



2023-2024

Report 1

## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	Ghent, Belgium
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Ghent University
start date	21 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 01 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I started this later than I should have. I decided very late that I wanted this, so had to do everything quickly. I was very lucky that the coordinator from my program, who needed to approve my application, responds to emails in 30 minutes usually and because of that I could hand it in on time. I knew that I did not want to move too far away, because I wanted to be close enough to home that I could go home for birthdays and things like that, so the choices were Belgium or Germany. I picked my two favorites based on available courses. In the end I got my first choice (Ghent).
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University was ready to respond to all my questions, or to send me to someone else who could answer them. Their answers were fast and clear.
academic preparation	I didn't need academic preparation, because I chose courses that were right for my level. I picked courses from many different studies (but all from the faculty of Arts and Philosophy), because I wanted to experience courses I couldn't do at Utrecht University. Of course I got some use out of the academic skills I learned in my years at Utrecht.
language preparation	



There was no need to prepare, because they speak Dutch in Ghent as well. The accent is very different of course, but within a week I had no more trouble understanding it. The words are pretty much the same as in the Netherlands, with a few exceptions, which are usually easy to understand from context.

finances

I didn't need more money than I did in Utrecht. It was almost cheaper to study in Belgium, because of the Erasmus grant. However, that does not even closely cover all expenses, but combined with the 'basisbeurs' and a little extra loan from DUO, it was quite easy to make it work.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was quite hard to make a study programme. This is because I wanted to do many different courses from different studies, so I had to create my own programme. With this came, that there was some trouble with the schedule, because the courses from different studies, don't take care to avoid scheduling conflicts. So in the first week I followed 9 courses, without scheduling conflicts, and then after that week I chose 6 courses (31 EC) to keep for the rest of the semester.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is pretty much the same as in the Netherlands. It had a little more 'middelbare school' vibes than the education does in Utrecht. This was mostly noticeable in the way the lectures were structured and in the type of exams.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I received many emails from UGent with possibilities to follow workshop for many different studyproblems. I didn't really have any problems, so I didn't follow up on those emails.

transfer of credits

The credits in Ghent are worth the same as in the Netherlands, so that is easy. I followed 6 courses, 5 of them were worth 5 EC and one was 6, so I followed 31 EC (I did fail one exam, so right now I have 26 EC).

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There were two welcome events, one was for the whole faculty and one for the study associations. The first one was quite useful, with many tips for life in Ghent. Unfortunately I couldn't attend the second event, because there was a problem in my studentroom, where I had to be to get it fixed.

accommodation

There were rooms available through UGhent, but unfortunately I was too late for those. This meant I had to find a room on my own. This was actually pretty easy, because there was a pretty large selection on kotatgent.be. There was also a list that you could get from the university, which had many people who sublet their room.

leisure & culture

I had ballroom and latin classes from GUDc. It was very cheap, I think 50 euros for half a year of classes. This was very fun and I am happy that I could keep up with dancing on my exchange.

suggestions/tips



I am interested in art and was very lucky to find out that there was a route where you could see art at places where you can't normally go, like a monastery. I found out about it, because I saw an add for it in a window. So I would say a good thing is to keep your eyes open for adds, also at weird places, because those could even be more interesting than the usual ones. But you could also just get flyers at musea, or at the university.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I think it is a good destination and everyone is happy to help with problems. I think the university buildings were functional, but not very appealing. I am very spoiled with my lectures here at Drift 21, which is very pretty, so maybe I am just used to Drift and everything seems bad when compared to Drift.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think it would be good to get people to think a little bit about what they are leaving behind. I didn't realize how much I would miss my friends and family. In the preparation lecture we got at Utrecht there was a lot of information on culture shock, so I was prepared for that, but I think a little more preparation on missing what you leave, could be a good addition to the preparation.

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*2019-2020*

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### Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture studies (with a major in English)

destination city & country	Ghent, Belgium
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Ghent University
start date	18 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was quite easy and I didn't really have any huge problems with it. There are obviously some documents to complete and hand in, but most of them were clear enough. I struggled a bit with the Learning Agreement, but I think everyone should be able to finish their applications without too many issues.



I don't think it took me a lot of time. However, I procrastinated a bit and had to rush to meet the deadline of December 1. So starting early would be smart.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at UU was good. I sent some emails to the International Office and they always responded quite quickly. The counselor from my own study programme was also able to support me when I needed it. The International Office will send you a lot of helpful emails and I always felt like there was someone to help me when I needed it. So on overall, I was quite pleased with the support of the UU.

academic preparation

I didn't really prepare myself academically. I read some stuff about the way students are taught in Belgium and I was aware of the fact that the system at the UGhent was going to be different from what I was used to at the UU. You just need to know that you will need to study hard for you exams and that they won't be easy.

language preparation

I didn't have to prepare myself, since all of my courses were in Dutch (my native language) or English. I don't struggle with any of these languages, so that wasn't any different from studying at UU. The level of English at UGhent was not necessarily very difficult, so I think everyone with decent knowledge of English (B2 or higher) will definitely manage.

finances

I had a full student loan and the Erasmus grant during the months that I was studying in Ghent. With this, I could easily do whatever I wanted without having any lack of money. I definitely think I spent a lot more money in Ghent than I would in Utrecht, but I don't think I could have avoided that. My rent was higher, I partied more often and I went out for food or drinks more often, but that was all part of the Erasmus experience and I was prepared to spend more money for that. I didn't save any money before going to Ghent.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took a lot of random courses, six in total (German, Culture Studies, Early Modern History, Psychology, Introduction to Human Resource Management and Introduction to Foreign Language Teaching for Adults). Three of them were in English and three of them were in Dutch. I think I preferred the English courses, since they were kind of created for Erasmus students. They were more interactive and I also thought they were more interesting. I would definitely recommend the courses Culture Studies and Introduction to Foreign Language Teaching for Adults. The History, Psychology and HRM courses were taught in quite a traditional way: there were only long lectures with not a lot of interaction. Beware of the fact that a lot of courses consist of only one final exam: so your final grade depends for 100% on that one exam! This was something I wasn't used to and it stressed me out. After December, the fun Erasmus experience kind of ended: everyone had to study, study and study for the whole month of January. The exams were long and difficult and I thought it was very hard to pass some courses. Example given: I took the Early Modern History course, I went to almost every lecture and took a lot of notes, I studied a lot and my final grade was a 3/20 (so obviously a fail). This was very demotivating, so I would advise you to pick the English courses created for internationals.

It was also quite hard to fit all the courses into my schedule, which is why I had to change almost every course on my Learning Agreement. This worked out, but it was a bit of a puzzle.

academic quality of education activities

This really depends on the course, some courses were really good and interesting, and some were not. On overall, I think the academic quality was okay.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support of the UGhent was good. The contact person from my faculty was really kind and helpful. She answered my emails very quickly and sent all the students a lot of information. I think it was clear who of the faculty would be able to help you and they organized a nice welcoming day.

transfer of credits

My contact person sent my transcript of records to the International Office and also to me. I didn't really know when she was going to do that, so at one point I just sent her an email. She replied very quickly and I received the transcript of records the next day. This was two weeks after I arrived back in Utrecht.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The UGhent organized two welcoming days: one for all the international students, and one for just your own faculty. Both of these were helpful and entertaining. The programme was clear and not too long and they gave us a lot of useful information. These welcoming days weren't really focussed on socializing and meeting other people, so I was glad that I already met some people with who I could go to these welcoming days.

accommodation

I stayed at the international dorms of the UGhent (Kantienberg, Home Uppsala). I shared a floor and kitchen with 22 people. My room was 15m<sup>2</sup> and I had my own bathroom and refrigerator. They provided bedsheets, a pillow etc. but this was actually all they provided. I brought my own mattress topping and I was very happy that I did that, since the mattresses weren't really comfy. I also brought my own duvet, which I was also very happy with (so just bring as much of your own bedding as you can). There weren't any pans / plates / cleaning devices, so bring these as well. Every weekday, a cleaning person would clean our kitchen. The kitchen looked super unc cosy, but it was a nice place to meet people from your floor and hang out with. However, there was a curfew (11pm) which was really annoying. Guards would come to every kitchen after 11 and sent residents to their bedroom. Some of them were nice and just asked you to not make any noise, but others were unrelenting. I had a really good time in the dorms, but I think I payed too much for what I got (454 euros a month). We had to share three washing machines with over 500 people and each wash cost us 4 euros. The housing office treated us as if we were children (there are a lot of rules!) and the dorms looked kind of like a prison. But it was definitely a nice way to make friends and I still had a great time! I'm just not sure if I would recommend staying there, I think you could have the same amount of fun with cool flatmates without overpaying for it (and without the curfew...).

leisure & culture

Ghent is a very beautiful and vibrant city, with a lot of students. All the Belgian students go to their parents during weekends, so the city is actually more lively during the weekdays. Ghent has a lot to offer: nice museums, bars, restaurants etc. I loved living in Ghent and I think it's the perfect city for your Erasmus exchange.

suggestions/tips

- Vooruit: a really nice café/restaurant, I think I came there at least once a week.
- Bar des Amis: a nice bar / place to dance.
- De Gouden Saté: for the best fries! The lady who works there is the sweetest woman ever.
- Overpoort: this street is the most disgusting street you'll ever see, but it's definitely funny to go out in of its clubs every once in a while.
- Hot Club: bar.



- Charlatan: club.
  - Sioux: club.
  - Jan van Gent: bar.
  - Colruyt: super cheap supermarket.
  - Mantis: restaurant.
- !!! Best tip ever: go have some oysters & cava at the Blauwe Kiosk (Kouter) on a Sunday!!!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, Ghent is a lovely city with a lot of students. The UGhent is on overall a good university. I had a great time in Ghent, but the friends I made there were the biggest part of my experience. You'll have a great time wherever you'll go, as long as you meet the right people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

When traveling from the Netherlands to Ghent: Flixbus is super cheap! Only 10 euros from Utrecht.

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*2017-2018*

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### Report 1

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

destination city & country	Ghent, Belgium
name university abroad	Ghent University
start date	08 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 07 / 1995 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process went smooth. The Humanities International Office provided the necessary information to fulfil my application. It was clear which documents I had to deliver and how to do this. When I got accepted as an exchange student in Ghent, they communicated clearly how I was supposed to proceed to complete my application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University



The information evening they organised was very helpful in preparation for the exchange. After this evening they communicated which documents were expected. The International Office helped me out whenever there was a problem. For example, when my deadline was running close, they were able to help me out to sign the necessary documents. They always responded quickly, also during my time abroad.

#### academic preparation

Even though I enrolled in courses from different faculties than my own, I did not have any academic preparation. Most of my courses were introductory courses, so this was not really necessary. In my experience, it is quite easy to enroll in any course you want.

#### language preparation

Since Dutch is my mother tongue, I did not need any language preparation.

#### finances

My expenses were a bit higher in Ghent than in Utrecht, mostly because of my higher rent. To cover my expenses I worked in Ghent's University restaurants, which are always looking for job students. These jobs are very flexible and can be combined perfectly with a study programme.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Matters were a little bit less organised in Ghent compared to Utrecht. For example, there were generally no syllabi with the content of the courses. Also the structure of the courses was sometimes a bit chaotic, the quality of the content was great.

#### academic quality of education activities

The education system is different than in Utrecht. During a semester students follow education during the first 12-14 weeks, followed by a month in which all the exams are to be taken. Because students follow many courses at the same time, it is difficult to keep track of them all. Another big difference with Utrecht University, is the intensity of the education. If you are used to being asked to actively participate during seminars, Ghent is completely different. Most of the courses only have lectures, in which students can just sit back and pay attention instead of participate in discussion.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

After acceptance, the contact person of Ghent University emailed further instructions in a timely manner. It was clear what was asked of me. Whenever I needed documents to be signed or any other help, I could always count on a quick response.

#### transfer of credits

The grading system is different in Belgium, they grade on a scale from 1-20, in which a 10 equals a Dutch 6. The credits are easily transferred.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme in Ghent consisted of a two days and included a welcoming evening from the university, where we got food and drinks and met with fellow exchange students. The second day students could choose an activity to participate in, such as climbing a tower, or a walking tour guided by ESN. These were great ways to get to know the city and other students.



accommodation
Ghent University offers accommodation for their exchange students. Here, I lived with 30 other students from all over the world. For 420 euro's you have your own room and bathroom, and a shared kitchen. Although the price is a bit high, it is an easy way to get a room and a perfect way to make friends and meet other people. We often organised activities with our flat.
leisure & culture
The majority of the population in Ghent is student, therefore the city has a lot to offer. Not only good bars and clubs, but also lots of great cultural events and performances in different theaters and places. The Vooruit is such a place. People meet here to eat and to see theater acts. There are also great museums, such as the Museum voor Schone Kunsten. And do not forget to drink one of the thousands craft beers Belgium has to offer.
suggestions/tips
-During summer one of the largest festivals of Europe takes place in Ghent: de Gentse Feesten. During these two weeks, the city transforms into a stage full of music and cultural activities. It is definitely worth it to take a look. -Go for a stroll in the city center and climb the Bell Tower. Also blend in with the locals by sitting at the canal on the Korenlei.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Although Ghent is close to the Netherlands, I would definitely recommend going here on exchange. The city has an amazingly vivid atmosphere and the educational qualities are great. People are friendly, and there is an active Erasmus community in which it is easy to blend in.
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	Taal- en Cultuurstudies

destination city & country	Ghent, Belgium
name university abroad	University of Ghent
start date	12 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	7 / 7 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)





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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
Applied for Ghent University approximately one year before leaving
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office at UU was very helpful. Sometimes I had a hard time figuring out what documents to hand in where, when and to whom; when I emailed with a question i usually got a response within a day. Don't hesitate to email them when you have questions, sometimes the application can be quite complicated!
academic preparation
None
language preparation
There was no need for any language preparation, considering most of my classes were given in Dutch.
finances
I did not save extra money before leaving to Ghent

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
My study program at Utrecht is quite broad, so was my program in Ghent. I took history, art history, ethics and English communication courses.
academic quality of education activities
I thought the quality of most of the courses was good, similar to Utrecht. However, the way of teaching is very different. I took 4 bachelor and 2 master courses, and the bachelor courses basically existed out of lectures and no seminars. The master courses had more interaction and were similar to the 'werkgroepen' I used to have in Utrecht. I felt like I had to do much more studying here than in Utrecht. A semester is from February until July, 30 credits are about 6 or 7 courses and all the exams and deadlines are in June (in my case). I was really not used to this way of studying, they literally save all the work for the end. I did not really like this method, because the whole month June is taken over by studying. Everyone is in the same boat though, so you can share your suffering with your friends :)
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
My contact person was Carine Focquart. She was really helpful, always replies to emails very quick!
transfer of credits
While writing this report I have not yet received my grades, I assume transfer of credits will be no problem.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Unfortunately I was sick during the orientation programme so I could not attend. I heard from my friends it was okay, not very special but worth to attend if you would be already in Ghent anyway.



accommodation

I lived in one of the homes provided by the University. I am really happy I made this choice because I think about 80% of the erasmus students lived there, so it is really easy and fun to meet everyone and to hang out. It is not far from the center, 15 minutes walking, but actually while walking there you are already walking in the center so it's a nice walk. However, i did think the rent was really expensive in comparison to what you get (424 per month). The room is not very big, with minimal furniture but you do have your own bathroom. I think it is possible to get a nicer room for less on the private market, BUT personally I think its worth paying a bit more for a boring room when this means being close to all the erasmus students. Also, coming from the Netherlands you can probably come with a car and bring lots of stuff to dress up your room a little. It may be expensive, but it's only for 5 months:)

leisure & culture

Ghent really is such a beautiful city. Coming from Utrecht I thought I wouldn't be impressed that much but I really was. The center is so cute but quite large and there is a lot to do. I recommend going to the jazzclubs like Hot Club and MissySippy. Also going out at Charlatan and Sioux is very nice. The housing of the University is located next to a street with clubs for students called 'Overpoort'. I didn't like it that much but if you like a LOT of beer and drunk students it would be your place to be.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest living at the University housing when you want to make friends easily and be in contact with other erasmus students. Also it is very easy to travel around Belgium, and the rest of Europe, quite cheap. At the trainstation you can buy a go pass 10, which means you have 10 travels for 5 euros each, doesn't matter if you travel through whole Belgium. Also with flixbus it is easy to travel through Europe and it is not hard to find discounts:)

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend studying at University of Ghent. At first I was afraid I wouldn't have the 'full erasmus experience', considering its only 2.5 hours away from Utrecht and with people speaking Dutch and everything. I really felt like I was in a totally different place though, just because you are surrounded with so many new friends and you are living a completely different life. I ended up not speaking Dutch that much after all, because obviously no erasmus student speaks Dutch.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I've said everything :)

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*2016-2017*

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**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD



name study programme	History
destination city & country	Ghent, Belgium
name university abroad	UGent
start date	15 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 07 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	There are a lot of papers you need to fill in but I never had problems with it. Although I would recommend to start really on time because you need a lot of signatures.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Very good. They were always helpful and I always got a response in 1/2 days.
academic preparation	
	I didn't had to prepare anything. Im already in my third year of my bachelor and I took this courses to replace my minor.
language preparation	
	Nothing. Since most of my courses were in dutch or English I didn't had to prepare anything for my language.
finances	
	I didn't knew beforehand it would cost me that much money but it does takes a lot of money. My rent here in Belgium is higher than it was in Utrecht because I'm renting a studio here. Also the supermarket is more expensive in Belgium than in Holland. Albert Heyn is the cheapest supermarket here. Also you want to do fun stuff with other Erasmus people so that also takes a lot of money. I made some trips in Europe and from Brussel you can fly really cheap. I'm happy I saved some money and also got some tax refund back otherwise I could not have had such an amazing time as I had now. You need to have saving money.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I took 6 different courses in Ghent. All of them were of a different content. I took some first year courses and some second of third year courses. I followed some course about Chinese History which was really nice because Utrecht is not offering Chinese history. I also took a course about African History because Ghent has an African Studies department. Ghent university has a lot to offer if you want to expand your horizon.
academic quality of education activities	
	I really had to get used to the way of teaching in Ghent. Im used to small classes with a lot of interaction between the teachers and the students. This was also my biggest disappointment here. You are just listening to the teacher and writing for 3 hours. You only get 1 break of 10 minutes if you're lucky. In the beginning I was really struggling with staying focused because listening for 3 hours is impossible in my opinion. Also the



students are really passive. I'm not used to that kind of attitude in Utrecht. In my opinion Belgian students are very shy. Nobody is ever raising their hand. Most of the times I was the only one in class that was asking questions. They are really not used to an active way of teaching in Ghent. It's really oldfashioned in my opinion. You are just writing and listening. That's all. Also the distance between teacher and student is big here in my opinion.

The teachers here in Ghent expect you call them by their title, so Professor.... I'm totally not used to it. In Utrecht I'm always calling teachers by their name and not by their full title. They also don't like it when you're giving them feedback. I had to take an oral exam for one of my courses and I had no experience with it whatsoever. Only one time in Utrecht I had an oral exam but that's it and it was more a dialogue between me and the teacher. The teacher told us during the lecture (with 100 people and no interaction) that you would get 30 mins preparation time and after it you had 30 mins to talk about your answers. I expected that during the preparation time I could use my notes to think about possible answers since the stuff we had to read for this course was just too much in my opinion. Important note: In Belgium they really expect from you that you can remember dates, names etcetera like in primary school. Anyway: that wasn't the case. I was not allowed to use my notes to think about possible answers for my 3 questions and I had no idea what to answer because I just couldn't remember all of the names and dates and periods even though I studied for a week. Then I had to bring my notes to the professor and the professor asked me what the answers were to the questions without asking me anything. He was just sitting behind his desk and writing on his computer what I was saying. This was really weird in my opinion and stressful. After the exam I send the professor an e-mail about my experience with the test and I gave him the advice to explain the content of the exam to next year students better, especially for the Erasmus students who are not familiar with these kind of exams. He didn't like it that I send him some feedback and told me basically it was my own fault. In my opinion it's really strange you give a teacher some feedback and he gives you an arrogant answer back. Teachers in Utrecht are way more open and they always want feedback I think. The distance between students and teachers are overall bigger than in Utrecht although I also met nice teachers here who were not like this.

It's also really strange in my opinion that you almost have no assignments and you're doing basically nothing for 3/4 months and the last month you're really stressed. The exams took 1 month. I just finished them and I almost had a mental breakdown or something. It's really bad they don't have midterms like in Utrecht. I couldn't live for one month.

It was good for a 5 month experience but I could not study here a full year. It's really like you're studying in the sixties again.

Also I had to take 6 courses at the same time otherwise I would not have 30 ECTS. It was a lot to take and I had 6 exams spread over 1 month. In Utrecht I'm used to have only 2 courses at the same time so this was really different for me. You're also more in class here than in Utrecht. My classes were spread over 3 days but I think it's better if it's spread over 4 days because I had 6 hours of class every day and it's very exhausting to listen for 6 hours in a day.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good. Carine was very helpful and she responded me always in 1/2 days.

transfer of credits

They work with ECTS like in Utrecht. All of my courses were 5 ECTS. The only difference here is that they work with a system from 1 to 20 and 10 is a 5,5 if you compare it to the dutch system.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



In the beginning of the semester there was an welcome and orientation programme. Here they gave you information about your accomodation and the university etcerea. Also there was an information day of the faculty but it was a bit useless in my opinion. They showed you the library but I could have figured that out by myself too I think.

#### accommodation

I stayed in a students plus room of the UGent. It's really nice. You have your own bathroom and you're sharing the kitchen with other flatmates. Everyday (except during the weekends) some cleaner is cleaning the kitchen so it's never dirty. All of your flatmates are Erasmus students which is really nice because you're meeting a lot of people from different nationalities. I would recommend to stay here. I also have a dutch friend I met here and she's staying in a dorm with Belgian students. She also likes it but Belgian students are more distanced and in their room than in Holland. Belgian students are not choosing who's coming to live in their house like in Holland so they don't know each other. Some people she never met in her house she told me.

The only negative thing about the Ugent dorm is that there is no Wifi connection in my room. I really wished I knew this before because I payed a lot of money to my provider because of this. Maybe next year there is but I don't know. I can only use an internet cable in my room and it's not very fast and there is also a download limit on it. When I need Wifi to talk with my friends/family, I'm going to the common room. The Wifi was really a big issue for me because I'm so used to it.

#### leisure & culture

Ghent has a lot to offer. It's an amazing city with lots of beautiful canals and churches. The shops are amazing too and there is always something to do here. Ghent has great bars and a great nightlife. It's really a nice students city. You can also make really easily trips from Ghent to other places. I went to Paris for example and it's just 3 hours with bus. You can also fly very cheap from Brussel airport. If you're lucky you can find 2 ways ticket for 30 euro's. I also went to Madrid from Brussel for 100 euro's.

The only thing about Ghent is that it's very quiet in the weekends because all of the Belgian students are going back to their parents (really all of them!). That's why during the week I stayed in Ghent and during the weekends I made trips to other cities/places.

#### suggestions/tips

You can rent a bicycle her for just 30 euro's for a semester (with 60 euro deposit). Also you can eat in the students restaurant for just 3/4 euro for a meal and the meals are good and healthy so if you're not a great cooker like me, it's really a good alternative. The services for students are really good here in Ghent, better than in Utrecht in my opinion. If you want to make trips to other places or if you want to go back to Holland to visit your parents, you should use blabla car. It's very easy and cheap.

Also you should have cash money with you all the time in Ghent. In a lot of places you can still not pay with your debit card. Also if you want to rent the bicycle, you need to pay it in cash.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Ghent is an amazing city and the services for students are really good here. However: keep in mind that the education system oldfashioned in my opinion but if you don't mind that it's oke. But except the education system, I had an amazing time here! I would recommend it to everybody.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No. Enjoy your time here because before you know it, it's over. It may sound like a cliché but it really is.



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2015-2016

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**Report 1**

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

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The application process takes quite some time. After choosing Ghent as my favourite destination, I had to fill in all the paperwork and write a motivation letter. I recommend to start this process early, because there are also some signatures from the International Office needed. Although there are a lot of papers to get together, I thought it was really clear what I needed to do before the deadline.

After I got the news that I was accepted, I also needed to fill in some forms for the University of Ghent. So this took some time as well and some forms were quite similar to the ones from UU.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was really supportive and responded quickly to all questions or requests. I did not have any trouble with this.

academic preparation

The courses I had already taken at UU were enough to be able to take all the courses I wanted to in Ghent.

language preparation

None, since I am a native speaker of Dutch.

finances

I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and I received the first part of the grant at the beginning of my stay. I also paused my student public transport card (studentenreisproduct). By doing this I was able to receive a compensation for not being able to use it. To be sure I would not have to worry about money, I had saved some more during the summer.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took 6 courses at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy (total of 28 ECTS). They covered a lot of different subject, but I found that all of them fit into my programme so far. The topics taught at the University of Ghent differed a lot from those at UU, so this was really interesting. I also followed two method courses (qualitative and quantitative research methods) which were very useful for my further studies.



It was really easy to register for the courses after I arrived. I was even able to 'test' the chosen courses for a week and then make some changes to my learning agreement. I had to do this, since two of my courses overlapped.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I had chosen differed a lot in difficulty. Some were Bach3 courses, but I also had Bach2 and Bach1 courses. So of course, there were some differences there. The quality of the courses was really good, but I had to get used to the teaching style. The role of the student is much more passive compared to Utrecht (or The Netherlands). I just had to listen, there was not much discussion during the lectures. Also, I had only one big group work and one presentation. The exams were the most important part for my grades. I did not have to write any essays or papers, which was quite strange to me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The staff of the UGhent was really helpful and the responsible person for the international students from the faculty made sure we had all the information that we needed.

transfer of credits

They have the same system of ECTS. The courses I followed were worth 5 or 3 ECTS.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The week before the courses started there was an extensive introduction programme. The first day was for all international students and we got a lot of information. There you could also get an ESN card or register for other student societies. The next day there was an introduction from the faculty.

accommodation

I stayed in one of the university's residences for exchange students at Site Kantienberg. I really enjoyed being close to other international students and the residence is really new and spacious. I would recommend to apply for a room there.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Ghent. There are many museums, churches, etc. Also, the student night life is very active. I think there is something for everyone and you really never have to be bored in Ghent. If you are under the age of 26 you get big discounts on cultural attractions as well. The city center is also so beautiful with the canals and old buildings.

suggestions/tips

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely. It might not be as exotic as other destinations, but I really felt like I was abroad. Compared to other destinations, I think everything to do with university life is well organized, I never had any problems. Also, the student life is great in Ghent, there are so many things you can do and it is just a beautiful city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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## Report 2

level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Research Master Medieval Studies

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I started preparing documents in October 2014, and made my application in December 2014. I was rejected for the university of my first choice, which did not receive Erasmus students unfortunately, and had the possibility to choose the university of Gent as a second choice.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

All of my questions were answered by the International Office: the International Office was fast and helpful!

#### academic preparation

None.

#### language preparation

None (most classes are taught in Dutch, which is my mother tongue).

#### finances

None (I went back to my home country and could stay with my parents - no extra costs).

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Historische taal- en letterkunde (only in Dutch!). I took only those classes in which i was interested, since I could choose what I wanted to do: in Utrecht, i would have had only electives!

#### academic quality of education activities

Very good!

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good! Each students receives a student advisor, who, in my case, reacted very quickly and was willing to help me at all time!

#### transfer of credits

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

I did not participate on the orientation programme.

#### accommodation





I had no accomodation, but I heard of a lot of students that finding a room was difficult! Start preparing well in advance!

leisure & culture

The university and the international student organisations organise a lot of things to do in the city.

suggestions/tips

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I certainly do! Universiteit Gent is a nice university. All professors were very helpful to me, and the exchange coordinator was always there if i needed help!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

### 2014-2015

#### PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite overwhelming, especially because there were seemingly so many universities to choose from, but when you zoom in closer it turns out there are only very specific regions of study which these universities accept students from. This is not very transparent. There is also a lot of paperwork involved, not all of which is clearly elaborated on the website. In my memory, despite having recieved many overviews of what is to be done and what deadlines apply, the process was overwhelming.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It must be said that Monique and Julie at the Utrecht International Office are truly great at their jobs- I have never in my six years at the university met any members of staff either as well-informed, helpful or patient. I was distracted and behind on the paperwork a lot, and they kept helping me, and explaining, really tirelessly. They offered really great support, responding to emails extremely quickly, not tiring of my endless questions, always helpful. I cannot emphasize enough how impressed I am with the quality of their work, even at times just before Erasmus deadlines when I imagine they are flooded in work, they still manage to respond to emails very quickly, friendly and patiently. Very impressive!

academic preparation

These courses did not require any academic preparation on my part.

language preparation

As I am a native Dutch speaker, the exchange did not require any language preparation.

finances

I did not significantly prepare for this exchange financially, although I had set aside some money to be able to pay for the deposit on whatever apartment I would find, and the move in general.



<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
<b>study programme (content and organisational issues)</b>	The MA programme I chose involves a multitude of courses on different subjects in the arts, so I was able to formulate an eclectic programme based on my preferences and interests. The courses were quite easy to register for, I did not have any organisational issues with the Ugent during my stay there.
<b>academic quality of education activities</b>	The courses are definitely very packed. During the semester, students take 5 or 6 courses of an average of 5 ECTS each, and run them at the same time. This takes some great planning and scheduling; get ready for four or five days of class per week. The contact-hours are 3,5 hours at a time, and the lectures are usually packed. I found that compared to the courses I have taken at the UU, the workload was heavier. But most of the professors were well-organised and passionate about their subject area. Also they were very open to questions and a lot of the lectures had an interactive quality. It's a different type of lecturing, one that requires students to be very involved with the course, visit galleries and talks on their own, many courses organise roadtrips to conferences, musea or archives. The work from week to week is a lot, but hard work is recognised. The oral final exam which is used across the board in Ghent is a rewarding way of interacting with the prof, talking about the material and usually the profs also ask for feedback.
<b>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</b>	I have not required nor requested any support at the university. The Ghent International Office was certainly very competent and kind, and helped me with any questions I had regarding the exchange.
<b>transfer of credits</b>	The Ugent uses a 1-20 grading scale, which is easily enough transferrable to our 1-10 system. They also work with ECTS.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
<b>welcome &amp; orientation programme</b>	The Erasmus welcome was a little terrifying, as I found it offered the type of activities which an undergraduate student might terribly enjoy, but an MA-student has already sufficiently explored. I did not feel the urge to visit a dance party themed by a type of licquor, or otherwise themed by the attendant's relationship status (a so-called traffic-light party in which the color of your door-given bracelet indicates your willingness to fornicate). Luckily, I made friends rather quickly and easily through my classes. I found the Belgian students to be open and interested, and I felt accepted into a group of friends rather fast. I compensated for my lack of dancing with a huge amount of foosball, and traded in Jenever for the age-old tradition of beautiful Belgian beer, and had an altogether wonderful time in Ghent.
<b>accommodation</b>	I managed to find a beautiful, top-floor, wooden detail, loft-like studio apartment just behind St. Annaplein (44m <sup>2</sup> , 460all-in). I enjoyed it a lot, even though it takes some getting used to not having a washing machine, which truly nobody in Ghent has. Get ready to bag and bike your laundry through the city. However, over time I began to be annoyed with the trash in the streets, and the smell of the sewer, and the ever-present people just standing in the street for no apparent reason at all hours of the day, smoking weed and leaving empty beer-containers on the windowpane at the bottom of my building. By all means, steer clear of Dampoort. The city is beautiful, and inviting to evening walks (even though it is low on parks, it makes up for it in architectural



splendor), and there are certainly some very nice burroughs to live in, like Zuid or anything close to the Citadelpark, what a beautiful neighborhood.

#### leisure & culture

The city lends itself well to the cultural being, with lots of musea and churches open to the public. Do not shy away from taking one of those terribly tourist boat-rides, you will see the city in such a beautiful light. I myself enjoyed very much the screenings of early film all the way up until the sixties, at the KASK-cinema. For just a few euros, you could enjoy some silent films with live piano-music, or some nice Godard from the later decennia. It's also in a beautiful building. The waters which run through Ghent, the locals call "leien", are just fantastic. The city center is very beautiful and romantic.

#### suggestions/tips

Buy an umbrella and a really great, wind-tight coat. You will need them.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely, I have had such an easy time adjusting and fitting in, making friends and finding things to do, and people to do them with. I could not have anticipated such an organic and comfortable experience. But, as said, the dirt of the city does get to one after a time, so make sure to be careful about which burrough to dig your roots into.

#### do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I about covered it all.