

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
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	Münster, Germany
name university abroad	Münster
start date	01 / 04 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I have prepared my exchange application process by going to the presentations explaining the processes of the Erasmus exchange program and its deadlines. I have chosen the university and the courses. I found out I was selected for Münster and then filled in the Learning Agreement
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University has helped me by signing my documents, providing information about deadlines and important documents and by explaining the process of the Erasmus exchange program.
academic preparation	I have followed courses as preparation for the courses that I would follow in Münster, such as the study of Middle High German.
language preparation	I study German language and culture, so the bachelor itself was already a preparation.
finances	I used the Erasmus Grant and the OV Grant to finance my stay in Münster, this was enough to pay for the room. I used my savings to pay for living in Münster and travel.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Courses, mostly about medieval literature or language. I myself had to choose the presentations and essays I had to write in order to receive the correct study points.
academic quality of education activities	Some lessons were of a high quality, with great personal tutoring. Other courses were uninspired, mainly because of the other students who failed to come to class or show interest.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

The support received was small but worthwhile. I luckily did not get of problems, so much help was not needed.
transfer of credits
No problems, the transcript of records was signed without any problems.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Okay, although I did not participate much in the programs.
accommodation
Difficult to find, was lucky when I did receive a room. This room was very clean, big and not too expensive.
leisure & culture
Went to museums, some concerts. The city has some nice historical buildings.
suggestions/tips
Start early with finding a room, very difficult to find rooms.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
yes, the teachers and the courses are interesting, the city is beautiful and nice. They should however change the program, with compulsory courses and better testing programs. Many students don't really show up, especially when their only test is a presentation in the middle of the semester. After that many don't come to class anymore. Some courses had to stop earlier (not mine luckily) because no one would come.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
no

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Münster, Germany
name university abroad	Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
start date	01 / 04 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 07 / 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 very well described by the UU, in Münster it could be better. Only, the steps on OSIRIS have to be clearer for students.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support from the UU was very good. The International Office held a few . The Erasmuscoordinators at the International Office were very friendly.
academic preparation
I study 'Duitse taal en cultuur' at the UU and therefore, the academic preparation was good. There wasn't very much difference between the academic courses between Utrecht and Münster.
language preparation
There was no need to prepare for learning the language, because I study German.
finances
It was good that the UU required a financial plan from students. With this formular, the student is going to think about the finances in the host country.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In Münster, I was studying at the 'Germanistisches Institut' (GI) and at the 'Zentrum für Niederlande-Studien' (ZNS). The courses which belong to the GI were most linguistic courses. In the ZNS, I had two courses about politics in the Netherlands and Germany and a course about cultural institutions in the Netherlands and Germany.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is in Münster very high. The teachers are a bit strict, but we had to read a lot of academic books and studies.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support in Münster through the Erasmus Social Support (ESS) was very good. Although, It was very hard to find information how to choose courses. It was not clear or Erasmus students had to fill in any formulars.
transfer of credits
The teachers were very flexible, so they give me the notes in the last week of the courses. In total, I received 36 EC in Münster, which is enough to fill the 'Minor GW'.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The WWU Münster organised a Welcome Week for Erasmus students. It was a very informative week. Within this week, you can learn much new students from other countries and it's good for your social life.
accommodation
In Münster, it's very difficult to find a room. So you have to prepare this at least six months before arrival. The WWU Münster also sent many mails about the difficulty to find a room.
leisure & culture

The Erasmus Social Support (ESS) organised every week a 'Stammtisch', where you can meet other Erasmus students in a bar in the city centre. Also, there were a lot of excursions. Münster is a great city to live, the city centre is very nice with a 'Haus der Niederlande'. In this house were taken courses for students who study Dutch in Münster.
suggestions/tips
The ESS in Münster did their job very well!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely. The WWU Münster is a great university to study. The Dutch-German relations are very interesting. There are a lot of students and people who can speak Dutch and are very enthusiastic about Dutch people and the language.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No

2015-2016

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities, linguistics
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en Cultuurstudies

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process went well. Make sure you start on time, because it might take a while before you have collected all the signatures.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office in Utrecht was always there to help me and to answer all my questions.
academic preparation
Because I would do an internship in Münster, I had to make a work plan before I started with the internship. Apart from that, I didn't need to do any academic preparation.
language preparation
At first I was worried about my language level in German, since the university advises a B1-level in German. Because I only took courses in Dutch and one German language course, it was no problem at all. If you want to take courses at the university in German, make sure you have a decent language level. The university also offers some courses in English, or you can decide to take language courses at the language centre (you also get ECTS for those). There's also a German intensive language course of 2 weeks for Erasmus students before the semester starts.
finances
I was able to pay for my stay abroad with the erasmus grant and my personal savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It was a bit difficult to choose courses, since the course catalog doesn't state how difficult a specific course is and what kind of assignments you need to do. Because you can make changes to your learning agreement, I went to the first class of some courses I was interested in (make sure to tell the professor you're an erasmus student). After that I decided if I wanted to take the course or not.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office is very supportive and keeps you informed about important information through email during the semester.
transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university offers an introduction day and several activities for erasmus students in the welcome week. They also organize a buddy programme, where you get teamed up with a German student who can answer all your questions.
accommodation
I lived in a room from Studentenwerk Münster. Most erasmus students I met here found a place from Studentenwerk. To apply for a room, you must fill in an online application form on their website (make sure to apply for a furnished room). I recommend you to do this as soon as possible, since there are waiting lists. There are some other tips to find housing as an erasmus student on the website of the WWU.
leisure & culture
The Erasmus organisation offers a lot of fun activities for erasmus students during the whole semester, which is a nice way to meet other people from all over the world. I don't know about the winter semester, but during the summer semester there's always something to do in Münster: (food)festivals, parties, flea markets, and the famous fair called Send, which is held here 3 times a year. Münster has some good museums and you can see plays at the theatre for free with your cultural semester ticket. Also make sure to visit the Stadtmuseum, it offers an interesting view about the history of the city.
suggestions/tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will receive a semesterticket which you can use to travel for free in North Rhine-Westphalia. Go visit some other cities, like Köln or Düsseldorf! You can also travel for free to Enschede, in case you really miss dutch food. - Bring your bike or buy one second-hand (for example at the Fahrradflohmkt). Cycling is the easiest and best way to get around Münster.

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

Münster is a lovely city with a great atmosphere, and I can recommend it to everyone. The city is quite small, so you'll feel at home very soon.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

- The Sprachenzentrum offers a German intensive course for erasmus students before the semester starts. I recommend you to take this course, because you get to know other erasmus students while improving your German.

- It might be a good idea to open a German bank account. If you're renting a place from Studentenwerk, you are obliged to do this. They offer free bank accounts for students at Sparkasse bank.

2014-2015 **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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Without problems.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I recieved all the needed signatures on time and although they didn't gave that much information about the amount of ECTS-points you have to make for the grand and about what kind of courses could guarantee a certain level in Utrecht (niveau 1,2,3), everything went well.

academic preparation

Not very necessary, because I was already in the third year of my bachelor in Utrecht when I went to Münster.

language preparation

Because I study German Language and Culture I didn't need to prepair in some way when it comes to the language.

finances

The rent was comparable to Utrecht (I paid a little less than in Utrecht) and the living costs are a little less than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was very interesting and defiant. Also well-organised. Friendly fellow-students and friendly and helpful teachers.

academic quality of education activities

The academic standards in my courses were very high.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Like I said before, the International Office in Münster did a great job (also when I was still in Utrecht, by helping over email) and the teachers were friendly and helpful.
transfer of credits
My credits haven't been transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
During the welcome & orientation programme I still had to be in Utrecht, but the International Office here welcomed me very friendly and gave me the information I needed.
accommodation
I lived in an house of Internationale Studentenwohnheime. There was a big problem with the internet, with was very annoying: there was no internet in the house were I lived, and because of the fact that the internet contracts from the telecomservices (O2, Unitymedia etc.) are only available for at least two years, we could'nt get an internet connection ourselves. For that reason we used internet from our neighbours, but that was'nt working so well (sometimes not at all). Furthermore are Internationale Studentenwohnheime not so well organised and are roommates not always guaranteed (many rooms were empty and no new people coming in).
leisure & culture
Münster is a little, conveniently arranged city which is pretty equal to Utrecht (small, friendly atmosphere), with quite a lot nature and beautiful buildings.
suggestions/tips
When you stay 'alone' and don't contact with your fellow students, Münster has not so much to offer (it is quite small and there is for example not every weekend something to do, like concerts or party's). So get out and meet people! All the people I met were very friendly.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yeah, I would, because it is a very sympathic city and my experiences with the university (Germanistisches Institut) are very good.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2013-2014

Report 1

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process went well because of the fact that we could ask for help at the IO.
counselling/support at home university
The IO in Utrecht was very helpful and understanding when I had questions about the application.

Germany – Universität Münster

academic preparation
I had no academic preparation
language preparation
Because of the fact that I study German language I didn't need an extra language preparation, all the courses I did in Muenster were in German.
finances
I paid for my stay in Muenster with some help from my parents, Stufi and the Erasmus Grant.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
It was hard to choose courses because I didn't know how difficult/easy they would be. I could have picked more courses than I did.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of my teachers in Muenster is very good.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
I haven't spoken to the IO because I didn't need support.
transfer of credits
The amount of credits I can earn by taking exams or writing papers is good.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
There was a welcome week organised by the Erasmus team in Muenster but I couldn't participate because I had still courses in Utrecht.
accommodation
I got my accomodation via an organisation for householding for international students. I live together with two international students.
leisure/culture
In Muenster you can play sports or go to musea so I guess the "leisure/culture-part" of Muenster is very good. You can also go to big cities in the neighbourhood, such ass Düsseldorf or Köln with your Semester ticket
suggestions/tips
.I don't have suggestions or tips.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes I would recommend my host university because of the fact that the teachers are very intelligent and there are many courses you can pick and because of the fact that there are many activities organised by the Erasmus team.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No, I don't have any.

Report 2

preparation	
exchange/placement application process	
The best way to start your application is to check all the information about "study abroad" on the website of your home institution. Furthermore, you can go to the "Informatieavond" of the home institution. And do not forget to read close the information for incoming students at the website of the host institution. If you have any questions, you can always e-mail the International Office of the host and home institution. If you have questions about the contents of the courses you should just e-mail the professor who will teach it, but be as polite as possible.	
counselling/support at home university	
The International Office is not always open, so check their opening hours before travelling all the way to the office. You will need their sign a few times, also during your stay abroad, but it always takes a few days before they sign it or maybe a week before they answer your e-mail. Collecting the signs is something you cannot do last-minute.	
academic preparation	
My academic preparation consisted of checking the courses of the host institution. My central question was: "which courses benefit for my academic career?"	
language preparation	
I followed a German course at the Goethe-Institut in Amsterdam before and I studied German on my own at home.	
finances	
Next to the "uitwonende beurs", you can get a compensation for your public transport chipcard, if you have the "Studenten OV". In my opinion, it is useful to receive a loan from DUO, because you are not sure you receive your Erasmus Grant until you finished all forms and deadlines at the end of your study abroad.	
study/placement abroad period	
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)	
In my opinion it was hard to find out how many ECTS every course was worth, because it was not noted in the online course catalogue and the credit system was different for Erasmus students. If the course catalogue is not clear about the contents of the course, and you think you might want to follow that specific course, ask the professor as polite as possible what the course is about. But show in your e-mail that you already read the course catalogue, otherwise he will refer to that one.	
academic quality of education/placement activities	
I noticed in Germany there is less room for discussion about texts and subjects than in the Netherlands. In Germany the students listen, the professor talks. You can ask questions if you do not understand, but critical questions will not evolve into an academic discussion.	
counselling/support at host institution/organisation	
There was enough social and practical support at my host institution. I received e-mails with updates from them weekly.	
transfer of credits	
Not experienced yet, because my period abroad has not finished yet.	

Germany – Universität Münster

student life	
welcome/orientation programme	
The social office could have organized some activities better, but at least there were a lot of events. The first weeks there were some welcome/orientation activities, but not as much as in the introduction week at dutch universities for new students.	
accommodation	
I found my own room using websites. It was the room of a girl who also went one semester abroad.	
leisure/culture	
Enjoy your leisure time and do not study all the time! I really enjoyed all the activities of the social office here, I went on some trips to other cities which we (with friends) arranged ourselves, and I became member of a sport club.	
suggestions/tips	
Try to devide your time well between studying and free time, because it might be an ones in a life time experience!	
conclusions	
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain	
Yes! Münster is a city with a lot of students. The city is small, but that is an advantage, because you know the city fast, you feel home fast, and you do not still get lost at the end of your Erasmus period.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If you go to Münster, bring you own bike!	