



2023-2024

Report 1

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address, yes: <input type="checkbox"/> dieuwertjekniese@gmail.com other (social) media, yes: <input type="checkbox"/> insta, @dieuwertjedeva <input type="checkbox"/>
faculty/college	Faculty of Arts
level	Bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/>
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	20 / 09 / 2023
end date	28 / 01 / 2024

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I have heard from many people that this was very easy and quick. Personally, I sometimes found it a bit unclear what was and was not necessary. You also need a lot of patience; responses to questions at the host university sometimes took a long time. Nevertheless, the international offices always did their best to help me as best as possible.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office always helped me as best as possible. After the terrible events at my host university, I received an email from Utrecht within a few hours. It was nice to know that people at home were also keeping an eye on things. Overall, I am really grateful these people made this experience possible.

academic preparation

In fact, no academic preparation was necessary. Intuitively, the workload was slightly lower at my host university than at UU. This provided plenty of room for conversation, discussion and research. What is special about this is that I learned many times more in this semester than the first two years of my studies at home combined.



language preparation

Prague is a very international capital, so with only English you will be totally fine. I did notice that the language course at the university itself was a great addition. The small practical phrases and words helped a lot, and it is also a fun way to get to know new people.

finances

Prague is cheap, especially if you live in the dormitories. Here the rent is about 180 euros a month and expenses like groceries, drinks and other activities are quite cheap as well (e.g. 0.5l beer is around 2,50 euros and a dinner at a cheap pub can be between 6 to 9 euros). With my grant from DUO and the Erasmus grant, working was not necessary. Normally I work around 20-30 hours alongside my studies, so this gave me the opportunity to fully study for once, which I truly enjoyed.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study program had many features of a Liberal Arts program in which a wide range of subjects are available. The compartments are relatively small, so you can choose many different things. This also offers the opportunity to delve deeply into topics. Because of this I have learned a lot of new things in new field and on doing research.,

academic quality of education activities

Although I had to get used to the academic system of a new university, in the end I preferred this smaller-scale education more than my study program back home. If you only looked at the rankings, the UU would be ranked higher. But for those who know how these lists are created, this does not necessarily say much about the quality of education. Charles University had a very pleasant community feeling that you, as an international, are just as much a part of. Teacher and student are seen as equals, which in mine opinion is fruitful for good and effective education. Conversation was central to this.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This was truly amazing. Although emails were sometimes answered a little later, there was always room to drop by during office hours. Even after events at the university, everything was done to ensure that students and teachers 'got to know' the building in a safe and peacefully way. With admirable respect and patience, the university provided a safety net for those who needed it.

transfer of credits

I'm not sure about his one yet, but it seems easy. They work with a 3 to 1 system in which 3 is comparable to a 5.5 and a 1 to a 10.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The language course helped a lot in getting to know fellow students. The university and the ESN organize many fun activities in which you can participate to get to know people and otherwise there is enough space to talk during seminars.

accommodation

The university provides housing to international students. The living standards are a bit lower in comparison to what we are used to as spoiled dutchies. But this accommodation is very cheap and makes it possible to get to know so many fun and interesting people from all over the world. If you are not in for this little adventure you can always take a look at regular rentals in the city, those are more expensive but also closer to the centre.



leisure & culture

I was warned about the stiffness of the Czech, but I didn't notice this at all. The Czechs are traditional, helpful and sweet. The humor is cynical which I found very funny. I met a lot of lovely, nice people even though not everyone speaks English, especially the older generation (English was not taught for a long time, instead it was Russian). With some simple words and some Google Translate here and there you can go a long way, otherwise you can always do it with all your hands and feet. I think it is especially important to remember that you are a guest in this country. You will have to go along with their norms, values and culture. And if this means that you sometimes must make small adjustments in the way you normally do things. This is often very much appreciated, and it offers you an opportunity to learn more about the country where you live and study.

suggestions/tips

Get to know people, go for a little travel in the weekends, enjoy every second of this beautiful city in the different seasons, try new foods and enjoy and celebrate the diversity that Europe has to offer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

More than yes 😊. This experience has really brought me so much. Studying at another university was a very educational experience, I was able to meet so many wonderful, special people and enjoy the experience of living in a new country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go, and enjoy every second of it because...time flies when you're having fun (:



Report 2

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

destination city & country	, Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Charles University Prague
start date	20/09/2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09/02/2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a bit stressful for me as I pushed it to some of the last moments. But I did choose Prague very deliberately, especially because of the courses that it offered at the moment. (something I will elaborate more on later on)

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I always talked a lot with the university about questions I had regarding the grants or other information that I needed for the application which was really useful.

academic preparation

I didn't really have to prepare myself a lot academically, especially because the courses changed completely for me. Although I did send emails to every professor of the courses I wanted to follow to see if I needed any prerequisite knowledge, which I did not have to possess.

language preparation

Because I did a pre-semester language course I did not prepare myself for the language at all. If you get the opportunity to do this for whichever university you go to I would highly recommend joining such a course. Whether you will use the language a lot or not, it could allow you to make good friends quite early that may stick with you for the rest of your exchange like it did for me.

finances

In terms of finances I had to check a lot of things with the municipality and DUO to make sure all my grants from the government would be continued abroad. Which fortunately they did. But you should make sure to start this process in advance, in case a lot needs to be arranged (when you get extra money for whatever personal circumstances)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

So one thing that was a bit disappointing about the exchange in the beginning was that the courses that were expected to be given at the time of applying to the university, later turned out to not be given at all. Due to personal circumstances of teachers or due to changes in the curriculum. As this was one of the major reasons for wanting to study at Charles University this was very disappointing, but luckily the courses that were given instead (even though they were completely different) were really interesting as well. I found that the courses were all very well given, the teachers were engaging and seemed properly skilled in their field of expertise. The only major difficulty with the study programme was that I did around 5 or 6 courses at the same time (for the entire duration of the semester). Which was incredibly stressful and really difficult, as I was only used to two courses at the same time at UU. But with enough planning and hard work it was doable, as the teachers were also not too strict with the grading

academic quality of education activities

As far as I could judge the academic quality of the education was pretty good. It definitely wasn't easy, the texts were (in most cases) properly discussed in class, and the information that the teachers gave us were a good addition to the material. A course called The Totalitarian Experience was especially truly fascinating as it was given by someone who was involved in the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and had a great portfolio in the government of the Czech Republic, leading to a very extraordinary class.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at Charles University was also very good, I needed some counseling at some point for the stress I was under and the insomnia I was suffering from. Which the University provided for free, and without any waiting list (for other forms of therapy there was a waiting list though). Here I sometimes talked about my issues with someone online who would try to help me make sense of the stress and help me look at it differently for example. The international office of the University was also really helpful, although sometimes when they wouldn't reply to one of my emails, I had to call them, but then they would reply to me almost instantly.

Unfortunately, during my exchange a tragedy occurred at the Faculty of Arts, the faculty I was primarily studying at. Marking one of the largest school shootings in Europe, it was a bit traumatising to be studying in a city where it happened (luckily I was not near the university at this time though). But in the aftermath, the university sent emails very regularly to offer psychological aid and therapy in various ways. Even though I never needed it, it does show that the university has a very good system of support.

transfer of credits

At the time of writing I still have to finish one of the assignments so as of now I cannot elaborate more on this unfortunately.

STUDENT LIFE**welcome & orientation programme**

So as far as the welcome & orientation programme or time period go, I had a very good experience. As I applied for the pre-semester, extra-curricular, language course, I was already in Prague at least 4-5 weeks before the actual semester began (the language course was 3 weeks, with one week of break in between it and the semester). This allowed me to make great friends in my class and who were also in my dorms (see more in the next section), that I still talk to until this day. Besides that, the faculty did not really have a welcome



programme, but the ESN in Prague was really amazing offering great activities such as parties, karaoke, or trips to cities like Pilsen (where the beer Pilsner Urquell gets made), or the Jewish Ghetto from WW2, Terizin.

accommodation

In terms of accommodation, I stayed at a dormitory from the university in a single room (due to special needs), which was truly a great experience. Sure the dorm wasn't perfect, as you still share the kitchen and bathrooms with a lot of people. And the kitchen and bathrooms left something to be desired for, but for a semester of just a few months it was very sufficient. The dorm even had a bar, at which me and my friends would spend most of our nights. But this was my experience, and specific dormitory, if you go to a different faculty, you might be put in a better or worse dormitory.

leisure & culture

As far as leisure and culture go, Prague was also truly amazing. Being a lot cheaper than the Netherlands, it was nice to be able to go out and have fun for so little money. Besides beers, tickets to the opera were also very cheap. The city sometimes also had great events such as a light festival around the beginning of my exchange, or a really entertaining New Years Eve with great activities like open-air concerts. Other special occasions such as Liberation Day were also quite a sight to behold, to see so many people in the city listening to live music and showing respect for their freedom.

suggestions/tips

An important thing that I learned towards the end of my exchange was the realisation that erasmus was not a vacation. During my exchange, I was stressed about studying too much, not enjoying my time enough or doing things outside the dorms by being stuck inside to study for deadlines or prepare for classes. But you have to remember that in fact an exchange is not a lot more than studying at home but in another country. For sure, teachers are not as strict with handing out sufficient grades or with making homework, because they understand that people are on Erasmus (at least in my experience), but that doesn't mean you don't have to study hard. Especially when you have 5 courses. So if that happens to you, don't be too hard on yourself and try to enjoy the time you spend studying (on subjects you might perhaps otherwise never have been able to do), and the time you spend outside of it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would definitely recommend Charles University in Prague. The city was truly beautiful and an amazing one to live in. And the University provided great courses, although we had to attend a lot more courses than at UU. The price and location of the Czech Republic, being in Central Europe created a lot of fun opportunities for travelling to places such as Berlin, Vienna or Budapest, will also surely make your time worthwhile.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid to reach out for help towards the international office of either your host university or home university. They are there to help you, and can be of great support to your questions or needs if you're in trouble.



Report 3

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	20 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	First I decide that I wanted to stay in Europe and after that I looked at which Cities/Universities had enough (interesting) courses in English. Once I had that list I looked at which courses and cities I found most interesting and decided on my top-3.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I personally did nothing special for counselling and support at UU. I visited one of the presentations about it, but I was able to find everything I needed to know online.
academic preparation	I find it hard to point out academic preparation I did actively. Ofcourse I looked at the possible courses upfront. Even though the official enrollment and choosing was once I arrived, I tried to decide which courses I wanted to take before arrival. I chose courses that I found interesting and courses that fitted with my major/study background in Utrecht, but I did not do any academic preparation. And being totally honest, it is not really necessary for Charles University/Prague.
language preparation	I was already used to having (most of) my classes in English. Ofcourse I did not speak Czech and I was never going to be able to speak, write and read the Czech language well enough to participate in courses, but thankfully Charles University offers a lot of courses in English, so I had no problem whatsoever participating.
finances	



8 months before departure, I started working a few hours more every week to save a certain amount for myself. That combined with the Erasmus grant, the public transport compensation from the government and a bit of help from my parents was more than enough. In advance I created a budget thing to get a sense of how much money I needed. I used the expenses on the UU website for the estimation. These were ofcourse not entirely correct, but I wanted to avoid not having enough money or having to say no to things because of money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I got to choose six courses I wanted to participate in. I chose to look for courses that would match with my major and study background, but I was not required to do that. I could have chosen six random courses that sounded fun. Enrollment for the courses was through the online system, which is comparable to how these things go at UU. They explained how to enroll during a presentation on our first day. It was all very clear to me and I did not have any issues enrolling.

academic quality of education activities

The quality maybe being harder is something you do not have to worry about. In total honesty the quality really is less than I am used to at UU, it was way easier to pass courses. Having six courses at the same time was something I had to get used to. That might be a bit much in the beginning, but once you're used to that it really is not that hard to pass them. In my experience the quality being less is mostly noticeable in what is expected of the students during classes, what kind of questions are asked by teachers and students and the expected quality of essays.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They were very easy accessible, it was very clear where their office was. Even when they had to move the office after the shooting in december it was still very clear where the international office was. I never needed their help, except for signing documents, but they were very willing to help, always had time. The only thing that takes a while is when you send them an e-mail.

transfer of credits

While writing this I am still waiting for the Internation Office of Charles University to send my transcript of records to the International Office of Utrecht University so I can not really elaborate on this topic.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It was very clear when and where we needed to be for the start of the semester. And even though they (the faculty) did not organise activities, there were more than enough other organisations that organised all sorts of events. Getting to know the city on multiple levels and getting to meet new people was very well done throughout the entire semester.

accommodation

I found my room/apartment on accident through googling and searching the web. My room was more expensive than the one I have in Utrecht. But, in Utrecht I have a relatively 'cheap' room and in Prague the central square with the astronomical clock was only a 6 minute walk from my house.

leisure & culture

there is lots of very affordable restaurants, bars, museums, bus and train tickets for day trips etc etc. Prague is a great starting point for exploring the Czech Republic and the rest of Central Europe. Besides exploring central



Europe, I, of course, spend a lot of time in Prague, just living there. Going to the movies, going for a drink or a coffee with my international flatmates. Visiting exhibitions, the castle, exploring the city together or just a random walk without any goal. Prague has infinite possibilities for those that want to explore.

suggestions/tips

Daytrips in Czech Republic are very cheap because of the student discount you get with FlixBus in Czechia. A lot of cities and little towns are 1,5-3 hours away by bus or train and I recommend visiting them; Brno, Cesky Krumlov, Karlovy Vary, Plzen, Liberec (incl. Jested mountain) and Kutna Hora.

The architecture is very beautiful and the city had loads of museums that are very affordable and easy to visit.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Prague is a beautiful city with a huge and strong present international student population and culture. It has loads to offer you during your semester there and there really never is a dull moment. I had the time of my life, made great friends, learned a lot (about myself) and would recommend going abroad but especially this city and university. It offers you to live, study and experience a city in a shape as we barely know it. From Part and Club to the most breathtaking views and beautiful buildings. Prague and the Czech Republic really have it all.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I know it is a cliché; but enjoy your time abroad. Before you know it, it's over and it really is a once in a lifetime experience.

Report 4

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

destination city & country	Prague, Czechia
how did you travel to your destination?	car
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	19 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 02 / 2024 (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 started earlier than I had expected. It is important to prepare as early as possible and make sure that documents are in order. The best would be to go through all documents received, or



even make an appointment with the erasmus office to clarify everything in the document to prevent misunderstandings.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Support and counselling regarding the exchange on Utrecht Universities part was lacking. Little contact with the coordinators, while they reply relatively fast over email, my attempt at organising a meeting was ignored and it was not possible to visit the office in person (most likely still an effect from covid times).
academic preparation
No academic preparation necessary.
language preparation
For registration for some of my Czech courses I was required to take a placement test to
finances
Little explanation of the finances and how they will be sorted. However, as a student from the Netherlands, DUO will help immensely. One thing UU was very informative about is DUO's travel product compensation when one is abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Course registration was finalised relatively late in the semester, making it difficult to set up the during the mobility learning agreement. Some of the courses registered as 'taught' were not taught, making it important to sign up for more courses than necessary in case some of them do not come through.
academic quality of education activities
Academic quality of education activities was very good. One difference between Dutch and Czech education is that it is usual for Czech courses to
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling and support at receiving university abroad was outstanding. International office available through phone and in person the entire week. Not so fast when it comes to answering emails, but amazing when called through the phone.
transfer of credits
Transfer of credits was fast, however it took a while to receive all grades as the first semester at Charles University and second semester at Utrecht University overlaps slightly.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome to the study programme came together with in person registration. Many of the other erasmus students in the University dormitories quickly bonded and it was easy to orientate oneself with the help of other students.
accommodation
Easy to sign up for university accommodation. Charles University has dormitories which erasmus students can sign up for well in advance. Important to note that the dormitories' payment system may not be used to currencies from abroad (anything else than Czech Crowns), and thus taking proof of payment with you may be important. A simple print of the pdf of a bank statement should be enough. It is normal for the dormitories to



accommodate two students per room, and thus student usually have roommates. This might sound unusual at first, but it is very helpful in helping one feel less alone and overwhelmed with a foreign country.

leisure & culture

Prague is great for going out and shopping. The malls are great and make shopping a much more efficient process than in the Netherlands, drug stores have larger offer of toiletries and makeup, clothing stores generally bigger in shopping districts than in the Netherlands, night public transit makes it easier to get around after going out to drink with friends.

suggestions/tips

I highly suggest going to café Slavia, and to make sure to make a reservation a few days in advance. The food there is amazing, luxurious and fancy, for a great price.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I highly recommend going to this university/city. Especially coming from the Netherlands, things will seem cheaper and the offer of goods to buy is larger than in the Netherlands. On top of that, it is easy to get cheap hot meals fast. It will really make you feel as if your true priority is being a student, as many things are designed in a way that offers students more time for their studies.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 5



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	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	By train, with a transfer in Berlin
name university abroad	Charles University Prague
start date	16 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>At the beginning of my bachelors, I immediately knew I wanted to study abroad for a semester. Therefore, I looked a lot on the preparation website of Utrecht University: https://students.uu.nl/en/academics/study-abroad</p> <p>On this website, I found all the steps I needed to take to hand in my exchange application</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I went to the general information meeting before I applied, and after my application I also attended the pre-departure meeting. The International Office has been very helpful whenever I needed help and always responded within a few days.</p>
academic preparation	<p>The academic level at Charles Univeristy Prague is quite similar to Utrecht University, so the courses I took during my bachelors were enough preparation!</p>
language preparation	<p>All my courses were in English, so I did not need to do any language preparation. However, for my personal goals I took some Czech language lessons on Duolingo to just learn some basic Czech.</p>
finances	<p>I had money saved and I got the Erasmus grant.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>I followed courses in European, American and British culture and literature, which complements the courses I took in Utrecht during my bachelor. I was able to take all the courses I wanted, except for a few which I could not follow due to schedule issues.</p>
academic quality of education activities	



I would argue that the academic quality at Charles University is not easier than at Utrecht University per se, however, I do believe that the grading system is different and therefore, it was easier for me to get higher grades than I am used to.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office at Charles University was amazing. They were very quick with answering questions when needed and offered a lot of help when some extraordinary circumstances occurred.
transfer of credits
At Charles University, they also use a ECTS-credit system. I could take 30 ECTS with me, but subscribed for 34 ECTS in total.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Charles University Prague worked together with ESN (Erasmus Student Network) regarding the welcome week. There were some very nice activities, such as speed friending and free city tours.
accommodation
Charles University offers dormitory, but most rooms are shared rooms and the dormitories are quite far away from the city centre. Therefore, I personally chose private accommodation. I found my room through erasmusinprague.com The rooms are quite expensive. I paid 16000 czk per month (670 euros), which is quite expensive for Prague. I genuinely believe there are cheaper options.
leisure & culture
There are so many things to do in Prague. Different organisations, such as "Erasmus in Prague", "ESN Prague" and "Oh My Prague", organize a lot of activities and parties. Even if you are not a party person (like me), there is enough to do. Public transport in Prague is of very high quality and is also almost always on time, which is great.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to visit other Czech cities as well, such as Cesky Krumlov, Brno, Plzen, Karlovy Vary and Liberec. As a student, you get 50% off at RegioJet and Flixbus within Czech Republic, which gives the opportunity to travel around for only a few euros. Czech Republic has great hiking opportunities as well. If you have the possibility, I would also recommend visiting other European cities, such as Berlin, Krakow, Budapest, Bratislava etc.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Charles University is a very nice university in one of the most beautiful European cities. I had an amazing time in Prague and I could recommend Prague as a location to everyone. There are a lot of courses to choose from and the International Office has very good guidance.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Erasmus is a lovely experience. Be in time with your application for the exchange and the Erasmus grant!

Report 6



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:	m.campregher@students.uu.nl
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	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	English Language and Culture		

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
how did you travel to your destination?	FlixBus
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	28 / 08 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It seemed like a lot of forms but it was all doable. It would be nice to have had a checklist or something.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	As far as I remember I didn't have much direct contact with UU.
academic preparation	I did not prepare anything academically.
language preparation	I took the 3-week Intensive Czech language course before the semester started and although it is indeed intense, it is very much worth it for the people you meet and also to have a foundation of the language.
finances	I just had the basisbeurs, Erasmus grant and a little bit of extra money from my parents and that was fine. Don't forget to request the studenten-ov compensation money before you're gone.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	



There was a large variety of subjects to choose from within the Faculty of Arts (kind of the equivalent of our humanities) but a lot of the subjects that are on the online subject list are not actually available.
academic quality of education activities
I found the MA courses I took there to be approximately the same level as the BA courses in Utrecht and the BA courses I took there were below our level and often unorganised.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really make use of counselling, although support was offered after the shooting happened while I was there. Besides that, the Erasmus coordinators there don't always reply to emails quickly so it's usually best to call them or go to their office.
transfer of credits
I have not yet done this but they should be transferred just as pass or fail.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The Erasmus office there does not organise anything but there is ESN CU Prague (Erasmus Student Network) which organises welcome activities. I personally did not join any organised activities. There are also organisations such as OhMyPrague that organise parties or trips for Erasmus students, but I did not go to any of them.
accommodation
I stayed in a flatshare in Zizkov which was a bit more expensive than I pay in Utrecht. I found it on facebook but as an international it is harder to find (affordable) housing. Many people first stayed in the dorms (which are cheap but you have a roommate and they are an hour away from many things in the city) but a lot of people moved out when they found other housing options. The dorms can be a good way to meet new people though and I do know people who enjoyed living with others there.
leisure & culture
I loved going to cozy and alternative cafes and there are also enough nice bars or venues that organise live music events and local concerts. As a vegan there are also plenty of options for vegan restaurants or cafes but many non-vegan/vegetarian places will not have vegan options and often the only vegetarian option in typical Czech places is fried cheese.
suggestions/tips
<p>Cafes: Kampus Hybernska (also has an art gallery space and hosts cultural events), Kasarna Karlin (also organises concerts and film viewings), Coffice (also organises concerts), Dobra Trafika, Acid Coffee (also hosts cultural/music things), Scout Institute</p> <p>(Vegan) food: Shromazdiste (vegan czech food), Belzepub, mooi bistro, Share sweet & espresso bar, Dhaba Beas (vegetarian pay-by-weight), and there are a lot of (cheap) vietnamese places all over Prague so definitely make use of that.</p> <p>Thrifting: Zizkovska hrabarna, vintage shop by textile house, HipStar (more expensive), Trash vintage (also kind of expensive)</p> <p>Bars, music, culture: Duende, Zizkovsiska, Rock cafe, Kasarna Karlin, Klub AVU</p> <p>Other: Bohemia Boards & Brews (boardgame cafe)</p> <p>I don't really go clubbing but for techno stuff: bike jesus, fuchs2, ankali</p>

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would absolutely recommend Prague if you want to experience (kind of) alternative culture and music scenes. The university has some good courses to offer but also some not so great ones but if you pick what you find interesting you should have a good time.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I recommend taking the pre-semester Intensive Czech language course and I hope you have fun!

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: flixbus
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 volleyball 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 as well.

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
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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

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: cindyvanbree2002@gmail.com</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: @cindy.vanbree</p> <p>or</p> <p><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: @</p>



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.



Report 8

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>
	<p>I give the International Office permission to forward my contact information to individual students interested in my host university abroad:</p> <p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: aoifetilleman@gmail.com my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>*Your contact details will only be accessible by staff of the International Office and will be deleted after 3 years.</p>
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Prague, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Charles University
start date	20 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>I found the exchange application process quite stressful partially because due to scheduling conflicts I was not able to attend any of the meetings organized by the International Office Humanities (UU). There are a lot of guides available but if you are able to, I think attending the meetings makes the whole process much less stressful. I was oftentimes overwhelmed with the different administrative tasks and keeping up with various deadlines but going on an exchange was undoubtedly worth it. I would advise talking to fellow exchange students and reaching out to your respective international office if the process gets confusing or overwhelming even if your questions might seem trivial. I started my application process quite last-minute, and I would advise people not to do that (if you can help it) for your own sanity, but it is doable.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>Before going on my exchange, I found it hard to get in touch with the International Office Humanities. I couldn't attend the office hour because of another class that had mandatory attendance and while you can always book a meeting, it seemed silly to do so just because I was second-guessing myself for example. In those cases, I would usually call but at this time (end of 2022) I could not easily find their phone number and there were no listed calling hours on the site. To be honest, even when I did reach out via email or book a meeting (not just International Office Humanities but also another entity which helped during orientation, I unfortunately forgot which) it was kind of a coin flip whether the contact was positive or negative depending on who I was in touch with. I will say that this was during November of 2022 just before the application deadline which is pretty much the busiest time for those working with exchange students and I myself started</p>



very last-minute with my application and so I believe it was that combination which, at times, led to some slightly strained interactions between myself and some of the people working with exchange students. I believe I myself was a huge part of this too because of my last-minute application, which is also why I do not recommend it, because it's pretty stressful for everyone involved.

All that said, I think it is important to say that since coming back in February of 2024 my experience with the support from Utrecht University, especially the International Office Humanities, has been nothing but great. Their site now lists calling hours which is a big relief so I can just ring quickly them to double-check something or ask a stupid question if need be. They have been incredibly understanding and welcoming, quick to respond via email and phone, and generally just really helpful. All around just great.

academic preparation

Academically I would say I did not prepare much. My classes at Charles University were quite different than here at UU, and while I was there, I didn't regret not preparing anything on an academic level. I will say that's probably very specific to my case because I study History and took a lot of introductory classes on Central European History – the content was different, but it was geared towards exchange students.

language preparation

I did not do much in terms of language preparation. In a city such as Prague, I was really able to get by with just English quite easily. I will say that I do regret not making more of an effort to learn the language because while it was not necessary, I think it would have brought more 'depth' to the exchange experience so to speak. I did try Duolingo for a while before my departure, but I wish I would've stuck with it or taken a language class at Charles University. At the same time, Czech is quite a difficult language to master which is also what ended up taking the wind out of my sails. Nevertheless, I had a bunch of exchange friends there who did take Czech language classes at Charles University, and they learned a lot (like maybe A1-A2 level) but that's more than enough to order at a restaurant or read public transport signs. I got by with Google Translate – their picture function was lifesaving for shopping for groceries or anything else. I would say everyone inside Prague 1 (Old City Centre) not only speaks English but expects to speak English because it is so flooded with tourism. I lived in Prague 2 which is just outside of the old city centre and even though the distance between is not much, language-wise it made all the difference as everyone spoke Czech and some people I could not speak with in English. I would say this is the case for every part of Prague except for zone 1. Once again, I got by okay, but it started feeling almost disrespectful to barely speak a word of Czech. I personally would really advise anyone going on exchange to Prague to put at least a bit of effort into learning the basics of the language – either at the university or with something like Duolingo.

finances

Saying something about the financial aspect is hard. On one hand, the Erasmus fund is such a blessing and really made it possible for me to go on exchange without facing financial hardship afterwards. At the same time, I did end up spending quite a lot of money but that is probably just my personal case because I had expensive (but really nice) accommodation and can sometimes have a bit of a lackadaisical attitude towards money. Prague is quite cheap compared to the Netherlands which is nice. Especially going out to eat at a restaurant or getting a drink is actually affordable which makes it a nice experience. My friend group and I went out to eat once a week, and we tried so many cool cuisines. I think in my 4 years as a student at UU I've gone out to eat with friends literally once because it costs an arm and a leg. I would say that for the same quality restaurant in both countries, you'd pay half as much in Prague. I usually paid around 15 euros equivalent for dinner including drinks and this is not some fast-food place but an actual restaurant. You can get an ISIC student card for maybe 10-ish euros which has a lot of student discounts all throughout the city.



Museums and sight-seeing things were also affordable. I will say that most other things cost around the same in Prague as they do in the Netherlands, such as rent or groceries – although Charles University offers accommodation in the less central parts of the city for only 100-200 euros a month, which I didn't do but I had a lot of friends there who did and were generally happy with the accommodation. So, I think if you want to, you can definitely go on exchange to Prague and not spend a crazy amount of money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I found Charles University to be a very interesting and welcoming university. They have one of the highest numbers of international students at European universities if I'm correct and it shows. They've created a lot (and I mean a lot) of classes specifically for exchange students. However, you may also join any regular classes as long as you speak the language it's taught in. Many of my classes were those made for exchange students, and I would say I generally enjoyed them. One of my favourite classes was called Czech Culture, which was an introduction to contemporary Czech history, art, philosophy, inventions, politics, literature, etc. There was a lot of room to share your own experiences with your exchange, things you noticed about the culture, and the teacher paid attention to how our exchanges were going and always opened up the floor for us to share things from our culture, find similarities and differences with Czech Culture. This is not the only class like this, a friend of mine had a course which was centred around visiting a lot of sights and museums during class time which I think is brilliant. In general, I would say there is a very wide array of courses available for exchange students which, at times, also involved content that was not accessible as at UU, for me specifically Central European History or ancient Asian/Middle Eastern archaeology. You also only need to take 51% of your credits within your own faculty, as long as you qualify you can register for courses within other faculties. There is also no limit on how many courses you can register for so you can go crazy if you like but the international office does strongly advise you not to go overboard for your own sanity.

In my opinion Charles University is a much more easy-going university than UU, which has both positive and negative aspects. Some of the positives were not being as stressed, teachers have a lot of leeway with assignments and exams because they are the course coordinator, the lecturer and seminar teacher all in one. Teachers also have the freedom to create pretty much whatever course they want which means that all of them really know their stuff and are genuinely so excited to share their interest with students which makes classes so much more exciting. Every year, a lot of courses are discontinued or freshly created. At the same time all this can be quite chaotic, partly due to their online system SIS. In the words of their international office, just a horribly organized online system from the 90s. Sometimes classes that have been discontinued are still on there, not all teachers create or update their new ones properly leading to misinformation. At the same time this is not that big an issue because you can figure out a lot of issues with individual teachers, things are just not that bureaucratic there in my view. I personally loved the chaos of it for my exchange, though I will say the structured way of the UU was nice for the rest of my bachelor for sure.

academic quality of education activities

In all honesty the quality of education was lower than what I was used to from UU but this might be the case simply because I chose a bunch of introductory classes intended for exchange students. What I found difficult is that the classes were not very interactive. There is no lecture-seminar division, there is just one class which then usually ends up more like a lecture but (often, not always) in a seminar-sized group of people. There was definitely always room for questions and such but no discussions as I'm used to from UU during seminars. The focus of the classes was also very much on consuming content, not so much criticizing it or engaging with it on



a deeper level. I would say it my courses and their requirements were easier there than those of my first year here in Utrecht. On one hand this was nice because I was genuinely not at all stressed for the first 4 months out of the 5, only becoming a bit stressed during the last month in which nearly all my exams and assignments took place, but that stress ended up being quite misplaced as all examinations were very doable. At the same time, I did find myself a bit bored sometimes because some of the classes were a bit too surface-level for me. Nevertheless, I learned so much and I do think that if you desire more of a challenge there is a lot of space for you to do so yourself, which I perhaps I should've done too. At the same time, I think Charles University understands very deeply that the exchange experience is not just about the classes, and they encourage you so much to connect with the city, the culture, fellow exchange students – basically they seemed to understand that not everything can be learned in a classroom, and to me it was clear they put a lot of value on things beyond classes. I think it made my exchange experience very diverse and actually affected me in a deeper way. There was a lot of time and space to discover new things about myself and connect with people I normally wouldn't because I wasn't stressed about classes or stuck at home doing homework. Neither were many of my fellow students and friends which made it easy to hang out often and travel or go sight-seeing.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I seriously cannot praise the Erasmus Office of the Faculty of Arts enough. They are superheroes without capes. You can call them any time between the hours of 9:00 and 17:00 Mo/Tu/We/Th and 9:00-early afternoon on Fridays and they have a lot of office hours too. They go above and beyond to help you. Their mailbox is always overflowing so if you need answers to anything just call, oftentimes they can help you immediately and if there is a case of signing anything they will often do it within a few hours. Their information meeting at the beginning of the year was very informative and even hilarious at some points, all I can say is they brought the clarity and guidance in the chaos that my exchange in Prague was at times.

transfer of credits

Charles University works with a bit of a different grading system (1-5 points, 1 point being the highest and 5 points being a fail) but on their site it is quite clear what each score means and oftentimes teachers made sure to explain what each grade meant when you received one. Getting the credits transferred was quite easy, also because they work with ECTS too so making sure I got the right number of credits at the end was as simple as it is at UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Charles University itself did not have an elaborate welcome or orientation programme, pretty much just the welcome meeting by the Erasmus Office. However, they have a bunch of very active student organizations, some of which specifically dedicated to exchange students, and they organized so many activities throughout my time there, I think there was pretty much an event every day. Really cool welcome parties, oftentimes free tickets to clubs if you booked them on time, friend speed-dating events, huge group trips to Budapest or Vienna with a student discount.

accommodation

Charles University offers exchange students accommodation for around 100-200 euros a month in huge buildings in the less central parts of the city. For example, there was one big building on the outskirts of Prague where only exchange students from the Faculty of Arts/Humanities lived. Transport to the city centre was actually really good, about 45 mins to the university. The main Faculty of Arts building sits in one of the most central spots in Prague and is next to a major metro station and a tram line with a stop right in front of the building. Those who stayed at this accommodation lived in smaller rooms which is shared with a



roommate. Important to note that you can request a private room if you can show proof of a physical or mental condition that impacts your ability to live with a roommate.

There are also a lot of other accommodations everywhere throughout the city – you will be paying more, but a bigger space which is more central can be quite nice if that's what you want.

leisure & culture

I think honestly there is always something to do as an exchange student in Prague. So many events and parties organized by other students, and then the city itself is huge and has a lot of sight-seeing options and museums. I will say besides what the students organized, the city had more things to 'see' than to 'do'.

suggestions/tips

There are a lot of different WhatsApp/Facebook groups for different exchange student associations, some of which also include other universities than Charles, I would say just be a part of all those groups and go to the events you want to. I also recommend visiting surrounding cities in Czech Republic, most of them you can definitely visit in a simple day trip with cheap Flixbus tickets or by train. There is also a lot of beautiful nature in and outside of Prague which I regret not visiting myself. As a student your transport within Prague is about 15 euros for three months – wherever you go in Prague, with whatever kind of public transport. The connections between parts of the city are really good. Outside of Prague there are a lot of student discounts on Flixbus, and I think trains too.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely would. I'm confident in saying that pretty much everyone would have a great time on exchange in Prague because it is such a huge city and there are thousands of international students that I think everyone could find their own kind of things to do, visit and also people to meet!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

This might be quite strange advice perhaps, but I would say wherever you go on exchange, don't focus too much on getting the 'perfect' exchange experience. Perhaps this is not relevant for you at all, but I was personally constantly working myself up to have this 'perfect' experience that in my head consisted of a lot of partying and going out and doing something every day. You definitely can do all that in Prague if you want, I know a lot of people who did have an exchange like this, but for me this was just not feasible due to personal circumstances. I would even say my exchange was deeply uncomfortable at times, I think I learned a lot about myself and my life that I would have rather not been confronted with at the time but that I'm so incredibly grateful for now. A lot went quite differently than expected and I was kind of stressed the whole time that I wasn't making the most of this experience by not doing something every day. But in the end, the time I spent doing nothing was as invaluable as the time I spent doing things and hanging out with others. Similarly, I think it should be said that an exchange doesn't need to be this profound either. Basically, just enjoy it for whatever it ends up being, wherever you end up being. If you have more questions about my experience in Prague specifically, please feel free to contact the International Office at UU for my contact info and I'd be happy to help!



Report 9

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	08 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It is a bit complicated with all the documents you have to fill out and sign. That caused a bit of stress at times, but in the end everything turned out okay.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The manual we were given was useful and emails were usually well answered.
academic preparation	Not necessary.
language preparation	Nothing. I didn't learn Czech extensively (just some words) and English was sufficient. The university also offers many Czech courses for beginners.
finances	I have put some money aside for larger trips, but with the Erasmus grant, Uitwonendenbeurs and public transport allowance I have already come a long way.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I mainly did history courses. You must register via SIS. Registration opens at 07:00 in the morning and then you really have to be ready, otherwise many courses can already be full. I had this too, although it worked out in the end because sometimes you can join later if other people drop the course.
academic quality of education activities	Overall very doable and not super intensive. The courses at Charles University were not that demanding. I also did 2 courses at the American UPCES program, which was a bit more work but very interesting.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	You could always contact the Erasmus office for questions about Erasmus and we received good emails with information.



transfer of credits

That has yet to happen.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Some faculties had their own introduction week. Mine didn't have that which was a shame, but ESN also has a full introduction week so you meet plenty of people anyway! Always register on time for the activities because they can fill up quickly.

accommodation

There are dorms of the universities. I've heard mixed stories about that, because it's not very luxurious and you share your room with someone else, but a lot of friendships are also formed and it is really cheap. I found something myself through <https://prague-shared-flats.eu/>. This did have a good location and the whole building is full of erasmus students.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do here and you will never be bored. There are many fun weekend or day trips and be sure to watch an ice hockey game.

suggestions/tips

Create a revolut bank account so you can easily and cheaply transfer money to your landlord and friends.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! The city is so beautiful and its location in central Europe is perfect for people who want to see many other destinations.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It's super nice when visitors come from the Netherlands, but also make sure to have plenty of weekends left for your new friends there, because time flies by!



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 accomodatio 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 accomodation with other exchange students (which I recommend)
leisure & culture
Prague offers a variety of cultural and leisurly acitivities. There really is something for everyone. Whether you like drinking, going to museums, seightseeing 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 a 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 zinnnetjes 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 toeristen, 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 unintensive, 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 comparable 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. Although 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 everything looks a bit desolate. Still it is cheap and everything 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 interesting parts of the city.

After two months I started looking for something else to rent. I found 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)
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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

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.

accommodation

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!

leisure & culture

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.

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.

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!

suggestions/tips

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.

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.

CONCLUSIONS

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

do you have any additional advice or comments?
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Report 6

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: clbeelaertsvanemmichoven@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	
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 straightfoward.
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)
<p>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.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>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 assignments 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).</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>I did not need to contact the university for support many times, only when I had a question for the International Office. They were always very helpful and quick to respond.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>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.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>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 the 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.</p>
accommodation
<p>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 paid around 380 euros. Whilst my room was relatively small, the flat was quite big, well equipped and was cleaned once a week. We could also contact the landlords for repairs.</p> <p>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 they 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</p>



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.