

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)**2022-2023****Report 1**

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| permission to publish contact details** | <i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i> | |
| | my e-mail address | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: slweaver09@gmail.com |
| | my weblog | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: |
| | my Facebook account | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Sterre Weaver |
| | other (social) media | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: @sterreweaver on instagram |
| faculty/college | Humanities | |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD | |
| name study programme | Religious Sciences | |

| | |
|---|--|
| destination city & country | Budapest, Hungary |
| how did you travel to your destination? | Airplane |
| name university abroad | Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church of Hungary |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 16 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I found the application process quite easy. You just have to follow the instructions and make sure you hit the deadlines, and when you do it all goes very smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I discussed my doubts about going abroad with someone from the international office once. She helped me with some practical information, which was helpful. For more personal advice I would suggest asking your student advisor.

academic preparation

I did not do any specific preparation before going to Budapest for my semester here.

language preparation

I also did not do any specific language preparation. If you are not comfortable with your English skills you could maybe do some preparation, but in my experience, everything will go fine once you actually start living your life abroad and are forced to speak English.

finances

I saved up some money before going here, but to be honest life in Hungary is way cheaper than in the Netherlands so in combination with the Erasmus scholarship there is not much to worry about money wise.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

When I arrived here it turned out that I could not do three of the course I had planned on doing. This was because of some overlap in the timetable and because one course was not given this year. I had to make some

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

last minute changes, but this turned out alright. My advice is to pick more courses you like before going so that you have multiple options when arriving here.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education is quite low compared to Utrecht University. There was hardly anything to prepare before classes and also the classes themselves were not very challenging. The subjects were interesting though, and I found it especially interesting to see the Hungarian point of view by the teachers and the experiences and opinions of other international students. I think you need to accept that the quality of teaching is going to be lower than in the Netherlands, but that doesn't make it a bad learning experience.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at the Hungarian university was very helpful and quick with signing needed documents and helping out with questions. There was a counselor introduced to us in the first week. I did not see her myself, but I believe it was possible to schedule appointments with her to talk about how you're doing and struggles you might have.

transfer of credits

The university was closed around the time I ended my stay in Budapest, so I had to wait until the middle of January until I could get my ToR. I got really high grades in Budapest but they are transferred to a 'pass' in Utrecht, which I think is fair considering the difference in quality.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week there was an orientation week in which we got to know the university and other students. There were some talks about Budapest and the student life at this specific university and we did a tour around the city. I met a few nice students there, but apart from that I did not really engage in the Erasmus student life.

accommodation

I found an apartment through a facebook group with two other internationals, which was really nice. There are some websites (also offered by the university) on which you can apply for apartments with other Erasmus students. I think that this is the best way to find a social life. You could also go for the student hotel / dormitory, but I would not recommend that. It is outside of the city and the social life there is not great.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a very vibrant and cultural city. The Erasmus organisation organizes events and parties almost every day, so if that is what you like you're set for the semester. Me personally, I did not really like those types of parties so I found my way around the city apart from Erasmus. Budapest is a nice city with cultural events and a lot of nice bars / cafes / community centers in which you can hang out and meet new people.

suggestions/tips

If you like partying and hanging out with the other Erasmus students I would suggest you invest in the people you meet in the first week. Make whatsapp groups and ask them to hang out etc. If those people are not really your type of people it takes a little more effort to meet people. I met people through my flatmates, queer facebook groups and community centers (like Golya and Aurora). Also; bumble friends is a really good option to meet other internationals who are new in the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would not recommend this university because of the great academical courses I have followed, but I would

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recommend this place if you are looking for a nice semester abroad. Budapest is a very diverse city, with people and places for everyone. It is not so much the university I learned a lot from, but moving abroad and building a new life there has been a great experience. I would suggest going abroad to anyone and I have really enjoyed my time here in Budapest.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

One thing last thing you need to take into account is that the semester is said to last until the end of January (like in Utrecht) but in practice I was already done in the middle of December. I would have liked to stay a little longer, so if you are also looking for the 5 month semester, Karoli might not be the best university for you.

Report 2

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Geesteswetenschappen/humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Communicatie- en informatie wetenschappen |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| destination city & country | Budapest, Hungary |
| how did you travel to your destination? | By car |
| name university abroad | Károli Gáspár Reformed University |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 04 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy. Budapest was my second choice. Every destination you will write your motivation for will be worth it. Every destination has something amazing and will be great.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office is always available to answer your questions. And in their e-mails, they send you all the information you need. The meeting before the mobility with other students is also very nice, you can meet other people who go too the same destination and for example share phone numbers what is always very helpful during your preparation.

academic preparation

When you arrive you can register for several courses, the university has many options so for everyone something interesting. I followed two courses about Hungary. One about the history and during the second one you will walk through the city. I would recommend these two subjects because you learn a lot about Hungary, the culture, the history but also the city.

The two courses:

- Past and present of Budapest (five walks) - Urban sociology
- Modern Hungary in a Changing International Arena

language preparation

None. I already had a B2 level in English which was enough too do a exchnage in Budapest. My Englisch improved definitely.

finances

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

The Erasmus scholarship. Via the UU you can apply for an Erasmus scholarship. And if it is necessary you can get a loan from DUO.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

4 courses, each 6 ECT. In these courses, I learned more about Hungary, improved my presentation skills which were very helpful and learned more about family and gender issues.

The four courses:

- Past and present of Budapest (five walks) - Urban sociology --> You go to a lot of museums for free!
- Modern Hungary in a Changing International Arena
- Family & Gender
- Oral Presentation Skills

academic quality of education activities

Better than I expected, the English of the teachers was most of the time also good. I learned a lot of new things. It was not very complex, but better than I expected. All the experiences with my four teachers are great, they are all really kind and helpful.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Really good, everyone was so kind, you get really fast reactions on your questions and they are really willing to help solve your problems.

transfer of credits

24 ECT, I already had my bachelor's before going to Budapest. That is why it was okay to follow only for courses and get 24 ECT.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Very warm and if I compare it with other universities in Budapest (from what I heard) the welcome programme is very well organized. For example, we did a big tour through the city by bus and we had a workshop to learn the basics of Hungarian which was fun.

accommodation

I lived next to the parlement. I was very lucky with my apartment. I found the apartment 2 months before my arrival on facebook in a group for students who search for apartments. I lived with 2 other Dutch girls, one German girl and one Spanish girl. I loved my neighbourhood. I paid 315 euro excl each month which was pretty fine.

leisure & culture

Really nice, the people are most of the time welcoming. Most of the people can be a little bit shy, but if you get to know the people they are really nice. I would really recommend to go to the museum House of Terror. In this museum you will learn a lot about the history of Hungary and you will understand why older Hungarian people not always be happy. Of course it is really different if you compare it with the Netherlands, but you will learn a lot.

suggestions/tips

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

Sports: run on the island, it is exactly 5 km.

Koffiententjes

Brooklyn bagel Jm 6/ madal (coffee)

Mokka cukka Nemsuti (vegabar) Cookie beacon bruch Tonka babba

Cafe frei

Bookcafe

Central kavehaz

Restaurant/lunch

Bigfish

Menza

Cafe vián Spinoza

Mazzeltov

Dobrumba

M

Streets

Gozsdu udvar (bars and markets)

Október 6 utca (restaurants) Sas utca (bij reuzenrad)

Hollan erno utca

Jókai tér Karoly loeit

Plein

Szent Istvan ter/ Sas utca

Bar

Lámpás

Pótkulcs

Zsivago

360 bar

Aquarium club

Morrisons

Szimplakertmozi

Madhouse

Techno: Toldi klub, golya, pontoon, fekete kutya, skal, arzenal, dürer kert, a38 (ook rock)

Winkels

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

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| <p>Halfprice (naast pull and bear)</p> <p>Humana vintage</p> <p>Things to do:</p> <p>Schaatsbaan</p> <p>Huis van het millennium</p> <p>Állatkerti bérletek örökbefogadás (dierentuin)</p> <p>Museum voor schone kunsten</p> <p>Cave crawling</p> <p>Burchtwijk</p> <p>Badhuizen</p> <p>Boottocht Donau</p> <p>Vissersbastion</p> |
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CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! I love the city, the people and the student life. You will meet new friends and make memories. Of course, it will be scary in the beginning, but believe me, I had the same experience. But I am so happy I did it and learned so much about myself. The Karoli university is a really good choice. Also, the city is not that expensive, so you can enjoy the bars and restaurants. I would absolutely recommend studying in Budapest.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Join the Erasmus life Budapest community and go to Morrisons on Monday. try to live with international students to learn a lot from each other instead of living only with Dutch people. And enjoy your time, it will go really fast.

HAVE FUN!

Report 3

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|----------------------|---|
| 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 |
| how did you travel to your destination? | By train |
| name university abroad | Karoli Gaspar University |
| start date | 05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 20 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

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| exchange application process |
| The application process went really smooth. For me, it was a bit difficult to decide where to go. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| There was not much counselling needed, the process was very clear and whenever I had a question I could e-mail and get an answer really fast. |
| academic preparation |
| At Karoli Gaspar University I followed various electives, so there was not much academic preparation to do. |
| language preparation |
| Not needed, I only had English courses. |
| finances |
| To be honest, for me the decision to go to Budapest was because they had courses I wanted to follow (from what I had seen) and because it would be cheaper than other destinations and I would not have to worry about money. If I had known earlier that there is also an Erasmus TopUp for financial reasons I would probably have chosen another city. |

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| There were a lot of courses you could choose at Karoli Gaspar University, the curriculum was well prepared and organised. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality wasn't that high. I think that in the Netherlands we are used to a high level. Here it was different, with the least effort I got an excellent. I am not going to say that that is a problem but it was a little frustrating sometimes, mostly when they could be said so much about a certain subject and/or the literature and the teacher just did not know or the students had no proper basis to have a conversation about it. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The counselling and support was there when I needed it. Not that I needed it much but they there were also very quick with answering to e-mails etc. |
| transfer of credits |
| Directly after I got my last grade, they emailed the Transcript of Records to Utrecht University so that they could implement the grades. |

STUDENT LIFE

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| welcome & orientation programme |
| The orientation week was very good organized. They explained the university system, let us get to know the other erasmus and international students and showed us the city. |
| accommodation |
| I arranged a room for myself, not on the campus of the university. This was a very good decision, I had 5 other roommates which were doing an Erasmus semester or year as well. |
| leisure & culture |
| Budapest is a very big city where you can do everything you want. A lot of cultural places to visit, beautiful |

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

architecture. I really enjoyed exploring the city.

suggestions/tips

Just go explore, without google maps.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend Budapest as a city to go to, but I do not know if I would recommend Karoli Gaspar University. For me the university level was lacking too much, but I wonder if that will be different in so many other European cities.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think it does not really matter where you go, studying abroad has brought me a lot because I have learned a lot on so many levels. Mostly on a personal level and I think that is the most valuable.

2021-2022

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|---|--|
| family name* | Reijns |
| first name* | Niels |
| student number* | 6382150 |
| permission to publish contact details** | <i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i> |
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| | my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: |
| | my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: niels reijns |
| | other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: |
| faculty/college | faculteit geesteswetenschappen UU/ humanities |
| level | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | erasmus exchange Budapest |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Budapest, Hongarije |
| how did you travel to your destination? | plane |
| name university abroad | Karoly Gaspar University |
| start date | 04 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Exchange application progress was quite easy. Not too many thresholds. Budapest actually was my sixth choice in destinations. so don't put too much effort in picking one. where ever you go you will have a good time!

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

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| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Clear preparation. One or two meetings about what to expect and how to deal with the cultural differences. Beforehand a meeting was scheduled with all students going to eastern european countries. it was very nice to talk about it and there were a lot of good ideas shared in the meeting. |
| academic preparation |
| Again not too much work. I signed for courses once I arrived. as my exchange was not within the same faculty I had the freedom to pick which ever courses I wanted. followed some sociology, some history and studied Hungarian language. Would recommend them all. |
| language preparation |
| None. As most of bachelor courses were given in English I had the right preparation for the language level given at the courses. You should not focus too much on this. Even when your English is not outstanding you will be able to manage your way through. I experienced a lot of people with way way way worse English levels, especially French and Spanish. |
| finances |
| Eramus scholarship (280eu/month). As the EU supports exchange programmes within the EU you can apply for a grant. this consists of about 280eu a month, but it depends on which country you're attending. because prices in hungary are extremely low this scholarship is lower. This scholarship combined with DUO or others funds will be sufficient. One should be able to live with about 600 - 700 eu a month. |

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| 5 courses, each 6 ECT, from different faculties. Two sociological, two historical and one linguistic course. These courses lasted the whole semester. Courses I followed: the sociology of organizations, the renaissance in florence, introduction to social network analysis, hungarian language for absolute beginners and past and present of budapest |
| academic quality of education activities |
| Very good, high standard, almost comparable to Utrecht Universitt level education. Not very complex though. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| Outstanding, very cooperative and willing to help solve problems. |
| transfer of credits |
| 30ECT, this actually was a very tiring process. UU did not directly accept my courses taken. Took about four mails with the examencommissie and three attempts in Osiris. Please realize that although the exchange university is part of the UU exchange program list, this does not assure that your courses will be accepted by UU. |

STUDENT LIFE

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| welcome & orientation programme |
| Very warming, both by university and student organization. Highly recommend to apply for Erasmus Life Budapest student association. Great friendships and adventures came from the activities organized by them. |
| accommodation |
| Downtown Apartments Budapest, bit expensive but very clean and good service. Recommend to book an airbnb or hotel during the first week. During this week you will be able to find a flat with others. |

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

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| leisure & culture |
| Awesome. Very welcoming. Stereotype of mid-eastern European as not welcoming and closed is partly true. What I mainly learned is that people tend to be closed in first but once you get to know someone, this can be seeing them a second or third time, they tend to be way nicer and comforting compared to someone from the Netherlands. You sort of have to break through a barrier. |
| suggestions/tips |
| Join ELB (eramus life budapest, check their Facebook and Instagram in advance) |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Absolutely. the university is very openminded and westernized. high quality education and great atmosphere. the city of budapest became one of my favourite cities. would absolutely recommend to go there. had a great adventure, met many new friends and the city is unlike Orban very openminded and welcoming. I would absolutely recommend studying in Budapest. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| <p>starters: Lampas, szimpla, klikk, 360 bar, udvarrom, Goszdu udvar (soort uitgaansstraat), first terrace (aan de Donau), doblo/ parlé (wijn), Matt bar (shotjes bar), champs (sports bar), Kisuzem. Uitgaan: Morrisons 2 (vraag naar open bar), ötkert, szimpla (vrijdag/zaterdag), instant, downtown/ eather (techno), Akvarium, madam/ story, doboz</p> <p>goedkoop eten, for sale, frici papa, trofea grill (onbeperkt 2 uur) első pesti reteshaz Spinoza drum café iguana (Mexicaan) hungarikum bisztro, köleves, fuego (kip)</p> <p>minder goedkoop eten, Vicky Barcelona kispiac Bisztro tapassio twentysix két szerecsen, Mazel tov</p> |

2018-2019**Report 1**

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|--|---|
| permission to publish contact details** | <i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i> |
| | my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: l.vanderwerf2@students.uu.nl |
| 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 | Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church |
| start date | 04 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 29 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

| PREPARATION | |
|---|---|
| exchange application process | I was very stressed when I started the preparation for my exchange. You have to fill in a lot of forms, which was a bit overwhelming to me. It helped me a lot to make a list of everything that you have to prepare, and set dates for it. Afterwards, I can say that everything went well. My receiving institution was also very helpful and communicated clearly about the application process. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | During the preparations, the International Office of Utrecht University guided me through the process. Everything was explained step by step and they were always available for questions. Utrecht University also organized a lot of information lectures, to give us an idea of what we could expect. These were very helpful too. |
| academic preparation | I did not do academic preparations, because the level of education is much lower in Hungary. |
| language preparation | I did not do a lot of language preparations. I needed to get the B2 level in English, but I already reached that by then. |
| finances | To finance my exchange, I requested the Erasmus scholarship. Moreover, I saved some money before and I requested a studentloan. Lastly my mom paid me a monthly amount to help me. I did not have any problems with money during my exchange. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
|--|---|
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | <p>During my stay, I took five courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hungarian Art History - 19th and 20th Century Hungarian History - History of Ancient Iran - Public Relations - Hungarian Language for Absolute Beginners <p>All courses had a credit of 6 ECTS, so 30 in total. I chose these courses, because I wanted to get to know more about the country and language. I chose the course Public Relations, because it is out of my comfort zone and it was a nice opportunity to challenge myself. I chose the course History of Ancient Iran, because I am very interested in the Middle East. I liked all of the courses, but they were very easy. I would prefer to be challenged a bit more.</p> <p>I had to apply for the courses through the Neptun system, which is similar to Blackboard. I had no issues with the application. The courses itself were very chaotic. Most of them did not offer a syllabus, so the organization of the courses was very unclear. It turned out I just had to get used to this, because after a while it went fine.</p> |
| academic quality of education activities | My experience is that the quality of the courses was not very high. The content was interesting, but there was not a lot of pressure. During the course 'Hungarian art history' we visited a few museums, which was a very nice experience. I loved to evaluate and analyze the artistic works of Hungary. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad | Also the Erasmus office of the receiving university communicated very clearly. They sent me emails regularly, to keep me updated about new forms we had to fill in. The university organized an introduction week and |

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

explained the system (although it was chaotic).

transfer of credits

We received our grades through the Neptun system. In Hungary they use a 1-5 scale, with 5 as the best.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Besides the introduction week that the university organized, the student union also organized events to welcome us. For example, they showed us around the city and planned a big welcome party. They were very welcoming and open for all questions.

accommodation

When I arrived in Budapest, I went to a dormitory I applied for. However, I did not like the place. It was too far away from the city centre and not cozy at all. It had no wifi, too little showers and toilets. I therefore decided to look for an apartment. I found a very nice place in the city after one day already, a flat with three flatmates. I enjoyed it a lot there, because I had a close relationship with my flatmates. The communication with the landlord was a bit difficult though. He did not react to our texts, for example. Besides that I had a very good experience in this accommodation.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a great city to party, relax and explore. The city is famous for its public baths, where you can relax and enjoy the view. Furthermore, there are ruin bars in the centre, which have an industrial appearance and an amazing atmosphere. Also the 360 bars are worth a visit, because they offer a beautiful view of the city. Margareth Island is a great place to relax. It is filled with old trees and wide fields, so it is an amazing site to chill with friends. There are festivals hosted in summer too. There are a lot of cultural sites to visit too. The parliament of Budapest is the second biggest one of Europe and has a majestic appearance. Second, the museums are worth a visit too. At the Buda side of the city are some great buildings, like the Buda castle and the Fisherman Bastion.

suggestions/tips

- Visit the ruin bars.
- Go for iceskating in winter in the citypark.
- Chill on Margareth Island
- Visit Balaton Lake (outside Budapest)
- Make sure you form a network in the beginning of the semester.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Budapest as a destination. It is a very international city, with a lot of students and an amazing atmosphere. You will never get bored here. I would not recommend my university, because I don't feel challenged by the courses. I would rather choose a bigger one, such as Corvinus. These are better organized and challenge you more.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would strongly recommend students to study abroad. It is an experience you will never forget and offers you a lot of new insights. Do not be scared of by the amount of preparations, it is definitely worth it!

Report 2

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

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|----------------------|---|
| faculty/college | Humanity |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Communication and information sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Hungary, Budapest |
| name university abroad | Károli Gáspár University |
| start date | 29 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 29 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This went oke. There is a nice scheme where you can see what you have to do and when you have to do it. Just make sure you pay attention to this, and to all the deadlines so make sure you start on time. I think when you're motivated to go abroad, you will have no problems with this because you're excited about organizing everything.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU is very much willing to help you, so if you're in doubt or you have a question, send them an email. But I think you can find all the answers to your questions in the documents they provide. The only thing I'm not happy with is that I proposed 4 courses in my Learning Agreement, because I thought I was supposed to have 4 per semester (like at the UU), and apparently I had to take 5 because you only get 6 ECT per course at my university in Budapest. Would've been nice if somebody would've told me that the amount of courses/ECT could differ per university.

academic preparation

I didn't really know what I could prepare on the academic parts. I knew the education level would be lower, so I wasn't nervous about the level being too high or the exams being too hard. The only important thing is that you have to realize that the education probably will be different, like in every country you will go to.

language preparation

I didn't do any extra courses to prepare my language. My courses were in English, and when you're following a Bachelor at the UU you automatically have a B2 level. You can also download a language app on your phone like Duolingo, to get used to the language of the country where you're going to live in.

finances

I had to make a financial plan, which maybe feels a little bit unnecessary but it's actually nice to have an overview over what incomes and what costs you have. I saved some money before going, and worked at the faculty of Dutch at my University.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first week there was an introduction week, where you met all the other international students, you walked through the university and city, and met students from there. I was really excited about the courses I signed up for. At my arrival 1 course was cancelled, so I asked which course was similar. The course they said was really different than what I expected and I did not really enjoy it, but I finished it anyway. The other three courses were interesting. Before I arrived I was a bit nervous about the university being too Christian, but during my

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

stay I didn't notice anything of it.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is not really high. I had one teacher who's English was really good, but the other two teachers were bad in English or their English was hard to understand because of a strong accent. Some of the courses were quite oke, but some seminars existed of a teacher almost reading a powerpoint to us. In the semester we had one week of 'Trainingsweek', where you could choose what you wanted to do. They offered really interesting things, like a lecture about the Brexit or a visit to the National Hungary Museum.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The university had a international office. They were always there to help me and responded quite quick to my emails. I didn't really need them that much, but it was nice that they we're there. When I left I had to go there to get things signed, which was done in 2 minutes.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits went really easy. I send an email to the international office, and the week I left I went there to sign my certificate of attendance and get my transfer of credits. She send it to the UU while I was sitting next to her, so we were sure it all went well.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a nice orientation programm, where you had lectures about how the university works, to which people you have to go depending on the question. You got linked to a 'buddy', but I didn't do anything with that actually. It was also easy to get to know the other international students because there were activities and groupo projects to get to know eachother. In the evening there were some parties you could go to.

accommodation

I had a really nice accomodation in a nice area in the center. I really think you should search for a appartement with other international students, instead of living in the dorm. The dorm is far away from everything, and there are a lot of affordable appartments. I found mine through a Facebook group of Erarmus Budapest and lived with 2 french girls, 1 german guy and one dutch girl. It was amazing and i really felt at home. I paid around 330 euro's each month. The only stupid thing was that the deposit was really high; 600 euro's.

leisure & culture

The city is amazing!! There are so many nice places to go in the city; musea, café's, festivals, performance, hikes. I loved going for walks around the city, because I always saw new things everytime I walked somewhere. It's also really nice to visit other countries/cities around Hungary. I've been in Bratislave, Vienna and Prague and some smaller villages around Budapest.

suggestions/tips

Go and see the sunrise from the Gellert hill or from the castle. It's the most beautiful and it's really quiet around you. And do evening walks along the Danube, it's the best. And because Budapest is really cheap, it's also really easy for your friends to come visit you there.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this city to everybody. It's really beautiful, there is a really big group of international students, it's a cheap city and really upcoming. There are more and more events and things to do everyday. I wouldn't recommend the university because I thought the education wasn't that good, but the feeling and

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people were really nice at the university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go to Budapest, it's such an amazing city! I think the 2nd semester is the best, because then you go from cold to warm, and you see the city getting more beautiful with the sun everyday.

2017-2018

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| e-mail address | <i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> c.m.w.luijck@students.uu.nl |
| faculty/college | Humanities |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Communication and Information Sciences |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Budapest, Hungary |
| name university abroad | Karoli Gaspar |
| start date | 01 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 23 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This was okay. The problem for me was that I did not receive the correct information brochure and for that reason it was quite hard for me to figure everything out. I still managed to arrange everything and it should not be too hard once you have received the correct information. It can be a lot of work and quite confusing because you need so many different documents. It is really helpful to organise all these documents in a structured way from the beginning. It would be nice if they made it easier with the signing of documents. So make sure you email everybody on time if you need documents to be signed.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

They were great. During the times that I did not know what to do because of the lack of information they really helped me out and made sure the receiving institution replied to my emails and provided me with everything that I needed.

academic preparation

I had no clue what to prepare for so I did not really do any preparation. I wanted to get more into psychology and almost only chose psychology classes. I knew the level of education would be lower in Hungary so I figured it would be easier to get into psychology classes here than it would be in my home University. I saw the exchange more as a first introduction for me into psychology

language preparation

I did follow an academic English course before I went on exchange. For the Dutch students this is probably more a way to gain more confidence about your skill level and it can be helpful to refresh your mind but most students will probably also be fine without it.

finances

Hungary is a relatively cheap country to live in. For me it was comforting that I saved up a lot so I at least could pay my rent for the entire time abroad. I saved up enough and could do everything that I wanted to do here.

The only thing I wish I had taken more into account was to save up some money for trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

When I read the course content I got really excited. There were a few courses that looked really interesting and I was looking forward to them. When I finally started at the University the courses that I was really excited about were a little bit easy at times. They did not go into depth as much as I would have liked them to have. Besides this I did still enjoy them. Other courses did surprise me in a positive way. The University that I attended to is known for their practical teaching. I really enjoyed this especially because I do believe my home University is being too theoretical at times. The content covered in the courses was overall good. The organisation was okay. The introduction week and the buddies were great and this was all well organised. The University itself is quite messy though. They do of course help you out with everything that you need and they explained the Neptun system, but they also cause unnecessary emails and work. The email communication was not that great. First of all it can take quite some time for them to reply and sometimes you even need to send them a reminder to reply to you. Besides this they send me a lot of emails about a Hungarian student card. They made it seem like it was something mandatory, but my own student card from my home University worked just fine and not taking one saves you money. It is just a little bit annoying that they keep mailing you reminders for the renewal of the student card. The thing that bugged me most was the emails from the Neptun system message tool. This system was linked to my own email but then I would receive a few emails every week. The problem is that all these messages/emails are in Hungarian. So you have to translate the every mail just to find out that most of them are not relevant for you at all. Later on I just stopped translating them. I think the University should provide emails and messages in English to the Erasmus students and only send them stuff that is relevant for them. The final problem with the message tool is that teachers can message you, but you cannot reply to them. You also can't find the regular email addresses of the teachers online so sometimes I had to wait a week until the next class to ask the teacher a question.

academic quality of education activities

I really enjoyed the practical courses that I attended it was a refreshing new way of learning. In my case I noticed that I really remembered theories better because I learned them in a practical way. I also had some more theoretical courses and those could be a little bit disappointing in their academic quality. One of the things that really caught my eyes was that some teachers were not used to critical thinking. (Some teachers were open and used to it but there was a big difference in quality between teachers). They did not really know how to respond at some critical questions and when a discussion was encouraged the teacher would already have stated his opinion about the matter. Something that does apply to every course is that the content is very one-sided. I am used to reading different scientific papers and then think about them and be critical about them. The read papers might even contradict each other's point of view. During my exchange I would just be presented with the conclusion and it got stated to be the truth. Some courses tried to show different views and contradiction opinions but this would not often go beyond an attempt. I do remember one time when the teacher tried to have a discussion about the credibility of a mental disease but most students were not able to participate because they did not have any background information on the subject. In addition, the teacher had it long made clear what his opinion was. Not every class was like this, because some teachers were great and they gave you room for discussion and encouraged us to think critically but the differences between teachers was huge.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not need the University to help me out a lot. They signed my papers and replied on my emails which could sometimes take a while. The buddies were great though they help you with everything from the Neptun system till the best places to go out drinking. The other thing that I noticed was that the teachers were really

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supportive. You could ask them anything and I even had one teacher that would start every class by asking how we were enjoying our stay , the university and if we needed help with anything. If we did do practical psychology exercises the teachers would allso make sure that the classroom was a safe and trusted enviroment so everybody could really get into the exercises and open up.

transfer of credits

I did not receive my transcript of records though but they do work with different credits here so I am not sure yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The introduction was nice it really helps you out and the buddy system is great. Not only for the beginning but they help you out the entire semester long.

accommodation

I had a great place to stay but I must admit that I am happy that I didn't rent one of the dormrooms. They are quite far away and you have to share a room. I am keen on my privacy and really happy I rented something at an agency

leisure & culture

The city is great. Thre is enough to do all the time and it is also very easy to travel to other countries or cities from Budapest.The Erasmus society is also big so there are a lot of other internationals and there are special parties organised for the Earmus students.

suggestions/tips

It is important to chose a city that you like, because you will have a lot of leisure time. Compare the different Univeristies in a city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I can definitely recommend Budapest. It is cheap and fun and there is always something to do. The Erasmus community is big so you will easily make friends. I would not necessarily recommend my University. There are a lot of Universities in Budapest so just go look around and compare them. My University was also not really aimed on Erasmus students and the buildings and furniture were a disaster. Go to Budapest and just check out the different Universities.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Keep an open mind. You can never prepare in the right way and you will always see things that are worst and things that are better. Just go for it and let it al happen.

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 | Minor |

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Budapest, Hungary |
| name university abroad | Károli Gáspár |
| start date | 01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 30 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I always had the plan to study abroad, so for me it was not the question if, but where. For me the exchange application process was quite hard. There were so many places and I had to arrange a lot. Finally, I ended up in Budapest. This was not my first choice but now I can say it would be my first choice.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As I said to go abroad you have to arrange a lot. There are a lot of different things that you have to do. I was not so well prepared and it was not so clear what I had to do. The reason for this is that there are a lot of different parties involved with the process and they all have different wishes. So I would recommend to make a planning of all the things you have to do before you go (and in what order), so you won't forget things. Also the international office was very helpful and can help you if you are not sure what you have to do.

academic preparation

Because I knew that I was going to do courses that were not so familiar to me, I knew it was better to prepare myself a bit. I had already one course that was more in the line of the courses that I was going to take. This was enough, or the rest I just studied everything when I was starting the courses.

language preparation

Because my courses were taught in English I didn't have to take an extra language course, I only made the Erasmus English language test. Before I left the Netherlands, I was a bit insecure about my level of English, but when I arrived I found out that my level was much higher than a lot of other Erasmus students around the world.

finances

In the Netherlands I had a little job next to my study. I worked most two days a week, so I saved enough money. This made it possible for me to go on an exchange. I also talked with my parents that if I didn't have enough money that I could borrow money, in the end this was not necessary.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Minor, so I just took courses that looked interesting and that would be an addition to my study plan.

academic quality of education activities

The courses that I took at Károli Gáspár were psychology courses. I chose these courses because there was no offer for communication courses. But I am very enthusiastic about my courses. I already took a course about cognitive neuroscience, so I realized already that I was interested in psychology. Also the structure of the courses were different from the courses I took in the Netherlands. They were way more practical, so the theoretical part that a course normally includes was expanded by a practical part. For me this was very interesting and I think I learned more than I would only learn from theoretical courses. For this reason Károli Gáspár is getting more and more popular for Hungarians.

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

All Erasmus students got a brochure with information about the university. Also, there was a orientation week where there was a further description. With this two things i had a very good understanding of the university and how I had to arrange things. Before I came here, every time a had a question or request it took a long time before they answered. When I arrived here I found out that the university differs from the University of Utrecht, because they are less strict and they are less digital. To arrange things it was better to go to the international office and ask there.

transfer of credits

All my courses I finished with a excellent (this is here a 5), the transfer of the credits, I don't know what it is. But because I got the highest grade I know what my credits here were also going to be good.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

When i arrived in Budapest I had directly an orientation week of my university. In this week all the Erasmus students of the second semester were together and we did a lot of activities together. We got to know the other students and the university, but also the Hungarian culture, history and language. This was a very nice introduction to get used in a country where you know nothing.

accommodation

I found a room of an apartment on a Facebook page. On this page students and landlords put messages about student accomodations. I already looked for a room before I arrived in Budapest and it was quite easy to find a room. Before I picked one room I had contact with my landlord to talk about some formal things and I put me in contact with the other Erasmus students that were going to live with me during the semester.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a perfect city to do your Erasmus. First of all the city is full of gastonomy, every street is full of restaurants and bars. In the day and nighttime there are plenty places to discover, you won't get bored. Because of the size of Budapest there are so many different places, so everybody can find a place that fits him/her. Furthermore, Budapest has a rich culture. There are a lot beautiful buildings, museums and so on. And what makes it possible to explore all this, is that Budapest is a very cheap city compared to the Netherlands. The location of Budapest is also very nice, there are a lot of options to travel to counties around. Allmost al the countries around Budapest are cheap and near, what makes it affordable for a day or longer trip. And last but not least, Budapest is very different from the Netherlands, for me it was very nice to explore this different culture.

suggestions/tips

I think the second semester is better to do your Erasmus in Budapest. I heard of other students that were here the first semester that it can be very cold. In the second semester the weather is getting better during the semester.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had a very good time in Budapest at Karoli Gaspar University. As mentioned before the city is very nice and also the way how the courses are structured are interesting. This semester a learned so much about myself and about other people and cultures. It opened my mind!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

Try to do as much as you can in this 5 months, the time is flying!

Report 2

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 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 | KRE: Károli Gáspár University |
| start date | 01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 01 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application went all according to schedual. KRE has someone with the specific task to help out all the Erasmus students. You can always mail to erasmus@kre.hu, in my experience you will be helped good and quickly there.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counseling & support at Utrecht University is quite clear. Basically everything is on the website so you should be able to help yourself out. If not, send a mail to the erasmus office from the UU. Be aware though that in some periods you won't get a response on the same day as you send your email. Keep this in mind. Especially in deadline sensitive periods in which everyone is sending mails to the Erasmus Office.

academic preparation

Was not specifically needed.

language preparation

Followed English courses so was not really necessary. If you're able to read and write some articles in English on a basic level you will be fine.

finances

Budapest is cheaper then the Netherlands. Especially cafes and restaurants are cheaper, housing as well. Things like groceries are not much cheaper than the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Did some history courses as well as two courses on political theory.

academic quality of education activities

Academic quality is a bit lower than in the Netherlands, the courses are still on an ok level though. The assignments and test that you have to make are easier and less work than in the Netherlands. You could learn quite much, but it really depends on the effort that you want to put in yourself.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Hungary – Károli Gáspár University (Budapest)

Didn't need that much counselling or support during my stay but I think it was quite good at KRE. You could always contact the Erasmus Coördinator.

transfer of credits

Not done yet, but shouldn't be a problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

First week was a orientation programme. It was not comparable to the programmes of other, bigger universities in Budapest but still ok. If you are really keen on doing lots of university related activities and such throughout the semester, than KRE is not the best choice. When I was studying at KRE it didn't have that many international students and therefore not a very extensive programme of activities for internationals. That doesn't have to be a problem at all, but it might be good to know. Budapest is a really nice city where it is quite easy to meet other international students, also from other universities.

accommodation

Lived in a appartment that I rented via a student housing company. Accomodation was cheaper than it would have been in the Netherlands. It is possible to go to Budapest without having a room in advance, it is not too hard to find a place in the city. Already fixing a room in advance is quite easy and relaxed as well though. Just what you prefer.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a really cool city. You really live in a big city where there is always something to do. Furthermore, it is a really cool place to be when it is getting warmer because everyone is gathering on the squares and in the parks. Another big plus is that, for instance, having a drink is quite cheap when you are from the Netherlands. So the money is less of a obstacle.

suggestions/tips

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CONCLUSIONS

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

Sure, Budapest is a really cool city to live in. Also, it is a nice place to do some really cool travelling to places which you wouldn't visit that fast in another situation. Furthermore, travelling to neighbouring countries as well as in the country itself can be really cheap. The academic level is a bit lower then in the Netherlands, but it is still nice to study at KRE. KRE is quite a small university, can be both an advantage as a disadvantage.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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