

2022-2023

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	to: car, back: flibus
name university abroad	Charles University (Univerzita Karlova)
start date	21 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I participated in all the meetings that were offered as preparation for the exchange in order to inform myself, and I researched the Utrecht University website as well as the Charles University website carefully for the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	If I had questions I emailed the international office, whom would always respond quickly and clearly, so that was very helpful.
academic preparation	There wasn't any preparation required for the courses that I would be taking at the host faculty.
language preparation	Even though the classes would be in English, I took a minor in Czech Language the year prior to familiarize myself with the language and culture so that it would be more accessible to my during my stay. I also partook in the pre-semester intensive language course that was offered by the university.
finances	I had a part-time job before I left which I am able to return to as soon as I get back to the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Quite a lot of courses I had originally planned to take were no longer being taught, which was only made known relatively recent to my departure, but the eventual registration went pretty smoothly.
academic quality of education activities	The content of the courses was extensive and interesting, but the actual testing was simplistic and too easy in comparison to the amount of theory discussed. I suspect it has to do with the mixed level of the attending students (ranging from first-years to master students), and that this type of testing was intended to be a safe

bet, but I personally would have appreciated the challenge. I personally tried to compensate by doing some more individual resource and reading for some of the classes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Erasmus office regularly kept us up to date if anything needed to happen (like documents, deadlines, or registrations). The e-mail response wasn't always fast, but the in-person visits to the office were always helpful and welcoming.

transfer of credits

The host university has a system where the student can download their own transcript, but with a simple visit to the Erasmus office they send it to the appropriate emails for me, as I was instructed to.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, I got COVID and was consequently isolated during the week of the welcome & orientation programme, so I can't comment on that.

accommodation

The dorms were in good state, clean and functional, and within short distance of public transport.

leisure & culture

The city was very enjoyable to explore on my own, accessible as a non(-fluent) czech speaker and culturally diverse in cuisine. Often I would go out into the town with my roommate and some friends, and there would be plenty of bars and activities to choose from. The museums were great, and oftentimes even free of charge. Especially as an art history student I made use of that many times as the National Galleries have a very large collection.

suggestions/tips

There is not really just one thing I would suggest, as it's the general atmosphere of the city that's so welcoming and comforting, and everyone will enjoy a different facet of what it has to offer. Personally I'd say visit the national galleries, look for the little local shops and just roam the streets (I especially like Prague 7), the parks are great, the zoo is one of the best in Europe, and even though I'm not big on clubbing myself, I've been told the nightlife is great.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely would, the university was welcoming and organized, the dorms are definitely good and doable (especially considering the low costs) and the public transport is incredibly accessible and manageable making it easy to travel throughout the city and different university buildings in efficient time. The university itself has a very wide selection of courses, some of which I've never seen offered in the Netherlands before.

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	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	02 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	For the humanities department you needed to fill in a file and get it checked by the university. The file was mainly about your motivation and interests at the chosen universities. You had to make a top three of your favorite universities. Eventually if you got picked you would hear to what university you would go.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Although I didn't use any support you have easy access to the head of the exchange department that can help you with your questions. For getting papers signed, the counseling was quick in replying and making sure everything was in order.
academic preparation	I didn't need to have any academic preparation, as long as 51% of the chosen subjects were within my field of study.
language preparation	I took a language test to show my competence in English, but I didn't need any particular level of the language for the country I was going to.
finances	I applied for the Erasmus grant and worked a bit to save some money before going.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The first few weeks were a bit chaotic since I needed to change a lot of courses that I registered for before leaving. This took a lot of planning because I nearly went to the university full-time the first weeks to see which courses I eventually wanted to take. After these few weeks I got easily used to the way they organized everything and what student programmes I needed to use.
academic quality of education activities	

The difference between each subject was big. Some courses expected 90% presence and others were more focused on your completed tasks. It depended on the teacher and how much in depth they would go with the given course. Overall were the classes not too difficult. They were mainly focused on your contribution and input during the lessons. You needed to show more your interest and willingness to participate instead of doing every task completely correct.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was an Erasmus office dedicated to your department where you could go to during office hours. These were helpful whenever you had a question. In contrast to emailing the university, they wouldn't really respond.

transfer of credits

I was fortunate that it didn't really matter what grading system was used, because it would eventually count as a fail or pass. I just needed to be sure beforehand to what course I was enrolled and if it was also available for Erasmus students.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We had one day where we had to register at the university. This is where you met fellow Erasmus students and from there on there were no activities (I believe) organised by the university itself. This made you responsible for your own engagement with the students and university. Since every student was eager to start orienting in the city it was easy to participate in different group activities exploring the city and meeting fellow students.

accommodation

I stayed in a dorm that was provided by the university. Although it's not the best place to stay since it's small and far away from the city center, I did end up meeting a lot of people here. Also the cheaper rent helped me save money for small trips during the weekends within Czech Republic or outside to neighbouring countries.

leisure & culture

There were a lot of Erasmus activities, for example many parties but also different kinds of sports. Through social media platforms or other people you were informed about these activities that were very easy to join.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest especially in the beginning to sign up for a lot of activities. In my case even though I followed more courses than the average Erasmus students I met, I had a lot of free time. Even if you have no experience in volleybal for example, it's very accessible for Erasmus students to try these new things out. You will meet a lot of new people and they will take you to other places. The first few weeks really set the tone for the rest of your stay in my opinion, so don't be afraid to approach "new" things.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, Prague is welcoming to students from abroad. Of course it's a complete change of situation when starting to live in this city, but it's not something that is hard to adjust to in my opinion. For example pointing out the well regulated public transport or clear instructions of office hours. You were easily aware of where you stood as a newly arrived student. Also, I had the opportunity to engage myself in interesting courses that were outside my own field of study. The university made it really possible for newcomers like me to enroll and follow these classes.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not only did I follow new courses that were outside my field which were interesting, next to that I met a lot of new people. I learned maybe even more outside of my courses about new cultures and for example politics. For me it also put my living in The Netherlands in perspective and gave me insights in what I consider more valuable and what not. So, I would really recommend considering an exchange when you not only want to expand your academic range but also your cultural experiences.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	21 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It took me a lot of time to decide which cities would be suitable for me. There are a lot of countries and cities to choose from, so start early if you're indecisive like me. From the moment I knew I wanted to go to Prague, the application process was very clear. It takes some time to arrange the paperwork, but it was not difficult.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counseling and support from Utrecht University is very good. The international office explains everything well and they respond relatively quick.
academic preparation	I didn't need any.
language preparation	I didn't need any. All my courses were in English.
finances	Prague is compared to the Netherlands quite cheap. I didn't stay in the dorms, which made my fixed costs more expensive (because they charge internationals a lot). Nevertheless, things like public transport, museums, and alcohol are really cheap! :) It helps to save at least some money before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

I studied at the faculty of Arts, and chose a lot of courses that I would label as humanities courses. The way they divide the courses over the faculties is very random in my opinion. Furthermore, five of the six courses I chose beforehand were not available anymore by the time I had to choose them. Nevertheless, I chose five other very interesting courses, so it didn't matter at the end.

academic quality of education activities

The courses are a lot easier than those at UU. Teachers give you easily the best grade. I also noticed that the quality of the courses were strongly dependent of the teachers. Some of them were surprisingly good, and others surprisingly bad.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office is as good as at UU. They are very helpful, friendly and fast!

transfer of credits

I had to do at least 22,5 ECTS, and I did 26 ECTS because I didn't do one course.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I had one welcome day, which basically meant collecting your student card. The faculty of Arts didn't organize any form of introduction for incoming students, so I crashed the introduction gathering of the faculty of Social Sciences, which was very nice. Luckily, Charles University did organize a welcome party for Erasmus students.

accommodation

I am very happy I didn't stay in the dorms. You can meet a lot of Erasmus students there and the atmosphere is very nice, but I really needed my own space at the beginning. I lived in a shared flat, in a building with also only Erasmus students, with four girls from different nationalities which was amazing. I paid a little more there than for my room in Utrecht, but I lived almost in the city centre which was totally worth it.

leisure & culture

There are so many activities for Erasmus students in Prague, because there are so many Erasmus students! Especially the first few months, you can go out literally every night or do welcome activities. It makes it really easy to make friends in the beginning. ESN, Erasmus in Prague and Warehouse Entertainment also organize a lot of (day) trips which I can recommend.

suggestions/tips

Find a balance in doing as many things as possible and taking care of yourself. Yes, now is the time to explore the city, the country and meet a lot of people, but it is okay to take it easy now and then. Go out of your comfort zone and try new things.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely!! Prague is a beautiful city with a lot of history, and a lot of things to do and visit. From Prague you can travel to a lot of countries like Germany, Poland or Austria which is amazing! Maybe the best part is meeting people from different nationalities and having all these experiences with them!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any doubts studying abroad, you should just do it! I will change your life only in a positive way :)

Report 4

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- & Cultuur Studies

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Car on the way there, took the train back.
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	02 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2023 (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 is extensive and confusing at times, however, when you ask questions they are sufficiently answered and any situation is clarified.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht has a good system in place where answers are quickly provided and they try to help wherever they can, as they want you to have a good time during your exchange aswell.
academic preparation	Utrecht University provides you with a more than sufficient academic preparation for Charles University, at least in my experience. I felt very comfortable and confident in my skills and knowledge concerning assignments etc. during my exchange.
language preparation	Charles University provides a good number of courses in English, and as Utrecht University also has a high use of English you will be more than fine. The Czech accent might take a few moments to get used to, but that's easily done.
finances	Prague is relatively cheap compared to Utrecht, however the rent was significantly higher than I expected (which is something that changed in recent years). Eating out, shopping, leisure etc. is all still relatively cheap though.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The classes I followed all provided very interesting subjects and a matching syllabus. The themes addressed were really interesting and most of my teachers were also visibly passionate about their subjects. There is a

high use of guest lectures, which is fun. Whereas Utrecht University often follows the format of one lecture and two seminars per course at Charles University, as you follow more courses at once, it consists mainly of lectures where there's a slight mix of seminar style teaching. The process of signing up for classes is mildly confusing, however, the universities/faculties communication person are very willing to help and answer any questions you have. Furthermore, the classes that i followed did all provide interesting topics, readings and assignments.
academic quality of education activities
The education system etc. at Charles University differs from Utrecht in things such as the format. I believe that if you get by during your time at Utrecht University you will be well prepared to keep up with the classes at Charles University. When keeping up with classes and doing you'll feel as though things are very doable and have more than enough time to enjoy the city of Prague and spend time with friends.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There's a clear point for communication and or support if needed, which is all clarified during the first week of the semester.
transfer of credits
I'm still in the middle of this process so I'm not sure, but I do know that you have to follow more classes at once to get to the required number of credits. This is because classes here do not all consist of 7.5 ect, but vary from 3 till like 10. So it's up to you to find a combination of lectures that reaches the right amount of points, either more lower ect classes or less higher (prob. little more intense) classes.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme provided by Charles University, or ESN Prague is very extensive. Within the first 1 or 2 weeks of arriving classes won't start but introduction activities will. They range from pub quizzes to wine tasting. All in all I found that the programme allowed people to connect with one another very easily and quickly. It was a lot of fun, and I met loads of wonderful people within the first days of being in Prague.
accommodation
I did not stay in the dorms, which would be the cheaper option, but in a room I found through a website called "student-room-flat". Whereas this is definitely not cheap as rent prices, especially in the nicer neighbourhoods, are similar or higher compared to Utrecht. However, the neighbourhood I stayed in, Vinohrady, made the higher prices very much worth it. The dorms are fine, from what I heard, you're just further from the city centre and surrounding area's and more reliant on public transport and time management.
leisure & culture
Prague is a city that never bores you, there seems to be a limitless supply of bars, (techno)clubs, café's and (vegan)restaurants you want to try out. Furthermore, it is very rich in stunning parks, museums and in summertime swimming spots reached within an hour. There's a few really nice outside cinema's as well, which is perfect for when the weather is nice. The central location of Prague also makes it a really good starting place for many day and or weekend trips to cities such as Bratislava, Vienna, Budapest, Krakov, Dresden etc.
suggestions/tips
Try not to miss out on the introduction week and the activities, as that's the perfect time to meet people. Stray away from the 'Old Town' and venture into neighbourhoods such as prague 2, 3, 7, 10 and 1 (new town!!). Be careful with Facebook room ads as there's a lot of scams on there. Prague has a great public transport system of trams, busses and metro's that will get you pretty much anywhere and as a student you get a great discount for your tickets, and all of this can be very easily taken care of through the app "PID" after you receive your CU id.

Also whilst you're here, enjoy eating out if you can, as it's much much cheaper than it is back in The Netherlands.

CONCLUSIONS

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

All in all, I would definitely recommend Prague as a destination for those looking to study abroad. The city is wildly entertaining, affordable, student life is great and the central location of the city is perfect for the exploring of neighbouring cities and countries.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't miss out on some of the introduction activities, the activities themselves don't have to excite all that much but it's the perfect place to meet people and make friends. Also make sure to get your pass (and activate them in time in the app) for public transport, for checkings aren't too common but when they do happen fines are high. Try out as many cafes, restaurants, bars and clubs as you can as there are so many that are worth your time.

Report 5

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	21 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 02 / 2023 (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 smoothly although there were a lot of documents to fill out. However, I was disappointed by how little help I received from the host and home universities with my visa application (I am British and therefore had to apply for a long term visa to study abroad).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I attended the question and answer sessions held by Utrecht University and found these helpful. However I did not find the International Office helpful when it came to issues like applying for a visa and had to organise this by myself.

academic preparation

I did not make academic preparation for studying abroad.

language preparation

It is important to understand a little Czech just to find your way around Prague, so I used apps like Duolingo and Babel to learn some phrases before my arrival. I also took a language class in Czech at the university which was very helpful.

finances

Generally things like food, housing, transport and entertainment are much cheaper in Prague than in the Netherlands. Therefore, I saved a lot of money when I lived in Prague. However, some things like nights out can become expensive quickly unless you are careful with your money. Additionally, although some items in the supermarket are cheaper it depends where you go and the prices are not that dissimilar to Dutch prices.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

History. I took several classes in public history, cultural heritage and the history of the Third Reich, in addition to Czech for beginners and a class on Israeli society. It is important to sign up immediately for the classes as soon as they are available online as they become booked up quickly. Therefore, I had to take different classes than the ones I originally planned to take. However, I was prepared for this and ultimately enjoyed the classes I took.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the teaching depends on the teacher and how invested they are in the class. Some of the teachers did not seem to care at all about what they taught. Others were more interested and these were the classes that were more challenging and therefore rewarding. However generally, the classes were easier than the classes I took in Utrecht. The exam format was also different as I was able to take short tests at the end of the semester for some classes, rather than handing in coursework.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not receive counselling, however the Erasmus office at the university was very helpful in certain issues for example by arranging alternative accommodation if issues came up.

transfer of credits

I took six classes and gained 30 credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Erasmus Student Network organised a lot of activities to meet other people however these got booked up very quickly. I mostly met other students through my classes or through my accommodation.

accommodation

The accommodation was not in great quality but was functional. If you have issues with noise or roommates the accommodation office is also able to relocate you to another student dormitory.

leisure & culture

I had a lot of fun visiting many interesting historical and cultural sites in Prague. There is a lot to see in the beautiful city centre and also a lot happening in the outer neighbourhoods. It is also easy to travel outside of Prague to nature areas in the Czech countryside and in Germany, Slovakia, Poland and Austria. I did not ever run out of things to do because there is so much to see.

suggestions/tips

Meet people through activities organised by the ESN group. You can also make friends through the student accommodation and through attending activities organised by the university for international students.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes. Prague is a beautiful city and the quality of living is a lot cheaper so you can enjoy the city and country for not too much money. I had a wonderful time on my study abroad and had many new cultural experiences.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
No.	

Report 6

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Car
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	16 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process was quite easy. The International Office provides clear presentations about the application process and the UU study abroad website also offers all the steps you have to go through. However, there are a lot of documents which you have to fill in, which at times can feel overwhelming.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
In my experience the counseling and support of the International Office was good! They generally responded quickly to my emails, and provided a guide which was very helpful at the start of my study abroad.	
academic preparation	
I did not need academic preparation.	
language preparation	
Charles University offers a lot of courses in English, so language preparation is not necessary. However, I would highly recommend the 'Intensive Czech Language Course' that Charles University provides for free, which is taught for about three weeks before the official start of the semester. During this language course, you learn the 'basics' of Czech language and also get to know other Erasmus students (who in my case became my best friends for the rest of the semester).	
finances	
Compared to the Netherlands, Prague can be quite budget friendly. If you decide to live in the dorms that the university provides, rent is very cheap compared to the Netherlands (about 150 euros a month). Restaurants, museums, and public transport are also generally more affordable in the Czech Republic. However, grocery shopping is not necessarily cheaper in Prague.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, and took a lot of courses that are related to my study field (history, international relations). Almost all of the courses I chose beforehand were not available anymore when I arrived in Prague, though there were still plenty of other interesting courses to choose from.

academic quality of education activities

The difficulty and quality of the courses were highly dependent on the teachers, though most of the courses were interesting and well-taught. Mainly, I had to get used to following six courses at the same time instead of two. If you look for more challenging courses, I would recommend taking some courses at the Faculty of Social Sciences, as these were generally more difficult.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Erasmus Office regularly sent emails if there were deadlines for course registrations or documents that needed to be signed, and they were always very helpful. I did not need further counselling or support from the receiving university, so I cannot share any experience in this regard.

transfer of credits

I am still working on the transfer of credits, but got all my grades back very quickly luckily.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the beginning of the semester, ESN organized a welcome week with lots of nice activities, such as city tours, pub quizzes, and country presentations. You have to be quick to sign up for this though! Sadly, the Faculty of Arts only organized a welcome day, which basically consisted of waiting for a long time to get your studentcard.

accommodation

I decided to stay in one of the dorms of the university, which was located about 20-30 minutes from the city centre by public transport. I personally loved it there, though it is an experience, as it is not too luxurious. Furthermore, most of my friends lived in the dorm, and it was an amazing place to meet other Erasmus students. Lastly, it was very cheap: only about 150 euros.

leisure & culture

Prague is a beautiful historical city and I would absolutely recommend everyone to study here! I loved everything about the city, from its beautiful buildings and museums to the clubbing culture. What I also really appreciated about Prague is its many parks, which are amazing places to hang out or chill when the weather is getting warmer. I would also highly recommend going to an opera/ballet, as tickets are quite affordable compared to the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

Travelling in the Czech Republic is very cheap as a student! For instance, you can get discounts for Flixbus as well as for the public transport. I would definitely recommend visiting Český Krumlov, Karlovy Vary, Brno, and Kutná Hora, as well as Bohemian Switzerland. The Czech Republic is also located very nicely in Europe, so visiting countries such as Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, or Hungary is very easy and often cheap. Furthermore, I would recommend getting the student transport pass, as it is only 15 euros for three months!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes!!! I would definitely recommend Prague as well as Charles University to other students. During my exchange, I met students from all over the world and made friends for a lifetime. It was one of the best experiences of my life which I will cherish forever!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you are doubting whether to study abroad, do it! It is an amazing experience, especially in Prague!! :)

Report 7

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: cindyvanbree2002@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: @cindy.vanbree or <input 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: @
	faculty/college Humanities level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD name study programme Media and Culture

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	21 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Application was easy to do through the steps described on Utrecht's website. The websites of all the guest universities were not always that easy to understand, but the application itself was easy.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht always emailed back in a short time period with helpful answers. The guide Utrecht sent us was helpful at the start of the exchange period.
academic preparation	My guest university didn't require special academic preparation, but if wanted you could follow a language course.
language preparation	

I did not take a Czech language course before the exchange since all my subjects would be in English.

finances

The Erasmus grant came a bit late in the semester, but by keeping my DUO loan I could manage it.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

We had to sign up for courses in the first two weeks in Prague. By then the courses on the website before the summer were all gone, so the learning agreement didn't make sense anymore. The new courses were similar and fun enough to replace them, so it wasn't much of an issue.

academic quality of education activities

It really depended per course how the quality was, but overall it was well. The credits depended on the course, so obviously the quality of a 7 credit course was higher than a 2 credit one.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

My guest university could take a month to reply to an email, and the opening hours of their physical office were unclear and kept changing. When I could reach them the support was helpful.

transfer of credits

When finishing a course the credits were put in the online environment quickly. Before taking the course it was already known how many you could receive when finishing the course, so no problems regarding the credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome day was a very busy day and not organized well by the university, because we ended up waiting hours in a queue to receive our student cards. The welcome week was provided by ESN and super fun! It was a good way to meet new people and explore the city.

accommodation

I was put in a dorm by the university. Super cheap and a good location, but obviously not too luxurious. It was a very small double room and we had to share the tiny kitchen, toilets without locks and see through shower cabins with 40 others. It was still fine for the price though!

leisure & culture

Prague is a beautiful cultural city, and many courses also discussed this. Leisure-wise you can really fill in yourself what you want to do. A lot of people took trips to different countries, because Prague is so central in Europe, but exploring the city itself is also great because it is so big. There are a lot of art exhibitions and street festivals.

suggestions/tips

I recommend exploring the city! Prague has many parts outside of Prague 1, the city center, and all have different stories and are so beautiful. I also recommend eating at the university menza's, because they are everywhere around the city, cheap, have lots of choice and can help you avoid cooking in the dirty dorm kitchen.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, even though the Prague Erasmus Office could use some better organization, the city is beautiful and accessible for international students. Almost everyone speaks English and loads of bars and clubs have student nights. I also really liked that there are not that many Dutch students, so you will meet people from all over the world. And the best is probably the super cheap accommodation and beer!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The UU didn't make very clear what documents we need after return. This ended up in me having to get my Certificate of Attendance in my last weekend, which is close to impossible with the unreachable Czech Erasmus office.

2021-2022

Report 1

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes:	d.m.hanus@student.uu.nl
	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	Philosophy, Politics and Economics		

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	27 / 9 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process proved to be rather burdensome but this was to be expected as a lot of documents were needed for submission. It was helpful that this process was happening at the end of the second year when the workload was ok to deal with. If this would have happened in the third year I would not have been able to cope.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The staff at Utrecht university were very helpful and always responded to my questions in a quick manner which was super helpful when I consider the amount of paperwork I had to submit and all the questions I had.

academic preparation

I did not really engage in any academic preparation as all the courses I took were introductory or built on previously gained knowledge.

language preparation

I am Slovak, so Czech is a sister language which made communication for me personally very easy. This shouldn't matter though for anyone interested as you can get by in Prague with English and all the courses I took were in English anyways.

finances

Financially, living in Prague was much cheaper than in Utrecht and I managed to live off about 60% of the amount I would normally spend in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme, content wise was quite well organized (also taking into account Covid) and so much of my teaching occurred online or in a hybrid form.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality when compared to Utrecht was a bit lower and I do feel that coming back to Utrecht I really had to pick up the pace again when it came to staying on top of things. It also really depends on the seminar teacher/lecturer you get.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't really need any support, only when it came to organizational matters which I think was excellent. The international office in Prague always responded fast and on time.

transfer of credits

This has not yet taken place but it will in the coming days I assume.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was well developed and managed to give a lot of insights about the structure of the university and also give a lot of tips when it came to living and staying in Prague. The staff was very kind.

accommodation

The accommodation was quite good but it depends if one wants to live in the student dorms (which are quite lacking in quality) or one finds private accommodation with other exchange students (which I recommend)

leisure & culture

Prague offers a variety of cultural and leisurely activities. There really is something for everyone. Whether you like drinking, going to museums, sightseeing or just exploring the local parks. There really is so much to see and it's a beautiful city.

suggestions/tips

Try and explore the outside parts of Prague, not just the city center :)

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would! I had a very good time and met a lot of fun and interesting people. The city is also really beautiful so if you like interesting sights then this is definitely something for you!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really

Report 2

destination city & country	Praag, Tsjechië
how did you travel to your destination?	Trein
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	31 / 1 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 6 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Bij welke uitwisseling dan ook is het altijd spannend of je wel alle juiste formulieren hebt ingevuld, en of je niets over het hoofd ziet. De informatie van Charles University is vaak net niet helemaal duidelijk, wat dat versterkt. Maar zolang je goed bijhoudt wat er in de mailtjes staat en de instructies daar opvolgt, komt het uiteindelijk allemaal wel goed. Het is bij Charles redelijk makkelijk om iets voor elkaar te krijgen, bijvoorbeeld als je eigenlijk te laat bent voor een deadline of als er ergens een foutje is gemaakt. Wel is de universiteit langzaam met reageren, dus het kan geen kwaad alles een weekje eerder op te sturen dan je in Utrecht zou doen.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

De UU reageert aanzienlijk sneller op mailtjes en heeft ook iets meer nuttige overzichten en tips. Uiteindelijk heb ik hier weinig gebruik van gemaakt, omdat alles gewoon goed liep of omdat ik problemen ter plekke in Praag kon oplossen.

academic preparation

Het verwachte niveau van studenten ligt erg laag in Praag. Ik heb zonder problemen een mastervak kunnen volgen en vond de rest van de vakken niet veel diepgang hebben. Afhankelijk van de vakken die je kiest kan je wel veel deadlines hebben, voor sommige vakken zelfs wekelijks, of grote papers. Als je je aan het begin van het semester voor genoeg vakken inschrijft kan je die in de twee weken erna nog laten vallen, dus je kan je werkdruk zo hoog maken als je wil.

language preparation

Praag is een touristische stad dus je komt niet in de problemen als je geen Tsjechisch spreekt. Soms wordt er wel erg bot gereageerd als je gewoon aanneemt dat iedereen Engels kan. Dat gezegd hebbende, Tsjechisch is een heel mooie taal die absoluut de moeite waard is om een beetje te leren (mijn Tsjechisch vak was niet erg intensief en heel gezellig), en met een paar zinnestjes kom je al een heel eind.

finances

Restaurants en dingen als musea zijn aanzienlijk goedkoper dan in Nederland. Voor boodschappen heb ik weinig verschil gemerkt. Een dorm bij de universiteit kost niet meer dan 200 euro per maand, terwijl je via particuliere huur al snel boven de 400 euro uitkomt. Dorms zijn vaak niet goed gefaciliteerd en ver van het centrum, maar het is er wel gezelliger, dus welke keuze het best is hangt erg van je eigen voorkeur af.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Er is geen vast programma, je kan je inschrijven voor losse vakken. Of je voor vakken kiest speciaal voor uitwisselingsstudenten, of iets heel anders maakt voor Charles University niet uit. Het inschrijfproces is erg stressvol, ik raad aan om een buddy te vinden die je uitleg kan geven over de website. Iedereen schrijft zich op hetzelfde moment in, dus vaak ligt de site plat en of zitten vakken binnen een half uur vol. Zorg ervoor dat je vooraf een lijstje hebt met de cursuscodes van de vakken die je wil doen, en schrijf je voor meer vakken in dan je wil volgen. In het geval van roosteroverlap of incapabele docenten kan je dan namelijk nog wat schuiven in de weken erna.
academic quality of education activities
De verwachtingen van studenten zijn laag, en sommige docenten zijn ook ronduit slecht in lesgeven. Andere vakken daarentegen zijn heel interessant met ook boeiende opdrachten en docenten die echt weten wat ze doen. Vrijwel overal geldt dat waar je in Nederland een 7 voor zou halen een A of een 1 (in een systeem van 1-4 waar 1 het hoogst is) waard is.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Je kan in principe langs lopen tijdens de kantooruren van de studiebegeleider, maar dat heb ik nooit hoeven doen omdat alles op te lossen was met een email. Aan het begin zijn de nieuwsbrieven van de International Office het lezen waard, omdat ze vakken aanbevelen en activiteiten promoten.
transfer of credits
Ik heb een hele late deadline waardoor mijn cijferlijst op dit moment nog niet compleet is, maar zoals het er nu naar uit ziet gaat dat geen problemen opleveren. De universiteit mailt je cijferlijst niet uit zichzelf naar Utrecht, maar als je daarom vraagt is dat geen probleem voor ze.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Ik had corona tijdens deze week dus ik kon helaas niet meedoen. Ik hoorde dat het niet super spectaculair was, je kan een rondleiding krijgen maar het universiteitsgebouw is niet heel interessant. De eerste bijeenkomst was online en wel nuttig, omdat ze het inschrijfsysteem van de vakken uitlegden, maar dat werd een beetje warrig uitgelegd dus ik heb uiteindelijk meer gehad aan mijn buddy die het me allemaal liet zien.
accommodation
Ik heb zelf een kamer gezocht dicht in de buurt van het centrum. Het is heel nuttig om dicht bij een metrostation te gaan zitten, en ik zou niet voor een prijs hoger dan 450 gaan.
leisure & culture
Praag heeft heel veel leuke plekken om naartoe te gaan en binnen een half jaar ben je lang niet klaar met alle clubs, café's en andere bezienswaardigheden. Met de trein of bus ben je ook redelijk snel in Brno, Pilsen, Wenen, Krakau, Bratislava en Boedapest, dus bijna iedereen gaat wel naar een paar van die steden.
suggestions/tips
Bohemian Switzerland is fantastisch, zeker als er nog weinig toeristen zijn. Binnen Praag is Hani Bani de stamkroeg van zo ongeveer iedereen, Kazarna Karlín draait soms openluchtfilms en heeft bijna altijd een kampvuur, en om wel internationale studenten tegen te komen maar niet tussen de toeristen te lopen kan je 's avonds het best naar Dog Bar.

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

Ja, Praag is een mooie stad met heel veel mogelijkheden, en daarnaast ook een goede uitvalsbasis om de rest van Europa te ontdekken. De universiteit is nog net wel zo goed georganiseerd dat je niet snel in de problemen komt, maar verwacht wel net wat minder van studenten waardoor je niet hoeft te stressen over je tentamens.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Ga naar de astronomische klok en ga onder de klok staan met je gezicht naar de touristen, en geniet van de teleurstelling! De Petrin Heuvel heeft 's avonds een goed en rustig uitzicht over de stad.

Report 3

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yes: k.janssen3@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
faculty/college	Humanities / Geesteswetenschappen		
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	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By airplane
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	14 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is quite complicated and I found it sometimes difficult to know which forms I had to submit where and when. Utrecht University was, however, very clear on the requirements and the procedures and therefore I have not come across any major issues.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office is very helpful in providing the right information. When it came to deadlines they were also willing to stretch them a bit when the host university did not provide forms / signatures in time.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation

language preparation

I did not need to learn more English for the exchange. In most cases I found that my English was more than enough to follow the courses and communicate with others, this was the same for other Dutch students around

me. I learned some Czech upfront, which proved really useful so I would definitely recommend doing that if you are motivated enough.

finances

While the Czech Republic is cheap, expenses tend to skyrocket during an exchange. I, however, had lots of savings left and decided to do whatever I wanted. I averaged about 35 euro's a day including everything (also lots of daytrips). But if you're conscious about money you can do with a LOT less.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The subjects I followed were generally interesting. I followed subjects at both the faculty of arts and the faculty of social sciences, which is certainly doable. Do not worry about formal requirements or signing up too much. Usually you can do every subject you want if they do not overlap. Czech students often sign in for lots of subjects before deciding which ones they are actually gonna follow, which might make queues look long.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was generally worse than in the Netherlands, especially the grading is not strict at all. Assignments do not take much time, especially not for 'erasmus' subjects. However, most classes were really fun and engaging.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Charles university had some really good support for erasmus student. All the 'hard' questions about the programme can be asked to the coordinators, who have solid answers. Teachers were usually really willing to help as well.

transfer of credits

Not applicable at this time

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was kind of short and uninteresting, but fun nevertheless! I would recommend going to some ESN activities, even if it is just to meet some new people!

accommodation

It is not as easy anymore to find a accommodation as most of previous reports describe. The housing market in Prague is flooded, but it is not as bad as in the Netherlands. I had private housing that I got through family, but I would recommend finding something a couple months before departure. The dorms are quite crappy but cheap from what I saw, but lots of people still find something else after living there. Bezrealitky.com is a good website for affordable housing that Czech people use while flatio.com and student-room-flat.com are more expensive but trustworthy. Expect to pay at least 400 euros a month for private housing.

leisure & culture

Prague is one of the best student cities in Europe. There is so much to do and there are so many cool places that you would never find in the Netherlands. I can recommend the honest guide youtube channel if you don't know it already, as it talks about lots of fun things to do and see in Prague.

suggestions/tips

Go travel (you will have the time, I promise ;)! Czech republic is beautiful and cities like Cesky Krumlov, Kutná Hora and Pilsen are definitely worth visiting. Visiting Bohemian Switzerland if you like nature is also a must. On

top of that Prague is a really good starting place for exploring Europe by train. The trains are really affordable if you get a ISIC card (100% get one!). I visited Poland, Hungary, Austria and Germany for a fraction of the price I would normally have to pay.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! Prague is the ideal destination for a affordable and vibrant student life. The experience is unique so do not hesitate!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Prague has so much to offer, if you are reading this and are interested just send me an email! I am willing to give a lot more information over the phone :).

Report 4

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: jobdebruijne@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	History

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	14 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process is filled with some bureaucratic procedures. On the whole it is quite doable, if you take enough time and do it as soon as possible
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I did most of the process on my own, but the University was there for me if I needed help. Most of the necessary information is easy to be found though.
academic preparation
I already heard that the education system would be a bit different than what I was used too. So I came with an open mind, which I needed.
language preparation

All of my courses were taught in English. The Charles University has a big variety of English taught courses. The level of English was very doable for me. Most teachers were on a lower level than the students and the marking was adapted to non-native speakers.

finances

The Czech republic is very cheap for our standards. With the subletting of my room, the grant and a very cheap room in Prague I would have money to spend.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In Prague I was enrolled in the Faculty of Arts (And not in a specific history department or something of the kind). This meant I could choose from a big variety of courses. You can also choose courses from different faculties. This is a bit more paper work, but for me it was worth it. I choose some courses from one of the Theological faculties. And also the faculty of humanities and social sciences have interesting courses.

academic quality of education activities

The quality varied widely. Overall most of the courses were beneath the UU level. I had some course which were very very easy and not very good. In terms of ammount of work, the materials and level of the lectures. Then there were some courses which were okay. I also had three courses which were comparible to UU level.

One difference was that the teachers more freely could decide what to teach and in what way. This made it sometimes a bit chaotic, but also very energetic and interesting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The Charles University is every year loaded with Erasmus students. It is therefore quite a challenge to support all of us. I luckily never needed their help.

transfer of credits

I am still working on this

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a general welcome week organised by ESN. Make sure to subscribe for this as soon as possible. But also, don't worry if you are too late with subscribing. There are plenty of organisations who organise activities for Erasmus students. In the first weeks everyone is looking for friends and company. So make sure to use all of the oppurtinies and invest the first weeks in meeting people. This can be done trough activities by ESN or different organisations, but also in your class, faculty of the broader universtiy.

Some faculties also organise themselves a welcome week. The faculty of arts did only organise a library and building tour. Alltough this was quite low-key, I still met four nice people there.

accommodation

The first two months I spent in one of the dorms. This was very cheap. Alltough it was not as bad as I expected, it is not great either. You will probably share a room, the facilities are not great and everythings looks a bit desolate. Still it is cheap and everthing is old, but working. The big problem for me was the distance to the city centre. I was the end of one of the metro stops, which meant that I took me 45 minutes to get to the intersting parts of the city.

After two months I started looking for something else to rent. I founded a nice studio flat in a good area, which was still affordable.
leisure & culture
Prague has a lot of culture. Make sure to visit the national galleries, the opera, the national ballet, the churches.....
There is also a lot to do in and around Prague. ESN and similar organisations organize hikes, walking tours and day trips every week. Don't be afraid to join this, even though you might now know anyone yet.
suggestions/tips
Visit Kutna Hora, a beautiful town with a cathedral just an hour from Prague

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
For sure. The university itself was interesting, although not really good. But for me the exchange was mostly about living abroad and meeting new people in a nice environment. And Prague is perfect for that. It is beautiful, central, cheap, safe....	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
No.	

Report 5

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yes: merelhermans@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
faculty/college	Humanities (Geesteswetenschappen)		
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	Prague, Czech Republic		
how did you travel to your destination?	Train		
name university abroad	Charles University		
start date	/	/	(dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	/	/	(dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	

The application process seemed really daunting at first. But I made as best of an overview of all the tasks as I could which really helped create order. I suppose I was lucky because I applied at the same time as a friend so we could help each other in the process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
In my experience this was really good! All my questions (which I send via email) were always met with a quick, in depth responses.
academic preparation
For me the academic preparation was looking through the course manual of the Faculty of Arts and choosing the courses that were complementary to my studies in Utrecht.
language preparation
I did some Duolingo, and when we arrived in Prague we bought a book called "Do you want to speak Czech?". Turns out that self-study did not work too good for me because I had no frame of reference with Czech in the same way as I would have with German. A flatmate took the intensive Czech course at the university, which was pretty succesful for her. I would recommend taking that course if you're serious about learning Czech!
finances
Beside the Erasmus grant preparation, I did little to prepare my finances. One thing that does come to mind is acquiring a creditcard, which proved useful pretty quickly because I pay my rent with my credit card.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took seven courses during my first semester in Prague. I took one of the ECES courses, which is a program designed for American exchange students but open for enrollment of Erasmus students. It was a course on the work of Franz Kafka, which I can recommend if you want to immerse yourself completely into the weird universe of Kafka. My other courses were split between the faculty of humanities and the faculty of arts. For this I had to make sure that my courses at the humanity building were not in neighbouring time-slots to my arts classes, for there is some distance between the buildings. Because the duration of the courses is one semester long instead of the block system we have in Utrecht, it feels like there is more time to discuss the topic at hand. Especially for my class on 'Gender and Sexuality in Post Soviet States' it was really nice to be able to focus on so many countries and really reflect well on what we are studying.
academic quality of education activities
In my experience, the quality was definitely good, but less demanding than my courses in Utrecht. However, the teachers at Charles University that I encountered were very passionate about their courses and their enthusiasm often made for great, engaging classes. If you are looking for more challenging courses, enroll yourself in the masters courses that are also open to bachelor students.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was definitely the possibility to receive support on academic matters from the Erasmus office. I have not personally used counselling, so I cannot share any experience.
transfer of credits
I am still working on this currently.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

<p>There were a lot of possible activities in the first few weeks where you could engage with other Erasmus students. They offered pub crawls, trips all over the Czech Republic, tours of the buildings, etc. These were all optional, so I did not participate in all of them. In any case, the broad selection of welcome-activities definitely help you find your way around in Prague and helps make connections with fellow Erasmus students.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>I did not take a room in the dorms. Instead, me and some friends found a flat through StudentRoomFlat. Which is a organization that was recommended by Charles University. Whilst the prices were higher than living in the dorms, we were very happy with the stay. We had a nice flat in Žižkov, which is really close to the center. One of the nice things about our flat is that we share it with other international students. Other perks are a weekly cleaning service, dishwasher and a washing machine, a good communication with the management team! I would really recommend StudentRoomFlat to anyone who does not mind paying around 300-400 euros for rent in Prague!</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>Prague is such an amazing city for people who enjoy culture, history, and good parties! There are many museums, from which I would recommend Museum Kampa the most. The parks are very nice in spring and summer, though can be a bit bleak during winter (but that has its appeal as well I think). So you can always be close to more natural areas. If parks don't float your boat, you can take very cheap public transport to the natural parks in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>For booklovers: there are a few really good bookstores that also sell books in English. My favourite is Shakespeare and Co, located near Charles Bridge. Another great option is Luxor - Palace of Books, located on Václavské náměstí.</p> <p>The nightlife in Prague is also amazing because there is something for everyone. For who is interested, there are multiple queer-friendly places that have amazing parties. Also, I would really recommend Cross Club!</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Get the public transport app as soon as you can! It is really cheap to get a long-time pass if you have the ISIC card. This ISIC card you can obtain at the student office at the start of your exchange. It is also useful if you want to take the train inside of the Czech Republic! For example, when I travelled to Brno, a three hour trainride, I only had to pay 2,5 euros! All thanks to my ISIC card.</p> <p>My final tip would be to befriend Czech people. It is so easy to fall into a Erasmus bubble, which is nice, but if you want to know all the good spots to go, absolutely make friends with Czech people.</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	
<p>Absolutely!</p>	
<p>do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>	
<p> </p>	

Report 6

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>	
	<p>my e-mail address</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: clbeelaertsvanemmichoven@students.uu.nl</p>
	<p>my weblog</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p>
	<p>my Facebook account</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p>
	<p>other (social) media</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p>

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	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	1 / 10 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Whilst the application process seemed like quite a lot of (paper)work at first, whenever I sat down to do it it was not a lot of work at all. With the guidance from both UU and Charles University, everything was relatively straightforward.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If I did have any questions regarding the application process, I could always have my questions answered by the International Office, often very quickly as well. My experience with this has been very good and I'm thankful for all the help available.

academic preparation

Before coming I had to prepare the list of courses I wanted to take at Charles University. I also made sure to match this with my study plan. Besides this there was not really any academic preparation I had to do.

language preparation

I barely had to do any language preparation before coming to Prague. My courses were all in English, so I had to do my Erasmus language assessment in English as well, which I was already fluent in. I did want to learn Czech whilst being in Czech Republic, which I did try, but self studying turned out to be quite difficult since I knew no languages similar to Czech yet. If you want to properly learn Czech whilst being here, I recommend taking the intensive language courses offered by the university.

finances

In preparation of coming I did not have to prepare a lot of financial stuff, besides the Erasmus application.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Whilst at Charles University, I had to take 51% of my courses at the Faculty of Arts. I ended up taking 5 courses at this Faculty, and one at the Faculty of Humanities. The range of subjects is very broad: one of the main reasons I chose this university. My courses included film, history, art history and gender subjects. Registering for courses was also very easy and well explained by the university, and is done in the week prior to when courses start. The courses I ended up taking were very different from my initial Learning Agreement, since many of the courses end up changing before the semester. Still, I had plenty of interesting courses to choose from and many were similar to the courses I had planned on taking.

academic quality of education activities
In my personal experience, the academic quality of the courses lies a little bit below that of Utrecht University, but not too much not to be academically challenging. There are a lot less contact hours that you spend in class per week (my shortest class being 1,5 hours per week and my longest class being 3 hours per week). Many of my classes had lecture and seminar formats in the one class per week, and I noticed that many are more like lectures than seminars, even if they are described to have in class discussions. This is what I missed the most compared to my classes in Utrecht. Regarding exams, I had presentations, written (take home) exams and papers. There were some assignment throughout the semester, but for me most exams were at the end of the semester during the exam period. I had to write three papers and one exam, which was a lot for me, but ultimately doable. I recommend having a good look at when the courses distribute their exams. Most teachers were very flexible with their due dates however, which made the exam period a lot more doable. This is something I miss in Utrecht sometimes and I like the way teachers at Charles University would discuss the due dates with the whole class (often, though not all the time).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not need to contact the university for support many times, only when I had question for the International Office. They were always very helpful and quick to respond.
transfer of credits
I am still in the process of doing this, but it seems like everything is going smoothly. I got all my grades back soon after the examination period so I do not have to stress about having these in time for the Erasmus grant documentation.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was a whole week of activities planned before the academic start of the semester. Activities included tours of the buildings, pub crawls, information nights and trips through Czech Republic. I attended the building tour and an information night, which were informative. I definitely recommend going on one of the trips or the pubcrawls if you would like to meet some new people early in your semester.
accommodation
I rented a room through the organisation Student Room Flat. They have flats all over Prague for prices which are very normal in Utrecht, but considered expensive in Prague. I had a room in Prague 3 in a shared flat with 5 other students, and payed around 380 euros. Whilst my room was relatively small, the flat was quite big, well equiped and was cleaned once a week. We could also contact the landlords for repairs. You could probably find something cheap if you looked on Czech websites, but I preferred to book in English with an organisation which has English speaking staff. I have also heard of people who were able to find something through facebook groups, or through friends once that had arrived and stayed in a hostel/airbnb for the first weeks. The University campus is also very cheap, but you have to share a room and the shared rooms are said to have very few amenities and are not well kept. The university campus is a great place to meet new people however.
leisure & culture
Prague is absolutely amazing and I would recommend anyone to study here. I think it has something for everyone, from culture to clubbing. I was super lucky to find my favorite café and bar in my own street, but the whole city has great places all around. Even if you don't live in Prague 1, neighborhoods around Prague 1 and even across the river all have their own things to offer - they might even be more to your taste if you don't like living in the city center. Living in Prague is very cheap compared to the Netherlands. Visiting the opera/ballet for example was something I would do multiple times here as it was much more affordable than back home. A

lot of cultural institutions also offer discounts for students, as well as the public transport. Nature around Prague and in Czech Republic is also beautiful, and very worth venturing out to. Prague is also, in my experience, very queer friendly. There are a number of queer bars, clubs and events.
suggestions/tips
Get the PID Litacka app as soon as you arrive - this is the app used for public transport in Prague. You can get tram, bus and metro tickets, as well as a transport pass on your phone with the app. For students, a pass is only about 15 euros for three months!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
100%!! For all the reasons I have mentioned above. I enjoyed the city and university so much I decided to stay for another semester. I had not been to Prague before and I really fell in love with the city. Although I think I would have had a great time abroad anywhere I would have gone, the combination of the interesting courses, the fun people I met and the endless things to do in and around Prague I had the best time I could imagine.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2018-2019

Report 1

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: dienderb@gmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Linguistics

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was very straightforward. Once you've picked two or three destinations you'd like to go to, you hand in a study plan and a financial plan, a motivation letter, and your CV. What each of these documents should contain is explained extensively by the UU, which I found very helpful. One specific problem for Prague is the study plan, as their online course catalog took some getting used to: there appear to be over a hundred different faculties, exams and courses often (but certainly not always) have separate course codes, and once you arrive in Prague you may find that none of the courses you put in your study plan are actually available to you. Luckily, this only turned out to be a minor annoyance rather than an actual problem for the application process.

counselling & support at Utrecht University
Although the paperwork may get increasingly overwhelming as the exchange progresses, the IO in Utrecht always responded rather quickly to my questions with clearly-written, helpful responses.
academic preparation
I don't think any academic preparation is really necessary for courses at Charles University, but that probably depends on the courses you end up following. Almost all of the courses had the materials provided to the students, so I never had to buy any books in advance.
language preparation
The only course I took that was not in English was a Czech language course, so if you decide not to put that in your study program, no language preparation is required. However, Charles University does offer a free intensive Czech course in the weeks leading up to the semester, which I cannot recommend enough to foreign students who choose this university. Not only do you learn some Czech, which is obviously very useful when living in Prague, but you also get a three week head start on meeting the other Erasmus students.
finances
Groceries and rent are not necessarily cheaper in Prague than they are here; but otherwise, Prague is a relatively cheap city to live in. Were you to pick Prague, you should be able to get an Erasmus grant. In addition to that, Charles University also gave a grant to Erasmus students halfway through the semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
During the first month of the semester, you can enroll and sign out of any course you want, however superficial your reasons may be. How this works exactly is explained at length during a presentation on the first day of the semester. There are a ton of interesting courses available to incoming students (although whether or not the examination is compatible with your home university is a bit unclear sometimes) and Charles University frequently lets students know when there are new options to choose from, which is how I found most of the courses I ended up following.
academic quality of education activities
I got the impression that teachers have a lot more freedom in managing their courses than they do here. This means that it is entirely possible that things like homework and exams work completely differently in each course you take. Because of this, the level of the courses varied a lot: some were markedly easier than the courses I'd take in Utrecht, whereas others were of the same level if not a bit more difficult. Overall, I'd say the classes are of the same level as they are here, while exams are often a bit easier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office in Prague is very helpful and responds very quickly to any questions you may have. That was also true for all teachers I had, but some of the other Erasmus students did have stories about teachers not being helpful at all. Regardless, communication between teachers and students is a bit more informal than it is here, which does make it easier to ask them for help to begin with.
transfer of credits
I haven't yet finished this process in Utrecht. However, the teachers in Prague were very quick to publish the grades and the IO in Prague had my transcript of records ready before I left.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is an orientation week in Prague. However, the spaces are limited and there are a lot of Erasmus students, so I wasn't able to sign up to any of them in time. This ended up not being a problem at all because the Erasmus community in Prague is very big and active: there are many Erasmus students and activities for those students organized by both the university and separate organizations.

accommodation

The university has very cheap dormitories which also houses many of the Erasmus students, which makes it a great place to meet new people. Depending on your standards, however, it might be better to find a place elsewhere. You share a bedroom, there is a single kitchen for all people living there, the showers are unisex and do not lock, nor do the toilets, and the place can get very noisy. Rumor has it northern and western Europeans are put in a significantly better dormitory, but I never went there myself so I don't know what it is like. If you decide to rent your own place, finding one is not at all difficult in Prague. However, you will not necessarily pay less rent than you would in Utrecht.

leisure & culture

Prague is an amazing city to live in. The nightlife is unlike anything you'd find in the Netherlands, it is very close to many other major European cities and the Erasmus community is very active. There are tons of theatres, musea and historical sites scattered throughout the city.

suggestions/tips

The Czech Republic is a gorgeous country with many nature reserves (Český Raj, České Švýcarsko, Krkonoše) and towns (Český Krumlov, Karlovy Vary, Kutná Hora) well worth a visit. My go-to places to eat or drink were Sladkovský, A Maze In Tchaiovna, Hajnovka, Vzorkovna and the entire neighborhood of Holešovice. The university offers cultural trips within Prague, and there are a couple of organizations which offer parties and trips abroad for international students (the biggest one being Oh My Prague, as far as I know), all of which I would recommend.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this city and university to others. There are lots of events for international students, making it very easy to meet new people. Culture-wise, Prague has got to be one of the most interesting cities in Europe. The university gets many Erasmus students each year and they put in a lot of effort to make sure they have the most memorable semester of their studies while in Prague.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Regardless of where you end up going, it is very insightful to experience not just studying, but also living in a place where things may go just a bit or even completely differently from how they would in the country you grew up in. Although Prague was fantastic, you will have an amazing experience wherever you decide to go if you decide to study abroad.