

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**2022-2023****Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne
start date	12 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application took a long time but the information on both sides was very clear. Both UU and Paris 1 are very quick to reply to emails and are willing to help you.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The International Office has been incredibly supportive to me. Due to personal issues my exchange was hard for me, but the International Office has been nothing but helpful and nice.	
academic preparation	
I didn't do any academic preparation.	
language preparation	
Paris 1 asks for a B2 French language certificate. For this I took a TCF at the Alliance Française in Amsterdam (which cost 140 euros if I'm not mistaken). Don't stop learning French after this test, try to be able to speak French on a conversational level before you go. It will help you tremendously with getting around and making friends.	
finances	
Paris is an expensive city but it's not that far off from Utrecht. I saved up a little bit beforehand but nothing more than a couple hundred euros. Make sure you apply for an Erasmus grant and get your OV-vergoeding (120 euros per month!). This will easily cover for the difference in cost of living.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
After the instruction week (see below: "Student life, welcome & orientation"), you have to formally register for the courses you're gonna take, but the process is not all clear, and nobody seems to be able to tell you how it works. In reality, however, it is not that difficult. The first two weeks you can basically sit in on any courses you want (just find the schedule on the Paris 1 website). Go to the teachers of the classes you're sitting in on to say that you're not on the list, but that you're an international student and that you want to be added manually. No teacher will tell you no. The teachers also have a code for you to manually join the courses EPI page (the Paris 1	

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version of Blackboard), just ask the teachers. The French students are automatically added to they don't know the code.

After about 1,5 weeks of figuring out the courses you wanna take, find the secrétariat of your degree course (you can find the location of different secrétariats on the Paris 1 website). If the secrétariat can't (or don't want to, a very French problem), send an email to the delegate of your degree course! They will send you the form you need to fill in (nb. you can't just download this somewhere, you need to get it either from the secrétariat or your delegate). Just send this form to the secrétariat and they will formally register you for the courses you have selected.

academic quality of education activities

The French education system is very different from ours. Expect to 'vousvoyer' everyone, and be polite. Every class I attended had the teacher teach for two hours straight without any breaks. The university also doesn't plan for time in between classes. This means that after two hours of full focus you need to politely ask to leave the class early, to run to your next class, apologize for being late, and then without having had a break focus for another two hours. Most classes are not pedagogical at all either. Expect the teacher to read an pdf and you have to write down everything. They will even dictate the titles you need to give to different subheadings in your notes. They also make you write every paper in very specific French formats. They are very strict about this, but you have to figure out how to do it yourself.

On the other hand, the teachers are usually experts in their field that enjoy national and sometimes international fame for their work. They just are not very good teachers.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't use support or counseling at Paris 1, but I believe they have a delegated person for helping out exchange students (who is also supposed to speak English)

transfer of credits

This was very easy. Since France is also in the EU the credits automatically transfer.

STUDENT LIFE**welcome & orientation programme**

Two weeks before the academical year starts you're invited to partake in a French oral placement test for the "sémaine d'intégration" (an introduction week). This oral exam usually takes place on a Wednesday or Thursday. A French teacher will welcome you and one or two other students at the same time and will ask you (in French of course) to tell him/her about yourself, your studies, etc (also in French). The teacher will determine what level of French classes you can take in the introduction week.

So the introduction week starts on Monday with a warm welcome in the Sorbonne's main building. The president of the university (together with people like the exchange coordinator) will tell you about the university and tell you about the extracurricular activities that the university offers (think of sports, associations, etc). The rest of the week you take French classes every day. It's a nice easy start to your exchange. You get to brush up on your French, the teachers are very friendly and you get to meet plenty other international students. At some point during the week the university also organises a cocktail party where you can meet the international students from the other groups too.

accommodation

The university can help you find lodging in a CROUS studio (a sort of French SSH). The university will send you an email where you can sign up for this a few months before the exchange starts. If you don't get one of those,

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try signing up for the Cité Universitaire. They offer rooms for international students at a reasonable price. If you don't get a room there either, you can use appartager.fr (a sort of French Kamernet).

leisure & culture

Visit as many museums as you can (my personal favorite is le musée de l'Orangerie). Check out the jazz bars in Le Marais, and check out the DICE app for local concerts. Leave plenty of time to stroll around the city's parks and boulevards.

suggestions/tips

Get an Imagine R subscription for public transport, it's a subscription for students that lets you save a lot of money. Do groceries at the big supermarkets outside of the ring around Paris, it's much cheaper like that.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend Paris 1 only if you love Paris enough that the bad education is worth it for you. If you want to choose Paris 1 for academic purposes, then you're better off going somewhere else.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy all of Paris, it's the greatest city in the world!

Report 2

faculty/college	Faculty of Humanities, history
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	L3 Histoire

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was very clear and very unclear at the same time. With regard to Utrecht University, all of the information beforehand and obligatory steps I had to take for my application etc. were very clearly communicated. I quickly received help when I needed it. Contradictory, information from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne was often confusing. They made a mistake and had sent an Exchange Application Process-document to all abroad history students, whilst this document was actually meant for the French students going abroad. The document stated we had to take a lot of steps we couldn't do (because they were made for French students in the French system). When I sent an email asking about this weird document, they only said I had to fill it in. When arriving in Paris, it was only after a couple of weeks that I found out it was a mistake and all the hustle to try to fill in the document had not been needed.

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counselling & support at Utrecht University
As stated above, Utrecht University was always very helpful and clear in their communication. On average quick responses.
academic preparation
I went to Paris after studying in Utrecht for three years. I had no problems keeping up with regard to the academic level.
language preparation
I have had French lessons in high school and have followed three courses from the French bachelor in Utrecht.
finances
I have received an 'Aanvullende beurs' which helped me and worked beforehand. I knew Paris was not the cheapest city at all to go to - this is important to keep in mind whilst choosing your city :)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I have followed License 3 - Histoire courses (bachelors' level 3)
academic quality of education activities
After studying history in Utrecht for 2 or 3 years, I would say you have all the competences you need to study in Paris at level L2/L3. However, mostly because of the language, but also because you need to change to a different way of studying (1 semester for 4 courses, for example, so more to study at once at the end of the period, and a different way of teaching - more lectures), it is not only easy. On average, I have studied more than some of my friends at other abroad destinations (but once again, this is mostly because of the language I think).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Once arrived in Paris, we got more information during the first week. But this was only on Friday, whilst we had to start classes at Monday - still without knowing what and when... So you need to prepare yourself on a lot more last-minute information than you receive in Utrecht ;) This was also the case during the rest of the period. But in the end, I am glad it was like this. You learn about other systems and ways-of-doing in another country, which is one of the reasons I wanted to go abroad..
transfer of credits
Today, it's 21 st of february. I have to hand in my transfer of credits before the 1 st of march. However, I still have not received it from the Paris university...

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first week, I participated in the language course week. Each morning from 9-13h, we had French class. I really enjoyed it and I met all of my friends from Paris in this first week. Language wise, this week was fun, but the next week when the 'real' history classes at university started, the difference was quite big: the language week was way easier. However, it all went well in the end with my French so I shouldn't worry about it too much (and definitely participate in this first week!).
accommodation
Finding a place that wasn't too expensive was quite a challenge. Some tips: - start way in advance!

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- Do not pay something before talking to the landlord/seeing the place in some way or do not rent a place without any reviews. There is a lot of scam in Paris, so check google for more tips beforehand
- Check out sites like spotahome.com that check the place for you: a lot safer!
- Check out the different arrondissements and where you do and do not want to live. Especially the last one - there are certain areas you want to avoid living in (even though I most of the time felt very safe going around in the city).
- A friend of mine lived just outside of Paris during her abroad period. This was fine, but it is more difficult with regard to making plans in the evening etc. I would recommend searching inside the arrondissements.

leisure & culture

Paris is GREAT for this - so much to discover!

If you like museums (& more), Paris is the place: almost all are free under 26.

suggestions/tips

If you are a masters student: check out CIUP for accomodation.

If not: CROUS also has other student housing - not enough places, but always good to at least sign up (you receive an email from UU about this if i'm correct).

Tip: rent a Swapfiets! Yes, also available in Paris and the perfect way to discover the city. You see a lot more than when going with the metro and there are quite a lot of cyclists in Paris, so not as unsafe as you'd think. Besides, it's only 18 a month whilst the metro is 75.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend. The communication with the university is quite difficult a lot of the times, but the teachers were all kind and helpful to me as an abroad student. The students as well, even though you cannot speak french as good as them - they appreciate that you still do it and think it's very brave. The university is beautifully located in the 5th (amazing arrondissement with a lot of students and good places) next to the Pantheon. The building is beautiful, as well as the libraries.

I think it is important to keep in mind that Paris can be a bit of a different Erasmus destination. In other words: it is a big city, so it is different from smaller ones where you all live close to each other (I have not been to others, but when comparing it to the experiences of my friends in smaller cities). Always busy, and when meeting friends, it can easily take you 30 min to get there. Usually no walking distances ;) I have really enjoyed this completely different way of living but not immediately. I needed to get used to it, but at a certain moment, I was very glad I chose something different and out of my comfort zone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would advice to choose the city you feel the most excited to go to and to not let other things, like doubts about your academic or language level, stop you. I have not heard any of the other students stopping or regretting their choice because of one of these things. And although I sometimes have struggled with the language for example, it all ended well and I am really glad I just dared to try it :)

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and culture studies, French language and culture

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destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went pretty smoothly. I did have some problems at some point because Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne sent me the wrong documents, but this got solved pretty quickly. As far as the UU was concerned, everything was clear.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from the UU was really great. The UU was always available for questions and responded very quickly..

academic preparation

To prepare myself for the semester abroad I followed courses at the UU which were related to history. This gave me a solid base for the history classes in Paris.

language preparation

As I study French language and culture in Utrecht, I already had all the preparation language-wise

finances

I worked prior to my stay abroad and tried to save some money that way. Paris is a very expensive city so I would make sure to save up at least +/- 800 euros for each month that you're staying.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed courses at the history department. As all the courses were given from a French perspective, I surely got some new insights. Most of the organisational issues I encountered were caused by the many strikes in Paris (at some point there was one strike every two weeks). Apart from that, the organisation at the beginning could have been better as I didn't always know where I had to be at what time. After a few weeks I got used to the organisation at this university, but you do have to take a lot of initiative yourself most of the time.

academic quality of education activities

The educational system is pretty different from the academic system in Utrecht. There is more of a hierarchy in Paris and some of the TDs (seminars) are not that different from the lectures. Overall, the academic quality was pretty good, but it differed between courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The receiving university would reply really slowly to my mails and there wasn't a lot of support. I still don't have my transcript of records even though I sent an e-mail for it almost a month ago so I think that says enough. This has to do with the international office receiving a lot of mail.

transfer of credits

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As stated above, I still don't have my official transcript of records. This is the reason why I don't have the credits yet either.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university organised a welcoming week with French classes and a 'welcome cocktail' to meet other international students. After this week, the normal courses started.

accommodation

I was lucky because I was able to get into a CROUS residence, which saved me some money. I was in a residence with other (international) students, which was a lot of fun. I would definitely recommend trying to get a residence through the CROUS.

leisure & culture

When it comes to culture, Paris was the perfect city. I visited so many museums and there were a lot of activities for international students as well. I never had a dull moment.

suggestions/tips

Try to organise everything beforehand but don't panic when some things take longer than you expect or when you don't get an answer right away. The university in Paris can seem a bit unorganised from time to time, but you'll always be able to find solutions to your problems.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Even though the organisation of the uni could have been better from time to time, I would definitely recommend going to this university. The buildings of the university are beautiful, the courses are interesting and Paris really is an amazing city to live and study in!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 4

faculty/college	History
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	École d'Histoire de la Sorbonne UFR 09

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

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exchange application process
I applied to three universities: two in France and one in Italy. Paris was my first choice and luckily I did get in. This initial process was quite easily done, but ultimately once I had gotten into Paris 1 it got harder and more complex to keep up with all the bureaucratic rules and obligations.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support at the UU is great and has helped me immensely with the application and its completion. Any emails I sent were often answered swiftly and in person calls also have proven to be very helpful.
academic preparation
I did not have to prepare myself academically for my stay in Paris, however I did have to pick subjects that weren't too similar to what I had followed in Utrecht.
language preparation
For Paris 1, it is required to have at least a B2 level in French. Since I officially had a B1 level, I had to take a DELF exam for B2. I didn't want to fail, so to insure I would succeed I took 6 preparatory courses. Ultimately, I had to finish my university application before I had taken the exam (there are only a few times a year you can take this exam), so I was worried it would botch my application. Luckily, my teacher signed a letter of proof to Paris 1, confirming I would successfully finish the exam and that I already spoke at a sufficient level of french.
finances
I had 'studiefinanciering' and I got the Erasmus grant. I also know people that got jobs in Paris, but it wasn't strictly necessary to survive (although I lived in student housing in Paris, people that didn't paid twice as much as me).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organisation in Paris was quite dysfunctional when compared to the smoothly ran machine that is the UU. It would take a while to get replies for certain mails and sometimes I wouldn't receive any reply at all. Also, choosing the study content was sometimes rather hard, since some courses that I had picked while in the Netherlands did not seem to be available any more when I had gotten to France.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education differed. Some classes had great teachers who also were great at understanding the position of Erasmus students. Others did not care so much or had different methodologies than in Utrecht. I have had classes where it was unknown at what time or where we would have our exam on the day of the exam. Most classes are less interactive than in the Netherlands and the layout of the classes are also different. For me, a tall person, another point that made concentrating difficult was the fact that it was hard to fit in certain chairs and tables. Ultimately, I would say we learn slightly more in Utrecht, although in Paris you do get to practice your french every class.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
To my knowledge, it is almost none existant. I have no idea who I would have emailed for questions regarding support in Paris. Usually people would turn to their peers about these issues (though I am sure it does exist, I must say I haven't really felt the need).
transfer of credits
it is taking a while and I have yet to receive information from Paris 1 on this topic.

STUDENT LIFE

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welcome & orientation programme
The first week, we had french classes everyday and there were some welcome events. Student clubs and organizations had flyers so we were well informed in that regard and did get the chance to meet lots of people rather quickly. Furthermore, some students and outside actors also created huge groups with events exclusively for erasmus students, but I didn't even really need to go anymore since it had been that easy to make friends already (so I really only went in the first two weeks to these bigger events).
accommodation
I had student housing through the organisation 'Crous' and although the housing was good, affordable (390 euro a month) and within the center of paris, I did have some trouble with the organisation. They confirmed I had gotten a spot in June but then I didn't hear anything until August 26, they didn't once reply to my emails and I had already braced myself for not having a room anymore in Paris. Then when I got to Paris to pick up my keys, no one answered the door and I had to wait multiple hours for someone to show up.
leisure & culture
For all EU-citizens under age 26 museums are free, so it is extremely easy to experience a lot of culture this way. I played tennis through the Sorbonne and because of a broad Erasmus/international student network you get in touch with people and cultures from all over the world. The city has countless stories to tell and by asking people and talking with them you will learn these stories.
suggestions/tips
The 5 th arrondissement is really where my heart lies. I have some gems there that I prefer to stay hidden, but I will say that if you look for culture, you will find it. There is a small church just beneath the Panthéon where they play classical music and there are countless bars with music and good boulangeries too. Furthermore, the univeristy promotes sport and you can join a team for free, which I highly recommend. It is a great way to exercise, but also to meet french people in a fun setting.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the university treats interesting subjects in a specialised way and from a french perspective that is very insightful and unique, I think. Furthermore, there is no city like Paris. I really felt welcome everywhere I went and I met dozens of amazing people and I saw the same amount of interesting museums and cultural heritage, all for free. If you want to exclusively focus on academic development, maybe I would recommend a different place, but if you care about a mix of academic and personal experience, Paris is the place to be.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No, but feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I wish everyone a fun time just like I had myself.

Report 5

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: j.lvb@hotmail.nl	
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
	other (social) media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jelle-lammerts-van-bueren/	
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD		

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name study programme	Research Master History
destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By train.
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	06 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The International Office was very helpful!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
academic preparation
I did not have a specific academic preparation.
language preparation
I took a course at Babel (B2)
finances
Erasmus and savings from my job.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took several courses, mostly on French history, and a language course. Registering for courses is simply terrible if you are a Master's student. Paris 1 has little experience with MA students who do an Erasmus and although the Secretariat people are really friendly (if you address them in French), you have to physically go there to get registered for your courses (and be eligible for exams). I even had to go multiple times because they inscribed me for the wrong courses.
academic quality of education activities
It is great to explore a new academic culture.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Professors have a lot of individual attention for you and all are delighted to have an exchange student in their course. They see it as a good opportunity for both you and the French students to learn from each other and allow you to fully participate in the classes.
transfer of credits
Once again, administration is not the university's strongest side. I had to call them up, after waiting and sending emails for a month, to get my transcript sent.

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STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was an orientation programme of the university and a cocktail party for Erasmus students (BA and MA). You had to register but once you got in it was a great opportunity to meet other students. If you want additional language courses you can also take them in the introduction week. I did not do this myself, however, I heard they were quite good.
accommodation
Via the university I got into the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, an international campus for exchange students. This was a really good place to live with a lot of accommodations, activities, and social events.
leisure & culture
It's Paris, there is a lot to do.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, an exchange is a great opportunity for you to explore another country and another academic culture.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
NO

2019-2020**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	I traveled by train.
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	09 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Applying was a lot of paperwork!

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counselling & support at Utrecht University
The people from the Utrecht International Office were wonderful. They were helpful, to the point, and quick to reply to e-mails, but I also very much appreciated being able to just stop by at the Drift to ask a question. Thanks for all the help!
academic preparation
I already finished all the mandatory bachelor courses, so I didn't take much trouble fitting my courses abroad into my own schedule. Everybody told me I could change courses once arrived, and since the information I got from the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne was poor (and therefore didn't help me much with my decision), I counted on that. That means I did not really prepare for the semester abroad academically.
language preparation
I took two courses in French at the UU; one was an actual language acquisition course, the other was a course about something else, but in French (for practice). I already had quite a good foundation since I took French in high school.
finances
Applying for the Erasmus grant was quite some paperwork, but again, the Utrecht International Office really helped. I did not have a lot of extra expenses since I would take the train which is quite cheap if you buy your ticket early, and my accomodation was a bit more expensive than my room in Utrecht but not much, so I had no financial trouble.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The information provided by the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in advance was very poor and confusing. This made it hard to plan my courses in advance. Once arrived in Paris, I had very much trouble to register for my courses. I had to be physically present at several administration centers in different parts of the city. It finally worked but it took me most of the day every day for a week, and a lot of frustration at that.
academic quality of education activities
I only took four weeks of courses in total (because of the corona crisis), and those weeks were in part disturbed by the strikes in Paris, so I can't judge the general quality, but overall I have not been impressed with the academic quality. One of my courses consisted of every student reading one book and giving a presentation about it, without any theoretical framework. My teacher only taught two classes in total (not because of the corona crisis; this was the planning of the course) about very specific topics, which to me did seem random and not appropriate for an introductory course, which this was. The other courses were better, but never required much critical thinking from the students. As one teacher said: your bachelor's degree is school; university doesn't start until your master's. It really is a different educational culture.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not receive much support at all. There was supposed to be an introduction week, but it only consisted of language classes and one poorly organised welcome meeting. I signed up for a buddy program when I applied to the university, but I never heard from the program. There was one contact person who replied to my emails helpfully, but he only knew about the history department. He could not answer any questions about what to do if I wanted to take a course from another department, nor could he tell me who could help me instead. Let alone giving information about anything non-academic, like sports, even though these were organised by the university as well. I really missed an International Office like the one in Utrecht!
transfer of credits
One of the brochures we were sent in advance gave the wrong information about the EC. My one contact person helped me, so it turned out fine. I cannot really judge how much the workload is compared to what I am

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used to in Utrecht, since it was all so different studying from a distance. I didn't finish implementing my EC in Utrecht yet, so I cannot yet evaluate that process.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was only a week of language classes, even though a welcome & orientation programme had been announced. I signed up for a buddy program but I never heard anything from the program after that.
accommodation
I found my own accomodation.
leisure & culture
I signed up for soccer within the university, which was well organised and was a great way to meet French people. Apart from that, I mostly came into contact with internationals. I had a lovely time with them visiting museums, just walking through the city, eating out and going to party at night.
suggestions/tips
I feel like the two universities could be more tuned in to one another; many UU students have studied at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne before, and yet I often felt as if I were the first one, because a lot of to-be-expected problems arose and could not be easily solved. In my experience, this is more the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne's fault than the UU's, because the UU is much better organised and prepared with the International Office.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend the experience, because I learned a lot, but I also want to say the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne could do a lot better welcoming international students. The organisation is poor even for 'regular' students, and it seems that international students do not count at all. What bothered me most was the absence of one person or institution I could turn to for help. So, as an experience, I would recommend going to Paris to practice your French, make new friends, become more independent in a strange environment. However, as a judgment of the university, I would not say that the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne has made a very good impression on me.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
To the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne: please make an International Office, a clearer website, and a more accessible list of courses. To students going to study abroad: prepare all your paperwork in time, and know that you are definitely not done with it once you arrive at your destination.

Report 2

faculty/college	U.F.R.03
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Histoire de l'art
destination city & country	Paris, France

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	05 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process went very smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office at the University Utrecht was very helpfull. They really take you by your hand and guide you trough the whole process. Also whenever I had questions I could ask them during a reunion or I could send a mail to which they would respond very fast. Even when in Paris I knew I could always contact them for everything.
academic preparation
language preparation
Besides Art History I also study French language and culture. So I didn't do so much about language preparation.
finances
Before I went to Paris, I knew it was gonna be expensive. I tried so save some money before going there. Once in Paris, I was a little shocked that not only a coffee but even doing groceries was really expensive in comparison to Holland. Fontunately, I found a side job as a babysitter which allowed me to be relaxed finance wise.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I decided to follow courses of L3 (year 3 of the bachelors) because the courses of L1 and L2 were in my opinion more overview courses and I was searching for courses at my current level. The L3 courses they offer at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne are in my opinion specific and therefor very interesting. You will follow the courses for a whole semester which allows you immerge yourself in a subject and really learn it in detail. I had for exemple a course about just one artist, Edgar Degas, and we learned about his artistic career in detail.</p> <p>Also, I know it's a detail but when you follow courses of L3 your lectures will be in the center of Paris near Jardin de Luxembourg. So when the weather is nice all students go there to have there lunch. When you follow courses of L1 or L2 you will have your lectures at the Centre Pierre Mendes (13th arrondissement) which is not the nicest location...</p> <p>As you might already have red in the other reports, the organisation at Paris 1 is not great. I prepared myself for the worst which helped me not to become very frustrated. It is mostly at the beginning and the end of your stay that you might find some difficulties. I found out that the french appear to be very strict with deadlines and the things they say ("You really have to do this because otherwise you can't follow the course") but at the end there is always a solution. So don't worry if you have problems with the administration. Everybody has it and</p>

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there is always a solution. There is a secretariat who can help you with most of your questions. Just one tip, don't assume that when they say it's fixed, it's really fixed. It is possible that after two weeks you discover that nothing has changed and that you need to go again. Just don't give up.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the different courses I followed was more or less the same. The courses are given by (known) professors that are specialised in that subject. The way they give there lectures (CM) depends really on the professor. I had one that was talking free, without a paper in front of him, with a lot of gestures and anecdotes. But most teachers sit down and read their writings more or less out loud through the microphone. If you follow the bachelor Art History in Utrecht you will notice that at Paris 1 the number of students is nowhere near the number of students in Utrecht; there are many more. If you decide to follow TD you have a little more interaction with the students (the place to make french friends) and with the teacher. Most of my TD were filled with presentations from students and, besides my own presentation and some exercises, I never had to prepare something in advance. In France the way to do a presentation is very different from how we do it in Utrecht. At Paris 1 you can sit down and read out loud from your paper. I did it the Dutch way (not reading out loud, talking free) and discovered that the teachers really appreciate it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There are people to help you with your questions but sometimes it is just a bit difficult to find them since there is not just one person to whom you can adress all your questions.

transfer of credits

I don't know what to say about this because I haven't received my credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE**welcome & orientation programme**

I attended the welcome programme organised by Paris 1. At first I wasn't accepted because I forgot to fill out a form and at the time I discovered it, it was already too late. But I really wanted to go so decided to ask someone where the first meeting would be. I went there and asked if there was still a spot left for me, and there was (eventhough over the mail they told me there wasn't). It was nice to be able to meet some people and to be able to go to the general introduction.

accommodation

I found an appartement with the help of people I knew. I recommend to spread the word that you're going to live in Paris and that you search for accommodation. You never know if maybe a friend of your neighbour or a distant cousin have some contacts in Paris. If all of that doesn't help you can look on the site "cartedescolocs". And I would also recommend to contact Anne Valeska. She helps foreign students to find an accommodation for a nice price.

leisure & culture

For art history students, Paris is great to study and to live. Paris has great museums and there are always very interesting exhibitions. During my courses my teachers always had recommendations for exhibitions that were in line with the content of the course. A few times I even got a special invitation from a teacher for an opening of an exhibition. I also loved that for some of the works we studied during the course, I could see them in real life (even the same day if I wanted to). When you stroll around in Paris you will never get bored because around every corner there is something beautiful and/or interesting, and you will always discover new places. One new thing that I discovered and want

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to share is that Paris has a lot of cinemas. No surprise when you think that France is the birthplace of the cinema. Nowadays it has the highest density of cinemas per habitant in the world. So I would really recommend to take advantage of it and go visit some cinemas while you're there. It doesn't necessary have to be expensive since for MK2 you have a discount for students during the week.

suggestions/tips

I heard from someone who already went to Paris that there was the possibility to join a choir with only students. I wouldn't have known it if it wasn't from her so that is why I want to write it down here. I had a really nice time there and it was a great way to meet french people and to improve my language skills. Besides that, every year they give concerts at very special places. So if you're interested I recommend you look at the website of this choir: ocup.fr

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university and destination. Studying art history in Paris is a dream. Like I said before you can see most works in real life, you will have great teachers and you have the opportunity to submerge yourself with french art and to study a certain time period or artist for one semester. You will discover another way of teaching and just look how everything goes at a university in Paris. After your stay you will understand and know so much more about the french and their culture, not to mention the improvement of your french level.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Right now you have the possibility to go to live in another country and you don't have to organise everything on your own. Maybe it is sometimes a little scary but remember that every Erasmus student has the same worries as you. You are all in the same boat. So don't worry and dive in this unique adventure!

Also when you're in Paris, don't be afraid to talk to and ask french people! French people already appreciate it when you make an effort to talk their language and they are always very happy to talk about their country and culture to others. It is from these conversations with locals that I got to understand some issues better, that I got some great insider tips about what to do in Paris, where to buy my food or even how to prepare certain vegetables.

Report 3

faculty/college	Utrecht University
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	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
start date	03 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

PREPARATION
exchange application process
There were a lot of things that needed to be done in the application process. I think an exchange should be made easier because you needed to find out a lot yourself and it was a lot of work in combination with studies. It was just every time little things that needed to be done that ended up taking too much time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Compared to the Sorbonne University it was pretty good but sometimes unclear.
academic preparation
I chose the right courses that would fit in to my study programm.
language preparation
I already had a good base in French so I didn't take any language courses before hand. I did the language test that we had to do and got C1 so I didn't feel the need to practice any more.
finances
I used the Erasmus Grant, but honestly the Grant could only provide for the first week; for the rest of the month I needed to pay out of my own pocket.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organization on the beginning was pretty good, I got to change a few courses and other than a few difficulties you will always encounter in an exchange abroad it was alright.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality may not be so bad, but I really didn't like the way of teaching. I can say for sure that the Utrecht University has better academic quality than the Sorbonne.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
It was basically all the Erasmus students that helped each other out, if you were on your own you would have to ask a lot of questions.
transfer of credits
Because of the strikes and the situation at the University the transfer of Credits has not happened yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had a language test where we first met other Erasmus people, from there you could make friends and the day after was a general orientation, which went pretty well.
accommodation
I don't really know what to write here, the accomodation in Paris is expensive but you will always be able to find something. I didn't hear about anyone not having a place to stay.
leisure & culture
There are plenty of things to do in Paris. From restaurants to bars to clubs to parks and other activities.
suggestions/tips

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My first week I went to 'le ciel' it is a 56 story building in Montparnasse in the Center of Paris. You can either go to the 55th floor to visit, or the 56th floor to have diner. I suggest it because from there you can see the whole of Paris and it is really beautiful. You can also go on top of the eiffel tower of course but the problem with that is that you can't see the eiffel tower.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the city of Paris, I hope you will not be so unlucky as I was and go in a period where the longest lasting strike since the 1800s takes place, but the city is interesting and you won't get bored. The University however is highly overrated, but other than the Utrecht University I have nothing to compare it to so I guess I will still recommend it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you find a place on time, go on facebook and join the Erasmus group from the city you are in, so that way you can easily make friends because a lot of Erasmus parties etc. will be organized. Have a positive mindset when you go and I promise you will learn a lot of things, also about yourself, that you could not think of beforehand that you would learn.

Report 4

permission to publish contact details	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: tess.wensink@hotmail.nl	
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		

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	by car
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	06 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

On the site of Utrecht University, it has clearly been described how to apply for exchange. It was easy to follow the steps and I haven't had any difficulties concerning my application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at Utrecht University is very good. Whenever I had a problem, I could send an e-mail to the International Office. They answered quickly. I appreciate the fact that there are contact hours. In that way,

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students can solve their problems immediately. The people working at the International Office are always friendly and willing to help you out.
academic preparation
I haven't prepared myself academically. For me, it was possible to follow courses of the faculty of history at the Sorbonne without having completed any courses of history at academical level before. Sometimes it was hard, but I managed to pass almost all my exams.
language preparation
All courses were in French. Since I study French in Utrecht, it wasn't a problem for me.
finances
Since the start of my studies at Utrecht University, I saved some money every month. During my exchange, I spent some of that money. With the money of the Erasmus Grant and the money I could borrow from DUO, I had enough money to enjoy my time in Paris.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>As I have said before, I studied history at the Sorbonne without having completed any history courses at academical level before. Although it was hard sometimes, it was interesting to do courses in a whole new domaine. I think the content of the courses was very good.</p> <p>On the contrary, the organisation of the Sorbonne wasn't good at all. First of all, I didn't know how to apply for my courses. Secondly, due to the strikes that were going on during my stay in Paris, it was sometimes unclear whether my classes would take place. Sometimes I came to university and found out that the class didn't take place. Thirdly, I had problems concerning my exams. I knew the dates of my exams a few weeks before they would take place. However, the friday before the week in which they would take place originally, I received an e-mail with the message that the exams wouldn't take place at all (due to the strikes). Since I was planning to go back to the Netherlands the week after, that was a serious problem for me. I immediately asked my professors whether we could arrange something so that I could do the exams anyway, but they couldn't solve the problem. A few hours later (20h00) on that same day, I received an e-mail with the message that the exams for international students would take place as planned originally. I think it is very bad that the Sorbonne didn't make clear immediately that the first message didn't apply to international students. The whole day, I didn't know what to do and when I could go back to the Netherlands.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>As I have already mentioned, the content of the courses was of high quality. However, I think the teaching method wasn't effective. There was no interaction between the students and the professor, which I think is very important. I was also negatively surprised by the fact that we didn't have to read any books at all. Furthermore, we didn't have breaks during the classes and sometimes one class took three hours. Consequently, it was hard to stay focussed on the subject, especially because all classes were in French. I also didn't have to do research and I think that is a very important part of an academical study. Instead, we had to write "commentaires". At the beginning, it was very hard for me to write such a "commentaire" since it was a whole new method of reading a text. Now I think writing a "commentaire" is a good way to completely understand a text.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Although the administrative organisation was very bad, the people were always willing to help me. I had two contact persons that I could ask for help (for example the problems concerning the application for courses); they answered quickly and were friendly. Unfortunately, they weren't always able to help me.
transfer of credits

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I know all my grades, but I haven't received a transcript of records yet. The contact persons don't know when the transcript will be available. This confirms the bad administrative organisation.

STUDENT LIFE**welcome & orientation programme**

I had one week of orientation during which I had some meetings with the international students in Paris and during which I could take language courses with other international students at a level corresponding my knowledge and abilities of the French language. This week was very nice. I have met a lot of people there with whom I still have contact. It was nice to have contact with people from different countries and different cultures. I learned a lot and I feel like I am more open-minded now.

accommodation

The accommodation is good. There are several options for international students. I got a room via a contact person who arranges rooms and studios for international students (especially from Germany and from the Netherlands). I had a room at one of the best places of Paris. I also know some international students that live on the international campus of the university.

leisure & culture

Paris is a great city if you are interested in culture. There are a lot of museums that are free for people under 26 years. I learned to appreciate art and culture even more. There are also a lot of nice cafés and restaurants where I spent a lot of time with my friends. Furthermore, there are a lot of cinemas, theaters and operas with interesting films, ballets, plays and concerts. I also liked to go shopping and to visit the beautiful "jardins" of the city.

suggestions/tips

I recommend the international students that are coming to Paris to try to get a room via the contact person, because she has rooms at the best places of the city. I also advise the students not to worry too much and to enjoy their time in Paris, because, despite the fact that the organisation is very bad, everything will work out fine eventually.

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

Although the organisation of the university is bad, I would recommend this university/destination to others. Maybe it wasn't such a bad thing for me that the organisation wasn't good. Of course it would be better if the organisation was better, but in this way I learned to deal with unexpected situations and to solve my problems myself. I also learned to be more flexible and not to worry too much (eventually, everything worked out fine). What's most important, Paris is a beautiful city with a lot of culture.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No

Report 5

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

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destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Application went well
counselling & support at Utrecht University
International Office offers very good counselling and support that I did not sufficiently take the advantage of, but gladly my friends did so I could ask them every question I had and generally I was able to work everything out in that manner.
academic preparation
I study French language and culture and history, but I had done courses in philosophy as well beforehand (three I believe). Generally speaking I think I was able to keep up with the academic level, sometimes it was challenging, but in a good and stimulating way.
language preparation
I didn't undertake extra preparation because my level of french was already sufficient
finances
I lended some more money during the summer holidays so as to pay my deposit, the first months of rent etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took very interesting courses at the Masters level. I would recommend to bachelor students as well to take courses at the masters level, they are often very interesting, and you have to write papers for them instead of 'commentaires' which need a very specific methodology that is unknown to most of us.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good, but it really depended on the teacher. I would recommend to follow the courses given by Q. Meillassoux because they were really interesting and of a really good quality. I would also recommend to see which courses you like during the first weeks and switch to the teachers that appeal most to you.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good
transfer of credits

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STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a language course at the beginning of the semester, which permitted you to make friends at the university.
accommodation
I lived in a chambre de bonne in the center of the city, which was really nice and not so expensive
leisure & culture
There is always something to do in Paris, and usually there are people willing to do something with you (it is really easy to do activities and make friends during an exchange)
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the university was good and I had a good time, I think others will enjoy it too.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

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	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I had already been warned for the amount of work, and this wasn't for nothing. You're going to have to prepare yourself for this whole administration with a lot of paperwork, this is completely normal.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I think the international office did a great job supporting my process. You just have to dare to pick up the phone or e-mail them, but they are really professional, nice and quick (do contact them on time of course!)

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academic preparation
I had been warned about the french education system, but I was still shocked by how inefficiently it worked for me. But I was still happy to have received these tips (also from reports like these), so that the shock was a little less heavy.
language preparation
I study french language, so this was enough : but even with my full-time preparation I was struggling to follow the classes sometimes. Do prepare very well language-wise, especially if you don't study french! You're going to need your french to get things done as well.
finances
I have made a financial plan, which is part of the document-preparation, and this was an okay base for me. (Even though Paris is expensive in a lot of ways, and I spent more than I prepared for).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The first administration of my classes was very difficult. It was not clear who I had to go to for my class registrations, and at the pedagogical centre, especially designed for the 1 st /2 nd year of the history department, they could not tell me which classes I could take in 1 st /2 nd year history as an Erasmus student. I went there everyday for almost 2 weeks, and everyday they told me something very confidently, that later turned out to be wrong. I was running everywhere trying to arrange things, and when I had finally done the administration I decided to switch to 3 rd year classes after the first week, like they had told me to do in the first place. I thought that 3 rd year classes would be too hard (as I don't study history), but it turned out that the teachers in 1 st and 2 nd year had no idea what to do with an Erasmus student. The first 2 years are also almost exclusively about learning facts. In the 3 rd year you start to do a little analysis, which is more interesting to me. Although it frustrated me to my core, the good side of it is that you learn to be very persistent and flexible through these issues! I finally chose to do 5 classes of 5 ECTS = 25 ECTS. I wanted to do 30 ECTS at first, but I got the advice to stick with 5 classes, and I'm happy I did : I still had a lot of work to do. I've had the luxury to do this, as I still have some extra classes I can fill into my free space (you can talk about this with your study counsellor/studieadviseur).
academic quality of education activities
Like I said before, I had been prepared by my teachers and some fellow students, but I was still shocked by the didactics of the classes. I had CM's (lectures/hoorcolleges) and TD's (seminars/werkcolleges) : in the CM, the teacher would almost never use technology (1 out of my 7 teachers used powerpoint and was called one of the best teachers ever), and sometimes they would write a name of an important person on the whiteboard. The rest of the time, you had to type or write very quickly. Because not only did the teacher just sit down and read/tell everybody their text, this information was all you got : there was no handbook or way to find the teacher's text back, the only way was to be the best secretary you could be, or to find french friends who could help you out. During the TD's we analysed original sources, which could be very interesting. But most of this time was filled up by student presentations, and not the ones we know here : it was not uncommon to have a student presentation last the full 2 hours of the TD. I was always very distracted and could almost never follow their point. I had to do the same things as the french students, except in one of my classes where I got a special Erasmus exercise, plus I did oral exams instead of written exams, and the test halfway the semester was optional.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

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Very, very bad quality! Do not be surprised that they don't care about you at all. You can find real support in nice teachers and your French and Erasmus friends in class. It's all about approaching the right people, and being very persistent at the pedagogical centres when they look at you like you're crazy.

transfer of credits

It's the end of February (exams were halfway January), and I still have a lot to arrange when it comes to my grades : most of them randomly appeared on the university platform EPI, but it says I failed two classes, which is most likely not true. The administration has probably been filled in the wrong way. You have to stay alert with this university : they are by far not as professional and reliable as our international office.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I was excluded from the welcome week because there was 'extremely little space', with more than 100 other Erasmus students who had also been excited for their introduction (we had registered on time)! We rebelled and created a platform on facebook called 'Les exclus de la Sorbonne', which was a fun outcome to a frustrating situation.

accommodation

I was living in an apartment with a small family : a father and his two sons (18 and 21 years old), in the 13e arrondissement. I got their contact through facebook, and from one day to the other I suddenly had a room in Paris. Of course, because I didn't know them, I wanted to make sure I felt comfortable living with them, so I came to check out the room together with my mom (for a few days). They were very nice and trustworthy, and I decided to take the room. It was 12 m2 and 650 euros a month, which is not cheap, but still pretty normal for Paris.

leisure & culture

I started out my social groups with les Exclus, who I have met up with a couple of times, and a group of dutch girls I had met through a facebook group : I hung out with these groups in August and September before the classes started, and after this we mostly went our separate ways (although I have stayed in contact with some people from les Exclus afterwards). Then I joined ISAP1, the Erasmus organisation for students at Paris 1. They had some fun activities and I met nice people, even though the organisation was not as active as I'd hoped (+- 4 possible activities a month). I created a facebook group with some girls I met there, and we did some extra things together. I also randomly joined another erasmus group : they were all law students, except for me. We met at a party, it clicked, and we created a whatsapp group together. Before I thought that Erasmus groups would be less complex, but I still found my way as you can see!

suggestions/tips

ESN is also a cool organisation, very Erasmus! I went to 2 language cafés (every Monday) and this was pretty fun. But I can also recommend ISAP1, as it's a little more 'authentic'.

CONCLUSIONS

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

It's a very pretty and prestigious university, and I have found it super interesting to see how these expectations meet reality. As you can read, I am not very impressed by the educational quality of this university, but I have learned a lot of cultural differences and learned to be super persistent and flexible as well. As it's a very big name, I do recommend experiencing this adventure and the discovery of all these differences, but if you just want to go here for great education I'm not sure if you're going to be satisfied. I do have to add that they have great researchers and intelligent people at this university, I just think that didactics are their weakness.

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Struggle is normal and part of the experience, so don't worry, you will make it !

Report 2

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris 1
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I applied for a rest spot, and luckily for me the one at Paris 1 was not filled yet. I filled in all the obligatory forms, wrote my motivation letter and was accepted for the spot. It took a bit longer than expected for the host university to accept my application, but everything went rather smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University gives a lot of information to prepare yourself for your departure. I couldn't join the information meeting, but I heard it was very helpful. Along the way, whenever I had a question the International Office would always help me very well, give advice quickly and detailed. They were very nice and the support from Utrecht has been very well.

academic preparation

I had already finished my first three years of my Bachelor, which allowed me to follow the courses in France with ease. In Utrecht, I study International Relations which belongs to the History Department and I went to France as a history student. I however did all my courses at the political sciences department because those courses suited my profile better. I haven't found any problems regarding that, so I do recommend to look at other departments than just the one in which you follow courses at home.

language preparation

The required language level in France is B2 in French, which I obtained through following 4 courses at the Bachelor of French Language and Culture. I do recommend that you are confident in listening and reading French, as almost nobody speaks English and all your exams will be in French.

finances

Paris is a very expensive city. Groceries are much more expensive than in the Netherlands and going out for drinks are too. Rent is also more expensive, but you should be able to find something that doesn't cost more than €650. Also, there are CROUS restaurants where you can have lunch and dinner for only €3,25 and those meals are quite decent. You will need some extra savings, but that goes for every ERASMUS experience.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Inscription for courses in Paris is very different from Utrecht. There is a wide range of courses you can pick from and the university allows each student to follow every course you want in the first two weeks to see which ones you like. After those two weeks, you will pick the courses you want to follow and you can inscribe for them online through the IntraWeb. Next to that, you will have to officially get your Learning Agreement signed. Don't bother sending it in advance as they will only sign it two weeks after the semester has started. After this document is signed, you are good to go. Don't expect the university to send you a list of courses or timetables, you will have to look everything up yourself and go to every information gathering to hold. In those gatherings, they will explain everything.
academic quality of education activities
The education is quite different from that in the Netherlands. All the courses I did were France oriented. For Internationals, you can always go to the lectures, but for internationals in the political sciences department, we were not allowed to follow the tutorials. Since the lectures are not interactive at all, questions are not really appreciated, it felt to me as if education is one-sided. More reproductive than productive. Since taking notes in French is not the easiest, I was very happy to see that for every year there are Facebook groups in which lots of notes are shared. (Just type in Facebook L1/L2/L3 + your major and Paris 1)
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
If you want to get anything done, go to them in person. They rarely respond on your mail, so just go to them. Online there is some information on the courses, but if you want to have information go to the meetings they organize in the beginning.
transfer of credits
Still in progress

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
In the first week, they organized language classes for which you had to sign up. Do this fast, since they only have place for a select number of people. You will receive credits for this. This week was nice to meet other people and practice some French. There was a closing reception that was nice. Per department, they had organised information meetings, go there, because there you will get the information on the courses. ESN Paris organises an introduction week in the second week of the semester which is quite nice, and in the first week of September they organised walks in the city during the evening. This is a great way to meet people. I highly recommend going to ESN activities since you will meet a lot of people there. You can find them on Facebook for information.
accommodation
It is not the easiest, I however found one through a mediation/real estate agent. I paid her a small fee and in return she helped me find housing, open a bank account, arrange my Imagine R and help with applying for the CAF (subsidy from the French state which is around €180 per month to help pay for housing). Look online for CROUS housing or Cité Universitaire, there you can also find housing.
leisure & culture
Paris is the capital for cultural events, museums, music and fashion, so you will always have something to do. Do make the most of your time and enjoy every possibility. Student organizations and ESN also organize a lot of activities that are fun to go to.
suggestions/tips

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

Don't worry about the course program, everything goes a bit slower in France than in the Netherlands. Everything will happen eventually. If you enjoy studying in a library, the BIS at Centre Sorbonne is very nice to go to.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would highly recommend going to Paris if you like the city and would want to experience studying in French. It is a challenging experience that is unforgettable. Paris is amazing and will never cease to amaze you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.vandekreeke@students.uu.nl	
	my Facebook account	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Eva van de Kreeke	
faculty/college	Humanities		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD		
name study programme	Language and Culture studies		

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	10 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
<p>The application process was very easy. It takes some time to fill in the forms and to make sure you get all the signatures in the right place, but the work itself is not difficult. It is useful to know that you have to start early with the process. It takes time because all the parties (home university, abroad university and you as a student) have to fill in the forms. When some things are not filled in correctly the whole process has to start again, so it is important to make sure you start on time.</p>	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
<p>The international office at Utrecht University is super helpful. They start off with an exchange event to provide information for students who would like to go on their exchange. All the useful information and tips and tricks are on the Powerpoint slides which were also uploaded online, on Blackboard. If there were still any complications during either the application process or the grant application process in Osiris, the staff members of the office were always willing to help. Also, during my exchange in Paris I have had some problems with my accomodation. Because of the trouble it caused, I was really worried that I was not able to complete all my classes. I contacted the Intenational Office and they were really comforting and helped me to tackle the problems I encountered at that time.</p>	
academic preparation	
<p>The academic preparation was not any different than the preparation you have to do when applying for regular courses at the home university. You can not prepare for the courses in Paris in advance because you don't know which courses are available etc. If you sign up for the integration week you will get all the information you need.</p>	
language preparation	
<p>To acquire a B2 level in french, I followed a language course at the Utrecht University. Once arrived in Paris there was an integration program where language courses were also included. It is always difficult to learn a language, but the best way to do this, is to be there. To have a basis in French is nessecary to give you the confidence to find your way at the University and in the city.</p>	
finances	

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

I began saving for Paris since I knew I was accepted at the university. Although I saved a lot I still had to borrow a lot of money. Paris is an expensive city, but totally worth the costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I liked my study programme a lot. I followed "contemporary history" courses and one "art history" class. The history classes were all orientated on France or Paris which makes it super interesting to follow. I learned a lot more about the country and the city I lived in. To study these subjects in French, makes it even more special. There were some organisational issues, but it is very easy to fix these. It only takes some time and emails with the professors.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was as high as back home. The professors expected an analytical and critical attitude of their students when writing papers, doing presentations and making exams. I thought the workload was higher in Paris than it is in Utrecht. This is also because of the language. It will take more time to read texts and write papers.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International office was quite helpful. It takes some time to reach them, but they were always friendly and willing to give advice. Almost all the professors were really friendly as well.

transfer of credits

This was very easy. You have to write an email to the secretary of the history department and ask for your transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a one week programme at the university where students have the opportunity to get in touch with each other and follow a language programme. It was quite nice to get to know your fellow students and the way things work at the university.

accommodation

Finding an accommodation was easy since I looked on the website of 'Housinganywhere'. However, I had many problems with my landlord. When contacting 'Housinganywhere' about those problems, they told me it is not in their power to do anything about this. Their job is to lay contact between landlord and tenants. So I really recommend making clear agreements with your landlord in terms of a housing contract. Make sure all the agreements you make are legally valid, with signatures for example. I also recommend to correspond with your landlord via email instead of mobile phones or other social network platforms. Trust your gut feeling when searching for an accommodation!

leisure & culture

Paris is amazing. This city is vivid, young, and full of culture. Everyday is different because of the endless things you can do and experience in this place. I visited many theaters, restaurants, bars, gardens and parcs. The people are also really friendly. I met people from all over the world in this city. Every 'arrondissement' is really different and each of them has its own attractions. To fully experience this city by living in it, makes it really special.

suggestions/tips

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! You will learn a lot of the university's programme as well as the city. Sometimes it was hard work with the language and especially all of the classes in French. It was a challenge sometimes, but I really enjoyed doing it, because I was proud of my work, once I was done. Also, living in such a big beautiful city is like living the dream.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Going on a exchange will change your perspectives about your own life and academic future. It is one of the most valuable things I have done so far.

Report 4

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/Humanities
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	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	14 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process makes you really enthusiastic about doing the exchange. However, I think that there is too much time in between the application and the actual exchange. For me, going the second semester, there was more than a year in between handing in my application and starting my first course at the Sorbonne.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The information provided by the UU is very accurate and understandable. The International Office Humanities in particular is really helpful and willing to help with all different sorts of problems concerning your exchange.
academic preparation
The courses I followed during my exchange were in line with the major I am following at the UU (i.e. philosophy). Therefore, I did not put that much effort in academic preparation, as the courses I wanted to follow were already within my academic field.
language preparation
Personally, I followed two language courses - Frans taalverwerving 1 and 2 - at Utrecht University to train my level of the language of instruction at my receiving university. For me, this really helped a lot in preparing to read, listen and speak in French. Of course, this should fit in your study programme at the UU, but for me, as a Liberal Arts & Sciences student, this was not a problem.
finances

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

I already saved some money before going on the exchange. Besides that, I think that the grant provided by Erasmus really helps in realizing your study abroad. Of course, a city like Paris is expensive, but if you look and spend carefully it is not over-expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The organisation was quite clear, and it was pleasant that international exchange students had the opportunity to visit every course available before determining which courses to take. This way, you could have some sort of try-out before actually following the course.

academic quality of education activities

The topics discussed in the courses were really interesting, and most teachers were really inspiring and passionate about their job. However, the courses were (often) poorly set up concerning deadlines and forms of examination, which caused some confusion for the students.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support was not really exhaustive and in many cases I had to send several emails and follow-up reminders to eventually get a reaction. In my case, a more personal and direct approach (for example by arranging a meeting face-to-face) was necessary.

transfer of credits

Unfortunately, there has not been a transfer of credits yet, since I do not have all of my results back and my transcript of records is yet to be composed. Concerning ECTS, I think the courses at the Sorbonne are equally measured as courses at the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, I have not been selected for the orientation programme, despite having applied for it on time. I was told that there was an administrative mistake, which made that all international exchange students doing philosophy could not attend the orientation programme.

accommodation

It was pretty hard to find an accommodation in Paris. Eventually, I came in contact through Facebook with a woman who was born in the Netherlands and now living in Paris. Her daughter normally lived in a studio in the center of Paris - really small (8m²) - but she was doing an exchange semester as well, in Spain. I was really lucky finding this private studio. Another option is to apply for special student housing arranged by the Sorbonne (usually a bit further located from the city centre, for example at the Cité Universitaire).

leisure & culture

Of course, in a city like Paris there is an abundance of leisure and culture, which makes it really hard to get bored during your semester abroad. Paris is the second most visited city in the world (after Bangkok) and there are sights and activities in nearly every quartier of the town.

suggestions/tips

In Paris, a lot of attractions (e.g. almost all museums) are free for people younger than 26 years living in the EU. A perfect way to use this advantage is to walk in random museums and try out activities that offer a discount or even free entry.

CONCLUSIONS

France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

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

I would definitely recommend studying at the Sorbonne for one (or two) semesters! Not only is it a stunning university with inspiring teachers, but living in such a beautiful city as Paris for half a year is really a dream.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Maybe it is possible to decrease the timespan between application and exchange. For me, there was more than a year in between my application deadline and the actual exchange period. Besides that, I think that there are a lot of bureaucratic/administrative issues that the students have to take care of, like the countless documents concerning Learning Agreements and reports like this one. Maybe there is a way of combining those into fewer documents and tasks, to make everything a bit more clear.