



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	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	Bus
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	04 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I had to send in a motivation letter and the destinations I wanted to go to. For me this all went relatively easy, as my application got accepted and I could go to my first choice of destination.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	We could always ask questions via e-mail and I always got a respond very quickly (most of the times at the same day). We also had an in-person meeting with other students at Utrecht University who went abroad. This way you could meet the people that went to the same country/city as you. I met one other girl who went to Budapest, but we did not stay in
academic preparation	I did not really have to prepare for my courses, because they all fit within my study programme in Utrecht.
language preparation	I had the English level that was required, so I also did not really have to prepare for the language.
finances	The grant was almost enough for me to get through my semester abroad, but I did loan a bit of money from my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)



I was nominated for the Institute of Art Theory and Media, but ended up doing most courses from the School of American and English studies, since there was more to choose from and a lot of courses also fitted in my media/film studies.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that the quality of the seminars and lectures was the same level as in Utrecht, but it was relatively easy to get a good end mark, especially if you were interactive in the seminars. I felt like the teachers cared more about how you were in class and if that reflected in your endpapers/tests. It was more about the learning process than the end mark.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This was also very good. The coordinators made everything clear and you could always reach them.

transfer of credits

I went to the office of one of my coordinators, and she made a form that stated all my grades and received credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We had an introduction week in which we could sign up for educational information meetings, and also an organisation (ESN) that prepared activities throughout that week, but also throughout the whole semester.

accommodation

The university gave us information about housing, and that is how I got my apartment. It was through an organisation and I have an apartment in the middle of the city centre for a reasonable price.

leisure & culture

The organisation ESN prepared cultural programmes and activities, and there was also a profit organisation called ErasmusLifeBudapest that held parties and activities almost every day.

suggestions/tips

After the orientation week there were way less activities from ESN, so I would suggest maybe more frequent activities?

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the university based on my courses, because I learned a lot and all the teachers were really nice. It is also relatively easy to find an apartment in Budapest, although you have to search yourself for housing companies (but the university sends tips). The country itself is ofcourse something you have to be able to handle, because of the strong politics (something I also strongly disagree with, but in Budapest it was less visible, since it is such a big city).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

Report 2

faculty/college

Universiteit Utrecht



level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal arts and science

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	03 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 07 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was alright, you just need to fill in some forms and just be up to date with everything, just make a checklist and you will be fine. Just make sure you do it in time and not all at the last moment.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think its fine, you can always email them.

academic preparation

I did not really do anything for this

language preparation

I did not have to, i had a good level of english as given by the UU

finances

I got the erasmus scholarship, for budapest it is like 300 euro a month, but since i got the right of the scholar ship from the government of the netherlands and the OV vergoeding, it was totally fine. I would tho have something on your savings, as budapest is a cheap city you will still spend some money. If you are into partying ;)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Choosing the courses was a bit weird, like you choose beforhand, but don't give to much time for that because when you arrive you will just need to choose again, and some courses will not excist. So don't be stressed about this, just choose some courses you like. I had a lot of psychology courses, and they were kinda nice.

academic quality of education activities

It is actually kinda easy, depends on the courses you choose. But the academic level is easy. But i liked the way of the university, the seminars are kinda small which causes you to engage well with the other students and the prof. You have some lecures and stuff. But i actually liked the education. It was easy going and chill. For me i went more for the totale experience so it was okay. I met some cool people at school, and it was very nice to go to school every day.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I signed up for a mentor i recommend doing this, then you can ask them a lot of your questions at the beginning. But the school also provides some introductions and there is a coordinator you can send emails to, so it is fine.

transfer of credits

It is fine, i think grades don't matter because it is just a pass or fail for the whole exchange, it was kinda sad because i got good grades, but you will need to look into that.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It was good, i met some of my best friends on the first day of the orientation program of the psychology university. They have a really broad welcome plan with a lot of activities, both from the school of elite but also from other programs such as ELB. I would advise to definitely attend the first week the programs, where it is easy to meet people. Then you form your friendgroup and eventually you will just do your own thing. But just go there and it is super easy to make friends. I was kinda nervous about this but budapest is such a living city, everyone wants to talk to each other and make new friends, so you will make friends so easy.

accommodation

I rented my flat via the website united erasmus, i really liked this because it was easy and safe, and they have some nice appartments.

leisure & culture

The culture of hungary is different, but you will probably hang out the most with exchange students, so you will get to know a lot of cultures.

suggestions/tips

You will get to know your way, so it will be super fun. Just go with the flow, say yes to things and just enjoy.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Budapest has become one of my favorite cities in the world. You have everything, you can party, there is nature, culture, everywhere you look it is beautiful. There are also some alternative places and people which i really liked. But there is a place for every kind of people. It has been definitely some of the best times and moments of my life. I would strongly recommend going here. You will have such a fun time. But most if you like to party, because the party life is really vibrant. But studying is also fun.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go to budapest!

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
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how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	05 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	05 / 07 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process to apply for an exchange takes quite some time, that is why you should do your best to plan well ahead and keep track of all that which you have to do for the application. Luckily, the International Office and the Erasmus Office provide students with extensive checklists and information on each topic. In this way, the application process is clear and structured, just make sure to keep track of everything and do take your time to read things thoroughly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University is very supportive in terms of preparing for the exchange. Next to all the extensive information and structured system they provide, they are also always helpful when you email them with specific matters and questions. If you cannot find the information on their website or in their booklets, do not hesitate to reach out.

academic preparation

Academically speaking, you are encouraged to take courses which are related to your current study field. While I personally stayed within the Humanities, I did take some courses in Hungarian, which I prepared for by myself.

language preparation

I am a native speaker of Hungarian, but I also studied a lot on my own. If you can take language courses before your departure, you should apply for those.

finances

You will get the Erasmus grant before your departure, which is very helpful to cover the expenses in the first few months. Next to this, it's advisable to also save some money for emergencies.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Keep in mind that the credits per course is generally less at ELTE, and also that the whole semester is organized differently. The best way to prepare for this is by keeping up with all the homework and start reading in time.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the classes were generally high. Each course has its own way of testing. Personally, I liked the way some courses asked for more smaller assignments instead of fewer bigger test. This made it easier 'to digest' all the course materials.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Generally, teachers are kind and very understanding regarding Erasmus students. Most courses I took were in Hungarian and teachers were accomodating to the fact I am from the Netherlands, they took the time to explain the way of teaching and testing to me.

transfer of credits



Since Hungary also uses the European Credit system, not much has to be done to transfer credits. ELTE, like UU, uses EC.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There are many welcome programs at ELTE. Some are obligatory to make sure all students are up-to-date with all the important information. Other activities are facultative and focus on organizing social events, so you can make meet new people, who are often also Erasmus students.

accommodation

It is best to look for private accomodation as the dormitories tend to be full. Luckily, there are many companies, verified by ELTE, that provide international students with reliable rooms.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a big city in which there is always something to do or see. There are many museums, concerts, restaurants, social activities and cultural events. It is hard to get bored of this wonderful city.

suggestions/tips

Take part in the social activities organized the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). Not only are they a lot of fun, you'll also meet new friends, which is important to avoid falling into loneliness as you are navigating your way in a new, big city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I do recommend ELTE and Budapest. The city itself is wonderful, the public transportation system is amazing, and the university (ELTE) offers so many different types of courses. While inflation is high, like everywhere, Budapest and Hungary are still relatively cheaper than other European countries.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Before you go on exchange, visit the city to see how it is and to get to know the way it works. In this way, you won't feel so overwhelmed when you go on exchange.

2022-2023

Report 1

faculty/college	Faculty of Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and culture studies (Taal- en Cultuurstudies)
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	by train



name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Because I did an internship and Erasmus, my application proces was a little different. I applied for the internship (Dutch as a foreign language, NVT Nederlands als vreemde taal). After I was accepted, I had to sign in for an Erasmus grant, which was rather easy, just took some planning.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Because I was doing different things, I didn't really have one person who would help me. Sometimes this was a bit difficult. However, if I asked for help, I always got a quick and helpful response.

academic preparation

I mostly prepared for my internship, all the courses that I followed were easy to follow with the knowledge form my degree so far.

language preparation

I did bilingual education and english IB (international baccalaureate) in secondary school and followed many of my courses in English at University, so I didn't need to prepare my language for erasmus. I did learn some basics in Hunagian, which proved to be helpful.

finances

I made an overview with my parents with my expenses and income for the period spend abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had to sign up for courses. The signing up was rather easy once I understood the website (and was able to log in), but I could not read any course descriptions, so it was a bit of a gamble. All my courses worked out together, but I heard from others that it was easy to change course if necessary.

academic quality of education activities

I think the education was adequate, though slightly easier than in The Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The person who was in charge of Erasmus students at my faculty responded quickly and efficiently to questions.

transfer of credits

This all went well.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



If you study in Budapest, make sure you get an ELB-card. They organise many different activities (all year around) where you can meet a lot of students. The university also had a couple of tours, pub crawls and other activities.

accommodation

I booked a room via Erasmusu. The location was perfect and the room was rather nice, but other than that it was not a very pleasant experience. From a home owner who used our kitchen as his lunchroom, the modifications to the house that were not mentioned in the listing (there was an extra room above the kitchen), the dirtiness of the house due to construction that were not cleaned, agreements that were not kept, being woken up by police and immigrations officers at 06:45 in the morning (they arrested one of my flatmates), me being forced to move, then (after I said I would move even though I did not agree with the way this was discussed) not having to move and still waiting on my deposit. Erasmusu is no help. Fortunately, someone from my internship (who has ties with the Dutch ambassade) is helping me.

leisure & culture

Budapest is absolutely beautiful. There is much to discover when living there.

suggestions/tips

Get an ELB-card. Make time, especially in the beginning, to meet new people. Have fun, and try to see a lot but also try to just live in Budapest. Find some rhythm and your favourite spots so you can relax during all the chaos that is Erasmus. Also, it is very easy to only speak to people from Erasmus, I would highly encourage you to talk to others as well.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Budapest is beautiful and a lovely city to live in. It is busy yet there are many quiet places, there are a lot of people from different cultures, countries and backgrounds. ELTE humanities is a beautiful campus (all courses are held in the same small campus in the middle of Pest). I would say that education is of about the same level as in The Netherlands (you do have smaller classes which is really nice!), but the standard for marks is a bit different (it is very easy to get high marks).

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	by train
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process



The exchange application process took quite some time but wasn't too difficult. I also did an internship, which meant I first had to get accepted for that position before I could start the rest of the process. The most time consuming part was definitely filling out all the Erasmus forms.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Before I got accepted I had a meeting with the exchange coordinator at the UU. They helped me out well and gave me all the information I needed. It was easy to make an appointment with them. Other than that I didn't need any support, and was only in contact with the UU when some documents needed to be signed.

academic preparation

For the internship, which was a Dutch as a second language internship, I followed a course called 'Nederlands als tweede taal in het onderwijs'. This gave me some theoretical knowledge on NT2 education, which came in handy during the internship. Other than that I didn't do any academic preparation and I don't feel like I needed it.

language preparation

I followed some Hungarian lessons at a private institution. This was not necessary at all, but I like learning languages and wanted to be able to hold a basic conversation from the start.

finances

Finances were rough sometimes. Inflation in Hungary is among the highest in Europe, making the 240 euros from Erasmus worth substantially less. I had applied for the financial top up, but unfortunately I just finished this process, meaning I didn't receive the money during my stay abroad. I was able to earn some money by being a student assistant and by tutoring a child. Sometimes finances were a bit stressful, so I would advise to save more than you think you'll need.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed four courses: a Hungarian for beginners course, a course on phonology, a course on linguistic typology, and a course with guest lecturers from around Europe, lecturing about a topic related to the Dutch language. At the beginning it was not exactly clear what all subjects entailed, which meant I had to substitute one course because it, apparently, was an introductory course on linguistics.

academic quality of education activities

All of my subjects were interesting and taught by knowledgeable and kind lecturers. One of my subjects was quite challenging because it was a course building on knowledge that I didn't fully have yet. However, I managed to complete it well. Sometimes I did feel like the expectations the teachers have are lower than in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at the ELTE was always kind and responding quickly. At the start of the year they organised a full day with introductory talks, which was nice.

transfer of credits

My credits have not been transferred yet. However, I think this will work out just fine. I obtained 33 credits during my stay abroad.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



During the first week of the academic year the university and ESN organised several introductory events, both formal and informal. It was a nice way to get to know the university and practical matters as well as meet other Erasmus students. ELB is another big organisation that organised an introduction camp and several other activities at the start of the year.

accommodation

It was easy to find an accomodation in Budapest. I had already gotten a room a few months before I left the Netherlands. I found it via the site erasmusu. The rent was a bit on the high side for Budapest, I found out later. The accomodation was fine, and the location was great. I lived together with 3 other Erasmus students.

leisure & culture

Budapest has a lot to offer to students! There are many bars and clubs which are open every day. The restaurant scene is great as well, and relatively cheap. The city has many great museums, and day trips to other cities are easy and affordable. On top of that many sports can be praticed via the university.

suggestions/tips

If you go on an exchange, make sure you find a good balance between social activities and exploring the city and relax time for your self. And obviously enjoy the city, the culture, and the university life!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! The university has many interesting subjects to choose from, and many languages that you can study there. The international office is great in helping you out with about anything, and the teachers are kind. Budapest is a fun city to live in, and to me the cultural differences were very interesting.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are doubting going on an exchange, just do it! You won't regret it :)

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	ELTE
start date	06 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The applicaton process is a little bit confused but if you save all your emails fairly straightfoward. The UU International Office is very helpful and so is the one in Budapest. Waiting on emails or confirmations can be a little stressful, but both universities clearly try their best to streamline the process as much as possible. In the end I was surprised at how little effort it was.



counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is very helpful and quick to answer, whenever I had a problem they helped me within one or two days

academic preparation

There was no academic preparation necessary.

language preparation

There was no language preparation necessary, as ELTE offers classes in English

finances

Hungary is cheap compared to the Netherlands so living there is either cheaper or about the same as you are used to back home. Any money I spent outside my usual expenditures were trips within the region, which are not necessary for your education. Any money I saved beforehand I used for these trips, otherwise my student loan and Erasmus Grant were enough to pay my food and rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed three history courses and one philosophy course. The history courses centered around the development of medieval cities, geopolitical debating exercises and state socialism in Hungary. The philosophy course was on civil disobedience. The Humanities Department is small but well run, so I had no organisational issues. Generally, everyone at ELTE is helpful and speaks English.

academic quality of education activities

While the teachers tend to be very knowledgeable on their subjects, Hungarian education is of a lower level than I was used to at the UU. For all of my subjects I managed to get a 5 out of 5 with minimal effort. Back at home I think I would have gotten anywhere between a 6 and 7,5. The level of the classes themselves vary greatly per teacher and is a bit of a gamble.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

ELTE has a well functioning international office that is very responsive to student's needs. I encountered no problems in support or communication.

transfer of credits

Very easily done by just following the instruction on the UU site.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The introduction week at ELTE was handy but otherwise limited to the bare necessities. ESN and ELB, private student organisations, organize events every day to get to know your fellow students. While these events may not be to your taste (drinking/partying) they are good opportunities to meet other Erasmus students and I would recommend going to them (for at least the first week).

accommodation

Via the site of SRS I found a decent room in Pest on the edge of the Jewish Quarter for 300 euros a month. Otherwise you can look on facebook or other sites. I found it all very easy, cheap and straightforward..

leisure & culture



Budapest is a very international, big city so it has everything one expects in a international, big city. There's endless bars and restaurants to explore (both extremely cheap), museums, the beautiful architecture you can find in the city (no second house is the same), any sport imaginable can be found, you can hop on a flix bus or train and visit Vienna or Bratislava (3 hours), Belgrade, Zagreb or Ljubljana (6 hours) or any other city in Hungary itself. Short version: It's impossible to get bored in Budapest. There is always another unique bar to find, restaurant to eat at, cool neighbourhood to explore or just go to any of the amazing places you already knew. Also, the food is very unique, combining Jewish, Magyar, Turkish and Balkan cuisine is an very good idea.

suggestions/tips

Bars: Fekete Kutya, Aurora, Lampas, Vintage Bar,

Restaurants: Köleves, Dobrumba, Drum Café, Retro Langosh, Papa Frici, El Mulino and many many more

Other: Go to as many places in the region as possible, go to the Hungarian countryside, walk around Buda and Pest when you have some spare time; there is always something to see or enjoy, take a tour of the parliament; it's hilarious, look out for the endless amount of weird concept bars.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would absolutely recommend it to others but there is one important thing. If you want an academic challenge this is not the place. Education here is very easy and can seem a little bit unprofessional. However, if you are looking for other things in your exchange like intercultural exchange, the experience of living in a different city for a while or any other motivation than education Budapest is a great option.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really. Though beware that Hungary is very much a different country, moreso than any other European nation I've been to. The language and culture are very unique but also, by extension, very closed. You will not have a shot at integrating or feeling as part of the culture without serious time investment into language courses and even then I doubt it will be possible. This is not a negative thing, as I found the estrangement an attraction, but something that should be kept in mind.

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	Institute of Art Theory and Media Studies

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	2 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)



end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
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PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application took me quite some effort because I had to write a proper motivation letter. However, applying for Erasmus is easy, it only takes a bit of time. But before that, looking for the right courses wasn't easy. I was messaging with my coördinator abroad back and fort because the courses were changing all the time, the same for the ECTS that came along with them. Once I had my courses selected, the process went quite fluently.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University offers a good help by selecting your destination by giving information days where you can ask everything. Furthermore, they're easy accessible by e-mail and always reply fast. Also with signing documents which can come really in handy.

academic preparation

On academical level, there wasn't really much I had to do because I could go on exchange as part of my free courses. Ofcourse I had to sort out what courses I wanted to take and how many ECTS they would get me. And they had to be approved by the Exam Committee.

language preparation

My courses would be in English. At Utrecht University I already took a lot of courses in English, so it wouldn't be hard for me to adapt on that level. But for the Erasmus grant everyone has to make a language test. You won't be denied for exchange if you fail, which took some pressure off. But it was an interesting indication for me personally. Because at the end I did the test again, and I was so proud when the results indicated that I actually improved my English to a C1 level.

finances

I think the concerns about this aspect depends on which country you go on exchange to. Hungary is overall quite cheap compared to the Netherlands and the West of Europe. In preperation, I calculated how much I would get and how much I could spend. Sadly I forgot to get the money from my Student travel product (Student OV). I was too late to sort everything out in DUO. So pay attention to that because you've to put your OV on hold, in person at a machine / and look at all the forms you've to fill out.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had to take courses at the Institute of Art Theory and Media Studies because of the agreement between UU and ELTE. The classes were only once a week and 1h and 45 min. which is different from the UU. One class of mine was really interactive and I had to make a video which made it easy to engage with the topic. In the other classes the students had to listen mostly. Ofcourse there is always room for questions, but the way of teaching was not really encouraging to engage with the topic.

academic quality of education activities

One of my classes was not going in depth with the topic. It was about Fake News, but at the end the test was only four general questions about it. The other courses asked more from the students. One I had to write an essay (like I also had to do a lot at UU), and the other one I had to hand in assignments every class and make a video. How much you will learn about the topic really depended on the teacher in my experience. But ofcourse it also depends on yourself.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



I didn't need much of counselling or support, so I can't really give my opinion about that. Although they give you information where you can go if you have questions.

I also had a student mentor at the beginning, met him once and he didn't answer my questions anymore. I guess you've to get lucky to get one who'se really engaged.

transfer of credits

At ELTE they have a different grading system. Instead of 1-10 they have 1-5. 5 being the highest, 1 is failing, and 2 is passing poorly. I had to get used to that. But I passed all my classes with a 4 or 5. I still have to get the credits in Osiris though. But be sure you get your transcript of records before you go home, it might save you a lot of trouble. But the teachers at ELTE are really relaxed, so if you're not on time, it will definatly be oke at the end. But it might take a while before they reply your messages.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The oriëntation week was helpful to find the way at the campus, to get to know some faces and to know what you have to do while staying in Hungary. E.g. public transport card, student card, deadlines etc. There were some activities, speeddating and scavenger hunt for example. During these events I met all my friends there. The point of speeddating is to get to know a lot of people in one evening. Our table just stayed at one place, which was really fun. The next day the scavenger hunt, I met even more people which I still am in contact with.

accommodation

Before I left I had trouble finding a flat. I assigned myself for dormrooms, but they were already full. So if you want a dormroom be on time. At the end I didn't mind at all. Because the thought of sharing a room without having space for my own, made me nervous. For around a hundred euros more a month, you can easily find a room for your own. As I said, I had trouble finding a room which was because I didn't really trust facebook posts etc., but there are enough other options if you want a room beforehand. I read in a UU report like this, that someone just went there, booked an hostel and found a place while already being there. So I decided to give my mind some rest, booked a hostel with the idea to hunt for a place in real life. And how lucky was !! The third day I came in contact with a guy through facebook. It was a flat with two guys and I was invited to look for the room at the same night. I decided to arrange a meeting in the morning because I didn't want to go there in the evening by my own, better be safe than sorry I thought. I went there in the morning and the same night I moved in, close to the Astoria hotel, couldn't have wished for a better place. The guys became such good friends and we had a lot of fun together, we even went a trip to Berlin together. Still we are in contact and making plans to visit eachother. And now will always have a second home in Budapest!

It is really easy to find a flat in Budapest. It's totally different from Utrecht. My flatmates (in Budapest) have now even trouble finding a new flatmate, what was mindblowing to me. So, just do whatever feels good for you and don't feel rushed finding accomodation. In the end it will all work out!

leisure & culture

To be honest, I had more than a enough of free time since the bar at ELTE was lower than I was used to at UU. Which also worked in my benefit regarding school work, because when I had to study or projects to finish, I got really excited and engaged. In my free time I participated in events from ESN, where I met most of my friends. Later on in the semester we didn't go to much ESN events anymore because Budapest is such a lively city with loads of other things to do. Bryan Adams gave a free concert on Heroes Square, Lampas is great to hang out and listen live to new opcoming artists, Neverland and House Bar are places where they have open mic and in summer there are great bars with places outside like the Grunt. But also in winter bars as Udvaroom and Fuge have loads of games you can play. When the weather was good, we hung out near the river, listened to music in parks or played soccer at Margaret Island. Also, I played soccer (as a course from ELTE) with Hungarians and played squash with a friend at a squash centre. Concerning party's, Budapest is perfect as regards of Techno



music. The scene is getting bigger although it's not fully tolerated by the government. So, there are also a lot of parties you have to look for a little better, but they're amazing if you're also interested in that genre. And of course, every Monday was Morrisons Monday, crowded with international students. Which is a really great opportunity to meet new people. But don't expect too much of Morrisons itself, the first time it's amazing with all different rooms and music, but after a while it's getting a bit boring, unless you're with great people of course.

I also had the luck that my flatmate works in tourism so he knew a lot of fun places to go. Once we went on the scooters through the entire city, from Buda (the Citadella, Fisherman's Bastion) to Pest (Deák and all the other parts of the city). The city feels so homely, the centre is not that big and really good to walk (or take the bus or metro for some parts), but overall I did a lot of steps everyday.

suggestions/tips

The city has so much to offer, the best way to discover all its beautiful things is to go explore with your friends (or on your own). Look on Facebook and follow all different kinds of pages so you know about all the different activities and events. Take your 'me time' when you need it, but say yes to all the adventures.

CONCLUSIONS

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

To be honest, I wouldn't choose ELTE again for my studies. However, I would definitely recommend Budapest to anyone who is looking for a place where it is super easy to meet other internationals and where there's always something to do. Even though it is a bigger city than Utrecht, it feels so homely with all the cute streets, cafés, bars and the beautiful architecture.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Before my exchange I was so nervous about not making friends and having a great experience like all the people describe in their UU reports. But it turned out to be one of the best periods in my life so far. I learned that I'm way more flexible and capable to adapt to change, which makes it also easier for me to go on another adventure like this. You will definitely get to know yourself, for better and worse. But don't let fear get you in the way, just do it whatever the destination may be. I grew so much as a person and discovered skills I didn't know I had. Furthermore, I've no clue about what to do next after my Bachelor. But this experience, the interaction with all kinds of internationals and being able to communicate through one universal language fascinates me so much, that it will definitely influence my choice concerning my masters. Even though the teaching was so different from what I was used to, the exchange still has a great impact on my studies. I don't want to bore you even more with my experiences, you just have to figure it out for your own and enjoy every bit!

Report 2

faculty/college	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	Hungary, Budapest
name university abroad	Loránd Eötvös-universiteit
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)



PREPARATION

exchange application process

It is a lot of paperwork that you have to do during the application but also after. It is a lot, but if you just follow the steps the UU provides for you it is quite easy.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU gives very good support and clear overviews of what you need to do and when. If you don't know something you can also send a mail to the office and they will reply really fast and help you as much as they can. All my questions were answered really well.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation. This was mostly because all the courses I wanted to follow did not belong to my major. Everything was new for me and I decided to go with the flow. Also because I went to Budapest and the academic level there is not as high as in the Netherlands.

language preparation

Before my time abroad I already knew a few words Hungarian and while I was there I learned more. This was only convenient during grocery shopping and when I accidentally bumped into someone on the street. In all other cases English and Dutch were sufficient to use and I was already able to speak both.

finances

For me the finances were very doable - I even saved money here because I worked as well. The prices in Budapest are not that high so you can easily go for a coffee or out for dinner. But also not too often of course.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was not hard for me to find courses that I wanted to follow. The Osiris-like system they used was not very clear for me at the start. Then they organized a lesson about it, which was really helpful and I never had any more questions after that.

academic quality of education activities

I expected that the quality of the courses that I would follow here in Budapest would be less compared to the courses I follow in Utrecht. This was partly true. It just really depended on the teacher and not on the courses itself if it was high quality or not.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was very clear for me where I had to go if I needed help. My own counselor and the one for every Erasmusstudent were very helpful and they could explain what you wanted them to.

transfer of credits

This all went fine as well. The amount of points were not always comparable to the amount we would get in the Netherlands. Though it was easy to talk with the teachers and asked them if they would agree to another point total. In one case I had to do another assignment, which was fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was very nice! A lot was organized, fun things but also informative activities. This was also the moment where I met some friends which I kept seeing the rest of the semester.

**accommodation**

I had a really nice room in the centre of the city. You do pay a higher price for this compared to when you live more in the outskirts of Budapest. I paid 300 euro for my room each month and had a shared kitchen (5 people) and bathroom (2 people).

leisure & culture

I think Budapest is one of the best cities in the world. You can visit the touristhotspots many times and never get sick of them. There are many thermalbaths, each time you go you can try out a new one. There are many many teahouses and coffeeshops - which sell coffee for low prices compared to the Netherlands. You have many places to go partying at night. For erasmus studens they organize special parties each week.

suggestions/tips

Everything the Erasmus student network organizes is really nice - but I would also recommend to get out of this international bubble and get in contact with the Hungarian people/students. This really completed my Esasmus exchange. They can tell you a lot about their culture and country, which other cities you should visit and about the nice, secret teahouses.

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you want to be academically challanged I would not recommend this destination. If you want to have a really great time, get to know a new culture and party and study at the same time - I would recommend Budapest.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Wherever you go on Erasmus - Try to travel as much as you can! You have less responsibilities when you are abroad so you have more time to do this. Somebody gave me the same tip at the beginning of my semester abroad and I was very happy he did. And also: Begin travelling at the start of the semester before it is too late.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to and from your destination?	I traveled to my destination by car and got back by plane.
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	03 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION**exchange application process**

I started my application process back in November, when I wrote a motivation letter for the NVT internship. Then, I completed my application in Osiris for the first of December and uploaded a signed Study plan, and later on, I uploaded my signed Learning Agreement and Grant Application. This was by times a bit stressful. I did not



always know where to find the right information, and I did not always have the overview of all the steps I had to take to have a succesful exchange. Sometimes I felt a bit lost, but I learned to keep track of deadlines and to send emails with questions when I did not figure it out by myself. I considered it a personal challenge to meet deadlines without getting stressed about it or feel hatred about it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Whenever I had a question, I felt like I could always email the International Office. I usually received an answer on my questions within one or two days. The staff members were really supportive and collaborative.

academic preparation

I did not especially prepare myself for my exchange on an academic level. In the month before my departure, I was in contact with Emmeline Besamusca, the coordinator of my internship, and the two predecessors that already completed my internship in the two semesters before me. They told me about the academic culture in Budapest.

language preparation

Before I left The Netherlands, I filled in the OLS (Online Language Assessment). My level in English turned out to be C1. I did not take any extra classes.

finances

I subletted my room in Utrecht to a friend of mine. My room in Budapest was more expensive than my original one in Utrecht, but with the Erasmus grant and the monthly compensation for not being able to use my student product for the public transport in The Netherlands, I was able to cover all my fixed costs. In the months before my exchange, I saved up a bit of money to travel around Europe during my stay.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Welcome & orientation programme (for some reason, I was unable to add text in the textbox considering this topic): The Orientation Week basically consisted of two days, Monday and Friday. Thursday, there was the official opening ceremony of the semester, which took about an hour. On Monday, we were told about the university (including the networks that organise events for Erasmus students, like ESN) and about the things we needed to modulate by ourselves, like the Guest Student Application Form and the Transcript of Records. We were also shown around the campus. On Friday, there was a practical training to work with Neptun, the system they use in Hungary (comparable with Osiris), and we needed to register for subjects. The Orientation Week was a good way to find my way around the university and to get comfortable with all the new things, but mostly, it was a great opportunity to meet a bunch of new people that later on became my friends.

Study programme (content and organisational issues): There were enough courses to sign up for as an Erasmus student. In the first weeks, it was even possible to switch courses and go to seminars you did not originally register for, as long as the teacher signed the Guest Student Application Form that you needed to hand in at the International Office at the end of February. That way, it was easy to pick courses that fitted my interests.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the academic education in Budapest was absolutely not the same as on my home university. For every course, there was a 1.5 hour lecture each week. The teachers did not expect you to read any literature on beforehand, which seemed strange to me. In the course description was written what you needed to do to pass



the course, but the teachers changed it during the course (they did that already before corona). Also, instead of receiving a grade that matches the effort you put in the course, almost every student got an 5 out of 5.

transfer of credits

The staff member from the International Office in Budapest was really nice. She answered all my emails super fast and was always very collaborative. When I emailed her and asked for my Transcript of Record, she replied to me the same day and also sent the ToR to the Examencommissie from my home university. I felt like the transfer of my credits went really smooth.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

My host university already closed before I left the country and up until this day, it did not reopen yet. Therefore, it was not a problem that I headed back to my home country. The courses were continued digitally and my Transcript of Records was sent to me and my home university by email.

support guidance of home university

I was already hesitating to go back to The Netherlands, when my home university sent me an email with the message that I was strongly advised to return back home. I was really glad about the clarity of the message and decided to book a flight back home. Back in The Netherlands, I still wanted to complete my courses, so I went through with the online seminars and my internship. Therefore, I did not have much contact with my home university, but there was enough information about the new situation in the emails that I received.

online offer and quality of digital courses

The quality of the digital courses was, honestly, not that good. Hardly anybody really showed any engagement during the online lessons. I think that it was extra hard for people to participate because of the language barrier. The teachers were not prepared for the digital courses and did not seem to enjoy them. I feel like they needed more support from their own university to be able to teach via Skype/Zoom.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

For teachers: instead of asking difficult questions in the online seminar that nobody really dares to answer, make sure that the students hand something in (like a short reaction on a thesis or question) on beforehand, so that you can ask them about an explanation during the class and start the discussion a bit easier. It also makes is easier to check the effort that students put in your course. Speaking about online meetings (on Skype/Zoom), I feel like it is better to ask your students to enable their webcam, to make sure they are involved. I do not think any student will participate in an digital exchange. I would not recommend it, except for things like a (NVT) internship, where you work together with your colleagues and the students very closely.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Budapest is an amazing destination for a semester abroad. I have only seen it from February to March, but it never bored me. There is a lot to see and the city has a rich history. There are multiple universities in Budapest, so you'll meet a lot of people in different ways.

When it comes to the university and the courses, I would say that the amount of knowledge that you learn depends on your own commitment. If you keep up with readings, even if they are optional, and ask the teacher about things, you will learn a lot, but you can still pass the course when you don't do that. That might be a pitfall for some students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Hungary - Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest)

During the application process, it might be a good idea to give students an overview of the things they eventually need to modulate, and the steps that need to be followed. That way, students applying for an Erasmus exchange experience more ownership of/during the process, and they know what the next step will be and when they will be completely ready. That way, they will feel less insecure about the process.



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	History

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Please consider the time it will take to collect all the necessary documents. If you need help, send an e-mail to the Student Office, they will get back to you very swiftly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Very good. They responded really swiftly on the questions I had, and even helped me with questions about my study program not directly related to Erasmus program.

academic preparation

Not necessary

language preparation

No preparation needed. The level of English of Dutch students is more than sufficient for the Hungarian education system

finances

I applied for the Erasmus grant and the supplement for public transport. This is sufficient.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Interesting courses. If you are interested in the history of Central Europe/Hungary, ELTE has some nice courses to offer. I learned a lot about this part of Europe I didn't know before

academic quality of education activities

If you want to be academically challenged, you should pursue this on your own. The teachers are helpful and want to supply you with extra information, if you want to learn more. I could recommend doing this, because the level of the courses is not very high in general.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



Chaotic but friendly. The International Office is extremely overburdened but easy to access. You know for sure they will help you, but sometimes you have to wait in line for a long time. Reaching your teachers for a signature is different and pretty difficult. Make sure to start collecting your signatures early on, and don't hesitate to look them up in person. They are very friendly, just a bit chaotic.

transfer of credits

Most courses were 6 ECTS, so I had to take 5 history courses in order to have my obligatory 30 ECTS. This is ver

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

On the welcome day, you get to meet your fellow students, and on this day, I actually made the friends I hung out with the rest of the semester. A big orientation programme is lacking when you come to Budapest for the Spring Semester, but I believe this is different for the Autumn semester.

accommodation

I didn't use Facebook, but I used the German site WG Gesucht. I can recommend this site, because the apartments are much cheaper than the ones that private companies offer. And you get nice German roommates :)

leisure & culture

Great! Budapest has so many different interesting historical sites, museums, parks, clubs and bars. Life really happens outside, especially when you come to the city during nice weather (Spring semester)

suggestions/tips

Give learning the language a go, it is a beautiful language, and life in Budapest will be easier even when you just know "thank you", "hello" and "goodbye".

CONCLUSIONS

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

For sure! Budapest is an extremely interesting, culturally rich, vibrant city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Budapest can be very windy/rainy all of the sudden, so pack some warm clothes even if you come for the Spring Semester.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The whole process of applying for a semester abroad starts quite early advance of the actual semester. This is actually quite nice because the whole application and administration can take up quite some time, especially to get in contact with the receiving university

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I experienced that the International Office was a great help in the whole preparation, which can seem chaotic. Whenever I was having difficulties with any step in the application process, I could always contact one of the staff members of the IO through e-mail or by going to the office. I have always gotten help very quickly and this was very reassuring.

academic preparation

I didn't do any specific preparations for my stay abroad in Budapest. I wouldn't say that it is required for ELTE university.

language preparation

As ELTE university offers courses in English, you only have to take a language test to see whether your English is sufficient. In my case it was, so then there's no further action needed.

finances

When I applied for the semester abroad I had to make a financial plan that gave me a rough idea of my finances for the semester abroad. I did make my monthly loan a bit higher the months in advance and during to have some financial back-up. This was nice because I took quite a lot of trips, which can be a bit more expensive. Living in Budapest is quite cheap so I wouldn't say you need a lot of savings for a semester there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed some courses at the Department of History which was a part of the Humanities faculty (called 'BTK'). To be honest: prepare for a bit of chaos. Compared to Utrecht University it's a big mess considering the administration. There was no course catalogue, a lot of courses filled up really fast because they only have space for a small amount of students and it took a long time to definitely register for my courses.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was rather low in comparison to Utrecht University. Very little preparation was required, very little articles/literature was given and the test or paper in the end was graded 5/5 regardless the content or quality of it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This was okay. The International Office tried their best to help you and they were always very nice, but especially in the first weeks they couldn't really handle it well.

transfer of credits

I can't write on this yet because I just got home and this all needs to be processed still

STUDENT LIFE

**welcome & orientation programme**

There is an Introduction Week at ELTE but ESN ELTE is not really active when it comes to organising a lot of introduction activities. Luckily there are other organisations to make sure that there is enough stuff to do and events to go to. You can always be proactive and find activities to do yourself, of course. Everyone wants to do stuff in the first weeks so it's easy to find things to do.

accommodation

It is not hard to get a room in Budapest in the city centre for a reasonable price (especially in comparison to Utrecht prices). A lot of rooms are offered on Facebook and most of them are trustworthy.

leisure & culture

Budapest has so much to offer, there is always so much to do and see. Apart from the fact that the city is beautiful on it's own, there's a lot going on regarding night life and culture.

suggestions/tips

There's too much to all go in to detail right now, but I would recommend International's Night at Morrison's 2 Klub on Monday night.

CONCLUSIONS

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

The destination definitely, the university not so much. The city was amazing and has given me so much good experiences. The university was not very well organised and I did not learn a lot from the courses I took.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start in time with all your preparation and don't panic because everyone wants to help you regarding you having a good Erasmus.

2017-2018

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	03 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION



exchange application process

The process was a bit confusing for me, there were many things to consider and many forms to fill out. Luckily, the international office at the UU was very helpful, the international office at ELTE less so, since there was only one guy handling all incoming Erasmus Humanities students. However I found ELTE to be quite lenient. Even though courses and credits may be very vague or nowhere to be found before going to Budapest, many professors will gladly accept you in your classes take (they love Erasmus students) and they can be very flexible about the amount of credits.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

n.a.

academic preparation

n.a.

language preparation

Older Hungarians often don't or refuse to speak English, so it might be wise to learn a few words before going to Budapest.

finances

Budapest is much cheaper than the Netherlands in terms of restaurants, bars, accomodation and transport. You could go out for dinner for 5 euros. Drinks were half the price of drinks in the Netherlands. A monthly transport pass for students was 11 euros.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I enrolled into four courses (but decided to drop one English course by a phd student due to lack of interest and), three English literature courses and a Hungarian language course. There are so many different courses to choose from in the English and American department, thus there is obviously some sort of difference between the quality of the courses. Some courses are even given by phd students, which is very cool because their courses are about a small niche in literature they love and want to discuss. However, they may not be as proficient in English or good in teaching as some of the older professors who have been teaching for years. The courses I took and loved are: Utopian and Political Literature (by Czigányik Zsolt) and Reading Shakespeare (by Csikós Dóra). Useful site to find courses: <http://seas3.elte.hu/seas/catalogue.pl>

academic quality of education activities

The academic level was a bit lower than what I'm used to. Classes feel more informal. Teachers tend to talk more since many students don't speak up. Furthermore, the courses are very flexible. For instance, teachers may ask you what you want to read for the course or may give you the option to choose between a home essay or an in-class essay or they may give you the opportunity to choose whether you would like to do a presentation or not.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Not much and it was not very clear. You can have a mentor but you need to take action yourself to get that.

transfer of credits

Credits are very unclear, it really depends on the teacher. They may give you more credits than displayed on the website.

STUDENT LIFE

**welcome & orientation programme**

Join the welcome programme of ESN ELTE! It only lasts a few days, but this is the place where you'll make friends. You will see these people show up at every ESN event and you'll have fun with them throughout the whole semester. Sign up for events once they show up, because they will get full. Don't be afraid to go alone to an event, everyone is alone in the beginning. You could also join events by Erasmus Life Budapest or ESN Corvinus.

accommodation

Good and cheap accommodation is easy to find, there are many Facebook groups for this. It will cost a bit less than in Utrecht. There are also dormitories where you barely pay anything, but you will sleep with multiple people in one room. Look out though, prices may vary a lot, since there are landlords who have been raising the prices each year, due to the increase of international students.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a metropolis with people from all over the world. It is such an exciting city with so much to do and so many amazing places to explore.

suggestions/tips

Pub quizzes, ruin pubs, cat cafes, board game cafes, language exchange events, Mondays in Morrison's 2, free concerts at Gólya.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely! You won't get bored of this beautiful city. I fell in love with it and I'm sure you will as well. You will also learn much about Hungary and other countries all over the world. Such an eye-opening experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?