

2022-2023**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane and train
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	13 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was smooth. I needed to collect my TOR, European Health Card, and language certificate. Most things you can provide yourself and for any language certificate you can email your international office. Take into account that the International Office is very busy because they need to provide this for multiple students, so make sure you apply for it on time. This is also the case for the process of gathering the signatures for your Learning agreement

counselling & support at Utrecht University

FORMTEXT Even though the International Office was busy they always responded quickly. And they were always more than willing to help answer any questions. I also really appreciated the information days and the option to get in touch with other students who go to the same destination. Even though I was the only one to go on exchange in the second semester, it was really helpful to be in touch with students who already went through the whole process.

Thanks to the overlapping semesters of the universities, I missed the last 3 weeks of the first semester at Utrecht University. But the teachers at Utrecht University were very helpful and with their help, I was able to finish the first semester in Ireland. Make sure you mention this at the beginning of the block and remind your teachers of this.

academic preparation

I was told that the academic level was very similar, so I didn't do any academic preparation. I also told by my academic buddy that the academic level of Utrecht University was higher than that of Trinity.

language preparation

The same goes for language preparation. If you have followed some English courses you will be able to keep up. I followed an minor and a couple of courses in English at Utrecht University and had no problem with switching to speaking only English. I might also be nice to know that there a large amount of students are international. So even if you struggle with the language you are not the only one and other students are always willing to help you out and be patient with you.

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

finances

Ireland is an expensive country, especially for groceries. It is very advisable to start saving as soon as possible. The Erasmus + grant is also very helpful but is not sufficient. I also kept my loan from home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed 50% of my courses in my home department, History. The other 50% of the course I followed was in the Department of Middle and Near Eastern Studies. I was not clear how and when I needed to choose my course. I needed to fill in a form a week before the courses were supposed to start. In the end everything worked out, but I was quite stressful.

academic quality of education activities

My academic buddy was right, the academic level was sufficient but not very challenging. I felt I got a lot of spare time. The quality of the education was very high, and the teachers were very knowledgeable and experts in their fields. The way of education was very similar to that of Utrecht University. There were lectures and seminars. In contrast to Utrecht University are the hours of contact not very high at Trinity. And at Trinity, they work with TA (Teacher Assistants), which are most of the time a bit younger and more approachable, which is very nice.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counseling from the university abroad was fine, I got a lot of support from the student organizations and I was assigned a tutor. But the tutor was very friendly but he did not know a lot about the forms I had to fill out or who I should contact with my questions. But this was more than compensated by the student organizations.

transfer of credits

Trinity also works with ECT credits. However, they do grade tests and essays differently. They grade on a scale of 0 - 80, instead of a scale of 1-10. So if you receive a 60 in Trinity that is very high and does not correlate with a 6 at Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I was required to be present a week before the classes started. This week the international student organization organized a lot of introduction activities. You can meet a lot of new friends here so I strongly recommend going to these events! The university also organized a tour on campus, which is also very helpful as it can be quite overwhelming to find your way around campus. After the first two weeks of activities, you probably have a group of people you can hang out and study with.

accommodation

A lot of my friends have found a room via Yugo, I found my room via the university site. It was a room in a house of an elderly lady. There was another student in the room next to mine. I also had a bike and could cycle to the city center within 15 min. I was fortunate to find something like that and some of the students I have met couldn't find anything and had, for the time being, to crash at somebody else's place. So start looking far in advance!

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

leisure & culture
<p>Everybody is new and wants to make friends, so everybody is very friendly and interested. And a lot of people are always in for a drink or to lunch or just meet up and chat. There are a lot of student organizations who organize tons of events. It is also recommended to visit other cities in Ireland. The train infrastructure is quite well organized and you can go to the north, south and the west. I went to visit all of these regions with friends and stayed there for a couple days. But around Dublin is also more than enough to do, you can go kayaking, swimming, hiking and there are a lot of museums. A lot of student organizations also organize hikes, stare gaze nights, weekends to old cities and much more!</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Don't worry about making friends, everybody is new and nervous. But you will find people with whom you are going to connect. Some contacts are not that deep, but I have found friends with whom I have gotten unexpectedly close and with whom I am still in contact and have met up several times already! Another thing is that the contact with the home will be different depending on the phase you are in. Sometimes you will have no need for contact with your family, and at other times you will miss them very much. This is all natural and you just need to let yourself go through these phases.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>Yes, I would definitely recommend this university! The quality of the education is very good, the quantity is a bit lower than at Utrecht University. But if you are looking for a combination between gaining academic and life experience this is the perfect destination. The city and the university are both beautiful, very old and has have a rich history. The Irish people are also very friendly and very helpful.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?
<p>Just try to enjoy yourself and go with the flow, nothing will go as planned and that's the fun of it!</p>

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: m.m.vanderwal3@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	Literary Studies

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

end date	19 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
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PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process for my exchange went well; the information provided was clear and so were the instructions. The initial university I applied for unfortunately didn't extend their contract with UU so I went to a different university in Dublin, but the International Office helped me with this process and communicated everything to me from the early stages.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	When documents need to be signed, the International Office responds very quickly. I have had a helpful experience with them.
academic preparation	Academic preparation wasn't necessary because the academic level was similar to that of UU. I did, however, attend a few meetings organised by my host univeristy prior to the first semester to get a better understanding of the education system there.
language preparation	I did not need to prepare as the language of instruction was English.
finances	I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and the TopUp. Be aware that this process takes a long time, as I did not receive my grant until late October. Additionally, the communication regarding the TopUps was unclear, because it was suggested you could apply for both TopUps when in fact it is restricted to one. I also couldn't apply for the TopUp until December, so I'm receiving it after my stay abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I got a spot at the English department, which meant I needed to take at least 50% of my classes in English. The application process for modules was unfortunately quite hectic; we only could register a week before classes started, and I didn't find out I could only take 2 Sophister modules until very late. I also had to organise a meeting with my contact person in order to register for Sophister modules, and due to miscommunication I nearly missed the opportunity to do this. This also meant I couldn't register for any modules I initially wanted to take, as the spots were already taken (only 2 international students are allowed per Sophister module). As a result, I experienced a lot of stress, because I was trying to figure out how to get to 30 EC while also taking modules I was somewhat interested in, would work for my timetable and that wouldn't clash with my UU credits. My contact person unfortunately wasn't very helpful in this regard, either, so I had to figure most of it out by myself. I would suggest for future students at Trinity to make a long list of Sophister modules you're interested in so you're prepared when most of the modules are full. The registration for Fresher modules was a lot more straightforward, thankfully.
academic quality of education activities	Similar to the academic quality of UU, although there is even more emphasis on class participation. I also found the Senior Sophister module I took to be relatively easy (similar to a level 2 class at UU). Most of the deadlines are at the end of the semester, so be prepared for a busy period and get started on essays as soon as you can.

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

You are also not allowed to choose your essay topics, but you choose from essay titles instead, so that's different from UU as well.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at Trinity was fine. My study abroad contact person didn't always provide clarity, but eventually the registration for my modules did work out. The disability officers were very thoughtful and understanding.
transfer of credits
I am still awaiting my results, so I have not done this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was one week of orientation before the start of the semester for international students, but most of the activities organised by societies took place a few weeks later when the Freshers arrived. You are also assigned a group of mentors from Trinity alongside other international students and they organise events as well.
accommodation
Accommodation in Dublin is expensive, so be prepared to pay a lot. I would suggest using Hosting Power - I heard good reviews from other people. Personally I stayed in accommodation provided by ISA, but their communication isn't great and the houses aren't very clean.
leisure & culture
The people in Dublin are friendly and are happy to help you when they can. It is also a fantastic city if you're interested in the arts, because a lot of the museums are free and they organise different kind of festivals and events throughout the year.
suggestions/tips
I'd recommend the website Eventbrite to look up events that might interest you. I would also suggest taking a daytrip organised by Rover Tours.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, but only if you're okay with taking a few Fresher modules as well.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you'd like more information to manage your expectations, feel free to contact me through the International Office, because I was quite disappointed initially as a result of the module registration issues.

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Literary Studies
destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	05 / 10 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There was a lot of documents to sign and take care of, but it all worked out in the end. I heard of my acceptance by Trinity pretty late which made it a bit more stressful, but it was fine after all. The thing that required most of my effort was picking the courses I intended to take at Trinity, and writing motivation.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The questions I had were all answered pretty quickly by the contact person at UU, just make sure you keep the deadlines in mind when asking questions, better be earlier than late!

academic preparation

I didn't do much preparation for the courses I intended to take, I knew they were all humanities courses and because of that I didn't stress too much about it beforehand.

language preparation

As I'm doing an English spoken bachelor I didn't do any language preparation for Trinity, as the main language of instruction is English.

finances

Part of the reason I chose Dublin for my exchange was the Erasmus grant that I could receive, and together with DUO and savings I could manage the costs. Just be aware that accommodation is by far the most expensive in Dublin, and living cost is also pretty expensive (although it depends on what you do).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose two courses in the Irish department, and two courses in the History department. In the first weeks we could sign up for any courses we wanted, and we could change them later fairly easily (until two weeks into classes I believe). If you're taking courses in different departments, you have to ask the teachers if you're eligible for them, but if the courses are first or second year it's usually fine. I was at Trinity via the Irish department, which is different than my department at UU, which meant I could only really do first or second year courses, they were fairly easy because of that but I didn't mind it that much. I took courses in Irish Language and Literature, Irish History, and History and Film.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the lessons was pretty close to what we have at UU, maybe a bit easier. There was more of an emphasis on lectures, and less on seminars and tutorials. In all my courses I actually had just a few tutorials and that was it, so there is a lot of self study and independence in your studies involved. The grade system is very different from UU, if you achieve 40% at Trinity you have around a 5.5 actually. There are a lot of societies at Trinity to join, more than you can think of, and they organize a lot of fun activities, both for fun and for academics.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

They were very helpful at Trinity whenever I had questions or needed help, my experience at both the Irish department and the History department was great and they were really enthusiastic and helpful. There are also lots of counselling facilities at Trinity, if you ever need them, and people to contact with any problems you have.

transfer of credits

Most of my courses were either 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS (more intense courses), I haven't received my credits yet at this moment.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a whole orientation week at Trinity in which they explain the campus facilities, and registration etc. They also had a campus tour organized in groups, which was nice in meeting some people at the start. At the start of the semester there is also a fair at the main square in campus, where all the societies have stands and you can sign up for any you like, which was great.

accommodation

The accommodation was very very expensive everywhere in the city, expect to pay at least 800 euros per month or even 1000 euros. It was also really hard finding accommodation that was also somewhat close to the city center. I managed to find a room via Hostingpower, which is a great site, if you're looking for a room and you don't mind being in either a host family, or living with one host. I stayed with an elder lady who rented out a room in her house, which was fine, but after some time I changed into student accommodation because I wanted a bit more independence and connection with other internationals. The student accommodation I stayed in for the rest of the semester was via ISA Dublin, so it's worth checking that out too! My advice would be to start looking as early as possible, on room sites, but also Facebook groups and perhaps any people that could have connections in Dublin, or host families.

leisure & culture

Dublin is a really lively city, so there was always something to do. It's also pretty small so I could almost walk anywhere in the city center. If you want to get out of the city there are a lot of options for transport, and beautiful places to see, like Howth or Bray. And you can go to other places in Ireland pretty easily with the train. The societies at Trinity organize a lot of fun stuff in the city, and also outside, like the Hiking society or the International society, and ESN. There is a lot to choose from! The pubs are great in Dublin, and little cafes and shops that were lovely. There really is something for everyone I think, and I never got bored.

suggestions/tips

Definitely try to make trips in the rest of Ireland, there are a lot of gorgeous places to see. I went to Howth and Bray which are close to Dublin, but I also went to Galway, Cliffs of Moher, Cork, Wicklow Mountains, and Northern Ireland. There are many beautiful places to see! You could join the ESN trips, or go by yourself. It's also worth looking at Paddywagon trips, or any of those organized bus trips, which have destinations all over Ireland.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely! Trinity is a nice university, they have interesting classes and engaging teachers, as well as fun things to join and do. Dublin itself is a lovely city, with a lot of culture, music and Ireland itself is beautiful, especially the landscapes and smaller villages. And the people are really open and nice.

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to meet some locals during your time, it's always fun, and explore the pubs and trips from Dublin.

Report 4

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	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	I travelled by plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy. Trinity College asked for my academic transcript, which I got within a few days from Utrecht University, proof of a minimum B2 English language level and proof of health insurance. The other steps were also quite easy to execute.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht University is more specifically focused on general help. With specific help on the country and university that your going to they, however, do not really provide that.

academic preparation

I went Trinity in my third year, and at Trinity I followed mostly first en second year courses. Therefore, no particular academic preparation was needed.

language preparation

Several modules at Utrecht University were already taught in English, and many academic papers are written in English. As a result no additional preparation was needed.

finances

Dublin is one of the most expensive cities to study in in Europe. I recommend making a financial planning before going. I applied for the Erasmus Grant and obtained the Public Transportation compensation from DUO. Of course I sublet my room in Utrecht. These helped me out financially.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I looked into some courses before I came to Trinity College Dublin. I was very excited for some third and fourth years courses, as I am in my last year year. However, upon arrival, I was told that I could only take first and second year courses. These courses were less exciting and challenging for me. I recommend contacting Trinity beforehand to understand which course you can attend, in order to make the best out of your stay at Trinity!

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good. However, there are some differences in the delivery. There is less guidance from the teachers about how-to write the papers at Trinity than there is at Utrecht University. The topics are discussed more quickly in class and the lessons are only 1 hour at Trinity (instead of the 2 hours at Utrecht University). The tutorials did not always relate to the main topic of the week; this was a bit confusing.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
When I asked for help with some aspects of the course I followed, my teacher was easy to approach and very helpful. Furthermore, there are excellent disability services, which I used because I am dyslexic, with many options, like extra time during exams and extra time to meeting deadlines for papers.
transfer of credits
I don't have an opinion on this yet, given that I have not yet received my grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
Trinity College Dublin has a welcoming week for international students, before the courses start. However, few activities are aimed at meeting other students. Also, the international week program was not easy to find. Furthermore, there was only one activity that I found useful to make new friends (and I recommend to sign up for this): when the international students were given a campus tour.
accommodation
It is very difficult to find (affordable) student accommodation in Dublin. Start early! Trinity has some limited capacity in student homes, however you have to apply very early; I was accepted three months before the program started and by then everything was full. There is a student housing association which provides good advice and an overview of accommodation sites (not limited to Trinity!). I found a room with a friendly host family at a rate that was affordable to me. Dublin areas are numbered; look for rooms in Dublin 2, 4, 6 and 8 (all south of the Liffey) and Dublin 1, near the river.
leisure & culture
Trinity has a great number of student 'societies' (more than 100), you can expect to find something of your liking. You will hear about this in the first week and there is a student society fair in the second week. There are societies focused on sports, study programmes, culture, and many more. I joined the dance society, food and drink society, and took a self defence course. I recommend all three. It is also a great way to make new friends.
suggestions/tips
I recommend joining the international erasmus students facebook pages as soon as you are admitted and before (!) starting the academic year. Through these groups I found Whatsapp groups with international students. This helped me find friends and learn about fun activities at Trinity. Also, I arrived one week before the start of the semester, this gave me an excellent opportunity to explore the city and meet other students before everyone was busy.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Trinity College Dublin. Dublin is a great city with lots of fun activities. Exploring other parts of Ireland is also very easy from Dublin, you can reach most places within three hours. Ireland is

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

beautiful and has so much to offer. Trinity itself is a great university with a many courses you can follow. The staff and the students are incredibly kind and everything will work out once you are there.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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Report 5

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.r.kuppen@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	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The exchange application process was pretty straightforward in terms of what was expected of us, but there was some uncertainty involved. Trinity was quite late in letting students know whether they were accepted or not - I only received my acceptance email in June. The application itself is not too complicated, but I would advise prospective exchange students to be mindful of the deadlines and to start sending out emails and collecting documents early, so that you don't have to rush to do this at the last moment.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office has been very helpful in providing information. I especially found the handbook and pre-departure meeting helpful. Both helped to make clear what I needed to do regarding preparation and what I could expect from my exchange.
academic preparation
In all honesty I didn't do much in terms of academic preparation. Trinity did not provide any instructions for this, and since I wasn't sure which modules I was going to follow until the very last moment, I didn't do any early reading or anything of the sort.
language preparation
I didn't do anything specific in terms of language preparation, mostly because my modules were going to be in English and most of my courses at UU were taught in English as well. I did take some Irish language classes on Duolingo, though this was more of a fun thing than a necessity really - but the Irish language is very visible in

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

Dublin's daily life (think road signs and announcements on buses, trains and trams) so it was nice to spot words I knew!

finances

I knew Dublin was going to be expensive, and so I saved up a couple thousand euro for my exchange. The Erasmus+ grant helped a little, but I ended up using most of my savings. Rent especially is very expensive in Dublin.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I felt like I had a lot of freedom in choosing my modules. The only restriction was that they shouldn't overlap with courses I had previously taken at UU. Trinity offers a lot of different modules, some of which specifically aimed at exchange students, but their module enrolment process is a bit different from the one UU uses. I could only enrol in modules during the first two weeks of the semester and this felt very last minute to me. Since I got accepted into the School of English, I had to make sure I obtained 50% of my credits in this department, so I took some modules on English literature and supplied this with courses on Irish language and literature. Most modules I took consisted of two classes per week which were both 50 minutes long, divided into a lecture and seminar. The course load was not too heavy (but this really depends on the modules you choose to take) and I passed all my courses without having to spend all my free time studying.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of education activities was similar to that of UU. Lecturers and instructors were very knowledgeable on their topics, and students are expected to contribute to discussions and share their opinions and thoughts during seminar sessions. Most students do put in the work (i.e., read the material and speak up in class). The grading system is a little different. Students get marks ranging from 1-100%, with 40% already being a passing grade. It's therefore a little harder to obtain higher marks, but passing modules is very doable.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Trinity offers many options in terms of counselling and support. Each student, including exchange students, is assigned a tutor who can help you in case any issues (academic or personal) arise. They also have a student mentor system, which means that exchange students are divided into groups which are then assigned two Trinity students. My mentors were lovely and I knew I could always contact them if I needed anything or had any questions. I know Trinity also has a buddy programme, in which an exchange student is matched with an Irish student, but I personally did not use this.

transfer of credits

As of this moment, I'm not sure whether the credits have been transferred correctly, but since I passed all my courses I'm not too worried about this. Trinity also uses the ECTS system so there are no difficulties there.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Overall, I felt very welcome at Trinity. They even offered a welcome at Dublin Airport for exchange students (which I didn't end up using, but it was really nice they had this option). The first week of the semester (Fresher's Week) is aimed at welcoming new students at Trinity and it's filled with fun activities, either organised by the many student associations or by the university itself. Some of these were purely informational, but others are more social. This is a great way to meet new people and I made many friends I stayed in contact

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

with during my stay abroad (and after!) so I would really encourage prospective exchange students to attend this week's activities!
accommodation
Arranging accommodation in Dublin is probably the most difficult thing you will have to do if you choose to go here. Not only is it incredibly expensive, but it's very hard to find suitable accommodation, especially if you're looking for something close to campus/in the city centre. Trinity does offer some rooms in their student residences and there are other student accommodation options in the city but these are sold out pretty quickly. I would advise prospective exchange students to start early (perhaps even before you have received your acceptance letter from Trinity) and to not give up hope! I managed to secure a private room in the city centre, within walking distance of the university, but only in the first week of August, and it was VERY expensive (rent was 1250 euro a month). This was the only offer I got and I took it immediately.
leisure & culture
I had quite a lot of free time and I spent most of it doing social activities. I became a member of a few of Trinity's student associations (the International Society is great, they organise many cool trips for okay prices!). If the weather allowed, I got out of Dublin on the weekends for a hike - I can recommend the Howth and Bray-Greystones cliff walks and Glendalough or Wicklow mountains - and of course nightlife in Dublin is incredibly vibrant. Pub culture is a major thing in Ireland and you can find loads of nice ones in the city. Dublin also has many great museums so if you are into these kind of things definitely go check them out - some of them are even free! In general, the Irish are incredibly open and friendly and it is easy to make new friends.
suggestions/tips
Travel if you can! Ireland is beautiful and though Dublin is a lovely city, the country has much more to offer. My personal favourites were trips I took to Northern Ireland and the west coast of Ireland.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely! I honestly had an amazing time in Ireland. Trinity is great, I felt very at home there and I tremendously enjoyed being a Trinity student for a semester, and Dublin is such a colourful and lively city, it's perfect for a study abroad!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try and become a member of one of Trinity's clubs or societies - this is a great way to make friends! But most importantly, don't stress too much and enjoy yourself!

Report 6

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	I give the International Office permission to forward my contact information to individual students interested in my host university abroad: my e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> yes: l.s.m.paauwe@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Department of History and Art History
level	master's
name study programme	Research Master History

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
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Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The UU steps for the exchange application process were clear. The timeline on the website was up-to-date and I knew what I had to hand in where. The coordinator from my Master's Programme helped me with my application as well and gave me useful feedback to apply to my application. It was however a bit unclear to me where I could find the modules that I could partake in at Trinity.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Overall, I was satisfied with the support at Utrecht University. The staff responsible for exchange organised enough meetings and we received clear emails. However, it was not always clear to me who was responsible for what, as there was a general humanities coordinator and a coordinator from my Master's programme. From the forms that I needed to fill in, it was not always clear to me who of the two had to sign the document. As a result, I handed in a document with the signature from the wrong person (my programme coordinator) in my Erasmus file. It took a few weeks to fix this after the deadline. My programme's exchange coordinator did not warn me that it should not be signed by him, but by the humanities coordinator, so based on that I conclude that this also was not clear to him. I suggest that in the future there will be more information available on what is the task of the general coordinator and what is the task of the Master's programme coordinator. In order to do this, they probably need to work closer together.

academic preparation

As far as I remember there were no mandatory academic preparations. The courses that I had completed during my Master's programme at UU helped me to be better at Trinity. I felt like my knowledge was up to par to what was expected of me there.

language preparation

No language preparations were necessary, as all the courses were in English. It was a necessity to be able to write, speak and listen on a C1-level and therefore I needed to hand in a certificate proving that I could. As my Master's programme was in English, I could obtain a certificate from the UU without any problems.

finances

The financial part has been the most stressful for me. As Ireland is an expensive country, I had to pay more rent than I paid in Utrecht and the living costs were more expensive as well. As my learning agreement had the wrong signature on it, I had to wait for the approval of my Erasmus Grant for a very long time. Luckily it all got sorted in the end.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

MPhil Public History and Cultural Heritage

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

academic quality of education activities

I had expected a bit more of the quality at Trinity, as it is Ireland's leading research university. For my ideas and assignments I generally got positive feedback, which is great of course, but because of that I was never really sure what I could improve. The bar at my UU programme was way higher and at some points at Trinity I even got bored. It was definitely possible to come to a lecture unprepared, which is something I would not get away with in my UU Master's Programme. For history students, there are not a lot of opportunities to publish in a student journal for example. On the bright side, all the staff members have been really kind and helpful. They created a very friendly environment and to me, this is also worth a lot.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

My exchange coordinator from Trinity has been really helpful in signing many documents for me and making sure that everything was sorted. However, I needed to sort everything it required myself. Trinity has a list of courses that are open for exchange students, but those courses are for Bachelor students. At first, my learning agreement at Trinity was not accepted because I only picked Master courses and those were not on the list. It took several emails from me, my Master's programme coordinator and the UU humanities exchange coordinator before it became clear to my Trinity coordinator that I was not allowed to take Bachelor's courses at Trinity. He was under the impression that it was okay for Master's students to follow Bachelor's courses. Even if it was allowed, I would not want to do that. It took a lot of effort, because the Trinity coordinator had to compose a list of courses that I was able to follow. If I had not stood up for myself, I would have been stuck with Bachelor's courses, but the Trinity coordinator was really nice and helpful about it. It was not that he did not want to help me, I think he just did not know.

transfer of credits

I am still experiencing problems with this. I handed in all the assignments on time, but some of them were graded quite late. I only received my last result last week and my professor has not been able to transfer them to the official grading system yet. Sometimes I get a bit stressed about this, but the professors are really nice and helpful, so I am hopeful that it will be sorted in the end, but not without me sending out a dozen of emails again. I have learned that I really have to stick up for my own timeline, because nothing will get sorted on itself.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was okay. When I arrived at the airport, there was a Trinity desk where I could ask questions (directions etc.) and the student there was really helpful. Trinity also sent out enough emails about activities on campus. There was one general meeting where they explained the grading etc., but not everything was super clear to me. I just learned as I went along.

accommodation

I had a very hard time finding accommodation. I only found accommodation 1,5 days before I was supposed to leave through hostingpower.com. I had to pay a 400 fee for the service there, but I was desperate and the renting through hosting power got sorted very fast. In the end, I found accommodation in Skerries, which is a village about a 40-minute train journey from Dublin Connolly/ Tara/ Pearse, three stations close to Trinity. It was not too bad, because if I lived on the other side of Dublin, I would also have to travel for about 40 minutes, plus Skerries is a really beautiful coastal town. However, I did not manage to find anything in Dublin because the housing competition was just too much.

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

leisure & culture
I really liked it there. I did not experience a big culture shock and the academic environment was also comparable to the UU. The atmosphere was not very hierarchical. The professors were super approachable and kind.
suggestions/tips
I would suggest to start looking for housing once you know you have been accepted. I started in April/ May and I only managed to find something in the beginning of September. I would also suggest to contact people there if you know anyone. I did not know anyone and experienced the difficulty of not having a network there. It would probably have been easier to find housing through friends of friends etc.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
In general, I would recommend it. The academic demand is not too high, which also leaves a lot of time for you to explore the country. Trinity is also internationally orientated, so there are enough facilities for exchange students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

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: roseozum@hotmail.com
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: @R0seisMyName)
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	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane, I considered going by train as well but the journey is almost longer than a whole day and a lot more expensive that going by plane.
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

exchange application process
It had its ups and downs. Trinity was rather late with letting everyone know if they really got accepted or not (but that was also the case due to COVID), and in which department you got accepted. However, in the end it all came together, so looking back there was no reason to really stress about it. It is just a lot of administrative work but that is it. If I remember correctly, you're asked to fill in a couple of forms with which courses you would like to take, and they also ask for an additional motivation in that form.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
UU was very helpful in answering my questions (and there were lots), which was very nice and gave me a more prepared feeling in the end. Even if they themselves didn't know the answer they would always make sure that in the next couple of days someone from the right office was contacting me.
academic preparation
There wasn't much to do regarding academic preparation, there weren't really instructions for this at my guest university. However, this does not mean that there is nothing you can do. I always like to be prepared so I already started e-mailing the potential teachers that I was going to get (once I knew in which department I got accepted, and which courses I wanted to take) and all of the teachers I e-mailed send me an early version of the syllables. Because of that I was able to already buy and read some of the material before classes started, which was really helpful.
language preparation
There also wasn't much to do regarding language preparation because I chose to go to an English speaking country and my study at UU is already in English.
finances
The Erasmus grant and Duo were a big reason why I was able to go to Dublin, but I also saved up at least 3000 euros myself because I knew the rent was going to be very expensive in Dublin (which it was).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme I chose was based on the fact that I was told that my courses couldn't overlap much with the ones I had already done here at UU. So I went into two very different directions that were still part of the humanities department: Ancient Greek literature and mythology, and Irish Language and Literature. Because they are both of different departments (and you technically only get accepted at one department) you have to make sure that the heads of the department are okay with you taking the course. Don't worry, they almost always are, it is just to make sure they have/reserve a spot for you in that course. Also, this is just a warning, but TCD works very differently when it comes to applying for the courses. You can only do this in the first two weeks when the semester has already started (this is for semester one, I don't know how it works for semester two). They give very clear instructions in those two weeks but if you want to be prepared then you can already check the website for some potential courses you could take, but that is about it. You can't register in advance of the semester, which was kind of worrisome in the beginning, but this also worked itself out just fine in the end. Feel free to contact me if you have any other questions regarding applying for the courses in the first semester!
academic quality of education activities
The academic level was very close to the one I was already used to here at UU, only their grading system is rather different, so don't worry if you get 40% on your test, because that is still a pass! I do have to say because of COVID there weren't as many student activities arranged by Trinity, (only online, which I chose not to participate with most of the time) but there are many (and I mean MANY!) student

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

associations that you can join who still managed to do a lot of activities face to face, not all of them as academic as the other, but they were lots of fun! (Some examples: pub quizzes, pub crawls, karaoke, murder mystery, favourite book exchange, and many more). You can also choose to join a sports club, of which TCD has 49 (I joined the climbing society, which was really fun and they are also known as one of the most social clubs to get to know a lot of other people)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support was great! I didn't need counselling but I can only imagine that would be great too.

transfer of credits

The credits per course are a little bit lower there, but that is mostly (I think) because they work with semesters and not with periods. All my courses were 5 ECTS each. (Right now I haven't received my credits yet)

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Very welcoming! Trinity had a whole week dedicated to orientation which was really nice and helpful regarding making new friends, and other social contacts. (And it was on campus!). If you have any questions regarding the orientation programme you can ask any teacher and they will be delighted to help you!

accommodation

EXPENSIVE!!! I really want everyone that is considering to go Dublin to know that living there is very expensive! I stayed at Blackhall Place Student Accommodation, which was a 10-minute bike ride to Trinity, and that was considered 'cheap' (it was around 900/month). And believe me when I say that I tried to get something cheaper! There are many websites that arrange specifically for a semester only stay, but if you want a private room it definitely will be around 800/1000 euros per month. If you still want to go but cannot afford that much then you could consider sharing a room as that is only around 400/600 per month, but those rooms are gone very quickly! And you can try to apply for a room on campus (I did that too) but for that you need a student number and I only received that not even a month before the semester started, so that was basically hopeless.

leisure & culture

Amazing! There is always something to do or something new to try in Dublin. The people are lovely and friendly and will give you tons of recommendations if you ask them! If you are ever bored and don't know what to do then I highly recommend going to a different pub every night! There are so many different pubs in Dublin. And definitely take some time to going hiking in the Dublin Mountains, or in Bray, or in Wicklow Mountains! It is absolutely gorgeous.

suggestions/tips

Be sure to save some extra money to travel in Ireland once you're there! It will be 100% worth it, the Irish landscape is breathtaking (you can see some posts on my Instagram account).

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES!!! Trinity is an amazing environment and Irish people are just lovely, if I could I would've stayed for more than just one semester!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Once you're there be sure to learn some Irish slang! It is really funny and great craic ;)

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: s.a.vaandrager@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process can be quite a lot of work. Make sure you have a clear idea of what you have to do and what you have to turn in. The International Office is a great help - if you have questions concerning the process do not hesitate to ask them. In my experience TCD also replies quickly and cooperatively when you approach them with questions or requests. If you start preparing early and have a clear plan of action, the application process will be fine.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is always there when you need it; when you have a question or need support make sure to reach out. I would also recommend going to the studying abroad lectures and reading the International Office's newsletters.

academic preparation

There is no need for general academic preparation. Do check if you need any prerequisite knowledge/skills for the modules you would like to follow.

language preparation

Besides some Irish modules (and the foreign language modules of course) everything is in English. There are several possibilities to learn some Irish - through societies, extra-curricular classes or modules - that could be fun, but Irish is definitely not necessary. As for English level: if you can follow an English-taught course at UU you will be fine at Trinity.

finances

Dublin is expensive (especially the accommodation); do not underestimate the costs, make sure you save up and do all the preparations for the Erasmus+ grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

study programme (content and organisational issues)
For a single-semester exchange you will need 30ECTS. Since modules at Trinity are 5ECTS or 10ECTS you will follow 3 to 6 modules. I personally decided to follow modules that were not given in Utrecht (all in Irish history) - because of this, I did have a little bit of disadvantage in comparison to the Irish students and had to work a little harder/do some more reading before the start of the modules (it was worth it). Applying for modules can be a bit overwhelming but make sure to reach out to you coordinator or department if you have any issues, they will help you. There are different levels of modules, read up on them and figure out what suits you. I took two Sophister (year three/four) modules and one Senior Fresh (year two) module; it was hard work but doable.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is very good. The proffesors/teachers of Irish history are super driven, enthusiastic and knowlegeable. The level of education is similar to that at Utrecht but depends on the level of modules you take - Sophister modules for instance are quite challenging. Examination is also similar to that at UU (although the grading is different).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Every Erasmus student gets assigned a personal coordinator from your department. The coordinator I got assigned was really helpful and also very quick to reply; everytime I had a question about application/grading/etc. I received a satisfactory answer within a few hours. Besides that, you get a student mentor which can be very helpful if you want to talk to someone who is in your position. The tutors/teachers/proffesors are also very open to questions and will give you support if needed.
transfer of credits
I had no issues with the transfer of credits or the receiving of my transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
Despite the pandemic, Trinity tried its best to organise a good welcome and orientation programme for new students. There were practical lectures for Erasmus and visiting students and there was a 'freshers week' in which a lot of activities were planned like pub-crawls, society-fairs and campus-tours. I would highly recommend visiting as much activities as you can as it's a great way to meet new people and get acquainted with the city and university.
accommodation
Finding accommodation in Dublin can be quite difficult and is very expensive (paying over 1000 euros a month is not out of the ordinary). On-campus housing is generally not available for semester-only students but Trinity does have an accommodation officer who can help you find off-campus housing. In the end everyone will find a room somewhere so don't worry too much, just make sure you start looking early on and be prepared to pay more than you would in the Netherlands. I ended up staying in one of the Uninest (now Yugo) student residences and was very pleased with my stay there, I met lots of great people and lived very close to the city centre. You can also try and look for private accomodation (which is generally less expensive), but make sure to watch out for scams.
leisure & culture
Dublin has a lot to offer; there are great pubs, museums, concert-venues, parks, etc. - make sure to see them. When you have some days off I would highly recommend to get out of Dublin and see some more of Ireland, the country is absolutely beautiful so it would be a shame to stay in Dublin the whole time. With the 'Dart' you can travel within Dublin county very easily and with the train or a rented car you can get to Galway, Cork and

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

even Belfast within 3 hours. There are also great day-trips you can do with a tour-bus company if you are short on time but still want to see more of Ireland.

suggestions/tips

- Rent or buy a second-hand bike or arrange a leap card to get around the city.
- Join societies. It's about 2 euros to join one and it's a great way to meet people and do fun stuff. Trinity has over 200 societies to choose from so there is one (or, more likely, multiple) for everyone. During fresher's week there is a society fair where you can get information about all the societies and meet people who are in them.
- Take part in trinity-organised activities. Especially during the start of the semester most societies will organise events like parties, trips and scavenger hunts, these are - again - a great way to meet people, get to know the city and make the most of your exchange (in some cases you don't even need to be a member to take part).
- Try to not stick with fellow Dutch people too much. An exchange is a great way to meet different people and cultures - make use of the opportunity.
- Step out of your comfort zone a little and have fun: take every opportunity to meet people and do exciting things, you might feel a little overwhelmed but you will not regret it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would most definitely recommend Trinity College Dublin. The university is of a very high standard; the people are super helpful and the teaching is top-notch. Trinity's societies will give you every opportunity to meet amazing people and have the time of your life. Dublin is an incredibly vibrant cultural and historical city that has many things to offer - and, not unimportantly, has one of the best night lives in the world. Ireland in general is absolutely beautiful; the nature is otherworldly, the people are extremely kind and welcoming (the stereotypes are true) and the cities are great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Stay on top of everything and be prepared: make sure to have accommodation and finances figured out ahead of time and have a clear idea of all the official application and grant-related documentation deadlines. Most importantly; have fun!

2018-2019

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: lotte.inkenhaag@live.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 Literature		
destination city & country	Dublin , Ireland		
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin		

start date	03 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It is a lot of work to fill in all the paperwork and to write a complete resume and such so make sure to start in time. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask! The international office is always ready to help but you have to ask for it yourself.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office is always ready to help, but you have to ask for it yourself. Making deadlines should not be a problem if you start in time.

academic preparation

Make sure you know which language the course abroad is taught in so you can prepare for that. Also, check if the modules you want to follow abroad have any prerequisites you have to meet so you won't be dissatisfied if you cannot follow the modules once you arrive at your receiving institution.

language preparation

Make sure you know which language the course abroad is taught in so you can prepare for that.

finances

Make sure you save enough money to pay for flights back to visit family, for travelling and to pay for rent and food.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I picked courses that I would not be able to follow here in the Netherlands on purpose to make the most of my period abroad. This meant that sometimes I had to do more work than the Irish students because they had more background information than I did but that was not too hard to keep up with.

academic quality of education activities

Trinity College Dublin is one of the best colleges in the country, so naturally the level of education was very high.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

All of the teacher and coordinators are most helpful if you have any questions about the study material or about anything else really.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received any results but the modules are all measured in European credits so I imagine that should not be a problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

Trinity have a great freshers week where you get to know loads of people, can join societies and you get to know everything there is about all the buildings on campus so you'll know where your classrooms and the library is.
accommodation
It can be very hard to find accommodation in Dublin. Make sure you count on paying more rent than in The Netherlands.
leisure & culture
Dublin is a vibrant city full of cultural attractions. Also, Ireland is not too big so it is very easy to visit other places like Galway, Limerick, Cork and you'll even be in Belfast in 2 odd hours.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Dublin is a great city with loads of things to do. You don't have to be bored ever. Also, Trinity College is a great university with a high level of education. I have learnt academic skills but also I got to know myself better. It was a great challenge!
do you have any additional advice or comments?