



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 **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform 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*	
permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> yes: @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Human Geography and Spatial Planning

destination city & country	Berlin, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	Car
name university abroad	Freie Universität Berlin
start date	01 / 10 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 02 / 2022 (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 went well and information about the process was easy to find on the websites of both universities. The courses at the FU are announced just before the semester starts, so keep in mind that you might have to make changes to your original learning agreement.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Questions were usually answered within a day or two, and the answers were sufficient. A lot of information about the grant and the application process can also be found on the website of the UU.



academic preparation

For me the level of education is very similar to that in Utrecht. Since a lot of the courses are only announced at the start of the semester, you might have to make some changes to your learning agreement. The teachers did not ask for any preparation before the start of the semester.

language preparation

Since i'm half German I already had the required German proficiency. If you don't have this i would advice taking either the German course before the start of the semester (costs money) or one of the German courses during the semester.

finances

I received the Erasmus grant which helped and I had my student loan, as well as some savings. The positive side of living in Germany is that groceries are quite a lot cheaper than in the Netherlands and a lot of restaurants are as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Since there are not many Human Geography and Spatial Planning related courses, I decided to take courses from the Political Sciences department. I discussed this with the Geosciences department at the FU and they gave me permission to do so. Then I had to ask the different professors if I could join their classes and most of them let me participate.

Since most of the courses are announced right before the semester starts it can sometimes be difficult to make your schedule before the semester starts and you might have to make some last minute changes. Keep an eye on the Vorlesungsverzeichnis of the FU to see which courses are actually taught during the semester. The ECTS you get for a course is different at the FU, and can also differ between the departments.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education was quite similar to the UU. For some courses you had to give a presentation and for others you had to write a paper or exam.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was quite easy to get in touch with the internation office or the specific departments and the replies were quick and useful. There is also a website (distributed campus), where you can find a lot of information on the different tasks that you need to do before and during your stay.

transfer of credits

Not done yet, since I haven't received all my grades. The information on this process is easy to find on the UU website and the FU also sent an email with the necessary information.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Due to Covid, this programme was partially online but we did get a tour of the campus. During this tour you can already meet some new people, which is a good way to start the semester.

accommodation

I stayed in Studentendorf Schlachtensee, which was nice and close to the campus and very close to some nice lakes. However, I would advice to try and find more towards the centre, since you'll be closer to most clubs, restaurants and bars.



leisure & culture

Berlin has a lot of things to offer. There are many great techno clubs, which I would highly advise visiting. There are a lot of restaurants with food from all over the world, since Berlin is a city with many different nationalities and cultures. There are also many lakes and parks in and around the city which are really nice to visit when the weather is good, which a lot of people do.

suggestions/tips

- Try to explore the different neighbourhoods of the city
- Try to get in touch with Germans since it will help you learn the language and get to know the city.
- Enjoy the nightlife
- A bike can be a good way to get around the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the FU, since the courses that are taught are interesting. I would also recommend going here for the city itself. Berlin is an amazing city and I had a great time and made a lot of new friends, even during the Covid period.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The semester periods are different than those at the UU, so check how the exchange fits into your study programme

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!

NOTE: 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. **Contact details will only be included if and where permission has been given.