



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Law

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
how did you travel to your destination?	Flixbus
name university abroad	Graz Universität
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was a lot, I have to admit. Especially the Learning Agreement, as you constantly have to wait for both universities to sign it. Sometimes it took 1-2 days, but sometimes weeks. I did not like the fact that you are very dependant.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University supported me very well, I am very happy with the help I received.

academic preparation

I already did an extra minor in the previous year, this was my fourth year of my Bachelor, so an extra year. I did not have to choose courses of my studyfield, nor did I need a certain amount of ECTS. Only for the Erasmusgrant, a minimum of 22.5 ECTS is required. Therefore, I just chose some courses that I found interesting.

language preparation

I quickly refreshed my knowledge of German from high school and as the semester in Graz starts in October, I attended an intensive course in Graz for the first 3 weeks of my stay. I chose 4 courses in English and just one in German, for which I was allowed to write the essay in English.

finances

I kept working from remotely from Graz, 1 day a week. The Erasmus grant was just enough to pay off my groceries as Austria is a bit more expensive than the Netherlands in my opinion. With my job, I could pay my room and all my trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Austria is a bit less modern and efficient than the Netherlands. I was quite overwhelmed by the amount of paper work that was needed to be filled in within the first week. Also for the University, it was a little bit chaotic, as you choose your courses at the end of September, one week before they start. Sometimes you are not sure if you are enrolled or on the waiting list before the first day. However, I discovered later that as an Erasmus student, you have kind of "priority" compared to normal students and the chances that you won't be enrolled are pretty low.



academic quality of education activities
<p>In my opinion, it was a lot easier to attend the courses in Graz than in Utrecht. The reason for that, is that not every course has an exam at the end of the semester. For the first time in my life it felt as if I was attending the courses because I was actually interested in what I was learning and not because I had to pass any form of an exam. For a lot of courses you are expected to write an essay instead of an exam. I really enjoyed diving into the literature and writing my own opinion on cases we discussed during the seminars.</p> <p>Another thing that is different, is that in Utrecht, we usually have a lecture and a seminar from each course. In Graz you choose your courses which are either only lectures or only seminars.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>As already mentioned, sometimes it took some business days before I received a response on my e-mail from the International Office in Graz. But I met up with my Academic Advisor in Graz as well and that was very helpful. Overall, the support was fine. The International Office at Uni Graz also organised several online meetings before arrival to prepare us as good as possible.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>As I haven't received all my grades yet, I also did not start the process of transferring the credits.</p>

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
<p>I definitely recommend the buddy programme from ESN Graz. The orientation programme from the University was fine as well and very helpful, but I personally did not meet any new people there.</p>
accommodation
<p>I recommend a WG more than a dorm. A WG is simply a room in an apartment, which you share with 2-3 other people. It is cleaner, cheaper and overall better than a dorm. I chose a dorm in the hope that I would meet more people. This was certainly the case, but I got very unlucky with my 'flatmates' with whom I shared the kitchen and bathroom and there was no one who could do something about it. If you live in a WG, you know beforehand with who you are going to live and share your bathroom and kitchen with. I stayed in ÖJAB at Glacisstrasse. I can recommend this dorm overall, but they were not very helpful with the trouble I had with my flatmates.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>The Austrian culture is not a lot different from the Dutch culture I would say. But the weather is way better than in the Netherlands. The sun shines almost every day and it rains rarely. However, don't come to Graz for the snow, as the city is inbetween mountains and therefore it rarely snows as well. But 30 min away you can already go skiing, so it depends on your own needs whether this is a good place to stay if you like skiing or not.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>The night to go out in Austria is Wednesday (and Friday and Saturday obviously). Keep that in mind when choosing your courses maybe. Also, attend as many events as possible to meet new people, this is especially important within the first weeks! And attend the German intensive course at the beginning, so you can arrive in September, start or continue with learning German and meet new people!</p>

CONCLUSIONS

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



For sure. It was a lovely city and the best departure point to several places. During my stay, I travelled every weekend somewhere. However, we organized all this by ourselves. I have for example been to Venice, Ljubljana, Bratislava, Prague, Zagreb and more.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You should definitely buy a Semester Top Ticket and ÖBB Vorteils card if you plan on travelling a lot as well. Also, check out the Flixbus deals!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	GSNS
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Human Computer Interaction

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
how did you travel to your destination?	train
name university abroad	University of Graz
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was relatively straightforward, the steps necessary were outlined clearly. You have to keep an eye on the deadlines to upload all documents, however these are clearly stated in the system. One tip: if possible, get all documents signed before the summer holidays, since response times will be much longer then.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Very good. The international office are very helpful, answer all your questions and respond very quickly.

academic preparation

Fitting the exchange into my degree program was a bit more tricky. Since the master thesis is planned for 3 Blocks, you can either already get started with it while you are abroad or delay your studies (I delayed). Also, as a Master's student, I could only choose courses from 1 master's program.

language preparation

I only chose courses in English, so there was no preparation necessary. However, if you want to take courses in German, I highly recommend attending the intensive German course offered by Treffpunkt Sprachen before the start of the semester.

finances

The Erasmus grant was 300€ per month, plus I had some savings. A room costs between 350-450€, price of groceries is similar to the Netherlands, eating out and clubs/bars are a bit cheaper. Also keep in mind you might be going on more trips, excursions than usual, so don't forget to plan for that as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took classes from the Computational Social Systems. Be prepared to have some back up courses, since you only see the timetable close to the start of the semester, so your ideal courses might clash. Most courses have mandatory presence during the lectures. Most courses are ~3ECTS, so you need 5-6 courses at least to get the necessary number of credits. The content of the courses was interesting and varied.

academic quality of education activities



The academic quality is high, but definitely with a lower workload and easier content than in Utrecht. The type of courses is varied: you have lecture-only classes, seminars, and combinations. For topics that you're really interested in, I recommend choosing seminars, since they can be very interesting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office organized online meetings before the departure, and are willing to answer any questions that come up. They are also available for walk-in sessions.

transfer of credits

Since the semester in Graz officially ends at the end of February, it takes a bit longer to get all of your results and transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcome program organised, however I would say this is good to answer all your administrative etc questions, however to get your social life started, I recommend signing up for the ESN buddy groups and to attend the intensive German course.

accommodation

You have the option of Student dorms (OJAB or private companies such as Home4Students, WIST, GreenBox) or a shared flat from the private market. For a semester I can recommend the student dorms (I stayed at Home4Students) since you have a higher chance of meeting lots of people and they sometimes also organize parties.

leisure & culture

There are lots of things to do in Graz, I recommend checking the events and trips organized by ESN. You have lots of opportunities for sports, museums, bars and nice restaurants. There is lots of nature around, when the weather is nice Stadtpark and Augarten is the perfect place to enjoy the sunshine.

suggestions/tips

Try and also get to know the locals a bit, don't stay stuck in the Erasmus bubble. Think a bit about what you want to get out of this experience beforehand and let yourself be surprised by Graz.
The uni has a great selection of sports courses (USI courses) for 35€ for the whole semester, I really recommend signing up for some of them. But be on time with the sign up, since they get full really quickly.
I also recommend you get the Student Top Ticket. This is a student ticket valid for all public transportation in Styria, and if you're planning to take a few trips, it's definitely worth it.
Be prepared that the biking culture here is of course a bit different than in the Netherlands, the bike paths are not clearly marked, and the police are much more strict about biking without lights or under the influence of alcohol.

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you are looking for a chance for personal growth, a fun experience of getting to know a new city, culture and people, I highly recommend this destination. But if your goal for the exchange is more to get an academic challenge, or to work towards your career goals, I'd recommend you look for a different destination (unless Graz is renowned in your specific field of course)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Approach this experience with an open mind and let yourself get out of your comfort zone :)



Universiteit Utrecht



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	REBO (Governance)
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Public administration and organisation science

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
how did you travel to your destination?	I planned to travel by train with the TravelGreenGrant, but due to striking German train personnel I had to travel by plane.
name university abroad	Universität Graz (Karl Franzens)
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I remember that I had to do quite a lot of paperwork, but if you do this in time you will not have any problems. Keep in mind that for some documents, you need the signatures of certain people in the International Office and/or Academic Advisors, which may take a week (or in worst case, two).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The study advisor from my study was really helpful and quick with responses on emails. Also the International Office for Austria (region4) usually responded quick in case I had questions. The online meetings before departure provided most of the needed information.

academic preparation

I already did an extra minor in the previous study-year, therefore I did not really need to choose courses in my studyfield and I also did not need a certain amount of ECTS anymore (only for the Erasmusgrant, a minimum of 22.5 ECTS is required). So I just chose some courses that I found interesting and for which I did not need academic preparation.

language preparation

All my courses (except one) were taught in English so for those I did not need language preparation. My German level was also sufficient to enter German courses, but before the semester begins, Uni Graz offers a three-week language course on different levels (for 6 ECTS), so I attended the B2.2 of this language course. I really recommend to attend a language course! It is a great way to improve your German AND to make some friends in the first weeks of your semester!

finances

The Erasmus grant provides you with €300 per month, but that is definitely not enough for living in Austria. I had some savings. Average room in Graz costs between €250-450 per month, depending on location and quality. Supermarket prices and other shops are comparable with NL. So you need some savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Initially, I chose 6 courses out of the Uni Graz program. But you cannot see the time schedule at the moment you choose your courses, so I had to change two courses in the first week Uni started. I chose four courses in Sociology, one in Business Administration and one in English/American studies (22 ECTS in total). With the German course of 6 ECTS, it is 28 ECTS. As said before, I did not really need the credits, but for the Erasmus grant a minimum of 22.5 is needed. I dropped one sociology course in the end, because I could not manage the workload of that course with my exam schedule of other courses. On average, the content of the courses was interesting.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is okay, but lower than I am used to at USBO. It also differed a lot between different courses. By registering for courses, you can see if the course exists of only lectures, only seminars, small groups or a combination. The only-lecture courses are on average pretty easy and laid-back. But it depends per course and teacher how good the quality is.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office at Uni Graz organised several online meetings before arrival to prepare us as good as possible. They are also reachable via email and on certain times in the week you can walk into their office for questions or a signature.

transfer of credits

I am still waiting for some results because two deadlines for papers are mid-february, but since both the UU and Uni Graz agreed on my Learning Assignment I do not expect troubles with the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was online this year due to covid. It was mainly focused on giving as much information as possible. It is not really a 'fun' programme, it does not have the purpose to let you meet other students. But the information provided is useful. The welcome week is in the first week of your German course (German course is always in the morning, welcome week afternoon), so it is quite intensive to start like that. But in the German course you have the opportunity to meet new people, I therefore recommend to take it!

accommodation

I stayed at Öjab-Haus Graz, which absolutely has (one of) the best locations in the city! Within 10 minutes walking you are at the University, and also 10 minutes walking the other way in the middle of the centre! It is a big student dorm (appr. 200 students), mixed Austrian and International, which is a great combination. This dorm is very clean and well-maintained. I had a group of friends within this dorm, but also with friends of other dorms we often met at Öjab because the location is simply so good! Furthermore, the dorm has a chillout room, a gym, seminar room and more. But I also heard some good stories about OeAD Zinzendorfgasse, which also has a great location. The second Öjab-dorm is not so good. Also, if you want to spend your time with Spanish/Mexican people, you should go to OeAD Neubaugasse or Home4Students Neutorgasse. For some reason, those dorms are completely dominated by Spanish and Mexican students.

leisure & culture

There is a great park in the middle of the city (right in front of Öjab-Haus), it is called Stadtpark. When the temperature is good and the sun is there (the sun shines 90% of the days!!!), students meet in this park to drink a beer and play some volleyball, badminton or spikeball. It is a perfect hotspot for some leisure activities. There are also a lot of bars to have a drink, ESN for example organises a weekly regulars' table at an Irish bar for all Erasmus students. If you are someone that really enjoys big clubs, Graz is not the place to be. It has, I think, 8 clubs, but they are not that big and also not that good. But you don't need the clubs in Graz! You can enjoy the bars and some great houseparties, and most of all, the nature! It is really sunny in Graz which makes you want to go outside everyday.



suggestions/tips

I would recommend to buy a secondhand bike, with the bike you can literally go everywhere in the city in 15-20 minutes. And if you don't like cycling, also with just walking you can reach most of the important places. And the public transport network is pretty good! Furthermore, I recommend Öjab-Haus Graz to stay (not only because I have good memories from living there, but also because a lot of students from other dorms said they wished they had a room here). And, as said before, I recommend to take the German course in the first weeks of your semester.

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! I really enjoyed my stay in Graz, the city has the perfect size for an Erasmus! A lot of students do not know the city, they prefer Vienna for example, but it really is a better choice to study in Graz and visit Vienna from there! Austrian students from all over the country come to Graz because it is a living student city. You will get to know literally the most of the Erasmus students and be able to meet with people from all around the city because of the size. On top of that, the medieval city centre, with Schlossberg right next to it, is really beautiful. The university campus also is beautiful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just go out of your comfort zone and go!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
name university abroad	Karl-Franzens Universität
start date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I took quite a while for the university in Graz to send a mail with the confirmation that I was nominated and telling me what to do next to make sure my application to the university there would be completed. I did, however, still have enough time to make sure everything would be arranged on time, I just feel like they could have sent me an email way sooner.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think the counselling and support that I got from Utrecht University was really nice. For example, when I applied for the Erasmus fund, the university in Graz did not respond in time for me to arrange everything in time. But as I could show to Utrecht University that I had done everything I could to maybe still get it fixed in time, they still granted me the grant.

academic preparation

At the university in Graz I followed courses that did not really fit within my bachelor programme in Utrecht, however almost all of them were introductory courses, so I did not really need any academic preparation.

language preparation

My courses were English and the Erasmus test showed my English level was already on C2, so I did not prepare anything to upgrade my English. The university of Graz does offer an Intensive German course in the beginning of the semester which I really recommend to take it, since it really updates your German (or teaches you the basics if you don't know any German).

finances

To prepare myself for financing my stay abroad, I worked a lot of the year before the exchange to save a lot of money for all the trips I was going to do. Austria is not necessarily much more expensive than the Netherlands, as an international student it is just easier to spend a lot of money. So if you're planning on doing some trips during your stay, make sure you saved up some money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university of Graz offers very little course in English, but enough to get the amount of credits you need. The general level and intensity of the courses is a little lower than what I am used to in Utrecht. In my opinion,



the organization of the courses in Graz was very poor with a lot of changes in organizational matters in the middle of the semester and classes getting cancelled last minute for which things had to be made up later on.

academic quality of education activities

As a student in Utrecht, the courses in Graz were fairly easy to complete, which resulted in me having enough time to properly explore Austria and its surrounding countries. Sometimes, because of the academic level I got a little bored and thus lost my motivation to make the most out of the courses and I think that is a shame. So if you're looking for some academic challenges, I would not recommend going to Graz. If you're looking for a semester full of opportunities to explore the region, than I would recommend.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very poor. As I mentioned before, it takes really long for the university of Graz to respond to emails, even if you have a deadline to meet. In the beginning, when I had not arrived in Graz yet, they would answer (after some time) to my emails, however, after arriving in Graz counsellors never responded to emails anymore and would only help if I came to see them at their (very limited) office hours.

transfer of credits

I don't know yet as I did not get all my grades back.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first week the university of Graz organized a very functional orientation programme in which we were told what to organize in our first weeks in Graz and how to register to courses. Unfortunately, the orientation programme did not include any fun activities to meet new people and explore the city, which I had hoped for. Also, the welcome reception with the mayor did not happen until May, which was the for last month of our stay in Graz.

accommodation

The university of Graz offers no support in finding an accommodation, except for offering a list of dormitories that you can apply to. Graz has a lot of dormitories which are all okay in their own way. I would recommend getting a room through either OeAD or Home4students. I ended up living in a dormitory at the Moserhofgasse through OeAD which I paid 405 euros per month for. It was a dormitory that was a little further away from the city than others. I would recommend applying for the dormitory at Zinzendorfasse.

leisure & culture

As Graz is a student city there are plenty of activities to join as a student. For example, if you want to do sports, the university has a variety of sports programmes (from paragliding to work out courses to yoga) which you can apply for in the beginning of the semester that are really cheap and happen once a week. I ended doing two but you can join as many as you want as you pay per course. Austrian culture is a little more conservative than the Dutch one, resulting in shops being closed on Sundays and holidays and having to pay with cash at a lot of places. I think in general, Austrian people are very friendly and would definitely help you if you need it.

suggestions/tips

I would highly recommend attending the intensive german course that takes place in the beginning of the semester. It does not only upgrade your German knowledge in a very fast pace, it also makes it really easy to meet new friends as it takes place before the orientation week. I think that I got to know most of my close friends in Graz because of the German course.

CONCLUSIONS

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



I would recommend going to Graz as the city really made me feel like home. However, if it fits in your field of studies, I would recommend going to the technical university (TU Graz) as everything is way more organized at this university. Also, if you're looking for a destination in Austria, I really think Graz might be the best destination, but you should also have a look at Vienna and Salzburg.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You should go on an Erasmus, in the end it doesn't really matter where you're going as it is going to be a great experience anyway, even if it sometimes seems impossible to arrange everything. I am writing this report while I am backpacking through the Balkans together with some friends that I met during my Erasmus, and I think that says a lot about why you should go abroad and just experience it all.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
name university abroad	Karl-Franzens Universität Graz
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I had to choose Graz as a last-minute pick in the list of leftover places as my initial pick of the University I wanted to go to changed its requirements of studies last minute which meant I could not meet their standards anymore. It was quite a hassle to find another option so quickly, but the international office were very responsive

counselling & support at Utrecht University

After the initial email telling me I could not go to my first-choice university and having to resort to choose a university with last-minute places, the international office was very responsive and very clear which steps I had to undertake and what I had to do to make my application finalized. So, while initially I was quite upset by the way the application was going, their responsiveness made up for it

academic preparation

I did not take any specific courses or diplomas to go abroad. I just had a semester of free time.

language preparation

Most of the courses were in German, but I could not understand German that well so I resorted to only choosing English-taught courses of which there were quite a few

finances

An Erasmus Grant was provided to me as well as the Dutch-state monthly loan and some of my personal savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took 23 ECTS, which was very doable. However, choosing the courses was quite difficult, as their course catalogue is extremely unclear in the beginning. There is a link to all the English-taught courses, but at the time of filling out your initial Learning Agreement, this is not updated yet. However, I would not worry too much as when the process is going everything will be clearer. I registered definitely for all my courses while I was already



in Graz and they give you a whole little seminar about the course catalogue, it is just a bit confusing in the beginning.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I took were of quite low quality. Discussions and seminars themselves were not that engaging, and they did not really teach me anything really new. It was still interesting, but it is definitely not as challenging as the courses at UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not really seek any counselling or support, but my professors were usually responsive whenever I send them an email. The international office and academic advisors however were extremely poor in replying to emails. Some emails I sent they have never even responded too, so beware when you need them for signatures or anything and you really have to stop by instead of only emailing them.

transfer of credits

Still to be done

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I had a small welcome week, which was only education-related. There was no welcome non-study related activities organised by the university, which was really a shame. A lot of people who were there earlier and took the German intensive course before studies started had made friends already, but if you just go to the welcome week to make friends it is quite difficult as it is only for like 2 hours a day for 3 days and you only sit in a lecture hall. You really have to go out of your way to meet people. Also the ESN network is horrible in Graz, they have very little activities during the first few days and the activities they do present you have to wait in line for for 30 minutes.

accommodation

Most friends I made I met in my residence. I was housed at Zinzendorfsgasse by the OeAD which was a beautiful residence extremely well-located (5 minute walk from KFU). Amazing people live in each of the residences and I really recommend choosing OeAD as most international students are housed there and making contact is really easy.

leisure & culture

Graz has a lively culture. The Christmas markets in december are really wonderful so that's really to be recommended! Other, a lot of clubs and bars can be found in the university district as well as nice restaurants. That is really the place to be

suggestions/tips

Clubs: Kottulinsky, Revolution, Three Monkeys, Kultus. Bar: Dizzy's, Posaune, Propellor.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Graz is a relatively small city, but you have everything near. You can reach everything on foot in 15 minutes and it is a beautiful city to walk around in. It takes some time to get used to, as does every city but it is really nice. Just do not go for the quality of courses as that left some to be desired. If you choose a nice accommodation, you will make friends in no time which you will see every day. The city has a very nice atmosphere and especially during Christmas its beautiful. The big park is very nice to relax during nice sunny days.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just put yourself out there and enjoy! You have to show the first initiative in meeting people or undertaking activities, but you will see that everybody is eager to do go out there as well, so really do not be shy.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
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As a student in Utrecht, the courses in Graz were fairly easy to complete, which resulted in me having enough time to properly explore Austria and its surrounding countries. Sometimes, because of the academic level I got a little bored and thus lost my motivation to make the most out of the courses and I think that is a shame. So if you're looking for some academic challenges, I would not recommend going to Graz. If you're looking for a semester full of opportunities to explore the region, than I would recommend.
unselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very poor. As I mentioned before, it takes really long for the university of Graz to respond to emails, even if you have a deadline to meet. In the beginning, when I had not arrived in Graz yet, they would answer (after some time) to my emails, however, after arriving in Graz counsellors never responded to emails anymore and would only help if I came to see them at their (very limited) office hours.
transfer of credits
I don't know yet as I did not get all my grades back.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
During the first week the university of Graz organized a very functional orientation programme in which we were told what to organize in our first weeks in Graz and how to register to courses. Unfortunately, the orientation programme did not include any fun activities to meet new people and explore the city, which I had hoped for. Also, the welcome reception with the mayor did not happen until May, which was the for last month of our stay in Graz.
accommodation
The university of Graz offers no support in finding an accommodation, except for offering a list of dormitories that you can apply to. Graz has a lot of dormitories which are all okay in their own way. I would recommend getting a room through either OeAD or Home4students. I ended up living in a dormitory at the Moserhofgasse through OeAD which I paid 405 euros per month for. It was a dormitory that was a little further away from the city than others. I would recommend applying for the dormitory at Zinzendorfasse.
leisure & culture
As Graz is a student city there are plenty of activities to join as a student. For example, if you want to do sports, the university has a variety of sports programmes (from paragliding to work out courses to yoga) which you can apply for in the beginning of the semester that are really cheap and happen once a week. I ended doing two but you can join as many as you want as you pay per course. Austrian culture is a little more conservative than the Dutch one, resulting in shops being closed on Sundays and holidays and having to pay with cash at a lot of places. I think in general, Austrian people are very friendly and would definitely help you if you need it.
suggestions/tips
I would highly recommend attending the intensive german course that takes place in the beginning of the semester. It does not only upgrade your German knowledge in a very fast pace, it also makes it really easy to meet new friends as it takes place before the orientation week. I think that I got to know most of my close friends in Graz because of the German course.

CONCLUSIONS

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



I would recommend going to Graz as the city really made me feel like home. However, if it fits in your field of studies, I would recommend going to the technical university (TU Graz) as everything is way more organized at this university. Also, if you're looking for a destination in Austria, I really think Graz might be the best destination, but you should also have a look at Vienna and Salzburg.

• you have any additional advice or comments?

You should go on an Erasmus, in the end it doesn't really matter where you're going as it is going to be a great experience anyway, even if it sometimes seems impossible to arrange everything. I am writing this report while I am backpacking through the Balkans together with some friends that I met during my Erasmus, and I think that says a lot about why you should go abroad and just experience it all.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en Cultuurstudies

destination city & country	Graz, Austria
name university abroad	Karl-Franzens Universität
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The exchange application process was fine, it wasn't very difficult and everyone responded very quickly, if you did have questions.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The counselling from Utrecht was very good: we had meetings about the exchange and every time we had a question, we could e-mail about it and we would get a reaction very soon. There's a lot you need to think about, so it's good that you get a lot of help.	
academic preparation	
I didn't do any special academic preparations before going to Graz. I was planning on taking courses that would fit in my Bachelor perfectly, so I wouldn't need any more knowledge than I already had from studying in Utrecht.	
language preparation	
I had a lot of courses in German in Utrecht already, but because I was afraid my German level wasn't high enough to be able to keep up with the Austrian academic German, I took a language course at Treffpunkt Sprachen before the semester actually started. It was a lot of fun and I met great people there. Because I was in	



the higher level of the German course we didn't really learn new words or learn how to read newspapers and the like, but we got taught a lot about the Austrian culture and that really helped me with my time in Graz (I learned for example how you drink Sturm).

finances

I knew Graz and my time there was going to be expensive, but it was slightly worse than I had thought. I wanted to do a lot of things and that was quite expensive. I took a job in the Netherlands that I could do from home, so I had some money, plus the Erasmusgrant helped a lot.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Finding courses was the hardest. There wasn't a real overview of all the courses I could take, so I just had to work my way through everything that sounded remotely interesting. I think there was an overview for the courses taught in English, but since I wanted to study German Literature that didn't help me anything. A real overview we got in the introduction week, but by that time, we needed to have chosen several courses already. I studied German Literature and liked it, but some courses were a lot different in real life than they sounded on the website.

academic quality of education activities

I think that the academic quality of the courses in Graz is lower than in Utrecht. A lot of courses were mainly about stuffing information in your head and not really about being able to use the information. In several courses I was with Austrian students who had never written a paper before and there was a lot of help from the teachers. One of the lecturers gave us a summary of everything he had said during his lectures every week, which was immediately everything he would ask on the test.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was a lot of help from the KFU, if there was something we needed to do or to fill out a form or something like that, the international office would always remind us and tell us where to go. In the beginning there were a few introduction days, where they explained everything and told us who to mail if we needed something.

transfer of credits

I don't have my credits yet, because I still have to get several notes for my exams.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme was very good. Of course, when you get in Graz you don't really know where to go yet and where all the university buildings are, but they sent us maps and instructions to be able to get where you needed to be. I had also signed up for the buddy programme, so on my first day in Graz I was shown around the city and I learned a lot about Graz, that was very helpful! During the welcome days they showed us around campus, told us how to enroll for courses, where to have food and told us everything about ESN (the Erasmus Student Network), who arrange great trips and evenings!

accommodation

I lived in the dorm at the Neutorgasse and I got that dorm by registering very early via home4students.at. I got a single room in a big dorm, where I shared the bathroom and toilet with one girl and the kitchen with 16 others (the kitchen was very big).

leisure & culture



There is a lot to do in Graz: they have lots of musea, a house of literature, events close to the river, events on the so-called Schlossberg, numerous musical performances throughout the city when the weather is still good, a beautiful castle close to the city and so on. I always had the feeling that where-ever you go, something is always happening, there's always some event taking place. And the best of all is of course the Christmas market, which lasts about 4 weeks and offers everything you could possibly want. I loved it.

suggestions/tips

Make some friends and experience this beautiful city together. Go to Schloss Eggenberg, see Graz from the top of the Schlossberg, go into the beautiful nature surrounding Graz and just enjoy being in a city that has so much to offer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely, it was the time of my life, for several reasons that had to do with the city and the university. The city is very compact, everything is always within reach, so you're never really far from anything. I had a bike and Graz is a very bike-friendly city (compared to other Austrian city's), which made everything easily reachable. By public transport it's easy too, I've been told.

I thought the university was good too, even though the level wasn't always as it is in the Netherlands. The people are friendly, the university is very old, which was cool too and the courses were interesting. The student life is great and the Erasmus community is pretty small, so you'll feel at home pretty fast. ESN in Graz also organises awesome trips, so you'll see a lot of the beautiful country that is Austria. I would 100% recommend this city and university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

As said, Graz is a pretty 'small' city, even though it is the second largest one in Austria, it feels like a big village, where you know everyone and always know where you are. It made me feel right at home, I hope for future Erasmus students it will too!