

2019-2020

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Kunstmatige Intelligentie (Artificial Intelligence)

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Aberdeen University
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2012 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was pretty straight forward. All documents you have to write make sense, and I believe the actual waiting for our application to be accepted did not take too long either.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I have not been in need of counselling or support often, but from what I've seen, this is very good at Utrecht University. I once met up with someone to talk about possible universities, and they pointed out the university I ended up going to. Documents are usually signed within a few days of emailing, despite them likely being swarmed with documents by hundreds of students, and they're always open to helping you out with any issues and answering any questions you might have. I'm very grateful to them for all the help they gave me and other students over the past 1,5 year of preparation and the exchange itself!
academic preparation	I don't feel like there has been a lot of academic preparation necessary, at least not for me. I went abroad to do a minor in classes similar to the ones I follow back home.
language preparation	I have not been in need of a lot of language preparation as I went to an English speaking country, and my English has been very good since before I left. I did notice (while doing the mandatory language test, which I believe is a good thing to obligate people to do) that students who did need or wish to practice some more, can practice their language skills on this website.
finances	I do not believe the University has helped us with this much, besides obviously the grant we got. I don't believe we were told much about finances and what to expect, but I could be wrong as it's been almost a year since the actual preparation. However, I do believe you could have asked, and they'd have happily provided you with more information. And the internet would be a great help too, for most destinations.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
<p>This was the one part I found kind of disappointing. While applying for a university, you had to already choose which classes you wished to attend while abroad. For me, this was the main reason I ended up choosing for the university I went to. However, as the university I went to was only halfway through the schoolyear before the one I'd go abroad in (it was february), they could only tell me what courses they were teaching in that year, and not which ones they'd teach in the year after. Usually this wouldn't change too much, but sadly in my year it did, and the courses that made me choose to attend this university weren't taught while I was there. Obviously, it was still a lot of fun and I still attended some great courses, but it was a really big disappointment, and it felt like choosing courses in advance was kind of a waste of time and a way to set yourself up for disappointment. I'm not sure how this could be improved, as UU is forced to make us choose well before they can tell us what courses we can follow where, but maybe they could make it even more clear to students that this is only an indication and that it is likely to change.</p>	
academic quality of education activities	
<p>The academic quality of all education activities (which I assume to be my courses) was very good. I was happily surprised to see the difference between the way some courses were taught compared to some other courses back home.</p>	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
<p>The counselling and support at my receiving university were absolutely amazing! Sadly my tutor back home, at UU, has never really shown any support towards me and I've only really seen him once and received emails maybe twice. It has always been clear that if I'd have any issues or need any help, I'd have to see my study advisor (who's a great support). At my receiving university, however, my tutor was a great help, checking up on me and always willing to help me with issues, whether it'd be changing courses or signing one of the many many documents we had to sign.</p>	
transfer of credits	
<p>Honestly, I have not yet managed to transfer my credits due to issues with Osiris so I am currently unable to give a good explanation of how this worked and how well this worked. All communication about it has been good so far though.</p>	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
<p>The orientation programme at my receiving university made me feel very welcome and I met several amazing people this way, which really helps you feel better about the fact that you actively chose to go to another country where you'll know NO ONE, which can be slightly scary at the start (it was to me). Partly because of this programme, however, you quickly get to know new people and get over your anxiety.</p>	
accommodation	
<p>I do not know what accommodation was like in other countries, but my receiving university had guaranteed accommodation as long as you applied before a certain date (you had several months to apply after your application for the university had been accepted, so it was impossible to fail applying before this date. Obviously you did have to pay for this accommodation, but it was really good, all communication beforehand, during and after was very good and all-together I'm just very happy. I am aware, however, that some universities make you find your own accommodation and I can see how that could be hard and possibly very annoying.</p>	

leisure & culture
I went to another European country (Scotland) so there were barely any big differences culture-wise, although there were some small differences. The main differences I noticed (besides the obvious kilts and bagpipe music) had to do with the Brexit. It very quickly became clear that this was a topic you did not wish to mention, or you'd turn people against each other. This was, however, not just because the Brexit was such a painful topic for many people (the majority of Scotland is against, whereas some English students attending my university were for) but also because political opinions aren't mentioned as casually as we would do in the Netherlands. Apart from that, the country is very similar to the Netherlands in many many ways and I found it easy to adjust.
suggestions/tips
I don't have many suggestions/tips, except for: don't be afraid of not knowing anyone and being so far from home. Very often, you very quickly get to know many other international students, and you'll realize you're not alone and that it really isn't all that bad out there. Before you know it your time abroad is up, so just make sure to enjoy every second of it. It's an amazing experience that you'll never forget about, so make sure to make every second count.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely. My university took care of many important topics in a very good way (accommodation, support and counselling). Apart from that, the courses were often significantly different from courses I could follow at home (in a good way) and were all of good quality. Apart from that, Aberdeen/Scotland is just a great city/country with amazing and very friendly people. I will definitely visit again in the very near future.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't be afraid to ask for more information/help from UU or your (possible) receiving university. You'll find everyone is very willing to help you out.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
I found the process of applying rather clear. It's best to try and have everything done, like the motivation letter, at least a week earlier than you need to.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Due to the counselling of the International Office, I knew I couldn't go to Wales to study Welsh, because those subjects are taught in Welsh. Instead, I could study a Celtic language (Gaelic) in Aberdeen.	
academic preparation	
I followed a free 3 week course on Scottish history on FutureLearn in August. This was not necessary, but certainly interesting.	
language preparation	
None, though I did buy a Teach Yourself Complete Gaelic book.	
finances	
I only spent around 150 euros (not pounds) a month on food, though I did have more expensive accomodation. Because I live with my parents back home, I do already save a fortune on rent, which is why I could afford that accomodation in Aberdeen. The Erasmus grant and OV vergoeding was plenty for food, books, societies and transport. I did spend some extra on holidays and trips, which I needed my own money for. I didn't want to take any chances, so I had a side job the months leading up to my exchange to afford the extra activities.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I took Gaelic Folklore, Gaelic for Beginners 1A and Arthur in Medieval Celtic and Scandinavian Literature. I found these very interesting subjects (level 1 and 2 courses of 7,5 ECTS each). I found it extraordinary that the lessons were only 50 minutes, half the length of those at Utrecht. I did not find this university to be tougher than Utrecht, if anything I found the courses easier. However, I do not have experience with level 3 courses or higher at this university.	
academic quality of education activities	
I was rather unorganised throughout the semester, constantly feeling like I was behind on homework. I had difficulty keeping an overview and being productive partly because of personal issues at the time, and partly because of the organisation of the courses at Aberdeen. The syllabus of one course was only online in week 2. I dropped my course "Barbarians, Romans, Gods and Warriors" from the Celtic faculty, because it was taught really poorly. I strongly recommend avoiding any courses that are lectured by Professor David Dumville. I could not make any sense of any of his lectures, no matter how hard I tried, and another student I spoke told me she had the same problems with him in "Vikings in Scotland," a subject which she barely passed. In the end, however, I did end up receiving 8/10s for my other three courses, which is even slightly higher than the marks I have received back home in Utrecht. You may feel like the organisation could be better when taking any courses in the Celtic or Gaelic department, but according to my experience this is not too much to worry about; you may not be as behind on homework as you may think you are. But again, do avoid Dumville's courses.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The Aberdeen Erasmus team was very helpful, but my Go Abroad Tutor was a little flaky. Everything I needed from this team I received, though my tutor had difficulty sending me signed documents and I believe he never actually deregistered me from my Barbarians course. In the end this never formed a big problem.	

transfer of credits

The minimum was 45 credits (equating 22,5 ECTS) for the Erasmus programme, which I did. Originally, I would have done 60 credits (30 ECTS), but I had to drop one course. I recommend planning on 60 credits/30 ECTS, so that you have the room to either drop or fail one of your subjects. However, do be mindful: level 3 courses often are 30 credits/15 ECTS. If you take two of these courses you do NOT have this flexibility.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I arrived on the 31st of August, two days before the introduction day. One week before the semester starts it is fresher's week, which you definitely do not want to miss! You need to attend the Erasmus day during this week, you might need to take a test if you want to enroll in certain level 3 courses and there are society fairs. It also gives you the time to buy books and settle down a little before classes begin. The societies and sports fairs were very crowded, so I made sure I knew what type of societies I wanted to join before even attending the fair for further information.

accommodation

I did not choose Hillhead, but Aparto The Combworks. I am glad I went for this accommodation: it was newly opened in 2018, had very kind staff and student resident assistants, had a way better location than Hillhead and I had a studio all for myself. My room was modern, I had my own kitchen, bathroom, desk and a TV above my double bed. The building looked great and I never was bothered by noisy neighbours, probably largely due to good isolation in the walls. The Combworks also has a Lidl close by - only a one minute walk! I was not able to arrange bedding for my first night at the accommodation in Aberdeen. After contacting them, the Aparto team told me they would put bedding from a previous resident in my room free of charge. When I arrived late at night, they had even made my bed already! I paid around 160 pounds a week, which is not too bad compared to the 145 pounds I would have paid for a Hillhead en-suite room in which I would have shared my kitchen. I have visited Hillhead once, and it looked rather poor. A friend who lived there wasn't very happy with the showers there either. Hillhead is full of first-years and international students. The Google reviews of Hillhead aren't too friendly either. The cheap rooms at Hillhead are ideal for those who do not want to spend too much money on accommodation, want to be close to the other Aberdeen students (the fact that most international students live here is a plus) and are not too bothered by potential noisy neighbours. If, however, you have a little extra money and would rather have some more comfort, your own whole place and like to be close to the city centre (15-20 minute walk from Aparto, but a 45 minute walk from Hillhead), then I would recommend The Combworks. It was exactly the comfortable place I personally needed. You need an Aberdeen student ID to book, which you may only receive in June. However, I contacted them in April and they allowed me to reserve a room already and send them the student ID later.

leisure & culture

The student associations are great for weekly activities, sport and little trips. The International Society and the Erasmus Student Network Aberdeen, for example, organise trips to locations like Edinburgh, Isle of Skye, Stirling and Loch Lomond. I strongly recommend the Isle of Skye trip, if there is one! I went on one of two days for 90 pounds and it was very much worth it. By yourself you can take the train a few places too, though it may be useful to explore the prices on the websites of Scotrail and LNER, as the prices are different for every train. Buying in advance may be cheaper. Stonehaven is a nice daytrip, taking the train there takes 20 minutes and a return is around 6 pounds. I also recommend taking the ferry to Orkney or Shetland - there are direct ferries from Aberdeen Harbour, which is a unique chance! I did this in December, when I was already done with exams and deadlines on the 3rd. I spent New Years in Orkney with a friend, as the second semester in Utrecht only started in February anyways.

suggestions/tips
<p>Go to the tourist information centre in the first week you are in Aberdeen, the people there can advise you on what to explore in Aberdeenshire and the city itself.</p> <p>If you are very careful, you could use online dating apps to socialise and meet local people. I have had many coffee dates through this, most of which were nice and one or two that have developed into proper friendships. But, of course, you do need to be clear on the app what you are looking for and always meet them in a busy, public place to be safe.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>I defineltly recommend Aberdeen as a university to go to on an exchange. With trains, busses and ferries you can easily travel across Scotland (which is beautiful), or you can do this with societies that hire an own touringcar. There are plenty of societies, you are guaranteed accomodation at Hillhead (though there are other options!), the subjects are not too tough (Gaelic/Celtic faculty), the culture is not too drastically different and the people are very kind. Aberdeen is easy to get around on foot. I think Aberdeen has its charms, though it is indeed very monotonously gray.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?
<p>Try and go somewhere every weekend, enjoy your time in Aberdeen well because a semester passes by really fast! However, try not to stress too much about how much you are seeing and doing either. I was pretty stressed and chaotic myself the first two months, which didn't help. Be mindful that you will have to adjust to living abroad, and you may have culture shock. If you realise and accept before you leave that you will defineltly have your ups as well as downs in Aberdeen, the 'downs' are easier to handle. Likewise, I personally felt low the first few weeks I was back in the Netherlands, as I needed to adjust again. Do not go home right away when your studies here are finished, but go out and explore Scotland a little more. I visited Glasgow, Shetland and Orkney after my last exams and I am very glad I stuck around a few weeks longer to spend time with my friends and show one of my friends from back home (she came over for a week around New Years) where I had been studying.</p>

Report 3

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	optional; <i>only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: baacsnoeijen@gmail.com	
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD		
name study programme	Engelse Taal & Cultuur		

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland/UK
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I followed through the process provided at Utrecht University. It was a step by step approach, starting almost a year in advance (November 2018) and giving me ample time to make a well-informed decision.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Multiple presentations and information sessions on Erasmus were provided by Utrecht University, which I all attended. They proved to be very helpful.
academic preparation
The two courses I have followed in Aberdeen were, just like my courses back home, English literary courses. As a result, I did not need academic preparation in order to follow these courses. I only needed to take a diagnostic test at Aberdeen before the semester commenced, so that they could gauge my academic writing skills. This was all sufficient.
language preparation
I took the Erasmus language test and got a C2, which gave me enough confidence to start my exchange.
finances
Finances consisted out of a mix between my Erasmus grant and savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed Modernism: Make It New and American Insurrections. Both courses consisted out of one lecture and one seminar a week. I had to read about 2-3 books every week. For both courses I had to write two papers and do a group presentation.
academic quality of education activities
Academic quality was good. I learned a lot from these courses, specifically because similar courses do not (or only partially) exist at Utrecht University. Educational activities mostly consisted from group discussions in the seminars, which were all very interesting.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Even though I did receive some counselling and support, it was sometimes hard to know what to do exactly, especially with regard to the administrative work surrounding learning agreements and the such. Replies from Go Abroad Tutors could take long and sometimes be ambiguous, which made starting out somewhat stressful.
transfer of credits

I have yet to receive my results, but credits will be transferred to the ECTS system. Following this transfer, I will receive 30 ECTS in total, 15 per course.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Orientation programme consisted out of a full week of both informational activities regarding our stay and our studies, but also focussed on bringing people together. This was all well-organised.
accommodation
Accommodation, although somewhat pricy (550-600 euros a month), was mostly good. A clean room, with clean facilities. The walls, however, were very thin, which made sleeping sometimes harder.
leisure & culture
The Scottish culture is amazing to discover. Besides that, Aberdeen is a city with some interesting spots/places, and the university accommodation of Hillhead Student Village proved a small supermarket and a bar, which was really nice.
suggestions/tips
The only tip I have is a general one. I would like to see the entire administrative process to be made easier. It can be very overwhelming to see what needs to be done, and though I know that it is absolutely necessary, it could maybe be made somewhat easier and more clear.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I absolutely would. Scotland is a great country, and Aberdeen an interesting city. Besides, the university is beautiful and quite good as well, plus the guaranteed accommodation is something that really helps to smoothen your entire experience.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No

Report 4

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process was clear and easy to follow. All the emails you get from the UU explained what to do, how and when. So if you followed the steps, everything was fine.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The counselling and support from the University was sufficient and helpful. As I said, the (sometimes excessive) email contact from and with the UU makes sure you are fully prepared for your exchange. Also questions about the University of Aberdeen or the life there would be answered by the University or students who had already had the experience.	
academic preparation	
Because of the nature of my Bachelor some things with the Learning Agreement went not as smooth as I hoped but it was manageable. It all turned out fine.	
language preparation	
I didn't need any language preparation as my level of English was already sufficient.	
finances	
The Erasmus grant has helped me a lot in financing my study abroad.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I was doing 2 courses instead of 3 because one of the courses I wanted to do was only taught in the second semester. 2 courses still gave me 22,5 ECTS so it was fine. The course guide is very clear and gives a good idea of the content of the courses. I chose "Tales of Vengeance and Enchantment" and "Gaelic for Beginners 1A". The first one was a level 3 course I enjoyed very much. It was an in-depth course within my field of expertise which taught me loads of new things and gave me new insights. The second one was a level 1 course which I enjoyed as well, although it was a little slow for my liking. It is an introductory course in modern Scots-Gaelic and was chosen by a lot of Erasmus students. It was a lot of fun to learn the local language with so many other foreign students.	
academic quality of education activities	
The quality of the courses was very high. 'Tales of Vengeance and Enchantment' was given by a professor who clearly had a lot of knowledge of his field and who also has published various works within the field. I feel like this department, the Celtic and Scandanavian Studies department, in Aberdeen is better than in the Netherlands. Something I find quite forthcoming.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The counselling and support at the University of Aberdeen is excellent. They are easily reached by email or by visiting the office.	
transfer of credits	
My credits have not yet been transferred by the UU. However, the grading system in Aberdeen is clear and they provide enough information to have an estimation of your grade in UU terms.	

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Upon arrival, the university had organised bus rides which would drop off the incoming student at the right residences. So you didn't have to worry about finding your new home on your first day. Everything on campus was very well-organised. The first lecture of orientation week is very useful and we got all the information we needed. The rest of the week was filled with orientation markets from the university and activities organised by the student organisation (AUSA). During this week there were no lectures yet so it was a great opportunity to meet people and join sports or cultural societies.

accommodation

I was living at Hillhead Student Village, provided by the University of Aberdeen.

During my application process I heard various negative opinions about this university-provided accommodation. However, I decided to choose this option anyway because I was curious about the campus living experience.

From my experience Hillhead was great! I shared a little apartment with 4 other people from the Netherlands and Germany on the ground floor with a big modern kitchen/living room, two toilets and a bathroom. The apartment was clean, kinda cozy and had all the things you need in terms of furniture and electronics. Wifi always worked and we never had any problems with warm water or heat. Only furniture etc. is included, all other stuff needs to be bought yourself. They have an option of pre-ordering duvets, I recommend doing that. The campus is a 15 minute walk from the university. When walking to the university you walk through Seaton park and highstreet which makes the walk more pleasant.

The best thing about living in Hillhead for me was that I lived basically next door to my best friend, so I could text her, put on my PJ's and walk over to hers for a movie night. Also, we would walk to uni together every day, take the bus to party, have predrinks etc.

The city centre is very easily reached with the bus, which stops and leaves from Hillhead.

One negative thing about Hillhead is the constant parties from the Scottish first years, which makes a lot of noise.

leisure & culture

The Scots love to "sesh"!

So, if you are a party type you are doing fine in Aberdeen. However, they start way earlier than here in the Netherlands. Most parties start at 19 o'clock. If you go clubbing you usually go between 11 and 12. You can have predrinks at home and then take the 'drunkbus' to the centre or decide to have your predrinks in one of the cute cocktailbars downtown. There is a club for everyone's musictaste and they are all on Union Street. One important thing to note if you are a girl: the girls dress like Geordie Shore. Ofcourse you should wear whatever you want but if you have a few outfits you are hesitant about wearing here, definitely bring them! Also, go wild with your make-up. I used my party nights in Scotland to experiment with heavy eye make-up and daring outfits I would never wear back home. It is a lot of fun to try and blend in!

Apart from partying, there are a lot of student organisations you can become a member of. For instance the 'filmmakingsociety' or the 'bookclub'. These societies also organise events you can join if you are not a member. The ESN committee is a good one to join, they organise events for all Erasmus students. There are also a lot of sports societies or you can take the membership from Aberdeen Sports Village. They have an olympic pool and a great fitness area which is right next to the university.

You can also go to the city centre on your day off. Go shopping in Union Square or walk through the city to end up in a cute tea or lunchroom. One thing I loved to do was to sit in my favorite tea room and write.

Scots are incredibly nice people, proud and have a lot of self-mockery. They are living less uptight than we tend to do. It feels like life goes a little more relaxed and carefree.

I have also been on loads of trips and tours through the countryside. I organised these with my friends or we would join one of the planned trips by ESN.

In the last month of my exchange, me and my best friend decided that 'no day could be the same anymore'. Because of this we would do something different every day, even just small things like eating out. In this way we feel like we got the best out of all our days and we had something to enjoy every single day, instead of for example putting everything in one day .

suggestions/tips

- I would very much recommend going for the more expensive houses in Hillhead, like Hector Boece Court or Grant Court. It is definitely worth it. The least expensive ones are terrible.
- Try to blend in on a night out!
- Don't take yourself/or the scots too seriously
- Try and ease into the slower and more carefree way of life
- Keep your eyes open! Scotland is an incredible country and everywhere you look there is something beautiful.
- Go on as much trips as possible, preferably in the first half of the semester
- Celebrate your foreign friends' traditional holidays
- Get used to the taxi, its your main form of transportation when you go clubbing.
- Do NOT rent a bike. You might think it is convenient but not having a bike made my experience ten times better. You just have to trust me on this.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely! I absolutely loved every single thing about it!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you realise it is a cold climate in Scotland. You should come for the country and its people.

2018-2019

Report 1

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: sarahherforth5@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Instagram: Sarahherforth	
faculty/college	Humanities	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	LiberalArtsand Sciences	

destination city & country	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	5 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 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 actual application letter is not that much work, but selecting one or two universities takes up a lot of time. I would recommend making a list of things you find important. For me, that was: an English native speaking country, with interesting courses and close to nature.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I sat down with one of the student advisors from my department to check if the courses would fit in my curriculum and to see what semester would be best to go abroad
academic preparation	
	Zero
language preparation	
	I did not need to, my English level was high enough.
finances	
	I worked for a few months but it is actually not that more expensive than living on your own in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I was lucky; I was able to take all three courses I chose prior to going abroad. However, many others had to switch one of their courses. It is in my opinion a bit ridiculous that you have to pick your courses before december and then wait till the second week of september to get them finalised and get your schedule. I was a bit afraid I had to pick other courses but it worked out in the end.
academic quality of education activities
I would say that the level is lower than in Utrecht, but you see this mostly in the attitude students have. A lot of students do not prepare for their lectures. The literature is often far less than I am used to, but still interesting. It was not the level I was used to, but my course in theology was very academically challenging!
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really contact them much.
transfer of credits
It worked out okay, but they initially changed a level 3 course to a level 1 course. Since they sent this to my home address in the Netherlands, I was not able to respond in time.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Freshers week was very intense with a LOT of activities! This can be a bit overwhelming but it is also a lot of fun.
accommodation
I lived at hillhead campus, which was provided by the university. Do note that you will probably live with first year students here, which can be a bit of an adjustment if you are in your first year. But some Erasmus students also lived there.
leisure & culture
Scotland is a beautiful country! Aberdeen itself has its charm, even though it is not like the bigger cities Glasgow and Edinburgh. My favorite thing about Aberdeen was that you can walk to the beach in 10-15 minutes: that was an absolute gift and I enjoyed walking or cycling there so much. I do recommend getting a cycle to get around the city since buses are not very dependable.
suggestions/tips
If you go the first semester, you will have december/january free to travel. I travelled from 17 dec till 10 january and it was AMAZING, I highly recommend spending some time travelling before or afterwards!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would 100% recommend it. The people are very friendly, it is close to the beach and to other places in nature and the city has some great hotspots such as secondhand stores and restaurants.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions

Report 2

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)	
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: ferikejanse@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
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 (Language and Culture studies)	

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland (United Kingdom)
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 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 of application might seem rather complicated at first, but if you stay on top of things from the very beginning, it is really not that bad. Make sure you save all of your emails related to your exchange in one file, and keep track of all deadlines. It also helps to get in contact with other students that are planning on going on exchange, so you can help each other with finding the information that you need.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Attending the information session is a must, and make sure to take some notes of all the information that will be poured out over you. Even though I paid attention during the sessions, I sometimes struggled to remember the exact details about certain steps in the process of applications when I actually needed them.
academic preparation	I did read up on my British history, since I had very little knowledge about that and I was sure I would need it in some of the history/religion courses that I was planning on taking.
language preparation	None. I expected my level of English to be sufficient.
finances	I knew that life in the U.K is not that cheap, so a few months before I left I raised my monthly student loans to the maximum. I ended up not using all of that money, but in that way I was sure I would not end up with a cash-flow problem during my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
The Aberdeen University course catalogue for the new academic year was only uploaded somewhere during the summer break. This way, I did not know for sure whether or not the courses that I intended on taking (and had put on my learning agreement) would actually be available. It turned out that indeed quite some changes had been made in the catalogue, and I couldn't take any of the courses I intended to pick. My go abroad tutor at Aberdeen university helped me pick new courses, and these turned out to be really interesting as well.	
academic quality of education activities	
Overall the level of education at Aberdeen University is quite similar to that of Utrecht University. The main difference in teaching is that for most of the courses, the focus is really on the lectures. For two of my courses, I only had a one-hour seminar/tutorial each week, while I did have two two-hour lectures weekly for those courses.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
As soon as I got my acceptance letter from Aberdeen, they assigned me to an exchange tutor. This is someone who teaches at the university in courses relating to your own degree. My exchange tutor could therefore really help me in selecting courses that would suit my wishes, as she was familiar with all of the courses. For questions other than those relating to the courses themselves, I always send emails to the Erasmus team of Aberdeen University. They could often answer them for me, and if this wasn't the case they would provide me with the contact details of people who could answer my questions. Replies always came quite quickly, so I am pretty satisfied with support at Aberdeen University.	
transfer of credits	
I am currently still in the process of getting my credits from Aberdeen University transferred to my degree here in Utrecht.	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The university organises a 'freshers week' at the first week of the year (the first week of september, and they do a similar but slightly smaller event at the start of the second semester). This week is mainly marketed towards the new first-year students, but exchange students are also invited to these events, as they provide lots of opportunities to get to know the university, the city and student life in Aberdeen.	
accommodation	
The university offers accommodation to all first-year and exchange students. All of these buildings are in one place, called the Hillhead student village. I lived here, and I found this quite convenient. It is quite close to uni (about a 20 minute walk or 10 minute bike-ride) and a lot of activities are organised at Hillhead. And since most other exchange students live at Hillhead, it is the easiest option if you want to hang out with other students. The downside of it is that it is a bit more expensive than private accommodation. But on the other hand, it can be quite complicated to find something by yourself, especially for students that are only staying for one semester.	
leisure & culture	
Aberdeen University has over 140 societies, which can be compared to the Dutch system of 'studie- en studentenverenigingen'. I strongly recommend joining one or two, as this is the perfect way to get to know other students, Scottish and international. During Freshers week, there's a societies fayre where all of the societies present themselves and where you can easily sign up for them.	

Aberdeen also has plenty of nice pubs to go to, and you can get to some very nice places in the Highlands or coastal towns by train and bus. I made trips to Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Loch Ness, Stonehaven and lots of other places pretty much every Saturday/weekend, and in this way I got to see a lot of Scotland.

suggestions/tips

Aberdeen University has over 140 societies, which can be compared to the Dutch system of 'studie- en studentenverenigingen'. I strongly recommend joining one or two, as this is the perfect way to get to know other students, Scottish and international. During Freshers week, there's a societies fayre where all of the societies present themselves and where you can easily sign up for them.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had a great time here. If you don't handle cold and rain very well I recommend going somewhere else, as the weather can be pretty rough. But the university (which has some pretty beautiful old buildings) and student life in Aberdeen are definitely to be recommended.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
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	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Scotland
start date	07 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I found the application process hard as many documents and forms were required all with their own deadline. However both University of Aberdeen and Utrecht University had helpful guides ready and were quick and effective when answering questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was very helpful in their counseling and support. I had made a mistake in my application for my exchange and they were very understanding and helpful in correcting my error.

academic preparation

I had a hard time with preparing for my courses in Aberdeen as almost all the courses I wanted to follow were either full or not available to me. Even when I had decided on courses to follow it took a long time to finalize as there was a waiting list.
language preparation
I am already a native English speaker.
finances
Applying for the Erasmus Grant was hard and has a lot of steps that are all conditional. Keeping up with all these steps was challenging but the Erasmus Grant was very helpful.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content of the courses was very interesting. I followed the courses The Tragedy of Knowledge and The Country House in England and Scotland. Both courses were well organised and had interesting content. The professors were knowledgeable about their field and knew how to transfer that knowledge.
academic quality of education activities
Quality of education activities was good. With one of my courses I got to go on field trips and those were fantastic, however both tutorials and seminars were very short. Most were only an hour long and at the most two. I do not feel like this amount of time is suitable to have a good class debate and exchange information.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support of University of Aberdeen was good. It was easy to reach the appropriate people if I needed counselling or support.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits is a bit complicated. At University of Aberdeen 7.5 ECTS translates 15 credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome & orientation programme was nice. It was a bit odd because the international students arrived a week earlier than all the other students. So for a week you were living in a ghetto town. But it was nice and easy to bond with fellow international students.
accommodation
The accommodation was not good. We were put on a campus with all the first years and international students about a half an hour away from the city centre. But a really nice 15 minute walk from university campus. The accommodations were impersonal and I got bedbugs my first month in. Also you could feel the springs of the mattress digging into your back. The nice thing was that all your friends were around you and nearby.
leisure & culture
Aberdeen is not the most interesting town. But its drinking culture is amazing, there are pubs everywhere. The students have made Aberdeen a fun place to live, as they put on lots of activities. The nature is the most exciting thing here in Scotland. It is very beautiful and there are a lot of walks and activities to do in the many nature cities and parks.
suggestions/tips

Consider living outside of campus if you are fussy about where you live. Another important thing is to bring a massive coat.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. It has a high quiality of education and the surrounding nature is beautiful. It is also very different from Utrecht and it was interesting and fun to experience that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

2017-2018

Report 1

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> brittva@live.nl
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	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	02 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	There is of course a lot to prepare, to hand in and to fix in general. It is a process that sometimes made me confused, because at times I lost my bearings. However, there was help!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	If I had a question, I could email either my tutor, or even better, the International Office. Generally, they were able to provide me with answers. They also sent plenty of emails to make sure you knew what to do.
academic preparation	
	I chose three courses here that are not directly related to my studies, apart from one (Scottish Gaelic). I did not have to really prepare academically.
language preparation	
	I did not really have to prepare language-wise either. There is a language test you are supposed to do at the beginning of the semester and at the end, which is nice. It shows you your level and it will show you if you've become better at the language.
finances	
	I made a table for myself so that I could calculate my finances. You also have to hand in a financial plan, which I thought was a good thing because it helps you get an overview of the costs (and incomes!).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	My courses were really great. I took an English course on Shakespeare, an Archaeological course and a course in Scottish Gaelic. There were no organisational issues for me.
academic quality of education activities	

The courses were well organized, my Archaeology course also had some practicals to get you working with what you've been learning. The tests are also very fitting. The reading that has to be done for the courses is in proportion to the courses themselves. The assignments that you might have to take during a course also work in that course's context (and not every course requires assignments other than a final test/essay).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was always someone to help if I had questions, be it teachers if the questions were about a particular subject, or the Accommodation- or Erasmus team in Aberdeen. I have not needed much counseling though.
transfer of credits
I was informed in Aberdeen that the Transcript of Credits would be sent to me by post. I received an email on the 1 st of February with my Transcript attached as a PDF, and in that email they said it was also sent to me by post that same day. So I think they handled this pretty well: they make sure you know what is going on and they send it both electronically and 'normally', which is nice too.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme started the weekend of the 2 nd of September and lasted that first week. There was an official event (speeches and things), which was informative. There were also lots of non-official things, like a Societies Fayre, Sports Fayre and Food Fayre (free pizza!). These were quite fun and also very informative. There were plenty of opportunities to get to know the city and to get to know new people.
accommodation
The accommodation I had was slightly expensive, however I did have my own bathroom (many people had a shared one). If you are thinking about paying extra for your own bathroom, I would definitely recommend it. It did mean that I had to clean it myself of course, but there were people cleaning the flat in general. Your kitchen and living room etc. are of course your and your flatmates own responsibility. Having my own bathroom however, provided me with more privacy and more of a feeling of really living somewhere. Accommodation on a campus was something I initially did not want, but I am happy that I did end up there. There was a main building which had a little shop, there was a restaurant there, a computer room where i could print things, and they organized activities in the building (yoga, cooking workshops, dog cuddling!).
leisure & culture
There are many fun things to do abroad. I would recommend becoming a member of some societies. At home I don't do that much, sports-wise. In Scotland however, I did yoga, horse riding and Scottish Dance. It's a nice way to be active, go out, and meet new people. It also makes your time abroad feel even more active and makes you feel like you have truly done everything there that you could ever want. I would also recommend traveling around. I have seen quite a lot and am happy that I did! This is the best chance to see another environment, so make sure you see it!
suggestions/tips
Enjoy your time abroad! Don't worry too much about all the stuff to be arranged, it will all fall into place. Enjoy your time, do new things. Explore!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! I liked Aberdeen though it is not a city for everyone. If you're not willing to go out and explore the city, it might not look like much (as I heard from some people anyway). It has a lot of hidden gems though and is a

good base for exploring this part of Scotland. I enjoyed the uni as well, it was well arranged and my teachers were all very nice, which, let's be honest, helps a bunch. All in all, I would definitely recommend Aberdeen because I truly did love the city, the university and the parts of Scotland around it that I could easily travel to as a day trip.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>The application process can be quite daunting; it is a lot of important paperwork. Luckily, the international office offers great help and guides that explain what to do step by step. If you are unsure of how or when to do something, just ask! It might be nice to find people that are going through the same process, as you will be able to help each other. I researched the universities that I wanted to go to and the exchange possibilities very thoroughly before I applied, which I would definitely recommend doing as it helped me write my motivation letter. The key is, I feel, to make sure that everything is handed in as early as possible, which prevents you from forgetting to hand in documents.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>There is plenty of counselling and help available at UU, but they cannot help you if you do not go and talk to them. The university is very supportive of your decision to go abroad and they will do very much to help you get there, as long as you give them time to look into things and you make sure your paperwork is all up to date.</p>
academic preparation	<p>Before going on Erasmus exchange, I knew exactly what courses I wanted to take. Unfortunately, two out of three of my courses were full and the backup courses that I had picked did not fit in my timetable. I would therefore advise to make a list of the courses that you can and want to take, to avoid being put on the spot when it is time to officially enroll.</p>
language preparation	<p>I feel lucky that I was already used to writing all my papers in English, as well as taking classes in English. However, plenty of other international students struggled with this. It is therefore useful to make sure you are comfortable with both speaking and writing in English all the time.</p>

finances
When they say that certain countries are expensive, they mean it; do not underestimate how much going abroad will actually cost you. Personally, I saved up a lot of money to be able to take part in everything I could possibly want, and there were a lot of weekend trips to other places in the country that were much more expensive than I had expected them to be. Because I prepared my trip so well, I did not have to say 'no' to any of them.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
As I previously mentioned, timetabling turned out to be far more complicated than I expected and many other students had this issue too. This caused many students to miss classes during their first week of the semester, as schedules changed until the second week of teaching. It has been very interesting to see how other universities organise their teaching and how other exchange students feel about this. Some content of the courses may overlap slightly with what you have already done, but it is still very interesting to experience how other professors and students influence the way topics are discussed.
academic quality of education activities
I personally prefer the way students are taught in Utrecht. My exchange university had semesters that took twelve weeks, which is not much longer than the length of one block in Utrecht. I therefore expected the workload to be much heavier, but instead it is distributed differently. Throughout the semester, I would not say that I was much busier with homework than I usually am in Utrecht, or that I felt that it was more work in general. It was only during exam periods that you notice the difference.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The way other universities focus on their students' mental health has amazed me. This does not only include my receiving university, but I have also discussed it with other exchange students a lot. Not only during freshers' week, but throughout the semester, the university and their residence assistants regularly organise events that help students to deal with stress, talk about their issues, or simply relax. In addition, the university's counsellors are very easy to contact and there are no long waiting lists if you need help.
transfer of credits
My credits have yet to be transferred, but so far I have learned that both universities are very willing to do their best to transfer my marks in time for me to graduate early.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university had many volunteers that welcomed incoming students at the airport and help them get to their accommodation. Freshers' week was a busy week that allowed everybody to get to know the university and each other a bit, which was great fun and an exciting start of the semester.
accommodation
My university guaranteed all new students an offer of accommodation, which I accepted. This made it very easy to get from the airport to the student village and to meet new people, as everybody in your house will be new to the university as well. My halls were relatively cheap, there are about forty people on my floor and I share my kitchen with four other girls. I did not feel a reason to be picky about this, as it is, after all, only for a couple

of months. I loved my time in halls because of the people I have met and the facilities the university offered, which have been amazing.
leisure & culture
I joined a sports team and I went to weekly music jams and cooking workshops that were organised by the residence assistants because they were great fun. Besides this, I had plenty of time to meet or go out with friends and to discover the country during the weekends as much as I could.
suggestions/tips
Find as many ways to meet new people as possible; join different groups or teams, meet friends' friends and actually do stuff that you like. After all, the people you meet and the things you see or do make the best memories!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend the University of Aberdeen if you like a cozy but ambitious university. If you do not mind a relatively small city with a lovely beach and great (public) transport to the Highlands of Scotland, this is definitely the place for you!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
When you go on weekend trips, try to go with small societies or a group of friends instead of paying an actual company (like Viva) that organises trips. Yes, they take care of and organise everything for you, but they are very commercial. If you put in a little more effort, you can plan trips that suit your personal interests, which might even be cheaper too!

Report 3

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	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	04 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was a lot easier than expected. I had heard all kinds of stories from other exchange students about all the paperwork you have to fill in. Certainly, it is quite a lot, but the university provides you with a file of deadlines and explanations on what to do with each part of your application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University

As mentioned above, the university provides exchange students with quite a lot of help. There is a schedule with deadlines, explanation files and meetings on the exchange process.
academic preparation
I chose to go abroad instead of taking a minor at the home university.
language preparation
In order to test whether my English was good enough, I had to do an online language test. The results were high enough, so I didn't need extra language preparation.
finances
Before applying I made a financial plan to see whether I could afford studying abroad for a semester. The combination of the Erasmus grant, my student loan and my savings from my job provided an acceptable basis for living abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I chose three different subjects; Gaelic, Swedish and a Celtic course. Not all these courses I had planned in advance, because I couldn't register my courses in advance. Once in Aberdeen, some of the courses I had planned were already full.
academic quality of education activities
I am very satisfied with the academic qualities of the University of Aberdeen. The courses were not that different from the courses at Utrecht University, and I managed to get quite high grades due to the high quality of teaching.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university provided student support for special needs, but I didn't have need of it.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was smoothly done, there was a file which specified how the Aberdeen points linked to Dutch grades. The same was done for ECTS/credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The University of Aberdeen put a lot of effort into making new students feel welcome. There was an entire week for freshers, showing them around the university and the city, explaining how everything works.
accommodation
There was a special student village which housed international students. All exchange students could get university accommodation.
leisure & culture
There was quite a lot of leisure activities available. A lot of societies held activities which you could sign up for and if you wanted to do anything outside university, Scotland is a perfect place to just book day trips and such.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would recommend this university and this destination. First of all, Scotland is such a beautiful country with a lot of amazing sight-seeing options. I would also recommend the University of Aberdeen, since its academic skills are great, and they put a lot of effort in students' wellbeing.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 4

e-mail address	optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly m.p.m.scholtealbers@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's master's PhD
name study programme	Communication and information sciences
destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	06/01/2018
end date	30/06/2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I mistook the deadline for the learning agreement, so I was kinda stressed and e-mailed Aberdeen a lot. They weren't very quick in responding and it took me three or four mails before I finally received my learning agreement. In the end my e-mails weren't that urgent, so that could also be an explanation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Every e-mail I sent to Utrecht was quick responded to and very helpful.
academic preparation
None
language preparation
None
finances
None.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
Originally I wanted to do two English courses. Upon arriving I heard that one of those wasn't possible, and during an English pre-test I found out that I didn't know enough about English literature to do the other course. So in the end I ended up with a first year course French and a third year course Management.	
academic quality of education activities	
Disappointing. For the French course only the oral classes and the PowerPoint slides were helpful. Furthermore it was mainly 30-40 people in a lecture room repeating the lecturer and making homework by copying the powerpoint slides. For management I can't really say a lot. During my stay there was a strike for 5 weeks in which there were no classes.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
Especially during the strike I sent a lot of e-mails. The only response I got was that I had to wait until the end of the strike. So the support I got wasn't very helpful, but this is a very specific situation not likely to happen again very soon. The uni made a Facebook group for exchange students where a lot of fun stuff to do and see was shared, that was nice.	
transfer of credits	
Can't tell yet	
STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The welcoming day was very nice and it was where I met all my friends. Further there was a day for all the societies. But because I arrived the second semester instead of the first, a lot of societies weren't very welcoming towards new members.	
accommodation	

Aberdeen – University of Aberdeen

I ended up in Spring Gardens by Unite Students. It's one of the cheapest accommodations and it is pretty nice for what you pay. It's in between the city centre and uni. I lived in a 7 persons apartment with a large kitchen, two toilets, two bathrooms (don't expect a lot of water pressure from the showerheads) and huge plus: a double bed.

Although when I got there I wished I knew more about all my options, so here are some tips: - Unite students has three accommodations between the city centre and uni. There are mainly first years. If you don't like that you can send an e-mail that you would like to be placed with older students. Another option is to place a message in the Erasmus Facebook group and ask if there are more students there who want to share an accommodation. That way you are sure you will be placed with other exchange students

-Hillhead is the university accommodation for first years and exchange students. It is really pricy and it will take you almost an hour to walk to the city centre. The location however is very nice near a park and the community over there organises a lot of events to meet new people or meet up with your friends.

-There are a lot of housing options. If you want private housing you can also book a hostel for the first week and look around. A friend of mine found a location next to uni this way.

-Ausa, the student society, has a webpage where they post a lot of cheap available rooms.

leisure & culture

I was a bit disappointed by Aberdeen itself. If you're used to Utrecht, Aberdeen seems very grey and gloomy. The university however is beautiful and Seaton park is a very big place to explore. Aberdeen is also a great starting point to explore Scotland.

suggestions/tips

Don't be afraid to spend money. Also the lonely planet guide to Scotland proved very helpful in organizing a trip to the Isle of Skye with public transport.

And if you go to Inverness, try the Mustard Seed for lunch. It's the first place where I tried haggis. They made little bitterballen out of it on a very fancy plate, so definitely worth a try.

CONCLUSIONS

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

No, but because of the strike my experience was a unique one. I was very dependent on what was happening in the city and at uni and that wasn't much.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take your time to choose a city and if possible book a weekend to make sure that you can enjoy yourself worst case scenario.

2016-2017
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 studies

destination city & country	Aberdeen, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Aberdeen
start date	03 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Ever since I started my degree at Utrecht University I had known that I wanted to study abroad for one semester. In fall 2015 I started orientating myself in the available destinations. Soon I found out that I wanted to apply for a university in the United Kingdom. My first choice in Universities was the Nottingham Trent University. I prepared the required documents (CV, study plan, financial plan and motivation letter) and applied. After a couple of weeks I got an email saying that I unfortunately could not be placed at my first choice in Universities. I could apply again for a left over place at another University. I chose to apply for the University of Aberdeen and happily a couple of weeks later I received another email telling me I could go and study there for one semester.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University provided good guidance in the application process. I regularly got emails saying what steps I had to take in order to complete the application process. Furthermore, before leaving two information meetings were organized that were very helpful to me.
academic preparation
To be honest I do not remember preparing myself academically for my semester abroad.
language preparation
Since I had chosen to go to an English speaking country it was not necessary to do extra language preparation before my stay in Aberdeen.
finances
I have used 1000 euros of my savings because Aberdeen is quite an expensive place to go to but it was totally worth it. Besides that, the Erasmus Grant was really helpful to me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Spanish Language 1 (7,5 ECTS) Europe in the Twentieth Century (7,5 ECTS) Introduction to Art History (7,5 ECTS)

Introduction to Politics and International Relations (7,5 ECTS)
I chose to do some courses in Aberdeen that had not much to do with my degree in Utrecht. I did an introduction to Spanish Language, which was a nice course with good tutors. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course was less well organized and the lecturers were not as inspiring. On the contrary, the Art History tutors were very enthusiastic and made me really enjoy the course. The politics course was interesting but a bit boring from time to time.
The level of the courses was in general all right but not too challenging.
academic quality of education activities
In general I have experienced a good academic quality of education activities. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course however, was different than I had expected since the main focus was philosophical debate of historical events. There was a slight difference in academic quality between the courses I did. The Europe in the Twentieth Century course was less structured and more chaotic than the other courses I have taken but in general I can say that the overall quality of the courses was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The University of Aberdeen organized welcome and goodbye events for all Erasmus students and provided support where needed during my stay. They quickly answered my questions via email and the staff was very helpful.
transfer of credits
My credits have not yet been transferred so I cannot yet say anything about the translation of the Scottish grading system (A-F) to the Dutch grading system (1-10).

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I stayed in Aberdeen during the first semester which means that I arrived together with all new students. A 'Freshers week' was organised during the week before University started. I would strongly recommend new students to attend to this week since it is very much fun and it is a very easy way to meet new people. During that week, events are organized to get to know other new students, the University and its societies.
accommodation
In Aberdeen I stayed in Hillhead student village. The student residences in Hillhead are University owned and from there it is just about a twenty minutes walk to the University campus through beautiful Seaton Park. Despite of the fact that it is a quite expensive place to stay, I would strongly recommend exchange students to choose for a stay in Hillhead since it is quite close to Uni and again an easy way to meet new people.
leisure & culture
At the University of Aberdeen there are a lot of activities you can do besides your studies. For example, there are about a hundred different societies to join. Societies are groups of people with the same interests that meet up a couple of times a month. I have joined the Whiskey society, the Unicef on Campus society, the International exchange society and the Volleyball society. Joining a society is again a good way to get to know some people and to spend some time with people that share your interests. Furthermore, there is a brand new Sports Centre (The Aberdeen Sports Village) close to campus with cheap student membership deals.
suggestions/tips

- Try to do some sightseeing in the weekends! Scotland is a beautiful country and it is definitely worth it to do some travelling in the area. A nice place to visit is Stonehaven; try the best fish and chips of the UK after a walk to Dunnotar castle.
- Go to the try-outs of as many societies as possible and join at least one of them. It is a good way to enjoy University life in Aberdeen to the fullest.
- Stay in Hillhead.
- Make sure you always have enough cash for the bus (busdrivers don't do change in Aberdeen).
- Go to the Bobbin (a nice pub near Uni).
- Do not walk through Seaton Park at night.
- Bring your Credit Card with you. You do need it for your laundry and for printing.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the University of Aberdeen to others. To begin with, the University campus is very pretty as well as the library (with sea view!). The people in Aberdeen are very friendly and helpful and the courses I enrolled in were very well organized. Furthermore, the societies make it much easier to get to know new people. The city centre of Aberdeen might be not the most beautiful one you have ever seen, but the atmosphere definitely makes up for that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?