2022-2023

faculty/college	Humanities
level	⊠ bachelor's ☐ master's ☐ PhD
name study programme	Franse taal en cultuur
destination city & country	Nanterre, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Université Paris Nanterre
start date	05 / 09 / 22 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 01 / 23 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There is a lot of paperwork and you will need to arrange a lot of things but of course it is all worth it!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office is always willing to help if you have any questions. They do get very busy during some periods so you sometimes have to wait longer for answers to your questions. Just make sure you are always on time with arranging any important matters.

academic preparation

Stay organised since you are going to do up to ten different courses during your exchange (the courses I took at UPN were between 3 and 4,5 ECTS credits). I had a big binder that I used to divide and keep all my documents from the different courses in a same place.

language preparation

Make sure you have a decent level of french before coming to Université Paris Nanterre because some courses will go fast and you will have to keep up with your classmates.

finances

Since Paris is an expensive city, try to save some money before going on your exchange to make sure you can do all the fun activities the city has to offer. At school, however, you can have lunch at a very small price. Also, remember to always bring your student ID card when you are going to the city because France often does student discounts.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was in the PHILLIA faculty where I did mostly litterature but also some courses about linguistics. All my courses were from the first and second year (bachelor). I would highly recommend taking courses from these two years as entering a new school with new classmates, teachers and of course a different language is already a big step. When you arrive at the university you will have to arrange your own schedule with all the different courses in it. We are not used to this at UU, so it is also something to be aware of.

academic quality of education activities

The courses are more like lectures and you have to concentrate for a long time on a regular school day. You will also find that some of the students are not doing their best because they are probably not doing their preferred studies. I found this very unfortunate but it could be that this was happening only or mainly in my faculty. Overall, I gained a lot of information on many different topics (because you will take many different courses).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before your exchange there is some paperwork to do but the team of the "relations internationales" from Paris Nanterre is very kind and always ready to help. Just make sure you organize all your documents well and don't forget any deadlines. :) After applying, I have been in little contact with this team but I know you can always see them physically and/or online in case you need it.

transfer of credits

You receive your transcript of records quite late so be prepared to wait around 2 months for your final grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I did not do any welcome activities. However, there are plenty of opportunities to get to know the campus and there are also a lot of parties for Erasmus students in Paris.

accommodation

A lot of students live on campus in a Crous room. These are also well priced. I lived in Paris and really liked that but living on campus does allow you to make a lot of friends if you want to.

leisure & culture

The best thing about Paris is that there are a lot of things to do. The city is beautiful, there are always art and music festivals everywhere. There are events for everyone!

suggestions/tips

Neko Ramen, Tea'ke Your Time, Peppe Pizzeria, Aki boulangerie, Jardin du Luxembourg, open air cinema...

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would go to this university if you are a true Paris lover. The university is not the prettiest but I myself prefer to work at home so after my classes I went straight back to my place. Therefore, I would come to this university for its location close to city rather than for the classes or the campus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't worry too much, if you pay attention in class you can be successful in your exams! Take as many notes as you can but above all, enjoy the city!

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities		
level	□ bachelor's	☐ master's	☐ PhD
name study programme	Franse Taal en Cultuur		

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris X Nanterre La Défense
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process went very well. The application date was very early, so I had to sort out what I wanted when I didn't really know what I wanted to do.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of the UU is very helpful and responds quickly to all of my questions.

academic preparation

I didn't really prepare myself academically.

language preparation

I didn't really prepare my French. I hoped the fact that I would be in France, was sufficient.

finances

I made sure to have a job in France, I filled in everything for my Erasmus grant and I stopped my student loan in Holland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme was really difficult. I didn't know the level of the courses at the university. It wasn't clear if I was allowed to follow certain courses as an international student. The administration couldn'teither give me any answers, so I had to sort out everything by myself.

academic quality of education activities

The quality was ok, there was a lot of difference between teachers, so you had to guess what to expect at the beginning. There is a big difference between the quality in The Netherlands and France.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Not good, international students don't receive a lot of help. Most of the time, I spent my time e-mailing teachers and visiting all of the offices.

transfer of credits

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STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There wasn't a lot to do. We had one welcoming afternoon, but it was confusing.

accommodation

-	
leisure & culture	
Paris is a great city, you will never get bored.	
suggestions/tips	
-	

CONCLUSIONS

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

I wouldn't recommend this university if they don't improve their way of receiving international students. I didn't feel comfortable at all. Paris has a lot of stuff to do, so I would recommend everyone to visit the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?