
2023-2024

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	train
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	01 / 04 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 08 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The application process takes a lot of time and can be complicated sometimes, especially in my case with the german bureaucracy, which caused me to have to submit a whole bunch of documents. But in the end everything worked out!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU is really supportive and the international office was great, they were always quick with answering e-mails.
finances
I made sure I had enough savings by working alongside my studies, because I didn't want to have to worry about money during my stay abroad. I also made sure I requested all the fundings/grants that were available to me!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses I had were all very interesting and different from what the UU offers. The registration was a bit time-consuming as the registration system for the courses at my faculty was not so well organised for exchange students, but after some back and forth emailing everything worked out.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses is amazing, all the lecturers are very knowledgeable about their study field.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

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My contact person was super sweet and helpful!
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits went well, the lecturers were pretty quick with giving back the grades.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme was really small, there was not a lot to it. But it still made me get to know many other students who later became my friends :)
accommodation
My accommodation was fine, it was fairly close to the university and the city centre and also the rent was okay for Munich. It was however pretty hard to find a good accommodation for a decent prize.
leisure & culture
The student life here is amazing! There are many international students, which is why international student associations like ESN MESA and TUMi are very active and organise many events. Also Munich is an amazing city with many things to offer not just in the city, but also in the region around.
suggestions/tips
Try to do as many social activities as possible, because every time you will meet amazing people that might become your new best friends :) But don't forget to take enough time for yourself as well.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would 100% recommend the LMU and Munich!! The place has a lot to offer both culturally and nature-wise, because there are some beautiful places and amazing hiking routes in the area, which you can easily reach with the Deutschlandticket (really cheap ticket that allows you to use almost all public transport). Also the student life here is amazing and it is really easy to make new friends and learn about other cultures!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just do it. It might be a lot of effort at first with the application etc. but once you've had that it's gonna be an amazing experience! And another thing I can recommend is buying a little sketch book and let everyone you meet draw/write something in it. I thought this was a really fun way not to forget all the cool people I met :)

2021-2022

Report 1

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

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	I took the train
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	25 / 04 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I had to fill in many forms. Luckily the semester in Munich started quite late, therefore I was able to complete the application and fill in the forms in time. The counselors at LMU do not take much time to respond on emails, which is why everything the application went smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU is clear when it comes to all the deadlines, forms you have to fill in and all the other things you have to take care of. However, you must read all the emails carefully and write the deadlines down, otherwise you might forget some very important aspects of the process. In addition, the IO sometimes takes a while to answer emails, so make sure you do not try to complete the process last minute.

academic preparation

I did not need some kind of special academic preparation, for I am studying German Language and Culture, and my courses in Munich were all related to this field of study. Furthermore, the level of education at LMU is comparable to UU

language preparation

I did not need some kind of special language preparation, because all my courses at LMU were in German, and my German was sufficient.

finances

I applied for the ERASMUS+ Grant and the Travel Green Grant. The ERASMUS+ supports you with - more or less - 300 Euros each month, and the Travel Green Grant paid for my train ticket. For both grants, I, once again, had to fill out many different forms, and check my email regularly, so I would not miss any deadlines. In addition, I applied for the OV Grant, so that I received a little extra money because I would not be using my OV Chipkaart. I also checked for DIA Grants, because DIA usually offers grants for students that are going to study in Germany for a while. However, this year, there were no fitting grants available.

I would not say Germany is a very expensive country in general, but Munich is considered to be the most expensive city in Germany (for example, the average rent for a student room in the city is 650 EUR). I would take this into account if you want to study in Germany.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose 5 courses at LMU; 4 seminars and 2 lectures. The LMU was very clear when it came to communicating everything: the way they communicate regarding registering for courses, schedules etc. was handled well. Registering for courses can take a while, since you have to send the professors emails, asking if you can join

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their seminar/lecture, and they may take some time to respond. However, in the end this all worked out, and in general I can say that did not really have to deal with organisational issues during my time in Munich.
academic quality of education activities
I would say the quality of the education at LMU is decent and comparable to Utrecht. All my courses - which all belonged to the departments of Germanistik, History and Art History - were in German, and none of them was specifically for exchange students. Therefore, the level of difficulty and the quality of the courses were not very low - especially debating during the seminars - but since none of them really required reading preparations etc, it was still relatively easy to pass them; I did not have to study very much in my free time.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
At the beginning of the semester, LMU organised several meetings with important information for exchange students., held by exchange coordinators etc, who I could approach with questions during the entire semester- the same thing can be said about all the professors. They all responded to emails quite quickly and were very helpful.
transfer of credits
I have passed all my courses but I have not yet received a transcript, this is due to the fact that LMU teachers might take a while grading tests and registering all the grades. I do not think this will be a problem for me but I do recommend future students to send an email to all their professors, asking them if they could grade and register everything as soon as possible. At LMU, professors do not always give grades: sometimes, they will just give you the ECTS and it will say 'pass' on your transcript, therefore you should check if this is not a problem when the credits are being transferred. Another thing to take into account is the grading system in Germany and at LMU, which is not the same as in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The LMU organised one online event at the beginning of the semester, during which all the exchange students were welcomed, but this introduction seemed pointless and superficial to me, since, there was no relevant information provided. In the next few days, all the faculties also planned online introductions and orientations, which were a bit more useful. In general I would say this did not feel like a very warm welcome, because it was relatively formal and - of course - online. via Zoom. However, LMU still made exchange students feel very welcome with their buddy programme - you pair up with a buddy, usually a German student who studies in Munich and shows you around; the perfect way to meet new people and make friends - and MESA, the organisation that organizes activities for exchange students in and around Munich. I went to a lot of MESA activities (hiking in the mountains, daytrips to cities like Augsburg or Salzburg, or karaoke nights) at the beginning of the semester, and I have made a lot of friends there as well. In general I liked my first few weeks in Munich very much, but I did have to make an effort to meet people and feel welcome.
accommodation
When it comes to housing, Munich is a very expensive city and the university cannot provide rooms for every exchange student - though they will help you look for one. I had to look for a place myself, and searched for a room in a so called 'Wohngemeinschaft' (WG), where you usually live with other students. In order to find an accommodation, I registered on a popular German website called 'WG Gesucht', which contains many advertisements. After one or two weeks of intensive searching I found a decent room, about 35 minutes from the university (in Munich, students usually have to travel 30-45 minutes to get to university). I lived with two German guys who had already finished their studies and were a bit older than me. We did not hang out with

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each other very much - mainly because I made a lot of friends in the city and was not always at home - but I still liked it a lot.

Looking for accommodation in Munich can be very stressful, therefore I recommend to start searching very early, and using websites like WG Gesucht or Immobilienscout. Students can also contact Studentenwerk München, a student network that can also find accommodation for you.

leisure & culture

The German culture is often compared to the Dutch culture, for they seem similar. This is true, but there are still differences. Dutch students drink a lot of beer, but so do the Bavarians... they especially drink giant amounts of beer at festivals and in the famous beer gardens. In general, the Germans are a bit stiff and a bit more closed than Dutch people; it is a bit more difficult to befriend Germans - therefore it might be easier to make friends at MESA events - but once you do, they get much more relaxed and open.

suggestions/tips

I recommend several things:

- hiking in the mountains: the Bavarian and Austrian Alps are only one trainride away.
- visiting other cities: there are many beautiful cities close to Munich that are perfect for daytrips, for example Salzburg, Innsbruck, Augsburg, Nürnberg, Regensburg.
- swimming: especially in the summer, Munich is the perfect place to swim. There is the English Garden and the small cold rivers, the (bigger) river Isar, and numerous beautiful Bavarian lakes. I really liked lake Starnberg, because it is still pretty close to the city.
- music is also a great city for students who are interested in art and music: there are several art museums with fantastic collections, wonderful theaters, and in the summer, there are several concerts in the Olympic Stadium (students can listen to the concerts for free at the Olympia mountain next to the stadium).

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Munich and LMU as an exchange destination. Munich is a fantastic city with a beautiful old city center, the city is very close to several lakes, the mountains and other countries such as Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. But students do definitely not have to leave the city to have a great time: there are many parks, night clubs, beer gardens, cafes, museums and theaters, so there is plenty to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend exchange students to go to Munich as early as possible. The official semester starts a few weeks before all the lectures and seminars actually start, so these weeks provide opportunities to get settled in Munich, meet new people (MESA organizes many activities at the beginning of the semester, so there is no reason to feel lonely) and maybe travel a bit.

Report 2

level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Duitse Taal en Cultuur
destination city & country	Munich, Germany

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Ludwigs-Maximilian-Universität München / LMU
start date	25 / 04 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

At the start of my application I had to choose my favourite university. I mainly considered Munich or Berlin due to their locations, but eventually chose Munich for their subjects and history which I knew less of compared to Berlin. After my decision I had to choose my subjects at that moment. To successfully enroll myself at the University of Munich, I had to write a motivation letter. Eventually I was informed that I had been accepted. Thereafter I had to choose subjects again for the actual semester. Fortunately the LMU send many informative mails so I was well informed what to do and who to contact for my stay. Meanwhile the International Office of the UU aided me swiftly so that I could hand in my documents on time. To actually follow the subjects we wished I had to email the professors personally so they could register me. They all replied quickly and were excited to let me follow their courses.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As the exchange is in essence a necessary part of my studyprogramm there was also a meeting planned by the study. Furthermore there were several general meetings for further questions. Personally I had the luxury to ask questions as well to one of the older students from my study.

academic preparation

There was no need for any additional academic preparation. My courses at the UU prepared me well enough. Any extra further research was purely for my own interest.

language preparation

As I study German language and culture I was already deeply involved with the german language and thus didn't need to undergo any extra preparation.

finances

The rentprices in Munich can be quite high. As I searched an apartment to live with another student from my student we eventually searched for a place that was outside of Munich, yet still easily to travel from to Munichs centre. There are many busses and there is the S-Bahn which open the possibility of living outside of Munich and possibly find a cheaper living place. If you stop your free "OV"/Public transport on DUO in the Netherlands you will receive a refund which you can use for the travelling there or for any other goals.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The LMU offers a wide array of courses at many faculties. I mostly took courses on german literary from the German study at the Faculty of Languages and Cultures. In addition I took two philosophy courses.

academic quality of education activities

Due to my different courses I had different kinds of education. However whether it was a Vorlesung, Proseminar or Hauptseminar, all were challenging and educative, yet on an enjoyable way.

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counselling & support at receiving university abroad
At the start of the semester there were several meetings to inform about the lectures, ways of testing and how to write a paper.
transfer of credits
As the transfer of credits has yet to happen as the semester hasn't officially ended yet I cannot answer this question.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	There is a welcome & orientation programme, but I haven't attended it. However I have attended the online introduction meeting which informs about the organisation at the LMU and offers the chance to exchange emails to make friends.
accommodation	As I went to look for an apartment with someone else we didn't use studentenwerk, but searched on our own. If you happen to look with someone else and can't find someone, I recommend Room for Rent. There's a building in the south of Munich. It is near several supermarkets and the S-Bahn which takes around 17 minutes to take you to the university.
leisure & culture	<p>Munich has quite some museums to offer for fans of art, history, science and more. I personally have visited the Alte and Moderne Pinakothek and they have a lot to offer. At the moment the neue Pinakothek is being renovated, but the art can still be admired in the other museums. As a fun way of orienting in Munich I decided to go on a Hop-On-Hop-Off-Tour with friends. Outside of orienting it is also a good way to learn a bit about the city you'll be studying in.</p> <p>Another way I spent my free time is to visit one of its many restaurants or a biergarten. The biergartens offer a nice place in the summer to chat with, eat delicious food such a schnitzel and for those who like it a giant glass of beer.</p> <p>The city centre and its parks were ideal to go on walks and relax. Der englische Garten is one of the biggest parks in the world so there was a lot to discover. One of the last days a friend introduced me to the Starnberger See which is a beautiful place to swim.</p>
suggestions/tips	Make a list of places you want to visit both in and around Munich so you don't leave feeling you've missed something. Furthermore bring enough sunscreen.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Munich has the unique talent to be a big city without always feeling like one. There's plenty to do for any type of person. Whether you're more introverted and like to read in a park, buy new books in the many bookshops or who likes to silently wander through the many museums or if you're an extrovert who likes to go to parties (hosted at the LMU) and chat in the many biergartens, there's a lot to discover! Furthermore the university offers many courses with kind professors to develop your knowledge which are sometimes taught in beautiful classic buildings.

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

It can be hard to make friends at the university as many students in my experience seemed to solely go to their classes to study. Don't let this discourage you as there's always someone who is interested and wants to help you and show you the city!

Report 3

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Duitse taal en cultuur

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	train
name university abroad	Ludwig Maximilians-Universität
start date	25 / 04 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the exchange, you have to fill in several documents to arrange everything. You need to have your affairs in order and know what you need to fill in, because there are several things you need to arrange besides filling in the necessary forms. As long as you have a clear idea of what you have to fill in, you will be fine.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Sometimes I needed help or extra information. Then the UU website was easy to find or I could simply send an e-mail to the UU. Sometimes the UU would automatically send me an e-mail with information or I would receive a question from the UU, where for example a form was sent by me, which made me think further and which helped me in the meantime.

academic preparation

I cannot say that I have made a lot of academic preparations, except the necessary form applications. Other than that, I asked the professors where I was going to take the courses about what I needed, e.g. books.

language preparation

The language preparation was also not very necessary. I had to apply a document at the UU to be able to show my language level at the LMU. As my study is in German, I did not have to do any language courses or anything else. Until the foreign semester, I had my courses taught in German and waited until I was in Germany to improve my German with the locals.

finances

I continued to work until my semester abroad so that I had money to live on. In addition, I receive a monthly amount from DUO, I started taking a loan from DUO and I applied for the Erasmus and Travel Green Grant. Since Munich is a beautiful, but also expensive city, I wanted to have a bit more room in my finances, so that I wouldn't have any problems in the finances department.

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STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	LMU had a very wide range of courses to take. I was particularly interested in courses related to German linguistics, so I mainly found my courses there. But there was so much choice and also so many interesting courses, that it was sometimes difficult to choose. In the end, it helped if two courses were taught at the same time, because then you could see which one I liked better and choose that one, but on the other hand that was also a shame, because both courses were interesting. One of the courses that I had chosen to follow, was cancelled in the end, because there were not enough applications for that course, so I had to choose another course.
academic quality of education activities	The academic activities are not very different from those in Utrecht. Here, for instance, I have held presentations, had to make assignments and I have to write two theses for two subjects. I also did these activities in the Netherlands, so they are not very new, but for one subject I got a bit more scientific tips for my presentation than I was used to in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The LMU is also very friendly in answering questions. The LMU site is a little less clear, but I did not actually need it. The staff for the Erasmus students were very friendly and gave quick answers. My lecturers were also very friendly and quick to respond and I could always email them if I had any questions. During the semester I also had three meetings with a senior who helped us with things the German teachers expect from their students and other information that could be useful.
transfer of credits	I can't say anything about Transcript of Records yet, because I can't ask for this document yet, because I haven't finished all my courses and therefore don't have all my marks yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Germany, and therefore the LMU, were at that time even stricter concerning corona than the Netherlands and had focused on online activities and classes. Therefore, the welcome programme was also online. I watched it back later, because I had a lesson at the time of the welcome programme and the LMU had indicated that you could also watch it back. The fact that it was online was a pity of course, but I did get the information that was important.
accommodation	Accommodation is a bit of a problem. You have to start looking for your room well in advance. Munich is, just like Utrecht, a big city where many students come. So there are not many rooms. Also, the rooms are often expensive. I finally found a room outside Munich and with public transport I was at the university within 30 minutes. I was very happy with that and the room was really good for the four months I was there. As mentioned before, you have to start in time and try to find a room on different websites and in different ways.
leisure & culture	In terms of leisure and culture, Munich is a great city. You can enjoy the city, parks, the old town, eating and/or drinking in the Biergarten and you are very quickly in the mountains or at a lake. There are also plenty of museums in Munich that you can visit if you have time. Besides, you can enjoy German food, such as schnitzels or pretzels. There are also plenty of museums in Munich you can visit if you have time. I have certainly enjoyed myself with all the beautiful and tasty things that Munich and its surroundings have to offer.

suggestions/tips

Just go out and enjoy it. Your studies are important, but you should also enjoy your time in the foreign city, so experiencing the culture is also very important.
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CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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I would definitely recommend LMU and thus Munich as a city for the foreign semester. First of all, Munich is a beautiful and amazing city. Secondly, LMU is a great university, which has a lot to offer and very good professors.
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do you have any additional advice or comments?
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I have no further advice or tips. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask.
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2019-2020

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	LMU
start date	03 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I first selected the country/countries I wanted to go to, after which I made my choice for the the host university on the basis of several criteria: offer of relevant subjects, academic reputation, additional structures, such as libraries, museums and archives, and the city.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

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I found the support at the University of Utrecht quite good, the introductory afternoon at the start of the whole process, was very informative, the exchange office has very quick reply times, and the fact that they send you emails to remind you to do the necessary steps in time is very helpful.
academic preparation
Since I followed courses in my field, I did not need any preparation regarding the content of the subjects. What I did to prepare me was talking to my professors about the academic traditions and conventions in Germany and getting information on academic life in Germany via the web. I also followed a language and preparation course before the semester started to acquaint myself with local conventions, rules and structures.
language preparation
Before I applied for an exchange at the University of Utrecht, I started with a autodidactical course, after which I did a German course at a private language institute. Before the start of the semester I also followed a one month language and preparation course to reach the required level. What I do think though, is that the University of Utrecht should offer the possibility of free language classes to all its students (even if they don't want to go abroad), universities are places of learning and research. Learning a new language is part of such development and should be available to all, which is the case at many universities in the world. Having a partnership with a commercial language school does not substitute that.
finances
When it comes to finances I made a rough calculation of the money I needed for my period abroad. In the period before my exchange started I tried to work a little more, especially in summer to be able to save some money. Furthermore, I got a small loan from DUO and my parents offered to support me a bit.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I had to change practically all my classes, since almost none of the ones I filled out on my learning agreement were available. My contact person did what she had to do, but I would have appreciated it if she had taken the time to meet in person and explain me some things about the institute I was in, as was the case for many other foreign students. What was very nice, was that LMU offered a language course during the semester at a very low price, to improve your German further.
academic quality of education activities
I was quite satisfied by the quality of the education activities. The level of teaching is comparable to the Netherlands, but they take a somewhat different approach to things and stress other competences. What I also found very refreshing is that, contrary to Utrecht University, they don't bombard their students with short essays during the semester, instead students have to give a presentation on a topic and then write a long research paper on it, which they have to hand in at the end of the semester. Especially for exchange students, that is really convenient, because it gives you the opportunity to adapt to the language and the research and writing conventions, before you actually have to start writing.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The Erasmus office of the University was very helpful and tried to respond as much as possible to the needs of the students. What I also found very heartwarming was the support and interest of my professors. If you show that you did not only come to party, but that you also have academic goals you want to achieve during your exchange, they show themselves as very helpful and try to make you feel at home.
transfer of credits

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I can't comment on this section, since the classes I took abroad still have to be reviewed by the exam board. However, I assume that all credits will be transferred since the level of education and the working load required to obtain one credit are very similar.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I took the facultative language and preparation course, which contained a welcome and orientation programme. I was very satisfied by that, since I got to know the city and visited several places around Munich as well. Furthermore, it offered me the opportunity to make friends right from the beginning.

accommodation

Finding accommodation is really difficult in Munich, prices are high and the offer of rooms, especially furnished ones for short time periods, is rather limited. In that sense it is pretty similar to Amsterdam. The organisation responsible for student housing, Studentenwerk, offers some of its accommodations to Erasmus students, which are assigned through a lottery system for which you can sign up during your application at LMU. Unfortunately, they did not have a room for me, so I had to look for private accommodation. What Studentenwerk also offers is a counselling service, through this I found my room before I left for Munich, so in the end it finding a room was quite stress free.

leisure & culture

Munich offers a huge array of different options to spend your free time, there are quite a lot of interesting museums, many cinemas (which also offer films in the original language with German subtitles), bars and restaurants. Furthermore, also for those who love to spend their time outside, there is quite a lot, there are many parks, and the S-bahn included in your student ticket brings you also outside the city where you can find mountains and lakes.

suggestions/tips

Contrary to the prejudices, Germans, or at least German students, are rather open minded and interested in you as a foreign student. If you open yourself up to them (which is the idea of Erasmus, but always appears to be harder than it seems) you can make really nice friendships with local people as well, which really is an enrichment of your exchange. Another tip is try to explore Munich's surroundings and other cities in Bavaria (and Austria and the Czech Republic as well). Don't think you can do it all, there are many and six months are over in a blink, the distances can sometimes be big and public transport isn't always the cheapest neither very fast, but it is really worth it and compared to the Netherlands you have so many interesting places just around the corner. So plan on forehand where you want to go, and be ambitious so that if at the end you only could go to half of the places on your list, you still saw a lot of things.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend LMU to other students. The University offers good quality education, people are nice and the city and its surroundings offer lots of different things to spend your time with.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Well the best advice would be to learn German, even if your courses will be in English, the level of English of most Germans, including students, is much lower than you're used to at home. So to be able to integrate and not completely end up in an Erasmus bubble you need to know the language.

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faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	RMA Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies

destination city & country	München, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

You have to apply by filling in an online form that you have to send by post. This seems a bit archaic to me, but that's Germany :) The process went very smooth and was really easy and simple as long as you follow the different steps carefully since you have to gather various documents.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

In general the support received from the UU was really good. There were some communication issues, but nothing really worth noticing. Thanks!

academic preparation

The annoying thing is that, during the summer, the LMU does not know yet which courses it's going to offer during the Wintersemester. Be prepared and willing to change the courses you want to follow. However, this should not really be a problem since the LMU offers a wide array of courses, so there should always be courses that fit you.

language preparation

For my my master's programme it is very important that your German is at a decent level since almost every course is offered in German. Therefore, I followed a language preparation course offered by the university in September, prior to the start of the semester.

finances

Münich is a very expensive city to live in compared to Utrecht. Although daily groceries are cheaper than in the Netherlands the rents are sky high. Therefore, I applied for, and got the DIA-Stipendium. It is really worth the try to apply for this stipendium.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed courses at the departments of archaeology and ancient history concerned with various topics. Most of my courses were concerned with concepts revolving around materialism or cultural exchange. I also followed a course, which happens more often in München, in which we met with different professors every week to

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

discuss their research. The teachers are really free in organizing there courses and granting ECTS. It is therefore a wise thing to ask your teacher directly if there is a administrative problem concerning her or his course. Be prepared to mail them a lot already in the summer to get to know how many ECTS you can get from following each course. Usually its 3, 6 or 9.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is in general similar to the Dutch quality. The hard part is doing everything in German. Most often you will be allowed to write your essays in English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are many different people for many different things. The easiest way is to go to the international office first.
transfer of credits
I don't know yet since my semester has not officialy ended yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme offered by the university is not really extensive since most exchange students also follow the language course (IUCM) which also includes an introduction in Bavaria and the university. The language course includes different day trips to i.a. Nürnberg, Dachau and Neuschwanstein for only 50 euros extra. I have met a lot of people during the language course and the events that where organizes through it. So do it!
accommodation
Housing is expensive and difficult to find. If you are lucky you get alloted to a studenthouse but the chances are around 50 50. Therefore, start looking early. I knew someone who was living in Munich which helped me a lot. Most other students however had to go to Munich a couple of days earlier to meet landlords in order to find housing.
leisure & culture
There is so much to do in Munich, its incredible. When its sunny, everyone is chilling in the Englischer Garten, which is bigger than Central Park. If the weather is shit, there are so many museums you can visit that I have lost count on how many there are. All museums are cheap and most of them only cost one euro on Sundays. There is also a lot of sports going on in Munich, not only football, but ice hockey and basketball are huge as well.Oh and don't forget Oktoberfest and the unlimited amount of beerhalls and Stüben
suggestions/tips
Visit place outside of Munich as well. Augsburg, Nurnberg and Regensburg are all lovely cities to visit. The alps are only an hours drive away so please go hiking and skiing as well.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Both the university and the city are amazing. Furthermore, Germany is a very important country in Europe and not as stiff as many people think.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2017-2018

Report 1

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

destination city & country	München, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	03 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION**exchange application process**

The exchange application process took a while. Due to circumstances particular to my studies at home, I only subscribed for the winter semester in February of 2017. I received many letters and document from LMU that I was to fill in and send back (sometimes via post). There were some small technical difficulties, but these were smoothly solved by the International Offices in München and Utrecht. Of course there was quite some paperwork involved, but that is part of it. The only thing I found a bit unfortunate was that I was only definitively admitted half way August, two weeks before leaving.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I am very grateful to the UU International Office for assisting me with my founded and unfounded worries. When there seemed to be anything going wrong, they were very reassuring and quick to help me fix the issue.

academic preparation

There was little academic preparation I did before leaving for LMU, besides looking up the staff there to know which teachers I would like to work with and skimming through old course catalogues to get a sense of what kind of courses were offered.

language preparation

For various reasons I did not follow a language course prior to leaving. Firstly, I felt my skill level was already sufficient, having completed German at the highest high school level and having years of experience with tutoring German. Secondly, I planned to take two language courses in München. In September, LMU offers a month-long language course before the semester starts, and I felt this was sufficient preparation. Looking back on it, I don't regret that decision.

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finances

Before leaving, I composed a modest financial plan to account for the costs I would probably make. I subletted my room, cancelled my Dutch public transit subscription in favor of €80 a month and also applied for another scholarship that I was awarded. To be sure, your first month is the most expensive one, and there are a lot of costs that you might not have thought of. Plus, München can be a pretty expensive city overall. This should not impact your decision to go - it's not that bad - but take this into account when planning your stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The course catalogue unfortunately only becomes available in September. This means that you cannot know what kind of courses you will take before you go. It changes a lot each semester, so it is better not to assume the new catalogue will resemble older ones, in order to avoid disappointment. Personally, I was a little disappointed myself because of this. Subscribing for courses was confusing for most Erasmus students across all faculties, but in my instance I could just write the teacher an e-mail. Even if this went wrong, for whatever reason, I was told you could just show up to the first class and that that would suffice (if the class had no limit on the amount of students).

By the way, do note that almost all courses are in German. If you already know the language around a B2/C1 level, this should not be an issue. In fact, it would be a good reason to attend LMU, since it is very advantageous to learning the language.

academic quality of education activities

As a Master's student, I personally was a little underwhelmed by the skill level at the History department. Courses were typically available to both Bachelor's and Master's students, but I did not sense much differences between them, and students also do not receive different exercises. Consequently, it was not much work: the challenge lied more in the fact that it was all in German. For a Bachelor's student, this would probably be different. And to be fair, all my fellow students in the Netherlands had the same experience studying abroad in places like Berlin, London, York, etc. Also, you will not hear me complain about having much spare time.

I was also a bit disappointed that many classes revolved around students giving long presentations each week, and not so much about the teachers teaching and dealing with primary sources. This might be my experience, but I did not experience that as very educational.

On a more positive note: I had good experiences with students and teachers. In general, students are motivated and participate very well during class, so that we usually had fruitful discussions. Teachers were also approachable and flexible, so that we could communicate very well. Even though all courses were in German, they also saw no problem in letting me present and write in English, which was very helpful.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Overall, I felt warmly received by the institutions at LMU. Although I had the sense that some counselors were a bit new to the processes involved with taking in foreign students, they were friendly and helpful.

transfer of credits

This is still proving somewhat of a difficulty because of a mistake on the part of both LMU and myself. I had been recommended by LMU to follow an internationals' course on the history of Bavaria and Munich, but only later discovered it was only registered as a Bachelor's course. As of yet, this is still a problem with UU, as I am unsure whether they will accept the credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The semester at LMU only starts in October, but I would recommend that you arrive early September to take a month-long language course as preparation to your semester. Besides learning the language, the course teaches you much about student life and the university that is essential information. You are going to want to do this to prepare yourself and to make friends. It is a pretty intense course, but after each class there is plenty of time for a beer and discovering the city.</p> <p>LMU also offers a welcome and orientation programme in September that (I cannot stress this enough) you should absolutely follow. If, for whatever reason, you are still in doubt whether you are going to, or whether you will arrive in September or October, I will say it again: follow the programme. When you arrive in a totally new city, it can be hard to make friends, but this way you will get to know many students who are in the same situation. For me, I made my most valuable friendships during this period. IUCM (the branch of LMU that is responsible for the language courses) organized trips through the city and region of Bavaria that were very fun, and for a very reasonable price too. I went on these trips with class mates and got to know many other nice people, and from there on, a solid group of friends was formed.</p>
accommodation
<p>LMU will look for a room for you, and you are most likely going to want to accept whatever room they give you. The rent prices in München are notoriously ridiculous and the most expensive in the country, with the average room going for around €650. The rooms that LMU offer, however, are luckily around the €350-400 spectrum. If you are as lucky as I was, you will get your own small apartment at Olympiadorf, with a shopping mall, U-Bahn station, lots of student facilities and the best student bar of the city at a walking distance.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>München is a very fun city to stay in for an Erasmus exchange. First of all, the city is renowned for its beer culture, and this cliché is very well deserved. The beers are absolutely delicious, and when the weather is right, you will find many Bavarians in Lederhosen, drinking liter glasses (Maß) of beer outside. When it gets colder, everybody is drinking their Maßen (in Lederhosen) inside the beer halls, which are also quite the experience. It's all very relaxed. I will absolutely miss the Hellers beers on return.</p> <p>Throughout the year, there are also many off days and traditional (Catholic) Bavarian celebrations like Oktoberfest, Fasching and Starkbierfest that are a joy to experience.</p> <p>One aspect I also really enjoyed about München was that it is - from a Dutch perspective anyway - really a large city, with 1.4 million residents. This means that at every moment, there are lots of different activities, events and parties all across the city. There is just more variety, and a larger number of possibilities. For example, as somebody who likes vinyl records, there were many different record stores across the city I enjoyed visiting.</p> <p>Lastly, München's location in Europe is very nice for exploring the continent. Not only is Bavaria very nice, but countries like the Czech Republic, Austria and Italy are also very near. The entire area really is beautiful.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>When you are new in a city, and most if not all of your friends are as well, it can be difficult to know about activities or what the best spots are in the nightlife. My advice: use the internet, and especially Facebook to your advantage. The city portal (www.muenchen.de) is helpful, and on Facebook I just liked tons of night clubs and local DJs to receive information. In this way, I have been to some amazing parties I will not forget.</p>

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CONCLUSIONS	
	would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
	I would definitely recommend München. My stay was well organized, I liked the city's culture and facilities, and I enjoyed my accommodation. Also, my German improved a lot, which was one of my main motivations for coming here. The skill level, however, was a bit disappointing.
	do you have any additional advice or comments?
	If you are attending LMU during the winter semester, use the two weeks of vacations between the end of your first language course and the start of the semester to travel around the region and Europe. I went with friends to Vienna and Bratislava by bus and had an absolute blast.
	Lastly, if you have any questions or doubts, feel free to contact me through the e-mail address I have included.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	German Language & Culture
destination city & country	Munich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU)
start date	01 / 04 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
	exchange application process
	Utrecht University provided enough and clear information about the application process. Both the UU and the LMU have a list with mandatory documents for the application on their websites.
	counselling & support at Utrecht University
	Several preparation meetings have been held before going abroad. This made preparing for the stay in Munich more easy. The few questions I had were being answered quick by the International Office.
	academic preparation
	Except for the courses I already followed at the UU, there was no need for further academic preparation.
	language preparation
	Since I am studying the German language, I didn't feel the need to follow a language course. The LMU does offer language courses before the start of the semester.
	finances

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The prices for rent etc can be high in Munich, but with the Erasmus-Grant and some personal savings it was affordable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The offer of courses at the LMU is huge and the subscribing system can be confusing, but the lecturers are very willing to help you by giving advice on whether a course is suitable for you.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the courses was high. The students were being well prepared and the lecturers gave us the chance to discuss several topics with each other.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counsellors were always willing to help out if there were any problems.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits went okay. The lecturers were aware of the fact that Erasmusstudents might need their notes earlier and corrected the final tests in time.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The LMU offers several introductionmeetings during the first week, held by lecturers and students. During this 'introductionweek' I got all the information I needed about the university (accommodation), the subscribingsystem LSF, the library and the International Office. I would strongly recommend to attend to these meetings, since it makes the start at the LMU much easier.

accommodation

The LMU is able to provide several students with a room from Studentenwerk. A few months before arrival, I was lucky to hear I got a Studentenwerkroom at Olympiadorf. This means that there are still some months left to look for a room in Munich when you do not get a Studentenwerkroom.

leisure & culture

There are always a lot of events going on in Munich. During the summersemester, the Munich people love to be outside and a lot of festivals are being organized in the parks and on the streets. Munich is known for the Oktoberfest, but during the summersemester there are a lot of other options to enjoy a drink as well. The location of Munich is great, with the Alps and Austria near.

suggestions/tips

www.muenchen.de provides a lot of information about events in Munich, but also about the procedure of subscribing at the municipality etc.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the LMU and Munich. The university is well organized and very helpful to Erasmusstudents. You are free to follow the courses you want to follow. In Munich you will get the full German experience and you are able to enjoy your leisure time with festivals or a daytrip to the mountains.

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
start date	01 / 04 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process at the LMU started about a year in advance. Most things are settled 2-4 months prior to the start of the semester though.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If you need help with signatures or forms or if you have any other questions, the International Office answers to e-mails very quickly.

academic preparation

I had a look at the Vorlesungsverzeichnis (which lists all courses offered at the LMU) to choose both my courses and to start to get acquainted with the organization of courses and tests.

language preparation

Since I study German language and culture, additional language preparation wasn't necessary.

finances

I received both an Erasmus+-grant and the DIA-Stipendium. Since Munich is a very expensive city (especially if you didn't receive a room through the service package from the Studentenwerk), this doesn't cover all costs. Besides that, I would recommend to save some extra money for unforeseen costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took 6 courses in total at 3 different faculties: Literaturwissenschaft, Ev. Theologie and Kunstwissenschaften. 4 courses concerned literary topics, one course was about direction history in German theatre and I took one course on the literary history of the Old Testament.

academic quality of education activities

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The academic quality at all three faculties was outstanding and education is really challenging.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Though all professors are very helpful, most of the time it isn't quite clear what forms for grading coursework they need and what forms you need (usually, you discuss organizational matters with the professors instead of the international office).
transfer of credits
As I mentioned above, grading coursework is very chaotic. Fortunately, both the international office and the professors really want to help. I haven't received my transcript of records yet, but I expect it will work out fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
One week before the start of the semester, there was an orientation programme of both the university in general and of the Germanistik-department. They explain the way the courses and the semester are organized and take you for a tour round the library. They also help you with enrolling in courses.
accommodation
I received a service package from the Studentenwerk, which means I got a subsidized room in the Olympic Village. Since there is only a limited number of service packages available, I would recommend to start looking for a room very early (I wrote to some student organizations during Fall 2017), since rooms are scarce and service packages are not guaranteed.
leisure & culture
Munich offers a range of leisure possibilities: the olympic park, the Englischer Garten, the city centre, Frühlingsfest, Tollwood festival, lots of theatres and music halls, Starnberger See, Pinakothek. Besides that, I really enjoyed going to the Alps and mountain lakes, which are only one hour away. I was also a member of a symphonic orchestra, which was very nice as well.
suggestions/tips
Practical tip: do not bring your bike to Munich. Though Munich views itself as a very bike-friendly city, compared with Utrecht it definitely is not. Cycling infrastructure is very poor and both cyclists and car drivers don't mind (other) cyclists. I've seen some serious accidents and had a bike accident myself due to an unattentive road user. Public transport in Munich is really good so I would recommend buying a SemesterCard. Besides that, I would suggest registering at the Kreisverwaltungsreferat 2-3 weeks before arriving in Munich (you have to make an appointment via an internet system in order to be able to register your Munich address). If you don't make an appointment online, long queues will await you.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would, considering the university's excellent quality of education and research and the beautiful city and surroundings.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2016 – 2017

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Münich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	01 / 04 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was explained during a preparation meeting. The process itself was relatively clear and I did not experience any difficulties.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was good. When a problem surfaced it was always solved quickly.
academic preparation	I did not need any special academic preparation. The courses I had taken at Utrecht University had already prepared me sufficiently.
language preparation	No special language preparation was needed because I was already fluent (enough) in German.
finances	With the Erasmus-Grant, parental support and some personal savings it was affordable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There were interesting courses on nearly every imaginable subject. The academic staff was very kind and helpful.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of the courses was high. Students were motivated and well-prepared. In several courses there was a lot of room for an exchange of thoughts and arguments. These discussions were taken very seriously by all the participants.

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counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everyone was very helpful. Questions per email were always answered quickly.
transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
During the first days I received all necessary information about studying at the LMU. Students showed the Erasmus-group the university and informed us on everything concerning student life Munich.
accommodation
The Studentenwerk (student union) provides affordable housing to students. There aren't enough rooms for all incoming students. A few months before departure I was informed that I wouldn't receive housing from the studentenwerk. Luckily I found a room through a housing website. It turned out to be a wonderful room, just 10 minutes by underground to the city center.
leisure & culture
I went to the theatre a lot (plays, opera) and I visited many museums. The center for literature also organises very interesting lectures and talks. The cultural life of the city is wonderfully rich. One needn't be bored for a second. It is also affordable: most theaters offer student-tickets and the opera has great standing room places.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend the university to others. There are a lot of interesting courses, also on a lot of subjects that are not taught at Utrecht University. I would also recommend the city, its cultural life is so very rich, that you cannot return home without having learned/enjoyed many new things.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Inform yourself early of the possibilities to find private housing, even if you haven't heard yet whether you will receive a room from the Studentenwerk. If you do get a room, you won't need it. But when you do have to find your own accommodation, it's helpful if you know where to look for it.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Comparative Literary Studies
destination city & country	Munich, Germany

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name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	03 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It is quite complicated, I would say, but just make sure that you have a list of the email-addresses and office hours of the people you know you will need (head of department, international officers, etc) and you'll be fine. Everyone involved in the ERASMUS application process is aware of the stressfulness and tight deadlines that some people have to deal with, and they all helped me swiftly and with understanding.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
With any questions or doubts you have, just drop a line to the International Office; they reply quickly and clearly and it will save you much time and confusion.
academic preparation
The English department at LMU is very accessible in terms of the academic level; there is no need to prepare academically for your stay here.
language preparation
I would highly recommend arriving in Munich with a basic understanding of German, since many people outside of the university have trouble speaking English, and within the university German is often reverted to (even in English-taught courses). Alternatively, do the language course the month before the start of the semester: it is incredibly rewarding.
finances
Munich is an expensive city: just your ERASMUS grant won't cut it, so make sure to have a financial back-up in place before you arrive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Organisationally, it can be difficult to get access to all the online data that is used to organise courses (LSF in particular). Again, however, this can easily be resolved by contacting the right people, aka your lecturers. In terms of content, there were, in my field of interest, substantial differences with the UU, but I nonetheless enjoyed my courses.
academic quality of education activities
I did not do any educational activities during my stay, but I have heard that the book club and theater company are quite good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The employees at LMU are very friendly and always help promptly. Know who to write in case of confusion or emergency, and everything will be OK.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I highly recommend the language programme at the start of september: many people follow language courses then and the people you'll meet there will stick with you for the rest of the semester. The quality of the teaching is also better during this course than during the other, longer language courses taught during the semester itself. Needless to say, doing the one in september often means practicing your German at Oktoberfest, with a tipsy teacher to help you out. That's just great fun. In addition, pay the extra 80 euros for the cultural excursions! They're a nice and affordable way to get to know the city and surrounding area, and, again; they make for a great way of meeting people before the lectures in October begin.

accommodation

Housing in Munich is very, very expensive. It sucks, but that's the way it is. If you can get student housing via Studentennetwerk, you are extremely lucky. I recommend beginning to look for alternative accomodation early in the summer holidays, as very few people are selected by Studentennetwerk, and if they are, they often come from far away places. Just ask to be a member at all the online Facebook groups that offer housing (but beware of scams) and respond to as many rooms as possible. This is also another reason why coming to Munich in september rather than at the start of the semester (half October) is a good idea: apart from the language course, it enables you to visit accomodations and participate in the lottery for them.

leisure & culture

Munich offers many differents types of leisure activities, which makes it so much fun to live here for half a year (or longer). During the summer, there is the Englischer Garten and the icy-cold Isar to swim in, as well as many street festivals and cultural events throughout the city. During the fall and winter, there is of course Oktoberfest, the many christmas markets spread around the city (a must for lovers of glühwein!) and the hiking and skiing trips organised by MESA that allow you to go to the Alps or other mountainous areas for a reasonable price. Apart from that, the city has a couple of really nice museums (some of which are only 1 euro on Sunday), as well as historical sites.

suggestions/tips

Language course
 WG-gesucht.de (for accomodation)
 Englischer Garten
 Oktoberfest
 Medieval christmas market at Odeonsplatz
 Hirschberg Gipfel (mountain)
 Hans im Glück (restaurant)
 Harry Klein (night club)
 Cord Club (nice concert venue)

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would recommend Munich to those who want to explore the traditional part of Germany and/or enjoy the proximity of it to the Alps, Italy, and several Eastern-European countries (popular destinations, in winter at least, are Budapest, Prague and Vienna). Although surely no Berlin, Munich is a vibrant city with a large student community and many historical sites.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you go for the winter semester: buy a dirndl or set of lederhosen for Oktoberfest! It really is more fun that way, and shops like C&A and New Yorker have quite affordable ones. You'll regret it if you don't.