



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be made available (anonymously) to UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

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

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> @
faculty/college	Copernicus institute of sustainable development
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Joint international master in sustainable development

destination city & country	Leipzig, Germany
name university abroad	Leipzig University
start date	01 / 04 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The exchange application process was quite straight forward in my case, as I had to apply for the masters programme and identify my personal preferences for an exchange university and then just waited and hoped to be selected.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support in Utrecht is of a high level, especially when you compare it with other countries (and even some other universities in the Netherlands) but you have to be proactive. I think that all information can be found online and via brochures, but you have to read a lot. When you can't find the information you want you just have to contact the international office and they can always help you out.
academic preparation	Just be sure that you know who you can contact, both at your home university as at your exchange university, in case of urgency. For me it felt good to keep this with me, written down or at least offline, for in the case that there would be no internet available.
language preparation	



Be sure that you at least have some basic knowledge of the language of your exchange country, even if the courses are taught in English. At Dutch universities it is not unusual for people to speak English all day as some complete masters programmes are in English, this is very unusual in other countries. So even as your programme might be in English, other programmes might not, which means that the staff at the University is not used to and not eager to speak English. Therefore it is always easy if you can have some basic contact with them, as you'll probably need them for documentation.

finances

Costs of living are lower in most other countries, however, you'll see that travel costs are rather high to most Universities and a lot of cities do not have a direct flight or other connection to the Netherlands. Therefore it is smart to make an educated guess on what your monthly costs will be during your stay, so that you won't encounter any unpleasant surprises.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content of my program was much more focussed on the management side of energy and resource sustainability than in Utrecht. In Utrecht it more focussed on the theoretical part of natural sciences.

academic quality of education activities

The level of education activities was quite low at the start as it was meant to give all students an equal playing field, and mainly aimed at the basics of natural sciences, which is the main topic in Utrecht, and therefore we are more advanced in this subject. However, after 2 weeks the material became more challenging due to the fact that new material had to be studied.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Quite nice. The counselling & support at the University itself is really nice, there are always two people at my faculty which can help you with whatever question you have. However, studentenwerk and the akademischer auslandsamt, which are closely linked to the University are less eager to help, and there is a lot of bureaucracy there.

transfer of credits

No problem, as it was another European University, and therefore using the ECTS system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Leipzig has an orientation week for new international students to show you around the campus, I however did not go there as I was still on vacation. Therefore I cannot tell you anything more about this programme.

accommodation

Leipzig is a really cheap city to live in, you can choose for accommodation both inside the city centre or more at the outer ring of Leipzig, but both are good value for their money.

leisure & culture

There is a lot of green in and around the city so if you like to relax in parks the city is really great. The nature closeby around the city isn't that interesting, except some lakes where you can swim, as it is mostly a flat area. Considering culture, the city has a lot to offer, a lot of museums are free on certain days or have discounts for students. There is a lot going on in the city, a lot of small festivals, parties, meet-ups and so on. So there is no reason to get bored.



suggestions/tips

Follow WILMA Leipzig on Facebook or look them up on their site, it is a group of people who organizes trips for a fairly cheap price for international students. This way you can easily meet new people and see a lot of the region.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend the university and the destination of Leipzig as a place. However, I would not recommend this track when you follow the energy and resources track in the master sustainable development in Utrecht. It does give a bit of a different perspective, but the added value is not very big.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

See *Erasmus+ Studies timeline and instructions* for more details. Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students.