

2021-2022

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: c.l.c.janssen@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes:
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	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	plane
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	01 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

exchange application process	The exchange application process went smoothly for me. There is quite a lot of work and you must sign a lot of documents.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The study abroad desk at Utrecht University replied swiftly whenever I needed their signature. This ensured that I was able to hand in all documents on time.
academic preparation	I did not do any particular academic preparation. I chose courses open to exchange students about Irish culture, for which no prior knowledge was needed, or courses within the school of English.
language preparation	I did not do any particular language preparation, other than take the language test Erasmus requires.
finances	I used my DUO finances and I made sure to cancel my student OV product in exchange for a public transportation grant. I also applied for the Erasmus grant.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	In Utrecht my main focus of study is Linguistics. However, Cork does not offer Linguistics courses. Thus, I picked courses in the department of English that interested me, such as a course on Shakespeare and a course on medieval monsters. I also picked courses such as Irish Literature, Irish Folklore and an introduction to the Irish
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Language. Registering for courses went smoothly, you have a lot of time to make up your mind and can even change your courses easily in the beginning of the semester.

academic quality of education activities

I was very impressed with the academic quality of the courses I took. The teachers are very interested in and passionate about what they teach, which I thought was very refreshing and helped me to keep motivated.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office is always available for help when you need it, but the whole process of moving to Cork and figuring out how everything works was very easy. The International Office organised some introduction days for visiting students to explain how the university works, but also how Cork is and tips for social life.

transfer of credits

The university uses the same credit system as in Utrecht.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The programme organised was very helpful in understanding how to register for courses, but also helped in finding social footing and making friends. There are a lot of extracurricular activities you can take part in, so this is great as an international student.

accommodation

Accommodation in Cork is tough to find. The organisation Uninest offers 3 huge housing complexes scattered around Cork. Otherwise there is University accommodation, and a lot of students rented out AirBnb's or stayed in houses with hosts.

leisure & culture

Students go out to pubs almost every night, and there are nightclubs, although these closed at 11 o'clock due to the coronavirus rules. There are a lot of shops and buses to towns. There is a lot to do. The International Student society also organises parties and gatherings in pubs every week, so you'll never be bored.

suggestions/tips

Get accommodation near the city centre. I stayed in the Uninest accommodation Lee Point. This allows you to go to the pub or into the city centre at a moments notice. Other accommodations are much further, and this means that you can't go out as easily.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, Cork is a wonderful city and the people there are very kind. It's got a wonderful character. The university is amazing, there is so much to do and it is easy to fit in as a visiting student. The academics at the university are very good too.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**2019-2020**

**Report 1**

faculty/college	geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's      master's      PhD
name study programme	keltische talen en cultuur

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	aeroplane
name university abroad	University college Cork
start date	04 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	the application process was relatively easy, this is not the moment where documents overwhelm you. There was a bit of a slow communication with the university but nothing too bad. Also be aware that some documents from UCC are not the same, though they may look it, as the documents by the uu.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	fine and direct, though at some moments I did feel as if it was my responsibility to provide them with the appropriate documents rather than them helping me with said documents. but overall they have been very

welcome and accommodating, and very quick to respond.
academic preparation
I did next to no academic preparation to go to Cork, it was not necessary at all. My program focusses on Ireland as well so there is little in term of academic preparation that needed to be done.
language preparation
I did no language preparation for Cork what so ever, I already speak English and had some experience with Modern Irish as well, so really i did not need to do any preparation.
finances
Cork is expensive, not so much in everyday costs of life but apartments are expensive, if you do lease with the university this can be remedied somewhat so you should not worry too much. But if you go private it can be very expensive

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I enjoyed most of my classes and I loved the that I could take a lot of
academic quality of education activities
the level of teaching and material that was taught I thought was equal to that in Utrecht, though i did take a lot of what I would consider more introductory classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
again not something I really used, though the times that I did I thought overall it was fine. they were available but perhaps not very speedy, and as an EU student you are not very likely to need them that much.
transfer of credits
I assume this will be fine, as it has not happened yet perhaps it is to soon to tell. though there was a discrepancy between the credits on my initial learning agreement and the amount of credits I was eventually allowed to take

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Cork had a very elaborate orientation program that was not obligatory but was very helpful and fun to attend, it is two weeks before you actually arrive and involves only international students. after that period they have a general introduction "freshers" where you are put alongside other new students to explore the campus
accommodation
I stayed at a private company called hatch, it was a good location and had lots of amenities. it was vey expensive though. but as I said before this really depends, you do get one accommodation offer from the university, that's all, accommodation is hard to come by and even from the university you might not get a great offer/location. however utilizing private housing can be expensive and difficult. regardless do not leave it up to the last moment, but don't stress to much, there will be help even if you arrive without a place to stay.
leisure & culture
while Cork is a relatively small city it is Ireland's second largest city and you can tell that by the amount of culture events and festivals as well as the facilities that the city has. On the university there are also plenty of clubs and societies you can join from the university so there are more than enough options to keep you busy
suggestions/tips
definitely join a club, it will likely be the easiest way to meet Irish students. Go to at least one week of the two week introduction because it is a good introduction to the city and student life. Also in terms of trips, be prepared to organize your own, the international society in Cork organizes trips but when I was there they filled up

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, it is a very pretty university and personally I like that the city is small but with all the facilities and activities of a big city, that is really my cup of tea. But if you like bigger cities or want more nature perhaps you should explore some other universities or at least know that Cork as a city is not very pretty, but the atmosphere is really nice. The subjects and courses you could choose from I also thought were quite extensive for international students, so you can really do whatever you want.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Don't expect this to change your life or necessarily be the best time of your life, expect to have a good time, and perhaps a hard time. make of it what you can, but don't expect the world of it, don't go on every trip because you feel obligated to, just do what you feel you want to and can. You need to make this period, that means you can do it at your own pace.	

## Report 2

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

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
name university abroad	University college Cork
start date	4 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
The application process was is long and involves allot of steps and attention to the deadlines. Therefore it is useful to closely watch the time schedule provided by the international office.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The international office did her best to help me during the entire process. They would answer email quickly and help make contact with there partner universities if this was neseccary.	
academic preparation	
I didn't need as much academic preparation because I would only did my minor abroad and my English was already rather good. Even though it can be useful to speak the language of the country you are going to or at least to make sure you can follow lectures in English. Also for the university of Cork I found that entry requirements can be loosened if you ask the lecturers nicely	
language preparation	
I didn't need much language preparation therefore I only completed the erasmus language test. But if you need language preparation the tool from erasmus is very usseful and the UU does offer some extra help too.	

finances
Before I knew I wanted to study in Ireland I already had some money saved up. After I got accepted I worked to have more of a buffer. For Cork you need access to some money because in student accommodations from the university you need to pay the whole sum before hand. Which could be around 3.000 euro for one semester. You do get some money from the erasmus grant (around 1.000) before this time usually. I recommend having at least 3.000 euro saved up for accommodation and other things before you go.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I did courses in different schools: 3 from Applied psychology, 2 from philosophy and 1 from Celtic studies. At UCC as a visiting student you have to arrange yourself that your time schedule doesn't clash. Before you go to Ireland in the summer break you will need to fill in provisionally what courses you want to do with the help of the course selection site for visiting students (<a href="#">insert link</a>). When you come to Cork just before you start until the beginning of the semester you need to revise these choices. Then you have to check yourself using the timetable site you will get if your courses won't clash, if they do you have to choose something else. It is important to check this because sometimes courses are cancelled and you won't get a notice from the UCC for this.</p> <p>The courses I took in the applied psychology school had really strict deadlines but if you have a good reason they will grant you an extension. These courses were fun and educational and had different levels of difficulty. For these courses you mostly had to write essays.</p> <p>The philosophy courses were a bit easier than I expected we had to write exams and one essay for these. Mind &amp; Machine was an amazing course and I would really recommend it.</p> <p>UCC offer great courses in the Celtic department, folklore and in the history department if you want to learn a little about the history of Ireland. The course I took was called Ancient Ireland and was fun to learn all these facts about the history of Ireland involving the old chiefs and stories. In this course they even explained the Ogham stones that are displayed around the UCC campus.</p>
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education depends really on the professor I found. The courses I took were not entirely in my area of expertise but I still was able to follow more than entry level courses. Still overall the level of academic education was high.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at University College Cork (UCC) is very well organised. They have excellent disability support and the teachers are really helpful and willing to make an extra effort for you. The UCC finds mental health very important and organises many events to help students with mental health problems including a mental health service where you can book an appointment usually within 2 weeks. The UCC also offers free health service (both mental and physical) across from the main campus.
transfer of credits
The credit system in UCC is 5 credits per course. So you will need to complete 6 courses for 30 ECTS. This will feel like a lot but when you keep up it is really manageable. When approved by the board of examiners all credits can be transferred.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The UCC is a university with many clubs (sports) and societies (leisure) the international students association is one of them. In the weeks before the 1e semester strats they organise welcome accivities non stop. Every day activities like a city tour, something to meet new people and a party in the night. They UCC works with the interntional student socciety to help welcome new students. The last week before semester starts the UCC orginises information meetings at campus to give you all the information you need and to meet other international students. The UCC also has a welcome program for new students showing the liberary, the buildings and usefull things (the international students are included in this as well next to the 1e years). The culbs and societies also get time to introduce themselves to new students as part of the welcome weeks. I would really recommend going to the welcome activites for the usefull info and to meet new people. One of the cool things that happened at the welcome week was a massive irish dancing instruction on the square close to the student centre. Everybody joint in and learned some irish dancing.</p>
accommodation
<p>My accomodation was arrenged by the university and called edenhall. The accomodation was quet expensive and far away from the city so you will need a bike or buscard if you live here. All the accomodations in Ireland are expensive due to the housig shortedge and many students have difficulties with getting accomodation. I would recommend arranging accomodation through the university it will help you avoid allot of stress. This being said the accomodation is not really up to dutch standarts the appartments are old and only in the kitchen sink there is drinkable water. The rooms come with there own shower and toilet but again this is pretty old. For the laundry machines you have to pay 4 euro's a turn and you are instructed to aslo use the dryer.</p> <p>The good thing from living in edenhall is that it is a big student complex and you will easily find friend that also live there.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>There are allot of cool leisure activities in cork. If I list a few from the top of my head: Clubs, societes and the gym. Also bars in the city. Irish dancing at crane lane theathre.</p> <p>The university offers a wide range of (sport) clubs and (leisure) societies in which you can find like minded people. Also if you study at the UCC you get a free membership at the fitness centre owned by the university.</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Join a clubs and societies !! They are really fun and a good way the meet some irish people. Due to the welcome program of the international societey and the UCC the international students do stick more togheter but if you want to meet irish students the clubs and societies are the perfect places. Also the gym is free (called the maredyck) :)</p>

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>YESS!! It was an amazing time and I made so many new friends. You learn a certain kind of independence by changing your normal routine and being on your own in an entirely different country. Cork is a wonderful city and being in the UCC is one of the best experiences of my life. If you go to cork, like they would say in Ireland, you're Grand !</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend to take a good look at the examination methods of the courses you are taking. Essays have a considerable heavier workload than exams and are usually spread out through the semester. The exams take place in the end of the semester from 9 until 20 December. The most important criteria in looking for your courses is of course the content but be mindful that if you have either only exams or only essays it will be more difficult.

2018-2019

**Report 1**

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: bramkreuger@gmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
faculty/college		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Artificial Intelligence	

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	Dit verliep soepel, je hoeft niet enorm veel dingen in te vullen voor het proces
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	De international office is altijd erg snel met beantwoorden van vragen. Erg behulpzaam!
academic preparation	
	Geen
language preparation	
	Geen
finances	
	Geen voorbereidingen nodig, Ierland is niet veel duurder dan Nederland

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Er zijn veel opties mogelijk, en UCC vindt het prima als jij vakke buiten b.v. de faculteit GW kiest. Er waren weinig vakken gerelateerd aan Kunstmatige Intelligentie, maar dit maakte voor mij niet zo veel uit.
academic quality of education activities	
	Het niveau wisselt enorm per docent. Vakken op niveau 3 in UCC zijn meer 2 <sup>e</sup> jaars vakken voor UU studenten. Terwijl vakken op niveau 4 meer 3 <sup>e</sup> jaars vakken zouden zijn. Ga er maar van uit dat het niveau wat lager ligt

dan op de UU. Desondanks is het handig om vanaf het begin bij te blijven, aangezien je 6 vakken tegelijk volgt heb je aan het einde van de 4 maanden alle tentamens in een keer.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
De international office in Cork is ook zeer behulpzaam. Naast hen zijn er tal van instanties die je kunnen helpen, mocht dat nodig zijn.
transfer of credits
Hier wacht ik nog op.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Er is een welkoms programma wat twee weken duurt. Zorg dat je er bij bent, je leert veel mensen kennen!
accommodation
Ik werd via de residential service in Arcadia Hall geplaatst. In principe niks mis mee voor 4 maanden. Ga er wel van uit dat je vanwege Electra + Plus wassen op €550 uit komt per maand. Wil je graag in een wat "gezelliger" huis wonen, ga dan op tijd op zoek naar een kamer, het kost even tijd maar het is het wel waard denk ik.
leisure & culture
Er is zat te doen in Cork, hier kom je vanzelf wel achter in de eerste weken!
suggestions/tips
Maak vrienden met iemand die een auto heeft of die een auto kan huren. Of helemaal top, neem zelf een auto mee. Reizen in Ierland met het OV is duur en onhandig, dus wil je ergens komen buiten de stad is een auto erg handig.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Ben geïnteresseerd in Ierse cultuur, donker bier, pubs, en een kleine maar bruisende stad. Dan is UCC zeker de moeite waard.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Vergeet je paraplu niet.

## **Report 2**

	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: j.m.heimensen2@students.uu.nl
	my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture studies

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	10 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process was very easy. You get all the information early and you have enough time to fill in all the forms.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	There is a predeparture meeting which give you all the information. Besides that the International Office is always very fast in answering your question. You also get an information book in which you can look up all the important information. This was very helpful for me.
academic preparation	I didn't have any specific academic preparation before I left. It didn't feel that I missed some acadamic skills.
language preparation	I never had any langauge preperation. During my bachelor I had an minor fully in English, so I didn't need any extra preparation.
finances	The preperation for the Erasmus grant is very easily. They sent you all the important details that you only need the follow. I alos applied for an an OV-grant and this was also very easily done. The only thing you have to keep in mind is that you arrange everything on time, because it can take weeks before you get approval.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I really liked that there was a broad choice of courses. It was very easy to see which courses you could chose and there was enough information about the course to know what is was about. Because they don't expect that you have previous knowledge about the topics, it is very easy to follow. For all the courses I only had lectures and no seminars at all. I also did'nt have to read so much, which was very relaxing. All the courses are very well organized. I really liked that I had the opportunity to follow courses which I would never had followed at UU. Although I followed 5 courses, which is a lot more than at the UU, it was not that hard.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality are good. The teachers are well qualifeid and have a lot of knowledge. Overall, it was not that challenging, because it is a lot easier than at UU. I had one course in which we had fieldtrips, which made it a lot more interesting. For all the courses I had to write one or two essays and had a exam at the end.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not use any specific counsling, but I only emailed the International Offcie of UCC a couple of times. They can give you a lot of information and they respond fast. I know that there are more options for support, such as for mental and physical health. There is also a student union which can give you support.

transfer of credits
ECTS system

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was a lot of fun! There were two days in which they gave a information about UCC and there were also multiple activities in which you could meet other international students. I really liked going to this kind of activities, because it was an easy way to get to know other people.
accommodation
I didn't really like my accomodation. It was quite expensive, and you also had to pay for electricity which was very expensive. The building was very drafty and cold. My room was fine, but I had some mold in my room which was very unhealthy. I had also a lot of times problems with the water. Sometimes we didn't had any water at all. The only nice thing was that you live with a lot of other international students.
leisure & culture
UCC has a lot of different societies for sports and cultural activities and they are all for free. During my exchange I joined the kickboxing club. It was really nice to try a new sport and get to know other students. It was also nice that I got to know some Irish students. I also went quite often to the gym or the swimming pool at the university sport accomodation. Cork is also a really nice city to grap dinner or have a coffee with your friends. The International society also organized a lot of parties and trips. I attended some of these parties which were a lot of fun. I als went on a weekend trip to Belfast, which was a really nice experience.
suggestions/tips
You really have to join a society, because it is an easy way to get to know the local students, but also a good way to get in touch with other international students.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend this university to others, because it is a really nice university with a lot of thing to do. They have a wide choice of courses, so you can learn other things than you have already learned back home. If you looking for an academic challenge, Ireland is nice, but it is not very challenging. But this makes it also easier to get a good balance between your social life and studying. I would really recommend other to study abroad, because it really helped me as a person. I learned a lot about myself and about my strength and weaknesses. It also helped me to improve my English.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The Irish people are the nicest people I know, so don't be afraid to make mistakes. The will always help you!

**2017-2018**

**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	27 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>I recommend not to underestimate the amount of paperwork that is needed to officially apply for studying abroad! I also advise to really keep track of the deadlines you need to turn in the documents, and start early with that! You need signatures for certain documents from the international office for example, and that can take a couple of days. I was quite late with getting a signature for my learning agreement for example, and the stress gave me a couple of grey hairs. You don't want to miss out on the experience and fun of studying abroad by being to late in turning in the documents.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The people of the International Office were really friendly and helpful. They responded very quickly, and really wanted to help me get everything ready for my study abroad. As I mentioned before, I almost didn't make the deadline for turning in one document, but thanks to the help of the people of the international office, I managed to do it.</p>
academic preparation	<p>I had my exchange during my fourth year, so I had enough academic experience. But I also think that a third year student is definitely enough qualified.</p>
language preparation	<p>Reading and speaking was easy enough, but writing was challenging. The History bachelor in Utrecht is in Dutch, so I never had to write on an academic level in English. The more I did it, the easier it became though, and I could also ask my American roommate to check my essays. Besides, the lecturers knew that I was an international student and took that into account when they corrected my essays.</p>
finances	<p>Life in Ireland is not really cheap, unfortunately. Especially the rent (more than 500 euros per month) was a lot, but the semester is only 4 months so it was fine for such a short period. I made sure that I had the OV-vergoeding, the Erasmus fund, money from my family and I had saved some money as well. I also made sure that I would have a little bit too much money at the end of the month in case of emergencies. In Ireland, there were ways to make life cheaper, shopping at Lidl for example, and walking everywhere instead of taking the bus (Cork is small so that was very doable). It's up to you if you want to drink a lot of pints, or buy good food instead ;)</p>

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
<b>study programme (content and organisational issues)</b>	<p>Since I only needed courses to fill up my elective part of my bachelor, I could pick every subject I wanted. Cork works with a semester system, instead of the 4 blocks that the UU prefers. That means that you follow six courses at the same time, each course is worth 5 ECTS. That also meant that during the semester you do not need to study a lot, but at the end of the semester, during a couple of weeks, all courses have their final examinations. It was not particularly difficult, since I also had history classes for people who had never studied history before, but it was a lot of work all at once, so careful planning was needed! The courses were very interesting. Since I didn't know a lot about Ireland or Irish history, I made sure that I followed courses that mainly dealt with these subjects. Cork offers a lot in that area! Courses about Irish literature, culture, history, etc. They also have classes especially for international students, so I made friends while going to lectures as well. When you take courses, it consists mostly of lectures, instead of seminars. I'm not sure whether I preferred that, because sometimes I was drifting off during class because you don't really participate. It is only during the welcoming programme in Cork that you are able to pick classes, and sometimes there were last minute changes when there were not enough students in a lecture for example, but in the end it always worked out!</p>
<b>academic quality of education activities</b>	<p>;When I picked my classes, I was able to choose what level I wanted them to be. Since I took a lot of introductory classes about Ireland, my classes were fairly easy. I didn't have to study/prepare classes a lot during the first couple of months, so I had a lot of free time I could really use! I had one lecturer who had a very strong Irish accent, but I felt really proud when at the end of the semester I was able to understand everything he said! ;) But most of the lecturers were fine and easy to understand. Some courses were more interesting than others, but you don't really know that until you actually go to the lectures.</p>
<b>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</b>	<p>UCC provided a lot of services, including IT, a disability office, a GP health centre, workshops about referencing etc., counsellors, etc.etc.! The international office was very accessible and friendly, and responded very quick. They were also on facebook, so it was easy to get in touch with them.</p>
<b>transfer of credits</b>	<p>I went to UCC during the first semester, that means that you get your final results in February, and they will send the official transcript with the results to you at the end of february. While waiting for the results, you have to ask special permission from the board of examiners at UU.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
<b>welcome &amp; orientation programme</b>	<p>The welcome programme was very good! There were a lot of different activities during which you can very quickly meet fellow international students. We went to a rugby match for example, watched a hurling match in a pub, there were trips to cute villages near Cork, but also informative activities, guided city tours, campus tours etc.!</p>
<b>accommodation</b>	<p>I had a lot of luck with my accommodation. I got an email in january in which the university provides accommodation. Once you let them know in which kind of room you are interested (single, double, twin) they make one offer, and it is very important that you respond within 24 hours!! Cork doesn't have enough rooms for visiting students, so I knew a couple of people who had to stay in a hostel until they eventually found a room. Everybody had something after a while. The building I lived in does not function as a student</p>

accommodation anymore. Most of the accommodation is near the city centre or near campus, but not all (Arcadia Hall is quite far away)
leisure & culture
Cork is definitely big enough to entertain you for a semester, but small enough to be able to really get to know it. The pubs are amazing and very diverse, there are a couple of big shopping streets, a cinema, some concert halls, etc.! On Tuesday and Thursday evenings you can mingle with the local Irish students on their nights out (It is a flabbergasting experience, think Geordie Shore). I didn't have a bike in Cork, because I wanted to live (the streets are not made for biking, and there are a lot of cars in the city centre), but I could do everything on foot! I lived almost in the city centre, so I had enough choice in supermarkets etc. The Irish people are very friendly and curious, which made me feel at home very quickly. It was not uncommon to go to the pub and talk to random people.
suggestions/tips
Join a sports club! Sport is a very important part of student life in Cork and it is a very good way to meet Irish students as well. And it's free! Also try some of the very nice local craft beers, one of the best are at Franciscan Well (and delicious pizza for 10 euros!) Blarney Castle is a nice getaway close to the city, make sure to kiss the stone!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely! Although Cork is not a very beautiful city, it is very easy to get to know because it is not too big, but it still offers enough to do! That makes Cork a good fit for someone who wants to study abroad, but not too far away from home as well. It is easy to feel at home in Cork. Ireland is a lovely country, UCC is a good university and I had a wonderful experience during which I made a lot of friends!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 2**

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	Cork, Ireland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
It can be quite difficult to keep track of all the documents you have to apply, but make sure you are aware of all deadlines! Especially when you have arrived! I would advice you to neatly research all of the deadlines before

going and write them down somewhere, because when you arrive there will be so many things on your plate that you will completely forget important deadlines of your grant or your application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I had some problems during my stay with the deadlines, but international office at UU was very kind to me and always helped me out. They offer lots of help wherever needed, organize an information evening where you can ask all of your questions, and if needed you can always walk into their office to get some help.
academic preparation
The BA English literature will prepare you perfectly well to be able to study in Ireland. I noticed that some fellow international students were having a harder time by keeping up with the pace of the language and writing essays in English, while I was already well used to that due to my study. I think you will absolutely be fine if you already have some experience with academic writing in English.
language preparation
The Irish accent in Cork can be quite hard to follow at times, but if you are used to having lectures in English and writing essays in English you will be fine. Moreover, they always give you guidelines regarding citation styles and essay formats and are very eager to help you out in Ireland, you only have to ask!
finances
Ireland can be quite expensive. However, the Erasmus grant is already helping a lot, and you can loan quite some money as a student. I would however recommend to save some money beforehand, because you wouldn't want to miss out on an amazing trip in Ireland or a cozy night in the pub due to lack of money! You have this experience probably only once!

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Keep in mind you won't be able to follow all of the courses you would prefer or as mentioned in your learning agreement, since many of the courses they offer will overlap and you will have to puzzle your way through to find a combination of courses that will fit. However, they have a broad range of courses available so you most likely will find enough interesting stuff.
academic quality of education activities
Most of the courses I followed were part of a different BA than I was following, and could therefore be quite hard in terms of academic knowledge that should be retrieved before you started the course. Therefore, you have to keep in mind you will have to do some extra work in terms of research in order to pass the course and get on the same level as your fellow students. However, professors will always be very kind to you and offer their help if needed.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people of UCC are very friendly and always willing to help you out. You can always contact international office when you face a problem, when it's more personal you have a big student society, and when you have difficulties with a course lecturers are always eager to help you out on a personal level.
transfer of credits
As Ireland has a different grading system, grades will have to be transferred accordingly. This is all done by international office, you only have to send a transcript of records through osiris. I was quite disappointed that most of my courses were rated as a level 1 or 2 in The Netherlands by my study coordinator, while most of them were third year courses in Ireland and were quite hard for me to follow.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
<b>welcome &amp; orientation programme</b>	
	I really liked the welcome programme, but I felt like the student society of Cork could have done a little bit more effort to make sure no one was left out. I arrived in week two, and therefore, I would really recommend to arrive as early as possible since I got the idea that many groups were already formed.
<b>accommodation</b>	
	I hired a room at EazyCity Cork during my stay. Even though I had an amazing accommodation right in the city centre for a really good price, I am not very positive about this organization. The apartments are not in perfect conditions, and since you're staying off campus it can be a lot harder to find a connection with your roommates. I would definitely recommend to stay on campus instead, as I heard of many friends of mine that they were staying in houses for international students and made lots of friends in these places, while I sometimes had roommates that wouldn't even greet me in the hallway.
<b>leisure &amp; culture</b>	
	Join as many societies as possible! I really like how they organize all these societies at UCC and think they are a perfect way to find friends. I joined the international students, feminist, film, photography, English and Harry Potter society and had lots of craic!
<b>suggestions/tips</b>	
	Travel around Ireland and see the most amazing things you have ever layed your eyes on! I travelled along the West coast, to Dublin, to Northern Ireland, drove the Ring of Kerry twice, was able to sing some Ed Sheeran in Galway, and met amazing people during these trips.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</b>	
	Yes! It is a very unique way to experience living in another country with a different culture, to make friends from all over the world (being able to meet all these people again all over the world is so cool) and to study something completely different than your home university is offering.
<b>do you have any additional advice or comments?</b>	
	Besides studying, make sure you have a great time in this amazing country!

**Report 3**

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

<b>destination city &amp; country</b>	Cork, Ireland
<b>name university abroad</b>	University College Cork
<b>start date</b>	29 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
<b>end date</b>	21 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
It is very important to make sure you hand in all the requested documents before the deadlines. I found the application process very straightforward: it requires some time to get everything ready and in order but the guidelines are very easy to follow. It is very clear what you are expected to hand in. I would advice anyone who wants to go abroad to think about why they want to go to that specific place and formulate that very clearly in their motivation letter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
During the office hours the International Office helps you very quickly and they never take long to respond to emails, which is very helpful if you have a question or need a document signed. You will also receive emails with the important deadlines etc. The Utrecht University website is also very helpful: all the required documents are online and the website has very elaborate information on a large amount of topics that are relevant for your stay abroad.
academic preparation
I noticed that the UU more than prepared me for what was expected of me at University College Cork, especially in terms of acadamic writing. It also helped that I had already received almost all of my courses in English.
language preparation
I did not really prepare myself in terms of language because I study English Language and Culture. I was already used to speaking, hearing and writing English before I went to Ireland.
finances
Since I knew I would not be able to work during my semester abroad, I made sure I had enough money on my bankaccount to compensate this loss of income. I saved up around €1600,- to make sure I had around €300-€400 for each month of my semester abroad. Keep in mind that rent and e.g. groceries can be more expensive in Ireland.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Since I was taking courses abroad instead of doing a minor at Utrecht University, I could basically choose any course or subject I liked. I decided to not take any courses within the English department, but instead focus more on Irish history and Celtic civilisation. However, I did make sure these courses did not overlap with any of the courses I had already followd at the UU as this is one of the requirements of staying abroad.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses I took during my semester at University College Cork was very high and I had very competent teachers. The structure of the courses is quite different from the UU: for each course I had two 1-hour lectures each week, and no seminars. In most cases we were not required to do any specific reading before class, as most of the reading was only recommended, not compulsory. The teachers take into account the fact that there are a lot of international students, so lessons were easy to follow and teachers were always happy to answer any questions. One thing that could be important to keep in mind is that some courses require you to write quite long essays and that your mid-terms and end of term exams can be quite stressful. However, although I had to put in a little bit more work than I was used to at home, the overall workload was quite managable.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

University Collage Cork offers excellent counseling and support to (international) students. The International Office answers emails very quickly, and is very helpful if you have any questions regarding your stay abroad/Erasmus grant. They also make sure to send you emails throughout the semester informing you of any steps you need to take/ information on important deadlines. Besides the International Office there are also other ways of receiving counselling/support at UCC, which are all very clearly explained during the welcome & orientation programme. UCC also has a very elaborate page on their website where students can find any information they need. I did not have need for counselling or support during my semester at UCC but I am sure I would have had no trouble with getting the help I needed since University College Cork pays a lot of time in making sure students can get the required need when they ask for it.

transfer of credits

During your stay you will need to have your courses approved by the Board of Examiners. From my own experience I know that it is important to keep in mind that the Board of Examiners might judge a course to be of a lower level than the level the university you're studying at has judged it to be (even though the course might still be difficult or demanding). At the end of your stay, University College Cork sends the transcript of your credits to the University Utrecht. You will be able to view your grades online as well. After the UU has received your transcript of records, you will need to arrange the transfer of your credits with the Board of Examiners.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme was very elaborate and fun! The programme was very clearly structured and everything of importance was explained with care. Besides all the important information it was also the perfect time to get to know the other students. The societies organised many events during this week.

accommodation

There are several options regarding accomodation when you are studying at University College Cork. First of all, international students can find accomidation on campus. It is important to keep in mind that most people will choose this option and that you will have to apply before the deadline. Moreover, the UCC Campus Accommodations are not all located near UCC or the city centre, so look up the locations of the buildings before applying for any of the rooms.If you do not want to stay in any of these buildings you can also try to find something on your own, but this might be more expensive. Organisations such as EazyCity offer rooms throughout the city, but might be a little more expensive. I stayed with EazyCity and paid €620,- for a single room month. EazyCity also cannot guarentee you will be located in the house of your choice (you might be placed in a house that is not very modern or close to the city centre). It is very important you arrange your accomodation as soon as possible (and not just a few weeks before your departure)!

leisure & culture

University College Cork offers lots of extracurricular activities, such as an enormous amount of societies you can join. I would recommend students to join the International Student Society, since they do not only organise lots of events during the welcome/orientation week but also during the rest of the year. There is also a sports centre called Mardyke, where UCC students can practise sports for free. If you like traveling you can join trips organised by the university or one of the societies (such as the International Society, they organise lots of trips!). There are also other organisations in Cork that organise such trips, such as Irish Experience Tours and Paddywagon. Cork also has amazing pubs, bars and restaurants, and there are several big events in the city throughout the year.

suggestions/tips

As mentioned above, I would recommend students to travel during their stay in Cork (especially those organised for/by students). Joining societies and going to parties by the International Student Society really helps you to meet new people.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely would! The university is very beautiful and the people are very lovely and always willing to help you out. The courses offered at UCC are all given by very competent teachers who will all help you out if you need anything. Cork itself is the perfect city for studying abroad: the city is not too big and the people are amazing!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The most important piece of advice I could give is to write down any deadlines and make sure you hand everything in time. I've stressed out several times because I had almost missed a deadline. Moreover, make sure you have saved up enough money so you can enjoy your time in Cork without stressing about having no money! Travelling Ireland has been the most wonderful experience and it would be a shame to miss out on it because you don't have enough money.

### 2016-2017

#### Report 1

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

destination city & country	Cork, Ierland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	09 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

Het hele proces van aanmelding verliep soepel. Zowel vanuit Utrecht als vanuit Cork waren de international offices erg behulpzaam en snel in antwoorden (vooral in Cork). Ook hielp de gastuniversiteit met het zoeken van een accommodatie: ze deden een voorstel voor huisvesting en dat kon je accepteren of je kon zelf op zoek gaan.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Vanuit de faculteit werden er een paar activiteiten gehouden om je voor te bereiden op de uitwisseling. Maar uiteindelijk moet je het allemaal natuurlijk zelf doen. Met vragen kan je dan altijd nog terecht bij de international office van een van de universiteiten. Al is de international office in Cork wel een stuk toegankelijker qua openingstijden dan die van de faculteit Geesteswetenschappen in Utrecht.

academic preparation

Zelf heb ik weinig extra voorbereiding getroffen op academisch niveau. Wel kan je je inschrijven voor een cursus 'advanced English' in Cork, maar over het algemeen heb ik geen grote hinder ervaren met mijn beperkte voorbereidingen.
language preparation
Zie de vorige vraag.
finances
Ierland is een iets duurder land dan Nederland; met name de prijzen voor uitgaan zijn een stuk hoger zodra je aan de alcohol gaat. Kamerprijzen zijn vergelijkbaar met Utrecht: in beide steden is de woningruimte schaars en ga je dus al snel naar de 400 euro. De Erasmusbeurs is een leuk extraatje, maar reken je er niet al te rijk mee. Als je er twee maanden je huur mee kunt betalen, mag je al blij zijn.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
De organisatie rondom de modules zit over het algemeen goed in elkaar. Roosters en campusinformatie is duidelijk en makkelijk beschikbaar en mensen zijn erg behulpzaam om je wat uit te leggen als je alsnog iets niet goed begrijpt. Wel is de universiteit erg bureaucratisch in bepaalde opzichten: essays moeten soms in drievoud worden ingeleverd en daar moet ook een bewijs van de plagiaatcontrole bij zijn ingebegrepen. Daar moet je dus even goed op letten en zo nodig even verduidelijking vragen aan de docent. Ook op tentamenbladen moet je veel algemene gegevens invullen op het voorblad, dus kom ruim van tevoren aan...
academic quality of education activities
Er vinden ontzettend veel onderwijsactiviteiten plaats, vaak georganiseerd door studieverenigingen (die voor alle geïnteresseerden toegankelijk zijn). Maar het academische gehalte loopt wat achter. Met name bij de tentamens blijkt dit. Veel tentamens bestaan uit een stuk of zes essayvragen waarvan je er maar twee hoeft te beantwoorden. Daarnaast zijn alle vorige tentamens digitaal beschikbaar, dus je kunt al inzien welke onderwerpen er populair zijn bij de docent.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Hier heb ik eigenlijk geen gebruik van hoeven maken. De meeste informatie is gemakkelijk te vinden op de website of in de handleidingen van de module.
transfer of credits
Het duurt ontzettend lang voordat de definitieve resultaten bekend zijn van de tentamens. Dus ga er maar van uit dat je pas twee maanden na het tentamen je resultaat weet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
In de eerste weken wordt er veel georganiseerd voor de uitwisselingsstudenten, zowel vanuit de universiteit als door de verschillende verenigingen. Op een gegeven moment heb je ook wel zoveel nieuwe mensen ontmoet dat je verzadigd raakt XD In ieder geval hoef je echt niet bang te zijn dat er geen momenten zijn om aansluiting te vinden met de rest.
accommodation
De accommodatie was klein en nogal sober (ik zat in Arcadia Hall; 15 min. fietsen naar campus) en veel bewoners in het complex klaagden over slechte ventilatie, stof en vocht. Het is vooral te wijten aan achterstallig onderhoud, maar het heeft ook deels met het Ierse klimaat te maken. Als je een kamer zoekt, wees alert op

<p>eventuele extra kosten. In Arcadia Hall moest je zelf de elektriciteit betalen (dat moest op een soort van prepaid manier: in een winkel koop je voor een bepaald bedrag elektriciteit en als dat op raakt, kan je weer naar de winkel). Op die manier was je al snel 80 euro per maand extra kwijt (gedeeld door het aantal huisgenoten). Er zijn natuurlijk nog meer studentencplexen in de stad en die hebben allemaal hun eigen voor- en nadelen. Maar het complex dat Leaside heet kan ik wel aanbevelen: het zijn grote kamers en het ligt centraal in de stad.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>
<p>De stad Cork is een heerlijke stad om in rond te dwalen; niet alleen het centrum, maar ook de wijken daaromheen. In het centrum zijn veel pubs aanwezig (ze sluiten meestal wel rond een uur of 2 in het weekend, doordeweeks nog eerder). De campus biedt gratis sportfaciliteiten aan en je kunt je aansluiten bij zoveel sportclubs als je wilt. Ook rondom de stad zijn veel dingen te zien die zowel met de bus als met de fiets (als je van fietsen houdt) prima te bereiken zijn.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Koop een fiets (je kunt hem als je weggaat weer verkopen bij een van de vele pawn shops) en ga lekker op pad met een paar mensen. Je kunt prima naar de kust fietsen (Cobh of Fota island), maar ook stadjes als Crosshaven en Blarney zijn prima aan te fietsen. Kinsale is een must see, maar ga er wel heen als de zon schijnt! Ow ja, en zorg dat je stevige wandelschoenen meeneemt, want die ga je zeker nodig hebben!</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	
<p>Ik kan iedereen aanraden om op uitwisseling naar Cork te gaan. Maar weet wel dat de stad kleiner is dan Utrecht en er vooral veel natuurlijke attracties liggen in Zuid-West Ierland. Dus als je niet van natuur houdt, kan je beter naar een andere stad.</p>	
<p>do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>	
<p>Als je niet van oploskoffie houdt, zorg dan dat je iets van een koffiefilter ofzo meeneemt. Want leren hebben niets met koffie (behalve bij het cafeetje 'The Alchemist', zeker de moeite waard om eens langs te gaan!)</p>	

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Cork, Ierland
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	29 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
<p>exchange application process</p>	

Originally I wanted to do my Erasmus in Italy, but I could not find a uni that offered enough courses in English that did not have any overlap with my own program at UU. Then I decided to just see whatever university offered enough interesting courses and ended up with UCC
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Within the faculty of English there was some uncertainty about whether I was allowed to take courses outside my own field or not, since I was planning to take courses from History of Art. However, after questioning a couple of different teachers and the study coördinator, it turned out that it was no problem at all.
academic preparation
Very little, also because I knew that my study program was still flexible. I did take a course about Irish Literature before I left, but that was mostly just out of interest.
language preparation
None, since the language of instruction was English.
finances
Just used a combination of Studiefinanciering, the Erasmus Grant and my own savings. Ireland is not a very cheap country, and there is currently quite a big housing crisis, which made the total exchange quite expensive, so be sure to save enough money or ask for a loan.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
UCC offers a great amount of courses for international students. They are very welcoming and have interesting courses that can introduce you to the Irish language, history, folklore and music.
academic quality of education activities
I think this might vary per faculty, but I think the uni has a little bit lower expectations of the students than UU. I did two third-year courses at History of Art, for example, without having done anything within that direction before and received good grades.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Great! The International Office is very helpful and responsive. They also helped all of the international students with finding accomodation (they offered at least one oppurtunity for a room for each students that did not have anything yet a few weeks before the start of the semester
transfer of credits
Not sure yet, but it seems as if there's not going to be any problem.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
Not spectacular, but nice. Everybody is very kind and the whole concept of clubs and societies is great. I can definitely recommend the Clubs & Socs Day as a good start of your time abroad.
accommodation
As mentioned before, this was more expensive than I had expected. I had to pay €550 for a small room, but I was happy that I found something in the end. I ended up living with 8 international girls (and more internationals next door) not far from UCC (Brookfield Village) and meeting these people was probably the best

part of the exchange. The accomodation was not very pretty, but it was furnished, had security guards, lots of green around and a small shop. I could also stall my luggage there before I could officially move into the room, which was great because I was travelling around the coast before the start of the semester. We had a great time watching the many freshers living there going out for the night in spectaculair outfits from our porch.
leisure & culture
Cork is great! The city has many things to offer and combined with the amount of activities organised by UCC's Clubs & Socs, you will never have to wonder what to do in your free time. UCC has a free gym, a very new and big one, where you can do all sorts of work-outs and sports. If you want to explore the rest of Ireland, I think Cork is a great starting point (Better than Dublin) since it's not very far from many "wilder" spots near the coast.
suggestions/tips
Travel around as much as you can! I did not do a lot of research on Ireland before I left and ended up being amazed time after time everytime I travelled to the coast / national parks. Travelling before the start of the semester is also recommended, since some of the most beautiful places can be quite far and you might want to spend more than just a weekend there. Bring your hiking gear, also for the Mountaineering Club!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. In my experience, UCC offers a great combination of interesting courses, social life and the oppotunity to travel. Do not let the "rainy weather image" scare you: the weather is no worse than it is in NL, sometimes even better because of the sea climate.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
There are a couple of Facebook groups for international students at UCC, which can be very helpful.