

2022-2023

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: sarakeita37@gmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French language and culture

destination city & country	Lyon, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon 2
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The organization of the exchange application process was very good. In April I attended the pre-departure meeting which was very informative. Also, we received an exchange guide which described all the steps we had to take.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office has been helpful during my application process. They were very fast when it came to signing the documents and they always answered e-mails quickly.
academic preparation
I have not done a lot of academic preparation. As I study French language and culture I estimated that my academic competences were sufficient to study at the university of Lyon.
language preparation
I have studied French for 2 years before going to Lyon, so I have not done any additional language preparation. I did plan to follow some extra French language classes in Lyon. These classes were specifically organized for international students.
finances
I could pay the rent and the groceries with the Erasmus grant and the money given by the government as a compensation for not using the student public transport card. I used the money I earned in the summer to pay for the fun activities. My Erasmus was more expensive than expected as I wanted to do a lot of fun activities and travel while I was in Lyon. However, the grocery prices in France are quite comparable to those in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
When I arrived in Lyon, I could choose to follow different courses than the ones I chose beforehand while I was still in the Netherlands. The university was very flexible. We had until the beginning of October to decide on the courses we wanted to take. As an international student you can follow any course there is, even master courses. All courses Erasmus students follow are worth 5 ECTS. The information on schedules and course programmes was very limited, so it was quite a puzzle to figure out which courses there were and where they were taught. Also, the information about the exams was not clear. Figuring out my final timetable was therefore quite chaotic.
academic quality of education activities
The courses I followed were very interesting and the teachers were quite enthusiastic. The courses, on the other hand, are not very interactive. During most of the courses the only thing students had to do was listening to the teacher. As a result, you did not have to prepare that much, which is different in the Netherlands. The workload during the semester was quite low in my experience.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university in Lyon also has an international office. The office was very accessible and they responded quickly to questions. They arranged a buddy system where you could sign up for whereby French students were matched with Erasmus students.
transfer of credits
I'm now in the middle of the process of transferring the credits. I should have received my grade list the 14th of February, but this has been postponed. Now, I should be getting them by the end of February. I have not received any other information about the exams and the results, even though I already made some exams at the end of November. So this has been a very slow process.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There were not a lot of introduction activities. The first day we got an introduction and information talk from the international office and afterwards we could meet the other exchange students while they served sodas and croissants/pains au chocolat. During the orientation week students could attend introduction presentations from each faculty to see whether they would like to follow the courses of that faculty. These meetings usually lasted 1 hour.
accommodation
There is a possibility to get a room/studio at a CROUS residence. However, there are not enough rooms for every student. I didn't get one, so I searched for a room in several facebook groups. I was quite lucky, because I found a nice room very quickly. However, there are a lot of scams on facebook regarding student housing in Lyon, so please pay attention and preferably do not transfer money before you have seen the room.
leisure & culture
Lyon is a very nice student city. There are often (cultural) festivals, for example the wine festival, film festival or the light festival (fête des lumières). Furthermore, the city has a lot of interesting museums. In addition, Lyon has various historical sites, there are many old neighborhoods where you can still find buildings from the Roman era and the Renaissance, for example. In terms of clubs and pubs, Lyon also has a lot to offer. There is a lot of choice and because it is a student city there is something to do every night!
suggestions/tips

Lyon – Université Lumière II

To get to know new people it is good to keep an eye on Facebook. I got into a group chat via Facebook in which a lot of group activities were proposed, which enabled me to meet new people.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Lyon as an Erasmus destination. The city and the student life it offers are very nice and by living in this city I learned more about the French culture. In addition, the region in which Lyon is located is very beautiful. Cities such as Grenoble, Geneva and Annecy are close by and fun to visit! The administration of the university itself is quite chaotic. Or in other words, different from what we are used to in the Netherlands. The administration is more offline than online; you really have to go to the teachers to register for courses, which therefore takes a little more time. However, the teachers were very friendly and the university in the city center was very pretty. The campus has small courtyards, is close to the city center and the river le Rhône.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

For 25 euros a month you can make use of the metro, tram and the buses in Lyon which was quite convenient. Furthermore, for 16 euros a year, you can get a velo'v account. These bikes were quite practical, you can find them everywhere in the city.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Lyon, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Lumière Lyon 2
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I made a top three of cities, Lyon was my number one choice and I got selected for Lyon.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Clear communication about the exchange from Utrecht University, only the exact requirements of the Erasmus grant could be explained a bit more detailed in my opinion.

academic preparation

I did not prepare myself academically.

language preparation

I study Franse Taal & Cultuur in Utrecht so I did not prepare myself for the exchange except for the normal classes I take.
finances
Life is expensive in Lyon, I would say same prices as in the Netherlands but you will probably do more fun stuff like going on trips/ try out restaurants and bars. Also the rent is a bit higher than in Utrecht so taking a job before your exchange or during your exchange might be a good idea.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I chose a lot of cours spécifiques, those are courses made for international students but given in french. I would recommend choosing them, they are fun, you will learn a lot about the city/ french systems of economy or politics/ history which is very interesting, you will meet lots of international students which makes it easier to make friends. I also chose a course at a normal faculty (economics) at the university, I would say the way of teaching is quite different: expect long hours, less use of powerpoints and teachers actually dictating what you should write down. The organisation of the cours spécifiques was really good whereas the course I followed from the economics faculty was quite messy.
academic quality of education activities
The pressure of the cours spécifiques is lower because the teachers know you are on an exchange and having time to meet people and explore the city is very important so I would say the content is very interesting but the content itself is not too difficult.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
For everything that you want to do at the university, you have to make an appointment with the international office which is easy to do on the internet, I did not experience any problems so I can't say anything about that. The difference is that even for a document to be signed, you will make an appointment at the university, but you will get used to it quickly, it works well.
transfer of credits
I did not receive my grades yet but the university will email them.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I came to Lyon a bit in advance of the year and I met so many people at that time who were doing Stage Prune, a summer french school at university for two weeks. I would really recommend going a bit earlier, it is really fun to start to get used to your new life. The orientation programme did not really exist, they do organise sometimes some things but I did not really go to any of them.
accommodation
I got a room from Chez Nestor, the private agency, I booked it in July. I would say it is expensive but everything is there when you arrive and they have a good service so if anything breaks in the apartment, they will fix it. They also offer a lot of apartments in the city centre and if you book in July, they are relatively affordable.
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in the city like museums, bars, clubs, a lot of nice cities around Lyon to visit and they often organise cultural festivals in the city. A very fun student city.

suggestions/tips
Take a room on Presqu'île, Vieux Lyon or the 6 th arrondissement, if not take a bike so you don't have to catch the metro before 12 and leave early from all the fun stuff.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would highly recommend this destination, I have had such a good time. People were very open and easy to make friends. The city is beautiful, the citizens are very kind and people speak french all the time so it is a good city to practise.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2021-2022

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Franse taal en cultuur (French language and culture)

destination city & country	Lyon, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon 2
start date	02 / 09 / 2021
end date	22 / 01 / 2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
In the beginning I had some hesitations to apply for the Erasmus programme because I supposed the process was very complicated and demanding regarding the paperwork. However, I was positively surprised: it was relatively easy and the International Office was always there to help if needed. There is enough support during whole the process but there is nonetheless a significant amount of paperwork to do and I wondered if this was all needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support at Utrecht University is good. I didn't use much of the counselling, but I did need support sometimes. The International Office is really great as a supporter and answered my questions good and quickly.
academic preparation
In general I estimated my academic competences sufficient to follow the courses at my guest university so I did not take any extra courses to improve my academic skills. Lyon 2 did offer courses to adapt to the French academic style, but I did not take these courses either.

language preparation
Since I study French language and culture and went to France, supplementary language preparation was not needed. However, if needed courses in French language are offered at Lyon 2.
Finances
Before leaving I had seen some estimations concerning the average costs of the exchange . I used these estimations to make one adapted to my situation so I would be able to see how much money I needed for my stay abroad. However, upon arrival I had to deal with some unforeseen costs for example concerning the accommodation. The cost of living was higher than I expected so my stay abroad was in hindsight more expensive than I estimated. Before leaving I made sure to have a credit card. I used it a lot, sometimes you can not pay otherwise so it is really useful to have one. I also did open a French bank account which was very useful too because stores do not always accept foreign cards. This was also demanded for the accommodation.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
For my study programme I chose courses within the department of History. Choosing courses was way more difficult than it is in Utrecht. You can not choose your courses online so you must visit the secretaries of each department you want to take courses in. Once you decided on which courses you want to take, you have to complete a form signed by all the professors of the courses you take to accept you in their courses. The courses are almost always divided in a “cours magistral” and a “travail dirigé”, for which the professor may be different. These two courses do not always complete each other: professors may chose their own way to fill in their “travail dirigé” so one group might have a different programme than another. Exams of the “cours magistral” take place at the end of the semester with a final exam. The “travail dirigé” is completed before the end of the semester because it has some exercises during the semester.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education activities is good, but different from the quality at Utrecht University. In France the academic culture is not the same. During the “cours magistral” the professor is in front of the students and presents the information he or she wants to transfer in a long story, sometimes without PowerPoint, without pauses. These courses don’t have any interaction between teachers and students. You may ask questions but this does not happen very often because in this academic culture it seems unusual to do so. The “travail dirigé” is not very different: the groups are smaller (around 20 or 30), but the professor is presenting most of the time, but in more detail and with more space for questions. Activities or exercises are most of the time personal, group work is not very common. The quality of these activities is good, feedback was often better than at Utrecht University, but working together with other students is a missing part in most of the courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling and support at Lyon 2 was not offered directly to the students, but if needed you could ask for it. I did not need a lot of counselling or support so I only addressed me to the international office if I had any questions and they were able to answer them. For more counselling and support you could ask the international office and they would connect you to the right persons. Counselling or support related to the courses did not exist as it does at Utrecht University where there is a “studieadviseur”. The secretary could answer questions regarding the courses in his or her area but this advice is not personal.
transfer of credits
The process of transfer is still running. Normally the international office sends the marks to your personal university mail address.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university offered a warm and rich welcome. In the beginning of the semester there was a meeting of the International Office for all the international students of Lyon 2 with the essential information. This was a very useful meeting and it was also a chance to meet other students. The International office organised several activities in the first weeks to discover Lyon and the university campuses and to meet other students. I went on a bike tour around the city and on a tour around the old town. More activities followed later on: there was a “language café” where students could meet other students centred around language and trips out of Lyon to Beaune and Annecy. There was also a programme to connect with a French student, which I did, however, the programme was organised very late in the semester and the guidance was not intensive so the contact with my partner student was not very good.
accommodation
For my accommodation I applied for a shared apartment of the Crous, an organisation with flats all around Lyon. My accommodation was near the campus “Porte des Alpes” where I had all my courses. My roommates (only one of five was international) were kind of shy so there was not a lot of interaction and I heard from other internationals that they had similar situations. The Crous itself is not very well organised. There is a lot of bureaucracy when arriving and leaving so you have to prepare yourself very well and then still they may ask additional documents. The apartment was a nice place to stay, not too expensive and with everything I needed.
leisure & culture
Lyon has a lot to offer regarding leisure and culture. The city itself is really beautiful and there is a lot to do. Almost every week there are events like food festivals or expositions. There are several big museums and more smaller ones that are all worth visiting. The “Fête des Lumières” at the end of the year was a wonderful experience. The area around the city is worth visiting as well. Lyon is relatively close to the Alps so it is easy to go there. I went to Annecy with a trip organised by the university especially for international students. Cities like Marseille, Grenoble and Genève are within 1-2 hours distance and therefore easy to visit if you want to. However, Lyon is a city with many faces so you can easily stay within the city without getting bored.
suggestions/tips
It may be difficult to find an accommodation in Lyon. However when in the city it seems there are student flats all around, advertising on the buildings themselves. If you can not get an apartment via the internet, you may just call the phone numbers on these advertisings. When you apply for a Crous apartment you can not decide where in the city you want to be placed, this can be a disadvantage.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Lyon and Université Lyon 2 because this city and university helped me to understand the way the French live and work. In my opinion this city is very representative for the image of France (unlike Paris) so if you want to discover the real French way of living you should definitely go to Lyon. Lyon is a really beautiful city with endless possibilities for activities so you won't be bored. I believe the same can be said about Lyon 2: it is representative for the French educational system. However, the academic culture (more individual, more distant relations with the professors) might be a disadvantage though I believe this is the case for all the universities of France. The quality of education is in general good.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

It may be useful to note that for some faculties most of the courses take place outside the city at the Bron campus. I had all my courses there and did not come a lot in the city centre when I had courses, which may have been different if I had courses at the Quais du Rhône campus. On the website it seems that most of the courses take place in the city centre, but that is not the case.

2019-2020

faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Literatuurwetenschap

destination city & country	Lyon, France
how did you travel to your destination?	by car
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon 2
start date	30/08/2019
end date	26/01/2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

During the application process, I was not officially a student at Utrecht University, because I was on a one year break from my studies. However, after coordinating with the International Office, I found out I could still apply for the exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

My study advisor and the international office helped me in organising my application for the exchange programme, even though I was on a one year break. I had to remind them to send me emails every now and then, but otherwise the communication went rather smoothly.

academic preparation

Because I had just been on a one year break from university, I re-read some of my text books that I thought might be relevant for the courses I would be taking in Lyon.

language preparation

I studied French for six years in high school, and obtained a DELF B2 diploma. After high school, I spent in total around 5 months in France, and my comprehension and oral production level improved a lot during this time.

finances

I managed to pay my rent and food with the erasmus grant and the money I got as a replacement for the student public transport card. I already had a student loan and I continued this to pay for other expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was allowed to choose any courses at Lyon 2 on a bachelors and first year masters level. Finding the courses proved difficult, however. There was no comprehensive overview of all the courses taught at the university, only some documents on separate faculty websites, that were hard to find in themselves. For finding out the timetable of a course, I had to go to the faculty offices, where the timetables for (most) courses that were a part of that faculty would be put up on the wall next to it. Luckily, it was still possible to enrol in courses after they had already started. Officially registering for a course happened by filing the course details on a form and getting the lecturer to sign it, and then bringing this form to the office responsible for exchange students.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I ended up taking were all quite interesting, and of a similar academic level to the courses I've taken in Utrecht, with the difference that there was usually less secondary material and theory used.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the beginning of the year, I had the option to meet with a lecturer at Lyon 2 who could help me register for courses. The employees of the exchange office (Direction des Relations Internationales) also made it quite clear to us that we could come to them if we had any issues, also personal ones.

transfer of credits

I have received my final grades only a few days ago. For every course you complete at Lyon 2 as an erasmus student, you will obtain 5 ECTS, even when students at Lyon 2 would get another number of ECTS for the same course.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme at Lyon 2 is not very extensive, which was fine by me, because I was not really that interested in it to begin with. We had an introductory information talk after which they offered us some appetisers, and a "cocktail night" where they only served water, orange juice, and appetisers again.

accommodation

I was lucky enough to already have some friends in Lyon who had an empty room where I could stay during my exchange period. I also applied for student housing, but this is only available for a small amount of students.
leisure & culture
There were three excursions to other cities organised for erasmus students during the semester, but I was not interested in participating in them. Lyon itself has some very interesting cultural events and museums. I am personally quite interested in alternative (sub)culture, of which there is plenty in Lyon, for example Grrrnd Zero, a big hall with concerts and political events, or La Luttine, a screen printing workshop and café.
suggestions/tips
A big part of student life in France, and especially at Lyon 2, is political engagement. There are many political groups on campus, for example different student unions, and in times of social movement, there will also be student general assemblies. These are an interesting way to meet French students and get another perspective than the official one on the university and society in general. There are also many nice bookstores in Lyon, like Librairie Terre des Livres, right next to the BDR campus, and Librairie La Gryffe.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I had a great time at Lyon 2, and in fact wish that I could have stayed longer. I definitely recommend going there, although you do need to be ready for some level of disorganisation when it comes to registering for courses etc.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If it is at all possible in your study program, I recommend staying for a full year instead of just one semester like I did: I found one semester too short, because I more or less had to leave when I felt like I was really getting to know the city and making more friends. Almost everyone else I've spoken to about this had a similar opinion.	

2018-2019

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French language and culture
destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	Université Lyon 2

start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	My application process went rather well in the beginning. I think my sending institution was quite clear about all the documents and deadlines.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I think that my university was supportive about my exchange. They encouraged us in a good way to go abroad and improve our language skills.
academic preparation	I felt prepared before my departure, since I am studying French language and culture, I felt like my language skills were sufficient and my knowledge about the country was good as well.
language preparation	As I said my language skills were good enough to be able to understand courses in French. Of course it was a bit hard in the beginning because the teachers in France speak rather quickly, but after a while you improve yourself.
finances	I have to say that my Erasmus was kind of expensive sometimes. When you are abroad you want to do a lot of fun activities in the city and elsewhere with your friends. Lyon is an expensive city too, the prices in bars and supermarkets were rather high. But with the Erasmus grant and the money I earned in the summer I managed to survive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	When I arrived in Lyon I changed almost all of my courses, because I found out that there were some courses that I didn't know about that existed. The university in Lyon was very flexible and they told me I could basically enroll myself for any course I wanted. On the one hand, I found this very handy, because I wasn't bound to anything yet, but on the other hand, it was very irritating, because I changed everything and it was a big puzzle to sort out my timetable.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality was lower in Lyon than in Utrecht. The way of teaching in France is rather different than in the Netherlands. Often teachers didn't use any Powerpoints for example, they were only reading out a piece of paper in their hands. There wasn't a lot of interaction and we hardly had to read or prepare anything at home. Still I feel like my listening and speaking skills have improved, but this is more thanks to the social contacts that I had and not really thanks to the courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The International Office abroad provided a clear and helpful introduction. It was clear when the office was opened and they always answered my questions quite quickly.
transfer of credits	

All the courses that I did contained 5 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As I mentioned above the welcome programme was nicely done. They explained to us how to enroll for courses and where to find all of the information.

accommodation

I was very satisfied with my accomodation. I found a room thanks to a classmate who had lived in Lyon before. I lived in a house with 5 other students. I was really lucky with the room that I had, mostly because of my roommates , we did a lot of activities together. Some of my friends lived in a 'Crous' accomodation provided by the university. Some of the buildings were modern and good, but others were very old and small.

leisure & culture

During my stay in France I have really discovered a lot about different cultures. Before my departure I was expecting to learn about France, but I met people from all over the world and that way I learned a great deal more. Sometimes we would speak in French, but also in English. I would say it was 50 / 50. Lyon is an amazing city with a lot to offer. It's not too big, not too small, it's colourful, vibrant and divers. I would recommend to anyone to visit this city.

suggestions/tips

To any Erasmus student I would suggest to make a lot of contacts and participate in as many activities as you can. A big part of the whole experience is to meet new people and to speak other languages. I would say go out and be open to people from all over the world, it may sound cliché, but it certainly broadens your horizon.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Lyon as a city is definitely a destination I would recommend to others. It's a wonderful city, well located, the people are nice, the weather is good, the architecture is beautiful etcetera. But when it comes to the university itself I am not too sure. For half a year it was fine, I learned about the French way of teaching, which was very interesting, but I wouldn't say that my academic skills have improved a lot. But still you learn a lot about yourself and about others. The university is not that structured and this can be frustrating of course. But then again, french bureaucracy is something you have to deal with anywhere in the country I think.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

In the end I can say that I am very satisfied with my semester abroad. It was a pleasure to live and study in France and I would gladly go back in the future.

Report 2

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: mantas@planet.nl

<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French language and culture

destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon II
start date	05 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	This was all pretty good I would say. Lyon was not my first choice, but in the end I was still happy with my choice
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Pretty good and clear, they kept me well informed on the deadlines, and the things I had to do and hand in. They were also very fast with signing the documents that were required
academic preparation	
	When I went on exchange, I was already in my third year of the bachelor French language and culture, plus I did a minor in Public administration and organisational sciences. In terms of academic skills this was sufficient for the courses I did.
language preparation	
	Two years of studying French in university was sufficient for me to follow courses and to get by in daily life. I do suggest anyone who hasn't studied French in university to at least follow some courses from the French department in Utrecht. The university in Lyon does offer language courses for international students, I personally didn't do them, but I heard from others that the level was not very high and that they didn't have the feeling that they learned a lot.
finances	
	I would strongly recommend anyone who is going to study in Lyon to have sufficient savings, especially if you want to travel during your stay. Lyon is an expensive city both in terms of housing (expect to pay around €500), as well as life in general (groceries, restaurants, cafes, clubs) I found that basically everything was more expensive than in Utrecht, and it takes some time to find the cheap spots in town.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	All courses were worth 5ECTS, plus if a course consisted of a tutorial and a lecture, you got 5ECTS for both the lecture and the tutorial. This made that the pressure of work was much lower than in Utrecht and you had much more free time. Since all the courses were worth 5ECTS and were mostly given on the same campus, it was pretty easy to put together a timetable without any conflicts. The university also offered courses only for international students. For example: French media and journalism, French law, and History of Lyon

academic quality of education activities
This varied greatly, some courses were good and interesting, while others were taught by teachers who were completely incompetent. For exemple, I followed a course in French sociology, which was given by a Korean professor whose French was almost unintelligible. I think especially if you take courses from L2 or L3 the level in general is pretty good
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people at the international office were all very friendly and helpful, although they were quite slow with signing documents (you had to hand them in, and then pick them up a week after) I didn't run into any problems during my stay, but I'm sure that if I had, that they would've helped me.
transfer of credits
Hasn't happened yet, so I can't comment on this

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The university organised several meetings during which they gave general information on how things were done within the university. There were also meetings organised by each faculty during which they handed out schedules and details on which courses were interesting for international students.
accommodation
This proved to be a real pain in the ***. The university does offer basic rooms at a very low price. I applied for this, but at the end of July the university let me know that there were too many demands and that they couldn't give me a room, so I had to look for a room myself. This was very difficult since most French landlords preferred people who would stay the entire year, and also demanded a French guarantor (which I didn't have) In the end I found a room through leboncoin.fr (the French equivalent of Marktplaats), most French people who have a room available post on this site, so I would recommend anyone who is looking to consult this site. I stayed with a French guy in his 50's in his apartment together with an Australian student, in the middle of the city centre. The room cost me €600 a month, this is expensive but given the fact that even a room in the suburbs costs €500 on average so it wasn't too bad.
leisure & culture
Lyon is an absolutely great and beautiful city, the city centre was nominated the title of Unesco World Heritage, because it is so diverse. Several cultural festivals were held during my stay, including the Cinema festival and the festival of Lights. The latter was one of the most magical things I have experienced in my life. Overall it's a great city to walk around, and you'll find something new everyday!
suggestions/tips
-

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes most definitely
do you have any additional advice or comments?
-

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon II
start date	09 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process was easy to follow. It does however take a while to assemble all the documents needed. The only thing that was a bit strange was that I needed to say what courses I was going to take abroad, because there was no affirmation this was going to be possible. But I do understand that counselors at UU want to know this because of your studie programme. In my case i just put in the courses I would want to follow and then changed them where needed after I arrived in France.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The support at Utrecht University was very good. The counsellor at the International Office really looked with me what options there were for me and what we could do to achieve the specific Erasmus wish I had. They are very much available and respond quickly to questions by mail or phone.
academic preparation	
	I didn't have a lot of academic preparation. Beacause my university lets Erasmus students choose in what year they want to follow courses I could see when I was there what suited me best. I wanted to follow courses in education and I had a few weeks to try out different courses before I had to make a definitif choise.
language preparation	
	My university only offers courses in French, so all of my courses were in French. I didn't do a lot of preparation because I already spoke French. I did read some more scientific articles in French to prepare myself and that was enough to get a more into the academic language.
finances	
	I made the financial plan offered by the UU to see where I would be at financially. For me I didn't need to borrow any extra money from DUO or use any of my savings, but the Erasmus+ grant was of course welcome.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I didn't know what courses I could take before arriving because there is no online inscriptions. When I arrived I could go to the office of the study programme I wanted to follow to ask for more information. All information on the courses was done by talking to the office, there was no specific information online or in brochures. At

the Education office they gave me a timetable and explained the courses and then I could just go to the courses at had to ask the professor for a signature.
academic quality of education activities
The education activities were different than in the Netherlands. There is more testing done orally with presentations or answering questions. Sometimes there are reports too but a lot shorter than in Utrecht. The depth of the courses is a little less also, I think this is especially because there is less discussion. It's more listening to the professor and responding to his questions and less a two way communication.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office at my university is very welcoming and very friendly. They really try to help you as much as possible and you can pass at their office at any time you need. If they can not help you themselves they will always give you the adress of where you do need to go.
transfer of credits
My university automatically sends back the results to the International Office in Utrecht. If you want to have the transcript of credits yourself too you have to ask for it at the International Office and go pick it up when it is available. They do not send it to your personal address.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was a general welcome presentation where the Direction de Relations Internationales explained the fonctioning of the university. They also explained how to go about choosing the courses and how to fill in your Contrat Pédagogique.
accommodation
The university can help you find accomodation if needed. This can either be a student apartment if they have any available, or they can help you give the right websites and phone numbers to find something yourself if you're stuck. I personally didn't need any help from them.
leisure & culture
Lyon is a beautiful city with a lot of cultural and fun outings to do. There are several musea, a Roman theater and the churches are amazing. Also the Lyonnais people are very friendly and helpful and will make you feel right at home.
suggestions/tips
If you're a bit at ease with looking for an apartment or a room at distance, do it! The apartments/rooms offered by the university are usually not that great and very expensive. Again, I didn't live in one during my mobility but I did a few years ago. Also my Erasmus friends who lived in a university apparment said the same. Also keep in mind that the way of evaluation is very different than in the Netherlands. There is less clarity, no study guides etc., so if you don't like that you might want to go to a more organized country.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, for a French institution it was good enough organized and Lyon is an amazing city. The fact that all courses are in French is great, it not only boosts your comprehension of real situations, but also facilitates the contact with French classmates (because they know you speak their language).
do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you can do without an Erasmus+ grant, don't apply for one. It is a lot of paperwork, and way too many deadlines to keep check of while you're also trying to integrate in a new environment. After mobility they also send you forms via e-mail to complete within either 30 days or even just one week. So if you are on holiday then that can be annoying. Also important: for me it was extremely difficult to get my grades approved, because there is no official course description for the faculty I was in. So keep that in mind when choosing your university.

Report 4

permission to publish contact details**	<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: babkeweenk@hotmail.com my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Babke Weenk other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: babkeweenk</p>
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	Université Lyon Lumière 2
start date	07 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was pretty simple! Via Osiris you could choose a country and a university, and beforehand you knew the offer. That made it very easy to apply. Also, the steps were clearly demonstrated.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling & support at Utrecht University has been a while, but what I can remember it was always good. We had one meeting where we talked about culture shock, and I really got the impression that the counsellors wanted the best for us, which was a really nice feeling and give trust.
academic preparation	I didn't do any academic preparation, because the courses I was gonna follow there were "extra" for my program. I mainly took courses revolving cognition though, which I already had some base for because of my major (cognitive and neuropsychology)
language preparation	

I followed three french courses, of which two were language learning-based (1 & 2) and one was cultural preparation (La France Contemporaine 1). All really helped me because they mainly spoke in French. I could really see my level rising in The Netherlands already.
finances
I saved up some money and still had my loans from the government which I could take from if I needed it (I needed it). I also got some financial support from my parents in terms of rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
before I came, I thought I was gonna take all kinds of stuff, because I felt a bit lost in my own programme and wanted to "discover" something new, which I would like. Finding courses though, was very very difficult. Lyon 2 has a site, but the information is very scattered and incomplete. You will not find course descriptions. They told us to check out the printed out schedules for each subject (for which we had to go to the university), and go to the first course to see if you liked this. For a lot of people, this was very chaotic.
academic quality of education activities
The qualities of the education was pretty okay in my opinion. It differed per course, at best everybody was super conscious of the material and was very active with a very knowledgeable professor. At worst, everybody talked through the professor and there were barely any slides to learn from. It really differed. I also really think that there is a big difference between the material during the course and the material when it's being tested. The course material seemed very easy and minimal, but I found almost all tests I took way more difficult. This could also be the language barrier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling was in the beginning, and I was warned that it was gonna be horrible by other reports, but it was pretty good in my opinion. Yes, the International Office is not open very often and they are very administrative, but they were really nice people and the first few meetings really explained everything we needed to do. This was a lot, which caused for chaos and panic for a lot of students including myself, but it all turned out well. I really do think that they could do a better job on the social integration though, but I will get to that :).
transfer of credits
This is still in the process of happening, therefore I cannot comment on this yet. I fear it's gonna be difficult, because it is almost impossible to get an English description of the course, which is what the university of Utrecht demands.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
In the beginning, when we had a reunion where we got all the information, it seemed like the student life was gonna be very active and that there were lots of activities. There was gonna be a buddy programme, some trips and parties. However, this wasn't as good at all. We got our buddy, I think somewhere in March when we were already integrated on our own. It was also said that we were gonna do activities with all of the buddies and all of the international students, but this never happened. There were three trips in total. I cannot comment on the quality of them, because I haven't been. The goodbye-party was planned mid June, when everybody was already gone (and therefore it was cancelled). If you want to make friends, do not rely on their programme, because it barely exists. They were very nice and hardworking people, but there was just one young girl

responsible for the integration programma. That's not enough. We found other introductinal activities from other groups or universities and joined there, but these were also very scarce.
accommodation
I got my accommodation via ChezNestor! It's very expensive (you pay 500 euros just to be able to book a room, and the rent is always between 450-700 euros). That said, the room is already furnished and they have really good locations. Mine was just 4 minutes by foot from the university and the Rhone and 15 minutes from the city centre in Presqu'Ile, but the life in Guillotiere (where I was) was also very vibrant. i also got a discount from ChezNestor for being last minute (instead of 500 euros I paid 200). There was no living room however and my roommates barely talked with eachother. I therefore recommend it if you are sure you're gonna build a social life outside of your accommodation, because the service is pretty good.
leisure & culture
Most of my time I spent studying in cafes (they have lots of nice ones!) near the university, going to bars with people (the "peniches" are very nice to go out and the city centre is very vibrant) and strolling around the city centre. I didn't take up any specific hobbies but from what I've heard, the sports programma at Lyon 2 is pretty nice. Via FB you can find lots of activites to do as well.
suggestions/tips
I wrote this in a bit of a rush, so if you have any questions feel free to contact me! This is my general advice: - Talk to as much people as you can, be open, don't be afraid of the english/french. The levels were very different. Some international people could only speak english, some only french, some could neither. You'll find a way to communicate and connect! - Make use of the nature around you, there's lots of beautiful mountains and lakes (Mont D'or, Miribel). The rivers are amazing too. - Lyon has not one centre, you have Vieux Lyon, Croix-Rousse, Guillotièrè, Hotel de Ville, Confluence, and so much more. All have their own charm and beauty. - Spend on accomodation. Find something that is close to either the mainstream centre (so Hotel de Ville) or near the university. Everything is walkable in this city (or bikeable, do that as well!!). One source of friend making was my place being super close so very fitting for hangouts/bag drop offs before going out. - Day trips!! Lyon is in the centre of France, you can get anywhere with a Flixbus. - Join every Facebook group that is even remotely related to you and your activities.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. I was super hesitant before I came, because no one was really super enthusiastic and the city wasn't known. But, I love it. I love Lyon, I really fell in love and I cannot wait to go back. I feel like it is to Paris what Utrecht is to Amsterdam + nature and better weather. People are nice, the place is beautiful and I just look back with a warm heart. Like I said, feel free to contact me, I'd love to ramble on about why I love it!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I said a lot already. Studying wise: I know it sounds scary, but take the TDs. With bad luck, you'll have to do group projects with french people that are not open to befriend you, and then you can drop out easily. With good luck, you'll have French friends and an easy way for extra study points (plus more soft skills).

2017-2018
Report 1

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> d.e.dewit@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French Language and Culture

destination city & country	Lyon, France
name university abroad	Université Lumière Lyon 2
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
<p>exchange application process</p> <p>The Utrecht University website for study abroad was very well-organized. I selected all French universities and looked at their programmes, and I finally had found the best three with a linguistics programme. That's how I found my three choices. The application was very clear too, you needed five documents, a Study Plan, a Motivation Letter, a CV, a Financial Plan and a Proof of Language Proficiency. I don't think all of those documents are necessary. In the Study Plan you have to name the courses you want to take. However, seeing that we had to hand it in before December, I knew nothing about the courses, and I haven't actually taken any of the ones I initially said. Besides, it was extremely difficult to find any courses at all on the Lyon 2 website. I don't really think the Financial Plan is useful either, none of the expenses or incomes I wrote down were close to what they actually were in France.</p>
<p>counselling & support at Utrecht University</p> <p>Counseling and support started with an information meeting, followed by a conversation with a person specialized in France. This was both very useful, and it reassured me. After the University I was sent to was announced, it took a few months until there was another meeting, which I found useful too. I didn't actually do it, but I knew that I could send questions to the International Office and the person I'd already spoken to anytime I wanted, which was very reassuring. In the summer vacation one thing bothered me, I did not have any paperwork left to do, while everybody constantly said that it was so much, I didn't realize it would only really start after my arrival in France. I did not know I had to deactivate my student product on my OV-card (Dutch public transports) in order to receive the compensation, I found out while I was already in France, luckily my family was still there, otherwise I would have missed that money, I don't think anyone told us we had to deactivate it during the meetings.</p>
<p>academic preparation</p> <p>In academic perspective I've prepared for two full years. I think almost every course taken (French Language acquisition, French Culture and Literature and French Linguistics) attributed to the knowledge I needed to go to France. Especially linguistics courses were essential, they formed the basis of knowledge I needed to take the 2nd and 3rd year French Linguistics courses in France.</p>

language preparation
As I said, I started language preparation with my very first course of the French Bachelor, French language acquisition. Afterwards I had two more language acquisition courses, and almost all of my other courses were completely in French. I also took a French language and culture course at level C1 in Lyon. This was my only course with only Erasmus students, it's where I made the most friends, and it was the place I knew I could ask any question I wanted about how things worked at the Lyon 2 university.
finances
I initially wanted to pay everything with the Erasmus Grant, the OV-card compensation and some of my savings. This was before my rent turned out to be double as much as I anticipated. I started a student loan at DUO, which I don't really like, because I always wanted to avoid a loan at any cost. But with the student loan I had enough money. The things that bothered me about the Erasmus grant were that I could only receive it for four months, while I was there for five months, that we got only eighty percent, the other twenty I'll get long after I've been back, so it was no use for my actual stay abroad, and lastly that we didn't get a certain amount of money every month, that way the grant money would have lasted longer.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
There was no way to choose subjects before arrival or before term started. All foreign students had three weeks to attend to all the classes they wanted, try everything, and choose. But it started with an introduction week, in which we had several appointments, a meeting for all Erasmus students with general information, a conversation with a teacher about the courses you wanted to take and a meeting and test for the language course I'd taken (for which we had to apply whilst applying for the university, around may/june I think). We also had to go to the office where they made student cards. The meetings were fine, very general but the conversation with the teacher was not such a good idea. A name was given to me, so when I contacted the man, he said he couldn't help me because he knew all about music courses, not about linguistics. They'd given me a random name which was no help at all. There was no way to find all available courses online or in one catalogue or something. You had to go to a secretariat. We could choose all courses universitywide, but every academic year of every different study had it's own secretariat. So you had to run from office to office if you wanted several timetables. This was really annoying, and there were some academic years without any secretariat, so I didn't have a chance at finding those timetables. After the three weeks deadline of choosing courses we had to wait another eight weeks or so to really be signed up for the courses. This meant that I didn't have access to the online learning environment all that time. I was happy with the courses I'd chosen, but I was very insecure about whether or not they would be accepted at Utrecht University. I only heard whether they were applicable in my study program after I'd returned to the Netherlands, which is of course super late. If they wouldn't have been accepted, there would've been no way to get my ECTS and graduate this year.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of my courses was good, the teachers were stricter, and they had a rapid talking pace with no pauses whatsoever. This has been very useful since I've been back, because the teachers in Utrecht are a little more relaxed. I took courses of a 2 nd and 3 rd year bachelor, and the level was comparable to the level in Utrecht. The only big difference was that there was no homework whatsoever. I had three seminars, but they were actually the same as the lectures. The courses were more in depth, because they took the entire semester in stead of the half-semester courses in Utrecht. I didn't really like that there was usually only one big exam per course, while in Utrecht I always receive several grades per course, which is easier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Counselling and support was not great, with problems or questions you had to go to the "international office" or to one of the secretariats. At the International Office they knew very little, they could'nt look up courses or tell any specific information whatsoever. The secretariats were more useful, even though they were not always happy to help. I had several exams planned at te same time, and they helped me very resentfully and practically said that it was my own fault, even though this was absolutely not the case.

transfer of credits

Until my return in the Netherlands I was not sure whether I would receive any credits for my courses in Lyon. The Exam Commission was slow, and it got me really stressed. In the end my courses were accepted, but all as level one courses, meaning that they were introductory first year courses. This was not correct, because I'd taken in depth 2nd and 3rd year courses. They said they didn't have enough info to check from which academic year the courses were, but this was not true. I sent them two huge catalogues with all the info of the academic year of linguistics year 2 and 3, with the course descriptions somewhere in there. It were the course descriptions they needed. They did not notice the big "licence 2" on the first page, which means "bachelor year 2". If only they'd looked at it a little better, they would have instantly known that it were 2nd and 3rd year courses, and it would have saved me a lot of trouble. I now have the confirmation that they will all be valued as level 3 courses, but it is not done yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They did their best regarding welcome and orientation. Having to go from secretariat to secretariat was far from ideal, but the welcome we got was good and they tried to help as much as they could. In the orientation we got a sports catalogue (apparently that's possible, whilst a course catalogue is too difficult to make or something). I was planning on taking a sports course, especially to make friends, but eventually I didn't. A sports course could be taken without ECTS, but then you had to pay a little, I think it was €10 for the entire semester. There were excursions organized for the foreign students, but I didn't go, because they always had two components, one of which was visiting a vineyard and tasting wine, but I don't drink alcohol. I could have gone either way of course, but I just wasn't interested in vineyards.

accommodation

The accomodations were fine, the univesity library seemed fine, but it was not accessible via internet, as in Utrecht. The printers worked, it took me an hour to figure out, because they don't work on wifi, so you had to print on a library computer, but once figured out it was easy. To my surprise and delight, there was always a free computer when I needed one. The only difficulty was that the university printers couldn't scan, which was difficult, because I constantly had to scan Erasmus documents. There were apart from inside the library no study spots. Only the canteen could be used accordingly. The canteen was pretty good, with good food and a lot of space to sit. The one huge issue was that there was no toilet paper anywhere. You had to use paper hand towels and often there was none of them either. I really hated this, and it resulted in me walking around with toilet paper in my bag 24/7. I found it unbelievably undevelopped. There was a good public transport connection. There were two campusses, both accessible with a tram. I hardly used public transports, because I had taken my bike. That was the best thing I could have done. The city was small enough to go everywhere by bike, and I really didn't like the always busy tram.

leisure & culture

There was a lot of culture in Lyon, churches, museums, theatres, cinema's with special french culture movies etcetera. There was a huge shopping mall and several nice parks. You could take a sports course at university or practice another sport throughout the city, there was plenty of choice.

suggestions/tips

Lyon – Université Lumière II

I would take as many classes with Erasmus or other foreign students as possible. I had great contact with the people of my language course, but in my other courses I was the only foreigner, and basically nobody talked to me. It's difficult to make friends with the French, so make sure you're close to the others. I also suggest to take your bike if it's possible, there are cycling lanes (if you search hard enough) and sometimes you need to cycle on the sidewalk. It's definitely not as safe as in the Netherlands, but you're usually the only cyclist, and it's very much worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would, I don't think the difficulties I encountered were university-bound as much as country-bound. The French are bureaucratic and they love paperwork, they simply aren't very modern. I really chose Lyon 2 because of the good linguistics programme, and I can really recommend all linguistic courses. I loved the city, it's not filled with tourists like Paris, but it's big and there's loads to do. The Erasmus student community is very open and it's easy to make friends with people of all nationalities (except French). My language skills are much better and I've learned a lot, in and out of university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I don't know how it can/should be changed, but I really had an overload of deadlines for forms to fill in, sign, and get signed by others. The combination of bureaucratic France and form-filled Erasmus made it difficult. I was constantly afraid to miss a deadline. Especially the uncertainty whether or not I'd receive ECTS made it difficult to enjoy my time in Lyon.