm welcome is given to the international students, and there is a very fun orientation programme.

accommodation

The accomodation is very well organised and at amazing locations!

leisure & culture

Aberystwyth is a relatively small city, but there is enough to do. And if you do ever get bored, you can take a walk in the beautiful surrounding nature.

suggestions/tips

The cinema in town, it really is a fantastic experience.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Aberystwyth is an amazing city, with an amazing university. I loved it there and cannot recommend it enough.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really.

2013-2014

Report 1

preparation
exchange/placement application process
As there are no direct Erasmus-links between the History department at Utrecht University and the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, I had to acquire permission from the International Offices of both Universities. After finalising the exchange, I heard that I could have had the International Office in Utrecht arranging the exchange more easily. However, it worked out well.
counselling/support at home university
As I was rather late with the process, I did not attend any Erasmus-meetings prior to my departure. I did receive several e-mails with information and I visited the Erasmus-section of the Humanities Department website.
academic preparation
Before my departure I checked my notes of previous courses that seemed relevant for the courses I would participate in during my exchange. This proved rather handy, as it made it easier to participate in the courses.
language preparation
Since my Masters was already in English, I did not deem this necessary.
finances
Before my departure I ensured that I had enough money to go on exchange. I used the website of the host university to calculate the expected costs. Next to the Erasmus-grant, on the revenue side, I took into consideration that there exists a Public Transport compensation (Next to the standard revenues such as Stufi).
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
To compose my study plan, I started looking at the available modules at the website of the host department. After a selection of the courses that seemed relevant and interesting I discussed these with the Master's Coordinator of my programme. After he agreed, I applied for them. At the host institution I also had to register for the courses manually, as opposed to the digital registration that Utrecht University uses, and was lucky and quick enough to get the courses that I wanted.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The department of International politics in Aberystwyth is well-known for its quality. The professors were knowledgeable and approachable. As opposed to the Utrecht-style of teaching, Aberystwyth University works more with work groups in which segments of the class engage in a role-play exercise that enables the use of the materials that have been read and provide an insight into how the decision making process historically took place. This did not result in a loss of focus on content, however.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation

UK – Aberystwyth University

In the beginning of my stay I received an e-mail from my Erasmus-coordinator, who happened to be within the History department of Aberystwyth University. As I already completed all the administrative aspects (course registration etc.) and as he was within another department the conversation finished quickly and I did not have to meet him again. I am sure that if I would have needed any guidance or support I could have gotten it. This wasn't necessary as the professors of my modules showed a keen interest into the well-being of their students. One professor even invited all his master students over for a social and dinner at his place.

transfer of credits

I yet have to await how this will work, as the host institution still has to send me both my marks and a transcript of records. I have been told this would be directly send to Utrecht University, after which I will receive a copy to upload in Osiris.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The university, and the Erasmus Society, organised a welcome event and provided us with several tours around the town, the university and the university's facilities. Most of these proved to be quite handy.

accommodation

At Aberystwyth University, Erasmus-exchange students normally have to arrange their own accommodation. However, as the University send around an e-mail that they had several rooms left I spend my time inside University accommodation on the Seafont. My whole floor consisted of Exchange students.

leisure/culture

Aberystwyth provides many leisure opportunities. The University has many societies for sports and leisure and Aberystwyth is the cultural heart of Mid-West Wales. It has a great seafont, nightlife and options for sight-seeing.

suggestions/tips

Join one of the societies and get to know your flatmates.

conclusions

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

Most definetly. Aberystwyth will be both for the ability to speak English (As most students are from England), to acquire international contacts from around the world in general and from around europe in particular.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just join one of the societies, either sportive or more social. It will greatly improve your stay in Aberystwyth.