

France – Université Côte d'Azur (Nice)**2022-2023****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 <input type="checkbox"/> yes: @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: elodi.e 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	Universiteit Utrecht	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen	

destination city & country	Nice, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Université Côte d'Azur
start date	02 / 01 / 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	
The application process in the Netherlands was quite overwhelming at first and almost made me not want to go on exchange. But you just need to look past it and you'll see it becomes easier.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
This was good. They always responded to my questions and also pretty quickly.	
academic preparation	
I didn't do a specific official academic preparation for my exchange. I just finished my subjects in Utrecht and that was enough.	
language preparation	
So lucky for me I already knew the French language pretty well since I was raised bilingual. But for preparation I put my phone in French and made sure to not make mistakes whenever I spoke French. I would recommend practicing before going so that you are well prepared before departure. You're going to be speaking a lot of French.	
finances	
I already had a studentloan at DUO so that helped me in my exchange as well.	

France – Université Côte d'Azur (Nice)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I was unfortunately a bit disappointed by the agreement between both universities (Utrecht and Nice). Which was that my courses needed to be mostly language courses (and I study communications). This was an agreement which couldn't be changed, so be aware of that.	
academic quality of education activities	
I could definitely sense a difference in level in the courses. The english courses were really easy, and some french courses were doable as well because you do a lot of teamwork. But some courses were way too hard for me, for example a sociolinguistique course in French was too hard for me. But overall it was pretty good, I definitely liked the communication courses I did and some of the language courses were not that bad.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
You have the international office at the university who will help you. Overall they responded pretty quickly to my emails, but i felt like they didn't really help me with choosing courses and how to arrange everything.	
transfer of credits	
I got the transcript of records pretty quickly and it went well.	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The university provided a welcome party which was well organised. There was also a welcome party from the erasmus organisation which was fun.	
accommodation	
I easily and quickly found my accommodation. I discovered mine through a student website called Etuloge. However, the university also offers dormitory rooms in a residence. Although they are not as centrally located, they are in close proximity to the universities. I would suggest opting for a room in the center because you will likely spend most of your time there, allowing for greater convenience.	
leisure & culture	
Nice is a very lovely city, it is big enough but the center is actually pretty small. French people are often stereotyped as being arrogant however you'll notice a striking difference in the south of France. People here often see the sun and welcome you with a smile and a little chat. Also the french students are really open-minded and welcomed me in their life. They also like being friends with foreigners to improve their english for example. Of course Nice has so many pretty areas where you can go to the beach, enjoy the view or do a fun activity. Another thing which positively surprised me is the free sports. The university provides free classes for different kinds of sports you can do almost anything you want. From dance, rugby, volleyball, scuba-diving, skiing. Some sports demand a little contribution but overall everything is free and on really good level.	
suggestions/tips	
I would suggest to buy a transport card (Lignes d'Azur) which is 20 euro per month for unlimited tram and bus rides on the whole Côte d'Azur. I also would suggest you to take the train from Nice and visit the surrounding villages such as Èze, Cap d'aill, Menton, Cannes, etc.	

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

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)

I would definitely recommend this destination to others. If you like beach, sun, sports and trying out new things you should definitely go here. It is also the perfect opportunity to improve your French, I know that's why I came to France. Keep in mind that you have to arrange things yourself and probably ask a lot at the international office there, but once you figured everything out it is definitely worth it.

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	French language and cultuur

destination city & country	Nice, France,
how did you travel to your destination?	plane
name university abroad	Université Côte d'Azur
start date	28 / 08 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For me the application process was quite okay. I wanted to go to a French university since I'm studying French so it was easier to narrow down my options. I also stayed in Europe so concerning visa I didn't have any difficulties.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think for the preparation there were some talks/'markets' to help you out with the exchange proces and choosing your destination.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I also didn't need to do any language preparation since I study French and had the required level.

finances

So, exchange will probably always be more expensive than your normal life. I really like to travel, so I knew I wanted to be able to travel freely in the region while I was on exchange. Therefore I saved quite some money just to be sure that I could do everything I wanted over there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)

The organisation at this university if you go to Campus Carlone faculty is a mess. I and many others encountered lots of problems constructing our schedule, just finding the schedule took two weeks because the international office there refused to give it to us.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was absolutely less than at the Dutch universities. The system is very old-fashioned with only lectures of 3 hours without any participation required. Most times there was even no powerpoint or even a syllabus on the course. If you go to this university, be prepared that concerning uni related things, it is just listening and hoping you take enough notes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very bad. Emails were not responded and office hours were very limited.
transfer of credits
With this I chose to do only subjects of 6 ECT since there are a lot subjects who have 3 hours of courses a week but only count for 3 credits. I didn't want to do 10 subjects so I based my subject choices on amount of credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is a very active ESN group in Nice which for me was the place to meet new people in the beginning. They organised all kinds of activities, weekly drinks but also trips to 'nearby' cities. The uni had one lecture as a welcome thing so no introduction week or so.
accommodation
You have the CROUS for which you need to apply really early on, that's the student residency organisation and they have multiple buildings. Keep in mind that there are a lot of different campus in the city so I would really look for a CROUS nearby your uni. Most of the CROUS are a bit out of the main part of the city, so since I was too late for the CROUS I had to go somewhere private. I ended up with very fun girls but a very weird landlady. CROUS is around 250/300 euros I guess and I paid 450.
leisure & culture
This is the best part about Nice. All the before parts may seem a bit negative and I really did not like the university, but the city itself and the region around it are fantastic. The city has a good atmosphere and in summer it is very lively, in winter lots of cafés close but then there are also less tourists in your way. Nice is very close to the Italian border so you have the French vibes but the Italian vibes as well. Besides that, there is an amazing train network along the coast line which can take you to almost all the cities by the sea. It is also only an hour or so to go by bus or train to the mountains so hiking is an absolute must, it is super beautiful. There are many many cute villages in the mountains which look absolutely picturesque. We often used Komoot for hikes, because it really knew all the pathways. Going out in Monaco is also really a tip, club Rascasse doesn't ask any entry or clothing requirements and you can go by train and go back by bus.
suggestions/tips
So club rascasse in Monaco haha, all the museums are free for under 26 so go explore them you can just walk through since you don't have to make your visit worth it. There are sentiers littorales from Monaco to Menton beautiful along the coastline with lots of hidden beaches. Try raclette, it's amazing.

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

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)

The destination absolutely, it has a lot to offer if you like to have a diversity of relaxing at the beach, culture, sports and going out. It is not a very big city so you will know most of it after a few weeks so if you really want action all the time I think you might get bored. The train network is great so only for some mountain trips you need a car. The food is obviously also a pro, it is expensive in Nice tho. The university was absolutely terrible. I had to spend a lot of time on just organising my courses and making sure I would get the grant which was also a drama. That really cost me so much time and effort, while most of it was out of my influence so that was very frustrating.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

know your deadlines and communicate with both the international office UU and the erasmus office UU if you run into problems. Don't do one of them then you get more problems, just do them both.

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	Nice, France
name university abroad	Université Nice Sophia-Antipolis
start date	03 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process is quite intensive and you will have to hand in many documents. However, everything is clearly indicated on the site of the UU and the International Office will absolutely try to answer your questions.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The International Office was very helpful and always responds fast when you send a mail.	
academic preparation	
It is quite difficult to really prepare yourself for the French courses. This is due to the fact that you will probably have to change (a number of) your courses mentioned in the original study program after arriving in France. For me, my bachelor courses were my academic preparation. Nevertheless, it is important to know that the educational system in France differs from the system in the Netherlands. The 'handboek voor uitwisseling', which you will receive after the pre-departure meeting, will give you some practical information about these differences. This might seem a little bit strange, but I would recommend watching some French videos on YouTube about the French universities ('Comment s'organiser à la fac?') because they will help you to understand the French educational system and to improve your French.	
language preparation	
Since I am a student in French language and culture, my French was adequate enough to attend courses abroad.	

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)**finances**

During the application process of the UU, I needed to make a financial plan. This was very helpful and gave me an idea of the costs. It is important to realize that Nice is a very expensive city and that your rent can be very high. Especially during summer before going abroad, I have worked a lot in order to save some money. I would definitely recommend applying for the 'CAF' (Caisse Des Allocations Familiales)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**study programme (content and organisational issues)**

In september, there were some organizatory changes in the studyprogramme which is partly due to the fact that most courses will be rewarded for 2 or 4 ECTS. When I arrived, the courses which were mentioned in my studyplan did not exist anymore. As a result of that, I simply had to attend courses in order to see if they were interesting and not too difficult. It was quite challenging to find courses and to put them in a timetable, that is why it took me about 4 to 5 weeks before really knowing which courses I was going to take. Nevertheless, at my arrival at university they told me that I had the possibility to contact one of the teachers who would help me choosing and finding the subjects that matched my interests which was really helpful. I really like the courses that I have taken. I really like literature and I was glad to be able to take 6 courses in literature and 1 course in didactics. Nevertheless, students had the possibility to take courses in almost all courses at the faculty of humanities.

academic quality of education activities

The French educational system differs a lot from the system in the Netherlands. In most courses, the teacher will tell a story and it is your own responsibility to write everything down that might be useful. Personally, I would recommend trying to get in touch with the French students or at least ask if they would like to compare their notes. In general, they really helped me and some of them proposed to help me studying for the exams. In some courses there was a powerpoint, but most teachers would not put it online so you really need to be focussed during class. I really appreciated experiencing a new way of studying even though it was quite difficult at the beginning.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I was very happy with the International Office at the humanities faculty. If you send a mail, they will respond fast and they will absolutely try to help you. Sometimes it was difficult to get correct answers to questions but this was due to the organizational changes.

transfer of credits

Because of the 'contrôle continu' I received all my French notes and I got my transcript of records in the second week of February. However, these are the french notes and that is why I do not know exactly how these courses will be graded in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE**welcome & orientation programme**

Before the beginning of the courses, there was a meeting for international students organised by the International Office and after a few weeks they organised a meeting during which they offered some specialties of Nice. In France, there is the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) which organizes many activities for international students which gives you a great opportunity to meet other Erasmus students.

accommodation

At first, I wanted to find an accomodation in one of the affordable CROUS residences but they did not have enough rooms available. I really wanted to find a room before going to France and that is why I decided to rent

France – Université Côte d'Azur (Nice)

a small studio in a private residence (Résidence France Riviera). I had a really good time in this residence. It was really clean and well organized and most importantly trustworthy. Other students told me that they had found a room at leboincoin.fr

leisure & culture

Nice is such a lovely city! You are extremely close to the sea and the old town is beautiful, I have been there so many times and it stays interesting. It is easy to take the bus (1,50) or train to explore the 'Côte d'Azur' and other parts of France and even Italy. At the humanities faculty, they organise each month the 'sorties culturelles' for exchange students in order to teach them more about France and the french culture. These trips are very affordable so I would definitely recommend to participate. Another great thing about Nice is the free entrance in most museums for students.

suggestions/tips

I love ballet and I had the possibility to see a ballet performance at the opera of Nice for only 5 euros and once I got a ticket for free. You will also receive mails of the university in which they present the cultural programme for a specific month which was really great. I was very lucky to meet some really nice French students who did not only help me finding my way at university but also invited me to go out. For example, we went to french movies and they showed me where to go out or go for a (affordable) dinner. I would absolutely recommend getting in touch with the 'locals' in order to improve your language skills as much as possible.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university and destination to others. It is true that the French organization can be a little bit difficult but you will forget this when you will have a sea-view from your classroom. In general, the weather is amazing and I found it really hard to say goodbye to Nice. I even considered staying the whole year and I will go back really soon.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not be afraid of exploring France and French culture and try to talk as much as possible with the French people. It is really great to have other international friends but (depending on your specific Erasmus goals) I would highly recommend trying to make some French friends or to talk French with other Erasmus students.

2016-2017**Report 1**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	Nice, France
name university abroad	Université Nice Sophia-Antipolis
start date	09 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)

exchange application process
The exchange application was due long before really getting into the exchange preparations. It was difficult to choose courses to take abroad this much in advance, but at the same time it forced me to think about the courses already and saved me time afterwards.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I don't recall getting a lot of support at UU, but that may be due to my own tendency to work independently. When I had questions I could always get answers at the International Office by e-mail.
academic preparation
It was very hard to determine which courses abroad would be a good continuation to the courses taken at UU. Not all bachelors/masters are exactly the same and not all entry requirements were equal. I found that part of my courses were more difficult than I expected of the matching courses at UU, even though they were not said to be more advanced. I suppose this is due to different secondary educations and different bachelor programs. It would be very hard to academically prepare perfectly for the semester abroad, since you never know what courses should match.
language preparation
I had been studying the language since long before preparing the exchange, so there were no specific preparations necessary.
finances
The financial plan due at the beginning of the preparations turned out to be a good indication for my actual finances during the semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
As said before it is very hard to decide which courses will match the bachelor. Also, the systems might work differently at the different universities. For instance, in my original bachelor it is usual to select different courses which may be from different majors. At my host university, one bachelor contains mostly or only obligatory courses. It was a challenge to select courses I wanted to take, make them suitable for my prior knowledge (since I did the first semester at UU), and to also fit them in a timetable.
academic quality of education activities
I was satisfied with the average level of academic quality, but in a way I found it distracting that the bachelor consisted mainly of courses with few ECTS. The master's course that I took was a lot better suited and was also rewarded with more ECTS.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Any questions I had I could ask my responsible at the university. Unfortunately, another person took over from the beginning of January, right when I started my semester, which I found confusing. Teachers and people in the International Relations Office at the host university would sometimes give different answers to the same questions, so it was hard to find out who actually had the knowledge about Erasmus-events and examination for example.
transfer of credits
In the beginning it was not clear to me where I could find my grades (again, I asked at the International Relations Office and I was given an answer that turned out to be incorrect). Through a classmate I found out how to access my grades. I have been told by my responsible that the grades will be transferred to UU automatically.

France – Université Côte d’Azur (Nice)

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
I did not participate.	
accommodation	
I tried to find accommodation at the university website, but it turned out to be impossible to reserve a (cheap) room to stay in for the second semester. I got no reaction so I sent an e-mail to the organisation which gave me a link to another website. There, however, the rooms were twice as expensive, so I looked at websites to find another room. Eventually I found a room in an elderly couple's house, at roomlala.com.	
leisure & culture	
In the city and the environment there are many things to do. On top of several touristic events (especially in summer) there are a lot of clubs and bars. By becoming friends with locals (or people very well integrated in French culture) you really get to enjoy the culture of getting together at a soirée (which can be anything from a small house party to hanging out at the beach to drinking tea together) and dedicate a considerable amount of time to eating during a nice lunch or dinner (wine included, also during lunch). Many people in the city are very open to conversations and might just start talking to you on a bus ride. The high amount of foreigners in the city makes it easy to make friends, since many people are very eager to get acquainted.	
suggestions/tips	
I have found it very interesting to get acquainted to both local students and foreigners, instead of just the latter. I was also staying in a home owned by an elderly French couple. These things helped me a lot with figuring out the specifics of the culture of Nice and what to pay extra attention to!	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend this destination. There is a nice and open atmosphere at the university and in the city. There is always something to do, but on the other hand there are always possibilities to relax as well. Making contact with people is easy, and the city has many different aspects.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Be careful with the choice of semesters. The second semester starts earlier than in the Netherlands and finishes in April already. With regard to the university courses it might be advantageous to go to Nice during the first semester, however I found that the second semester was culturally very interesting (probably more than the first). So decide which semester might be best for you considering your specific Erasmus goals.	