

2022-2023

### Report 1

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
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	16 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application proces was straightforward, and the deadlines were clear. The school held meetings where we could ask questions about the application process. I recommend going because it made the entire process easier.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office was quick with their response through mail. They send out booklets with more information and hold meetings during the application process where you can discuss the schools you want to study at.
academic preparation	Similar to UU there were courses on different levels. For Level one courses they did not expect any background knowledge. Level 2 and up they did. To keep with the higher levels I made sure to read all the required and additional material.
language preparation	I did not have to prepare due to the fact that they speak English in Cork. I did have to take text proving my English was up to standard and submit this to Osiris for the Erasmus+ Grant.
finances	I had saved up beforehand and got extra support through the Erasmus+ Grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>There are a lot of different courses you can follow. They expect you to take care of your timetable yourself. It can feel quite overwhelming, but if you map it out well you'll manage.</p> <p>For most of your classes you'll only have lectures, which is nice, but this also means that you will have to discuss the material on your own or by going to extra tutorials.</p>

academic quality of education activities
Honestly, I believe that the academic quality at Utrecht was better than in Cork. Something I noticed is, while you had required readings, they did not expect you to have read it before the classes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They reach out a lot to international students to make sure that you are feeling well. There are many outings and get togethers for internationals to meet one another.
transfer of credits
UCC will send an Official Academic Transcript through email to your UCC email by mid-July. They will also send one to UU. According to the booklet provided by the International Office the grades will not be changed to the Dutch system. It will simply say whether or not you have passed the course.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was well prepared. I remember getting the booklet and being overwhelmed due to all the information at the time, but they really helped you ease in your stay at Cork.
accommodation
I stayed at Yugo Melbourn Point which is considered to be one of the more expensive places to stay for students in Cork. The reason for this was because I did not have a choice. Through the university they give you an offer in one of their accommodations or ones that they have a partnership with. If you get an offer I recommend taking it, there is a housing shortage in Ireland and it is very hard to find accommodation on your own. It is not impossible, but it is harder. Despite the price, Yugo Melbourn point was very well organised and very safe. I had a wonderful stay there.
leisure & culture
It is a student city, meaning that there are a lot of pubs and clubs. Just like back home Thursday night is Student night. There is some culture in museums and statues. There are also a lot of internationals, you hear more French than English.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would, both the city and school are very nice. The people are very friendly and accommodating.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
<p>You think you have more time than you actually do. I went in the second semester and before I knew it, it was May already. There is a lot to do and if you want to travel through other counties or countries plan it well. Before you know you're heading back home.</p> <p>There are certain stuff you can get from the Swap Job and the student accommodations which was left behind by previous students. Stuff like duvets, pillows and kitchenware. It saves money.</p> <p>To travel with the bus and train you will need a leapcard. It will take 5 days to arrive. Beforehand you have to pay with cash. They do not accept cards in the buses.</p>

## Report 2

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> yes:      @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: @lotte_lourens (instagram) <b>or</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: lottelourens@icloud.com
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	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane, from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. To get there I took the train from Utrecht.
name university abroad	Univeristy College Cork
start date	12 / 1 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	9 / 5 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I applied in November. Sometimes I had troubles with finding the right documents and information thaty I needed because there is just so much information! But my friend was also applying for an exchange so we could discuss our options and help each other with the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	If i had a question I could always ask it to the International Office and they would always help and reply quite fast.
academic preparation	I do not think I really prepared acedamically. I read a small book about folklore in Ireland but that was about it.
language preparation	I already did my study in the English language, thus also I did not really prepare in that sense.
finances	I worked all the way through Corona and used my savings to finance my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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study programme (content and organisational issues)
Everything was communicated quite clear. I did not have any issues with the study program, I really liked the courses that I studied in Cork.
academic quality of education activities
Good. Big lecture halls and for the archaeology classes we had fieldtrips.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Always had a quick reply.
transfer of credits
Yet to be seen how fast this goes, but with how smooth everything went in the past I do not expect any problems.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Very good. Big groupchat with all the exchange student. Every week activities were organised.
accommodation
Expansive, and not that good. 40 minutes walk from the city center and once we did not have water in ours showers for 3 days and no internet for 5. The office was closed in the weekend which, ofcours, was the time that everything broke so we had to wait quite a while before they would even take note of the problem. We were also not allowed to let people stay over and sometimes the security, that is present 24/7 7 days a week, would check everybody going inside. (Eden Hall).
leisure & culture
Amazing. Ireland has beautiful nature and Cork has its own airport which makes it easy to travel to differen places.
suggestions/tips
In Cork itself the Thomonds bar has a music bingo on Thursday evening where you can win free pints, shots and cocktails and on Monday in An Brog there is a pub quiz. We also joined the a dungeons and Dragons group on Wendsday via meeetup. Go do a pub crawl in Edinburgh and take the bus to Dublin and Belfast, there are special sprices for students ans young adulst.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, you meet a lot of different people from all over the world. You really live a different life then you do here at home (more free time and less obligations) so you take a diffent view on life and can do and explore thing that would not be possible in your current surroundings.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

### Report 3

	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
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permission to publish contact details**	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: r.m.boer@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	Art History

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	07 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	There is a lot of paperwork to be done for an exchange, which was more work than I expected. Luckily, the signing of forms and sending of emails is quite spread out over the duration of your stay. You will be reminded by the universities and Erasmus when a form or deadline is due, but you have to closely keep track of the application process yourself as well (the timeline of the International Office will help with that).
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support of the International Office is very good, although it may take a while before they respond when it gets busy during the semester. I always felt like I could go to them with any questions I had and they are always happy to help you.
academic preparation	I did not really prepare academically for my exchange in Cork. The university courses are on quite a high level at UCC, but they pretty much equal the courses of Utrecht University back home so there is not that much difference in academics.
language preparation	Aside from the mandatory English placement test, I did not prepare before my stay in Ireland. You will obviously need to speak English rather well, but the language used during courses does not differ that much from English courses given in Utrecht. They do speak Irish in Ireland, but it is not necessary to learn that when you already speak English (though UCC does offer special language classes for beginners in Irish when you first get there, which I heard is quite fun!)
finances	Going abroad is quite expensive, even when you try your best to keep the costs to a minimum. I would say that the costs of living in Ireland are quite similar to the Netherlands (which unfortunately is high everywhere because of the current economic situation and inflation). However, rent in Ireland is incredibly expensive due to the ongoing housing crisis (which is where most of the money I saved up went). I saved up by loaning from DUO and working, I canceled my student OV product in exchange for a public transportation grant and I applied for the Erasmus grant. However, the money from Erasmus covered not even half my rent, so definitely make sure to save up money before going to Ireland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>At Utrecht University, I study History of Art. In Cork, I could basically choose whatever course from the Humanities department that interested me. I chose to follow two art history courses, to compare their studies with my own back home. My main focus, however, was to follow courses about Ireland and learn more about its history, culture and people. In the end, I signed up for a course on modern Irish history, an introduction to Irish literature and a course from the architecture faculty about (the Irish) landscape. Signing up for courses was very easy and fun, they offer a range of different subjects at UCC and I heard good things about a lot of them from my friends!</p> <p>Because you have to gain a certain amount of credits, you do have to take a lot of courses at the same time (I did 5), which can be very intense at the end during the exam period and with the writing of essays (so take a good look at the academic requirements and testing methods).</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>The level of teaching and academics is high at UCC, comparable to that of Utrecht University I would say (though many of my courses were relatively easier, because they were aimed at internationals). The teachers are very passionate about their subjects and open to answering any questions you may have.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>The UCC international office is very helpful and responds relatively quickly. At the beginning of the semester, the university organises a few orientation days where you can meet other (visiting) students and get to know the city and the university a bit more - they were very fun! UCC has a good student network of clubs, unions and societies as a whole, so you won't feel lonely during your time in Cork.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>I am still awaiting my test results, but I think the transferring of credits will go smoothly.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>Like I said earlier, the university organises a few orientation days which are really helpful and fun. It was very nice to meet with other international students so early on and it is incredibly interesting to hear everyone's stories about their home countries!</p>
accommodation
<p>Unfortunately, accommodation in Cork is incredibly difficult to find and was almost a dealbreaker for me. I started searching very early on, but once I was finally accepted to stay abroad in Cork, I was still too late for signing up for most accommodation services (the Irish students had already sold most of them out). UCC does offer accommodation to certain students, but they do not have enough room and I found that they fell short in giving me the support I needed to find a place &amp; were very uncertain/slow about the distribution of rooms. In the end, I managed to find a privately rented room via StudentPad (which was useful, but you can only sign up for it with your student number - which you do not get until the very end). My rent was luckily not that high, but I would say paying 1000 euros a month for a student room is currently the standard in Ireland, because of the ongoing housing crisis. The whole proces of finding a room in the end proved very stressful for me, so definitely be aware of that and start searching very early on (and save up quite a lot of money beforehand).</p>
leisure & culture
<p>The culture of Cork, and Ireland in general, is UCC's main selling point for me. There are pubs with live music everywhere, there is a lot of art spread throughout the city and the people are incredibly friendly. Cork as a city is quite small, which makes it easy to navigate and allows you to truly make it feel like home by knowing every</p>

street and corner of this charming city. It is perhaps less beautiful than other Irish cities such as Dublin, but living in Cork will really allow you to experience what living in Ireland and Irish culture is like. The student life here is great (although night clubs always close at 2am!). Definitely look up some of the local festivals and activities, such as the Jazz festival and the film festival if you're there in semester 1.

#### suggestions/tips

Definitely join some clubs and societies, UCC has a lot of them and they are a great way to connect with other (Irish) students. Most of the sport facilities of the university are free and very accesible: the clubs are completely welcoming towards beginners, which means you can try out sports you would never have done back home (I did archery and mountaneering for example).

The Cork international student group is also incredible: they organise a lot of nice events and trips, which allows you to explore Ireland with fellow internationals and connect with people from all over the world!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend Cork and UCC as an exchange destination. Although the housing crisis makes looking for accommodation very tough and the weather is perhaps not always as lovely as other Erasmus exchange places, UCC is a great university with a beautiful campus and Ireland has an incredibly rich culture to explore. Living in Cork will allow you to experience first hand what it means to be a young person in Ireland nowadays and will give you a great starting point to explore other places within the country as well. There is a very active student life at UCC, with lots of clubs, unions, activities and societies. And ofcourse, the pubs of the city are not to be missed (Beamish is better than Murphy's in my opinion, but you have to find that out for yourself haha)!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're up for it, I would recommend to get a bike to get around the city (f.e. via an app such as DoneDeal). The public transport system of Ireland can be a mess. Though Cork is a very walkable city, a bike proved very useful for me. And if you love nature, definitely bring your hiking boots!

## Report 4

Report 4

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: s.a.meijers@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	Philosophy, Politics and Economics		

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By train and ferry
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	07 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The exchange application process was relatively straightforward. After completing the application at UU and getting confirmation about being nominated with UCC, they emailed me with the further steps. These included the learning agreement and some online steps. The complicating factor is that you will already need to consider which courses you want to take, but you do not yet know whether the courses will actually be available in the upcoming academic year.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
I did not need any additional counselling from UU, but in general the support was pretty good. Emails were always replied to in a timely matter and the international office was able to answer any questions I had.	
academic preparation	
The academic level at UCC is comparable to or even a bit easier than that at UU. Even though I took courses unrelated to my Bachelor at UU (PPE), I was still able to enter the modules I wanted to take and did not experience any difficulties with the level of the courses at UCC.	
language preparation	
My Bachelor at UU is in English and all courses at UCC are also taught in English, so I did not really need preparation for the language at UCC. In general, if you are able to read and write in academic English you will be more than fine.	
finances	
While the prices in the supermarket etc. in Ireland are pretty comparable to the Netherlands, student accommodation is a lot more expensive. Expect to pay 600-1000 euros a month. For me, this was a lot, but luckily my parents were in a position to help me out. Outside of that, the Erasmus grant covers a lot of the cost of living, especially if you have some savings.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I took courses in art history, film studies and philosophy. All of the courses consisted of two one hour lectures a week. Some teachers really used both hours as a lecture, but most also made time for discussions in class, which was nice. In general, I would say the teaching is a bit less interactive than what I am used to at UU. I also did not have to do any group work, but obviously this will depend on your courses. The fact that courses go on for the entire semester was also new to me, so I had to adjust to that compared to the block system at UU. The content of the courses was good, but sometimes quite different from the description in the book of modules. In general, everything was relatively straightforward in terms of the syllabus, readings, lectures and assessments.	
academic quality of education activities	
Obviously not all teachers are equally good, but most of my courses I really enjoyed and I feel like I learned a lot. And all teachers were clearly qualified. I thought it was really cool to get the opportunity to do courses in film studies, which is not really available at UU. Generally, the level is a bit easier than at UU, but it really depends on the course and whether you already have some background knowledge on the subject.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The people from the international office at UCC reply fast and will help you out where necessary. I did not require any special counselling, but the support for me was adequate and comparable to the interactions with UU.	
transfer of credits	

As I have not yet received my transcript of records, I cannot comment on this, but seeing as UCC is in the EU I do not expect any problems in this regard.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

There is not really an elaborate orientation programme, there were just two information sessions hosted by the international office where you get to know more about the university, the courses and a bit about the student life. If you are there for the autumn semester, the nice thing is that all student organisations like the clubs and societies are having intro sessions, so there is a lot going on on campus to get you introduced, but it is more for first year students than international students specifically.

### accommodation

I stayed in an accommodation called Melbourn Point, more out of necessity than because I really wanted to, because it was the only accommodation that let me book for 1 semester only. There is housing from the university, but they cannot guarantee that you will get a place so I did not want to risk it. In general, the accommodations are expensive, up to 1100 euros a month. The benefit of a place like Melbourn Point is that everything is included in your rent and there are a lot of Erasmus students living there, so you will probably be able to make some friends there. However, in terms of atmosphere and location it is not amazing.

### leisure & culture

Cork is a relatively small city, so there is less going on than in Utrecht in a regular week. However, there are events such as the Jazz festival and a film festival and there are quite a few pubs which you can visit. Most of my leisure activities came from the clubs and societies at the university, which are all completely free to join. So it is really easy to try out new sports and hobbies and it is also a nice way to make some friends and get to know some Irish students.

### suggestions/tips

The clubs and societies are really nice! In the end I spent a lot of time with them. Also, there is an account on instagram, @corkinternationalstudents, which organises parties and day trips, which is nice for getting to know other Erasmus students. It is a nice way to get set up when you have just arrived and don't know anyone yet.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the university, the campus is beautiful, the courses I did were very interesting and the clubs and societies are really nice. However, when coming to Cork do take account of the fact that it is smaller than Utrecht, so your options in terms of events and cultural things are a bit more limited. Ireland is a really beautiful country to explore, but the public transport does not work amazingly well, so that might sometimes also limit your options.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

The exchange is a perfect opportunity to try new things so I would advice to choose a destination where you feel that you can do so, whether in terms of academics, sports or hobbies, or something else! Ireland has beautiful nature and history, if you are interested in this Cork is definitely a good place to go!

**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
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 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)

PREPARATION
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

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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

STUDENT LIFE
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

CONCLUSIONS
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)

PREPARATION
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 nesecarry.
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
<p>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.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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
<p>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.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>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.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>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.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
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 1<sup>st</sup> semester starts they organise welcome activities 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 international student society to help welcome new students. The last week before semester starts the UCC organises 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 library, the buildings and useful things (the international students are included in this as well next to the 1<sup>st</sup> years). The clubs 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 activities for the useful 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 joined in and learned some Irish dancing.</p>
accommodation
<p>My accommodation was arranged by the university and called Edenhall. The accommodation was quite expensive and far away from the city so you will need a bike or buscard if you live here. All the accommodations in Ireland are expensive due to the housing shortage and many students have difficulties with getting accommodation. I would recommend arranging accommodation through the university it will help you avoid a lot of stress. This being said the accommodation is not really up to Dutch standards the apartments are old and only in the kitchen sink there is drinkable water. The rooms come with their 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 also 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 friends that also live there.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>There are a lot of cool leisure activities in Cork. If I list a few from the top of my head: Clubs, societies and the gym. Also bars in the city. Irish dancing at Crane Lane Theatre.</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 club and societies !! They are really fun and a good way to meet some Irish people. Due to the welcome program of the international society and the UCC the international students do stick more together 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>

CONCLUSIONS
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 methodes of the courses you are taking. Essay have an considerable heavier workload then 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 ofcourse the content but be mindfull that if you have either only exams or only essay it will be more difficult.

## 2018-2019

### 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: bramkreuger@gmail.com
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)

PREPARATION
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

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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.

STUDENT LIFE
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.

CONCLUSIONS
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

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: j.m.heimensen2@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	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)

PREPARATION
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 academic skills.
language preparation
I never had any language preparation. During my bachelor I had an minor fully in English, so I didn't need any extra preparation.
finances
The preparation for the Erasmus grant is very easily. They sent you all the important details that you only need the follow. I also applied for 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.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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 it 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 didn't 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 have 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 qualified 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 an exam at the end.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not use any specific counselling, but I only emailed the International Office 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

STUDENT LIFE
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 accommodation. 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 accommodation. Cork is also a really nice city to grab 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 also 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.

CONCLUSIONS
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. They 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)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	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.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	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.
academic preparation	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.
language preparation	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.
finances	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 ;)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<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>
academic quality of education activities
<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>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<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>
transfer of credits
<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>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<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>
accommodation
<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!

CONCLUSIONS
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)

PREPARATION
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!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
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.
accommodation
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.
leisure & culture
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!
suggestions/tips
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.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Besides studying, make sure you have a great time in this amazing country!

### Report 3

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	29 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
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 academic 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.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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 followed 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 manageable.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

University College 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 accommodation when you are studying at University College Cork. First of all, international students can find accommodation 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 guarantee 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 accommodation 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.