

2021-2022**Report 1**

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other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies (speciality: English-Intertextuality)

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane and bus
name university abroad	National University of Ireland, Galway
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I received a lot of emails from the university which was a bit chaotic and confusing. Try and get a good picture of everything you need to do and to get through the list as efficiently as possible (with the deadlines in mind).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I went to all the meetings that were organised for students going abroad and found the organised workshop on making a financial plan really useful. Besides the meetings organised by UU there is an entire team of international and exchange officers on stand-by to answer any questions you may have via e-mail (they are quick to respond).

academic preparation

I chose classes that I thought were valuable additions to my specialisation in English literature. I followed classes from the faculty of English and the faculty of Children's studies (on children's literature). When choosing modules that suit your studies at UU there is no need for any extra academic preparation.

language preparation

Everyone in Galway spoke English and especially if you follow a bachelor in English you should be fine communicating with the people there. Though the people there speak with an Irish accent, I personally found the Galway accent really easy to understand.

finances
Make sure you do the paperwork for the Erasmus Grant and that you get the money from your student OV-card. Going abroad is quite expensive and Galway is similar/a little more expensive than the Netherlands. the most expensive part of going abroad for me was my accomodations so do make sure you have a financial plan and know how you are going to afford everything when on exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
At NUIG you take 5/6 courses that last the entire semester. You have some time to try out modules at the beginning of the semester before you have to determine with which modules you wish to continue. Keep in mind that most modules will only exist of lectures and there are separate seminar modules.
academic quality of education activities
For me, he biggest difference was that I was suddentl following 5 modules at the same time. This meant I had to work harder to divide my attention evenly. I also thought that the modules went a bit less deep than I am used to at UU, though they did give a broader overview of literature and theories related to the topic of the module. I think it depends on what type of education you prefer whether you find the modules at Galway or Utrecht easier. The homework itself was also less than what I am used to, though most lecturers had more recommended reading they encouraged us to do. Finally, keep in mind that at the end of the semester you will have about 6 exams/essays and you will have to plan ahead in order to be done in time.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The teachers are all very willing to help you if you have any questions or if problems arise. The people from the international office and Galway, as in Utrecht, are always quick to respond as well.
transfer of credits
Galway also works with ECTS though they have a different grading system. It took a while before my final essays were graded but after that everything went really fast.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There were multiple online meetings in which you could ask questions about studying at NUIG and the weekend before classes started the international students were invited on campus for a tour of campus and to meet other exchange students. I made a lot of my new friends on that day and can definitely recommend going even though it was optional.
accommodation
It was very difficult to find accomodation in Galway. Though still quite expensive I know a lot of people who got rooms on campus and were quite happy living with other exchange students and getting the student experience. I was placed on a waitlist myself and eventually ended up staying in a AirBnb. Though a bit more expensive than on campus accomodations, the location was really in the centre of the city (keep in mind that Galway is really small so it is possible to walk almost everywhere). I lucked out with the other people staying there. In the end, there were 4 other girls around my age who also studied/worked in Galway and we sometimes cooked together or went to a pub etc. In my experience, its really the people you meet on exchange that make it an unforgettable experience
leisure & culture

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

While there during covid, almost everything was open (though I needed my Covid certificate and facemasks). The city centre is very lively with a lot of music and in the winter nice decorative lights. If you want to get away from it all, the beach is within walking distance from the city centre. NUIG has a lot of societies and sports clubs which can be a nice way to get to know new people (I really liked the choral society).

suggestions/tips

There are a lot of nice pubs (I can recommend Monroe's) and a lot of nice café's (try the secret garden or the jungle café). If you want to go for a walk I can really recommend walking the promenade to Salthill or to take a bus and explore Connemara. There are more than enough nice weekend/day trips to make, from going to Cork to going to the Cliffs of Moher or the Aran Islands. Irish nature is really wild and beautiful. When going in the first semester keep an eye out for the christmas market starting sometime November which is really nice.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend NUIG. Galway is a beautiful and friendly city with so many beautiful spots to visit nearby. The community has a lot of character and is very welcoming. The university itself offers interesting courses and the teachers are very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about what they teach. I liked it so much that I am applying for my masters at NUIG as well!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not only will you learn a lot at university, you will also learn a lot from the social aspect of it all. If you go, try to really get the most out of it all. The more effort you put into it, the more you will learn and grow!

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	Galway, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	The National University of Ireland
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process requires a lot of paper work so make sure to start early. I, for one, ended up sending out twice as many emails than I initially expected. The international office, moreover, emphasizes the validity the information you provide, so make sure to do thorough research before handing anything in because it might save you a lot of time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University
The Utrecht University provided us with an ample selection of online lectures, which including some useful tips regarding the best ways to prepare yourself for studying abroad. The students of each faculty, thereby, had their own contact person whom they could ask for help if necessary.
academic preparation
Make sure to inform yourself in time on the subjects offered by the receiving university. Pay close attention to time tables in order to ascertain that the courses you decide to take do not overlap. In my case, the time tables were revealed much later than I initially expected. I had not considered enough back-up options. Consequently, this caused me quite some stress that I could have prevented myself.
language preparation
Being in the third year of my English Language and Culture bachelor, I was already familiar with the language. Due to the lockdown, however, I had not been able to practice my speaking fluency and pronunciation as much as I would have liked. That is why I started speaking a bit of English with my parents and sister at home by way of practicing.
finances
Studying abroad turned out to be very expensive. Luckily, the savings I had stored up along with the erasmus money I received covered all of the expenses, from my monthly rent, groceries and leisure activities.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
My study programme included three English courses, two Classics courses and one Psychology course. The classes predominantly took place offline. The classes were well organized and the planner of each course was clear. Finding the time tables gave me some difficulty, however, so pay attention to this. On top of that, bringing my e-reader ended up saving me a lot of money (and space in my suitcases) so I would definitely recommend bringing one.
academic quality of education activities
The educational activities were of high academic quality and I gained valuable knowledge from all of my classes. My professors had put in effort to make their classes interesting and the professor for my History and Philosophy of Science course had even organized a game that tackled the topics we were discussing. This proactive way of learning made the classes even more memorable. The assignments as well, were well explained and clear.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Students could call the student union if something was amiss. They have an office on campus as well, which we could visit if we needed help. There was also a reception at the student accomodation I was staying at. They were always willing to help with difficulties regarding campus life, such as defect laundry machienes and so on.
transfer of credits
I received my examination results the moment I had forwarded my preferred email adress. This process presented no challenges whatsoever.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

The students of the NUI had organized a campus tour. On the tour, they explained the function and purpose of the various buildings and classrooms on campus. Introduction activities such as the treasure hunt allowed us to get to know our fellow students. Through these activities, I met some good friends with whom I am still very much in touch.
accommodation
I stayed at Goldcrest Village, one of the student accommodations provided by the university. Everything was functional and the rooms were swept clean when we arrived. My housemates and I had to purchase a cuttingboard, among other kitchen devices, because our apartment did not have everything we needed. It did have a spacious living room, however, a television and we each had our own bathrooms. Goldcrest was only a five minute walk from campus and there were several grocery stores in its vicinity.
leisure & culture
Galway has a unique atmosphere, being small but very eventful and colourful. Its pubs, restaurants and warehouses provide ample opportunities for leisure and I would definitely recommend visiting the Christmas market to anyone visiting Galway during the months of November and December. There is also a lot to do in the area surrounding Galway. Bus tickets to nearby cities are easily accessible on Citylink.
suggestions/tips
I recommend exploring the area surrounding Galway, especially Cork and Connemara National Park. It has many great pubs and restaurants as well such as King's Head, Skeff's bar, Harry's and Tomodachi.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! The National University of Ireland offers a wide range of subjects and provides good quality education. The campus, on top of that, has everything from pubs, cafeterias and a large sports hall. Galway is a unique and bustling city that provides plenty of opportunities for having fun with friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don not forget to bring a raincoat and an umbrella and be prepared for changeable wheather.

Report 3

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	Galway, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	National University of Ireland, Galway
start date	29 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

exchange application process
I found the exchange application process to be relatively easy. It can seem a bit overwhelming at first, especially when you are having to complete it while still doing classes, but as long as you write down all of the deadlines and make sure you stick to them it is not as much as it seems. Anything that requires signing make sure to get done asap, as it can be stressful waiting for signatures last minute. It also helped that NUIG is not the most difficult university to apply to for erasmus, I did not need a letter of recommendation or anything like that, and as an English speaker I also did not have to do a language test. The main thing I remember is the letter of motivation, which was stressful, but just be enthusiastic about why you want to study in Ireland and what you want to do there and it will be fine.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support I received from Utrecht was great, whenever I was confused or needed something I would get a helpful response quickly which I really appreciated.
academic preparation
I did not need to do anything really in terms of academic preparation. I stuck to humanities classes in Ireland, and since I am studying history it was all familiar enough and within my ability.
language preparation
I am an English native speaker so I did not have to deal with any language preparation.
finances
I am lucky enough to be supported by my parents, and with that and the Erasmus grant I was covered financially. Ireland is really expensive though, but there are budget friendly ways to live. ALDI was the most popular shopping destination for erasmus students, and it definitely had some of the cheapest options for groceries. Walking/biking also saves money, and although Galway isn't particularly pedestrian/bike friendly it is possible to get around like this. Trips around Ireland can be expensive but they are definitely worth it, especially nearby Galway since there is so much to see (Moher, Connemara etc.), same with eating out/going to pubs and stuff. It can be really helpful to make a budget in excel to keep track of everything.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I thought my study programme in Ireland went relatively well. There were a few confusing aspects that I struggled with but once you figure it out it makes sense. Firstly, it was a bit confusing when things were online versus offline at first, but I think that was down to the timing of my exchange with the covid situation. NUIG also has a timetable system, so the classes you think you will be able to take might not be possible depending on when they are given, and it's the students responsibility to go to the webpages of each field (history, english etc.) and plan classes that fit together. While I was there they also had a cyber attack (within a few weeks of class) which took down the wifi at the university and all of the university sites (email, blackboard, webpages), so that was obviously a complete mess but was a very special circumstance, and they did their best to have it cause as little disruption as they could. NUIG runs on the semester system, and I found it quite overwhelming to have to take six classes at once, particularly when it came time for midterms and finals and I had/have six essays due (sometimes there are exams instead but all of my classes were essays).
academic quality of education activities
I would say the academic quality at NUIG is really good, all of the classes I took were engaging and informative, and the lecturers were all really knowledgeable. I actually found the grading system to be harsher than at Utrecht, but the lecturers are generally more understanding and less strict about deadlines and such. All my

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classes were lectures only, although there are seminar classes you can take, and although we did have tutorials for some of the lectures I missed the more participatory seminars we have in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I found that I didn't need much counselling or support while there, but I know there was plenty of help available to students who did. In the concourse (one of the main buildings on campus) there is a student help office/desk and you can go there for pretty much anything from needing directions to asking about classes or to find someone to speak to. Everyone at the university is very friendly and eager to help from my experience.
transfer of credits
I haven't even finished all of my finals yet, so I am not sure how this will work out.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
Orientation was a bit confusing at first because it began online (which we were all a bit confused about), but they did have a number of events and tours around the campus and the city to help international students get acquainted with everything. Students also took a lot of initiative to set up get togethers and go visit pubs and other areas of interest even within the first week. If I could give some advice, it's to arrive a bit earlier than classes start. I arrived a week ahead as soon as I could get my accommodation and a lot of other people did too, so everyone was already meeting up and making friends. Being early also gives you the chance to get familiar with the city and get settled before classes begin. Also join all of the facebook/whatsapp groups. And if you need help or want to plan something don't be afraid to reach out to others.
accommodation
I lived at Corrib Village, which is student accommodation. It was expensive, noisy, everything was broken half the time, doing laundry was a mission (always full and the dryers barely worked), the nearest shop was a 30 minute walk and so was the city centre, and they were unnecessarily strict about security and rules sometimes because it's mostly first years (17/18 year olds) who lived there (although this would loosen up on weekends because all the Irish students went home). All that being said, I would 100% choose to live there again. Not only because accommodation is practically impossible to find in Galway, but because the experience of living there was the core of my exchange. Practically all of my friends lived in the same block as me. I went over to my closest friends' house everyday in my pyjamas to study or do nothing just because I could. I had 0 classes in common with my best friend in Galway (she was not even an erasmus student so she was in a completely different program), and the only reason we became and stayed so close is living basically on top of each other. My flatmates and I also became super close, and we made so many irreplaceable memories in our apartment. I would say despite the negatives it was definitely worth living in Corrib for the experience alone, but it helps that housing is the biggest stress going abroad and to get it sorted early on makes it so much easier, and all of the negatives are pretty bearable. Just make sure that you are online and waiting even before they send the link to sign up for it. The site crashed after about 30 minutes the day I signed up just because of the amount of people trying to get housing.
leisure & culture
Galway is the best city for leisure and culture. There is so much to do and see in and around Galway. Pretty much everyone I met was super friendly and kind. It is a very welcoming city. In the city there is always something going on, from markets to buskers on every corner, and there are so many fun pubs and restaurants to go to. There is only one museum, but I think Galway makes up for that in having so much nearby to see. Connemara and the Cliffs of Moher are a day trip distance away, so are the Aran Islands, and a lot of cities are also nearby. It is nice because Galway is a great size, small enough to get familiar with during an exchange but

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not small enough that it lacks things to do. The University also has a lot of stuff going on all the time, there are plays, movie nights, and other events etc. The university bar (SULT) is always a popular place to go and super cool. There are so many different clubs for any interest, and like I said a lot of them schedule trips as well. There really is always something to do.

suggestions/tips

Definitely join clubs and societies, as many as you can, even if you aren't 100% sure if you will like them (you can always drop them later on). You meet so many people and can do so many new and interesting things, most of them are beginner friendly as well! Definitely go to Connemara (especially Kylemore Abbey), the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran islands. In general try and see as much of the nature around Galway as possible.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. Galway is an amazing city and NUIG is such a great university. The time I spent there gave me the greatest memories and I learnt so much about myself and met the most amazing people. If you choose to study abroad at NUIG and give it your all you will not regret it!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just always remember that your time on exchange is limited. That's not to make you sad or anything, but to remind you to go out and do everything you can and not hold back. It's better to regret doing something than regret not doing it. Don't let fear hold you back and remember that everyone there is in the same boat as you. You are going to have the best time!

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: r.m.vieregge@students.uu.nl
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	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	Media en Cultuur		

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland in Galway (NUIG)
start date	06 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Voordat ik me inschreef voor de uitwisseling wist ik al heel zeker dat ik graag naar het buitenland wilde. Ik wist nog niet precies waar naartoe daarom heb ik me vooral verdiept in de verschillende mogelijkheden die de UU aanbood.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Ik ben naar verschillende presentaties geweest die gegeven werden door het international office, een algemene presentatie, een presentatie gericht op mijn opleiding en een presentatie specifiek over de bestemming waar ik graag naartoe wilde.
academic preparation
Ik heb aan de gastuniversiteit vakken gevolgd die aansloten bij mijn verdiepingspakket in Utrecht.
language preparation
Omdat Ierland een Engelstalig land is hoefde ik geen taaltoets te doen om hier heen te mogen, aan de UU volgde in al engelstalige vakken en dit ging me goed af.
finances
Ik heb me van tevoren goed verdiept in verschillende kosten die ik ging maken op mijn uitwisseling en heb een budget opgesteld. Daarna heb ik in de zomer voor mijn uitwisseling extra gewerkt om dit budget bij elkaar te krijgen. Achteraf gezien had ik de kosten erg ruim ingeschat en heb ik slechts de helft van mijn budget ook echt nodig gehad, maar het is altijd fijn om een buffer te hebben zodat je ook nog wat geld overhoudt voor leuke dingen.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
De gastuniversiteit was vrij laat met het aanleveren van het overzicht van de vakken die wij konden volgen. Ik wist dus pas in de tweede week van mijn uitwisseling zeker welke vakken ik zou gaan volgen.
academic quality of education activities
De kwaliteit en moeilijkheid van de lessen was vergelijkbaar met Utrecht, de lessen waren wel erg anders georganiseerd.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
De gastuniversiteit was erg hartelijk en de begeleiding was erg goed, er was altijd wel iemand bereikbaar voor vragen. Ik heb hier zelf echter niet vaak gebruik van hoeven maken omdat veel dingen zichzelf wezen.
transfer of credits
Op dit moment heb ik mijn cijferlijst van mijn uitwisseling nog niet binnen, maar ik heb al wel een toezegging van de examencommissie dat ik de studiepunten die ik in Ierland gehaald heb mag inbrengen in mijn studieprogramma.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
De orientatie was erg leuk georganiseerd, soms verliep het een beetje chaotisch maar dat maakte het eigenlijk juist wel leuk.

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

accommodation
Ik ben zelf verbleven in een bed & breakfast in Inverin. Dit was niet de juiste keuze omdat de busverbinding tussen Galway en Inverin niet geweldig was. Ik zou andere studenten adviseren om een accommodatie in Galway of in Salthill te zoeken. Hiervandaan is de Univeristeit goed te bereiken.
leisure & culture
Ik heb genoten van de leren en de Ierse Cultuur, de mensen zijn heel vriendelijk en bereid om te helpen en het land is prachtig. Galway ligt vlakbij het Connemara gebied, dat zeker een bezoekje waardig is.
suggestions/tips
Verwacht niet te veel van het openbaar vervoer, dit is niet vergelijkbaar met Nederland. Ook fietsen in de stad is niet aan te raden, de leren houden geen rekening met fietsers op de weg.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Ja, Ierland is een prachtig land met leuke mensen en Galway heeft een heel gezellige en prettige sfeer. Al met al zeker een aanrader dus.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
De uitwisseling is een onvergetelijke ervaring en ik zou iedereen aanraden om op uitwisseling te gaan!

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland, Galway
start date	06 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process was quite easy. Most of it is done by the universities itself. As long as you make sure you don't miss any deadlines there is not much that can go wrong.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support at Utrecht University is excellent, honesty. The information distribution was very clear, and if you can't remember everything from the meetings there is always the booklet. Together they will surely provide you with all the information you need. And if not you there is always the possibility to just send the International Office an email. Whenever I had questions or documents that needed their signature they got back to me within a day, sometimes even within hours of me hitting the send button on the email.
academic preparation

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

The academic preparation is not really something I was worried about beforehand. I know that Utrecht University has quite a high standard and as long as you pick courses that you know you already have a basic knowledge in you'll be fine. And even if you do choose a course where you have no academic background in, you'll get by. I, in a moment of feeling adventurous, decided to choose a course in Geography (which is something I had absolutely no prior knowledge about, me being a film student). It was a challenge, but my grades turned out alright and it was one of the most interesting courses I followed there. Point being, even if you don't have any prior knowledge in a certain academic field, you do have the academic skills you need to finish the course with a good outcome.

language preparation

Ireland is an English speaking country, obviously, although the accent sometimes makes it slightly difficult to understand. I know every University student should have a sufficient grasp on the English language, but nevertheless I was a little worried. Turns out that worry was unnecessary. I had no trouble in saying what I wanted to say, even though I wasn't always as articulate as I wanted to be, but practice makes better. As for the academic use of English; I realised I knew way more than I thought I did, and in case I did forget I could always ask one of the other students or use Google.

finances

Finances were the biggest problem for me, especially since I have never lived on my own before. I mean, I was still used to my parents paying the food, the gas, etc. And aside from the sudden constant outgoing stream of money to food and standard living materials, there was the rent. I was lucky enough to find a place on campus, but it did almost cost me an arm and a leg. If it wasn't for the loan from DUO I don't think I would have been able to afford this experience.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme at NUIG was different from what I was used to, to say the least. Instead of the four periods a year, two courses a period I had to get used to six courses for the whole semester (which is about three to four months). Now, six courses at the same time sounds like a lot, but if I count the hours I spent in classrooms there isn't much of a difference (in Utrecht I had twelve hours a week, at NUIG it was thirteen hours plus a film screening). And the homework per course is also less than what we're used to in Utrecht. So all in all the most difficult thing was to learn to divide your attention between six courses, which led to a little bit of chaos in my head the first few weeks, but you'll get used to it. The only time I really realised I was following six courses at the same time, instead of two, was when all the deadlines for the final papers collided in the same two weeks.

academic quality of education activities

The courses an international student can choose from at NUIG are carefully put together by the professors of each department. There are some courses you can only follow if you already had a certain background in said academic field. The courses without any requirements should be accessible to every international student, and given my adventurous decision to follow a geography course while having a media background I can agree with that. NUIG uses a system in the coding of their courses so you can see in what year that course belongs. That way they leave the decision to you, they give you the opportunity to follow a multitude of courses, but assume you'd be smart enough to not choose a fourth year geography course when you have no knowledge in that field. (And no, I did not follow a fourth year geography course, that would be asking for trouble, the course I did was a second year course and I asked permission beforehand)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

The counselling at NUIG was not as good as it is in Utrecht, but in all honesty, it would be difficult to be better. Especially during my stay in Galway the organisation was a bit chaotic. There were so many different people at different times during the semester that I don't even remember what exactly happened. Sometimes it did take a few days to get the answer to a question you by that time forgot you had even asked. Luckily you could just walk into the office if you had a question, which made it easier. The organisation, however, was good. There were plenty of general email reminding you of deadlines, or reminding you to get that document signed before the office closed for the holidays. The only thing I never really figured out was the buddy system, because I had gotten an email before I left asking if I wanted a buddy to help me settle, I answered that I would appreciate that, but never got any further mention of the buddy system.

transfer of credits

Well, as far as I know they too work with ECTS, so transferring credits won't be a problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was short but did give you the opportunity to meet the other international students and provided you with all the academic information you'd need. There was one complete day reserved for explaining the academic situation (registering for courses, information about lectures and exams, etc.) The rest of the orientation week was together with the first years, which is something I did once in Utrecht, and wasn't planning on doing it again. So with a group of other international students we just decided to go explore Galway.

accommodation

Like I said, I was lucky enough to find accommodation on campus, in Corrib Village. It was simple, but complete. The buildings were not big and they consisted of four apartments (two on the ground floor and two on the first floor), each with four bedrooms, a kitchen/ living room, a bathroom, and a toilet. It being on the opposite side of campus from the city centre did mean it was about a thirty minute walk to the city (and thus the nearest supermarket), but every positive thing has a negative side right?

leisure & culture

NUIG has a lot of sports clubs, like a lot. And if you pick the right ones it won't even cost you anything. They have a swimming pool/ gym on campus, the outdoor fields are a bit more to the north but also within walking distance (although I have never been). It's the perfect opportunity to try something new. Same thing goes for the student societies and clubs, there is a wide variety of choices. Aside from that, well, you're still in Ireland; there is a pub at every street corner, too many to choose from and for everybody something that fits. I rarely drink alcohol, but the atmosphere of a pub is something I'm definitely going to miss.

suggestions/tips

Well, as we probably all grew up riding a bicycle and probably at least once will think of buying one there I thought I'd save you the trouble. I did buy a bike, and I don't regret buying one, but had I know beforehand what a hassle that was going to be I'd have thought twice about it and maybe bought the cheapest one instead of the most decent looking one. People in Galway are not used to bicycles, not at all. There are barely any bicycle paths and there are a lot more cars that go faster than what we're used to. But without the bike I would have been stuck in Corrib Village or the surrounding areas, now I got to cycle to the beach and see way more than I would have without it. Enough about bicycles. Other tips are: try a pub, even if you don't drink. And most importantly, try something new; go surfing, try a Guinness, take the bus to Dublin for a day. Just enjoy!

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, I do recommend NUIG. As long as you don't mind the rain that is. Galway is a beautiful city, so many different places all relatively close to each other, it's not big enough to get lost in, just enough to discover in four months. And the rest of Ireland is just a bus ride away, explore all you want. The organisation within NUIG may be a bit more chaotic as opposed to Utrecht, but the courses they offer are really interesting, and way more specific than what you're going to find in Utrecht. In addition to that there are many opportunities to try something new, even if it's just a small thing.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Not really. I just want to say that, wherever you want to go, enjoy! Because it really is a once in a lifetime experience.	

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities/ Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- en Cultuurstudies

destination city & country	Galway, Ierland
name university abroad	National University Ireland Galway (NUIG)
start date	01 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
I wanted to study abroad and I knew I wanted to go to the UK; for the culture, people and more. I visited Dublin before and actually was planning on going to study at Trinity College. First I chose the wrong classes, so I didn't get in. Galway was my new plan, and it worked!	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The first big meeting was really eye-opening for me. I already knew I wanted to go, but now there was just no doubt anymore. I also realised how much work it was going to be, it wasn't going to be easy. This kind of scared me, but everytime I had a question or got overwhelmed, it was very easy to e-mail the office and get some help/support. When I didn't get in at Tritinity, they helped me pick something else that fitted in my interests, and with some help I found NUI Galway, which was a perfect fit in both classes and surroundings. While I was in Galway the support from Utrecht University didn't stop. If I was forgetting stuff or when I didn't understand what was happening, I could now contact both NUIG and UU. Now that I'm back home, there are still things to be taken care of, and UU is still helping me.	
academic preparation	
I chose classes that fitted great with the rest of my major, but that also gave a new perspective and were connected with Ireland. I chose a lot of literature classes, since that was an aspect of culture studies that I hadn't done before, and a lot of the classes were linked with Irish history, so I really got to know the place I was	

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

living in for those months. For me, NUIG and those classes really were a very important aspect for my study abroad, both in making the decision and in looking back to my experience now.
language preparation
In Ireland the language is (obviously) English. I did the English test, and didn't need any more help with the language. I was thinking about taking a course in Gaelic language, but I decided that I was more interested in the cultural aspects of Ireland and Galway than in the language itself.
finances
This was my biggest issue. The planning and organising the erasmus scholarship and saving money before going. It was really difficult for me to realise that I was, in fact, going to Ireland and needed the money. I was too late to apply for the grant, but while I was in Ireland I got some great help from UU and still finished my application. Ireland is quite expensive, especially when you want to live in the citycenter. I found a place outside the center to live, but then the busses were expensive to, and so was food and drinks. Without the Erasmus grant I would've been in some trouble.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It was quite weird and difficult at first, since students at NUIG weren't able to register for classes until we were actually at the uni for some weeks. This caused me some stress, since everyone in Utrecht already knew what classes they were going to take during their time abroad, and I had no idea. When I had my first meeting at NUIG everything became a lot clearer and it was actually really nice that we could follow different classes before deciding which ones we wanted to follow. It gave me a change to really see which classes were out there and to create my own schedule.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the courses was great. There was a lot of diversity in the type of education. I had seminars, lectures and studygroups, which caused me to study in a lot of different ways. The courses were very well planned, with a lot of different readingmaterial that was easy to get access to, students' input was very important and the teachers were great. It was hard at first to understand the thickest Irish accents, but even that added something extra on the overall experience. It was great, very motivating.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
We had a counselor for the international students, with whom we could easily get in contact. At the first meeting we got a clear overview of the important people at the university and their e-mail addresses. We even got the information of the head of security: "might something happen". Also, every professor/teacher was more than happy to help with any problems. Maybe it's something typically Irish, but everyone was very social and happy to help.
transfer of credits
During the stay we worked with blackboard, which was great since we work with that in Utrecht as well. Grades were put on there, and you could also find what the credits meant for you and what you needed to get to pass. When I got home, it took some time to get my grades, but I got them (in time I hope)

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Great. There was a lot organised for both international and Irish students. At the first meeting there were some Irish students to talk about the studentlife and how to get the most out of your time there. There were fairs for

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

the different student and sport societies. There were also trips planned for the internationals to explore Ireland and there were get togethers/pizzaparties to get to know eachother.
accommodation
There was accomodation on the campus itself, but that was very quickly full and quite expensive. The university did sent some other options to find a house, so I joined the facebookpage they recommended to find a place. It worked quite well, I got a house with three other internationals, but it was quite far from the center. It did give me the full Irish experience, since I was surrounded by green feelds with the little stone walls, there were cows and sheep everywhere, I had to get a mountainbike to get anywhere at all, there were Irish farmers with thick accents, and I was very close to the sea.
leisure & culture
Galway itself was amazing. It will definitely go down as one of my favorite places ever. The university was located in the city center, so when I had free time I could walk around in Galway. The whole city was filled with music, pubs and great people. The fun part about Galway was that you could walk out of the center for 5 minutes and arrive at the 'long walk', which basically is besides the sea. Walk even further and you arrive at the white beaches of Sandhill. My last month was warmer, unexpectedly might I add, since I was prepared for Irish rain. In this month it was great to get food in the city, eat and drink by the beach and at night walk back to the city to visit the most amazing pubs.
suggestions/tips
Galway as a whole is one big suggestion. I am definitely going back. St Patrick's Day is something that you should definitely experience. There was a bookstore called Charlie Byrnes Bookshop, which is amazing. Pubs as Skeff and Kingshead, but also O'Connells, where Ed Sheeran's Galway Girl was recorded. Walk along the beach, try and spot Nimmo the dolphin (which I did by the way, just putting that out there), visit the cathedral, eat fish and chips, drink Guinness, but also local beers, and just enjoy the Irishness of the place and the people.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. If that wasn't already clear from my suggestions-answer. The university belongs with the top 1% best universities of the world, the Irish president went there as well, the city itself is in the running for cultural capital of Europe (or the world, I'm not sure). The combination with study and free time was great, especially when you're studying something with literature/art/history, Galway is perfect. But also if you love the sea, pubs and nature. It's not for everyone, since it's small and cute, but if you love it, you love it.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Fix your Erasmus grant on time!

Report 4

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Taal- & Cultuurstudies
destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland

start date	10 / 1 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 5 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process existed of writing a motivational letter, financial plan and a plan for the modules you would like to follow. This is time consuming but also useful as you see how much money you will probably need to save up, whether there are modules that suit your studies etc. The motivational letter is a good way of showing why you would like to study there but also a good way for yourself to see what it would add to your studies.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There are many people you can go to, do not hesitate to ask them questions, that is what they are there for! Sometimes things can get stressful, especially because there are quite some papers to sign before, during and after your stay. Again, do not hesitate to ask the people at the international office, they are very helpful and make things that seem very difficult a lot clearer and easier.

academic preparation

For me the modules suited with the modules I did within my studies, therefore I did not have to do a lot of extra academic preparation. It is good to know which modules you can follow and have some other modules as a back-up in case you cannot follow all the courses you wanted to do at first.

language preparation

A beautiful thing about Ireland is that everyone speaks English! They do have an accent but you will get used to that quickly. If you want to prepare a little you could watch some typical Irish series etc. Also, the Irish language is their main language anymore, however, you do see it all around you. If you are interested in languages you could practice some Irish on the DUOLingo app.

finances

Keep in mind that studying abroad is expensive but definitely worth it! Make sure you do the paperwork (which is a lot) to get the + Erasmus Beurs, you can also put your OV-kaart on abroad which will also give you a monthly amount of money. Other than that I saved up money, you can also lend extra money if you need it. Ireland is similar (or perhaps a little more expensive) than the Netherlands and housing is expensive. But again, it is definitely worth it! Also set some money apart to go and explore the country!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the introductionweek at the start of the semester everything is explained as to how to sign in for modules. This differs for some of the disciplines. The explanation is very clear and you can always ask if you do not get it. The modules were in my opinion a little easier than at University of Utrecht, but this depends on whether you choose modules that suit your studies in the Netherlands or whether the modules are all new for you. Within English literature they have only lectures and you can choose one seminar-module, this means that you do not have as much personal contact with the professors as in Utrecht, because you do not have seminars. Nevertheless they are very lovely and if you come after the lecture they are always willing to help you out. Other than modules that suited my major in the Netherlands, I also decided to take two modules for international students, Irish Drama and Irish language which was very lovely. You learn more about the country and meet a lot of international students.

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

academic quality of education activities
The modules were interesting and the professors were usually very open and welcoming. English literature is much more alive in Ireland which makes it even more interesting to learn about. I felt that sometimes there could be a bit more depth to the topics, but nevertheless I learned a lot of new things. Taking Irish literature in Ireland was also very interesting and I would definitely recommend doing it as you learn a lot about Irish history. In the seminar you have to participate yourself as well. The seminar is given in smaller groups and is quite similar to the seminars in the Netherlands. If you have difficulties with the language or with your essay there is a helping desk in the library that helps you check your essay which can be very helpful.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are many people to go to if you need help or support. Not only for organisational issues but also if you deal with stress or mental issues. Every Wednesday they bring a dog to the library to hug, there is a councillor you can go to etc. The university really tries to help students which also gives the university a good atmosphere.
transfer of credits
NUIG will send Utrecht the document with a transcript of your credits. Galway uses a different way of marking in which 40% is usually already a pass, they upload your marks on your NUIG Blackboard as well.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The first week consists of an orientation programme which is lovely. You already meet many new people and learn about the campus and the city. They also host a society- and sportsday in which you get to know all the societies. This is lovely cause the university has more than a hundred societies, so there will most likely be something you will enjoy! You can join the societies and the sports groups for free so it is also a good way to try out something you always wanted to do. I did lacrosse and archery which I had never done before. Apart from doing something I never thought I would do in my life, I also made many new friends!
accommodation
It is relatively difficult to find an accommodation in Galway, especially because you do not know people beforehand which makes it more difficult to find a place to stay. I had a room in Goldcrest which is the new housing building on campus. Corrib is the other housing facility on campus, both are ideal because you are close to everything on campus and you are surrounded by many students. It is quite expensive, but in my opinion worth it, especially when you can stay in Goldcrest as it is brand new! If you wish to stay in the city I would suggest looking on Facebook.
leisure & culture
Galway is the loveliest town! It has a lot of buskers (so if you like to sing you can busk yourself; you do not need a permit in Galway ;-)). There is always live music everywhere you go, the same counts for the pubs. The city is not too big which is nice cause it makes you feel at home quickly and you know your way around soon. There are many independent shops and pubs which gives the city an authentic atmosphere. It is also named the heart of Ireland, which is definitely true! It rains a lot because the town is near the water and because it is Ireland, but this makes you appreciate the sun even more when it comes out. There are many things to explore in and around the city; go to Sallthill, visit the local shops, eat fish and chips and go for nice walks near the water. Take the bus and you can visit Connemara, the cliffs of Moher, the Aran Islands, and within three hours you are in Dublin. I absolutely loved Galway and I am sure that you will too!
suggestions/tips
Galway is an amazing city and the Irish people are just the lovelies people! They are very welcoming and will do everything to make you feel at home. Give yourself some time to get used to being alone and in a different

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country, that is all part of the journey. You will love the city and university. You will leave Galway with more friends (you will make friends for a lifetime!), more experiences and more knowledge about yourself. Galway stole my heart and I hope you will experience the same!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend going to NUIG! It is a lovely university and if you want to experience Ireland, this is the best town to be in. The atmosphere at both the university and in the town are great. There are many lovely people and you will never want to leave after your time is over.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Give yourself time to feel at home. Enjoy every minute of your time abroad, before you know it, it will be time to go home again ;-)

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: f.vanommen@students.uu.nl my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: instagram: fennavanommenx
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences, Major in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process seems like a lot of work and very complicated. At sometimes this is true, but if you just follow the steps that are provided by the international office it is very easily done. Furthermore, the international office replied to all my e-mails fairly quickly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As stated before the international office was very easy to contact and communicate with.

academic preparation

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In terms of academic preparation I did not do much for NUIG. I just looked into what courses I could and could not followed and I had an idea of the modules (courses) that I wanted to take during my stay but this changed a little bit while I was there.
language preparation
In terms of language Ireland is not a very difficult country to go to. In the beginning I really had to get used to Irish accents but everyone is very kind and understanding if you don't understand them the first time they said something.
finances
In terms of finances it's good to have an idea of the expenses that you will make abroad. I did not prepare a lot but I did save a little money and did some math on my expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme is very broad and they offer a lot of varying and interesting modules. I took a course about Northern Ireland Politics and European Women's Studies which I would have never done in the Netherlands. Organisationwise it was a little messy the first weeks in terms of signing up for the modules and finding the right locations for the lectures. Once I found my way around campus this got better quickly.
academic quality of education activities
I did not have a lot of education activities. For my Social Psychology course I did have to participate in researches.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are a lot of people you can contact for questions, your teacher within courses but also Erasmus coordinators.
transfer of credits
I don't know exactly how credits will be transferred. I do know that the rate for passing a course is a little lower then in the Netherlands because 40% as a final mark counts as a pass.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation day is very helpful and also the place where I made a lot of friends. The program is quite long but a lot of information is provided that turned out to be very helpful. They provide both information on studentllife, college matters and life in Galway as a city.
accommodation
Finding accommodation is rather hard. I would suggest to apply for student accommodations as soon as possible because a lot of them are already occupied by Irish students the moment signing up opens. I was placed on several waitinglists and lucky to be accepted to one of the student accommodations eventually (Cuirt na Coiribe). There are also a lot of international students that decide to live with host families or that try to find a house after they arrive.
leisure & culture
The Irish Culture is one of the things in Galway that made it one of the best experiences ever. Galway is a very special city with life music at every corner of the street and in each pub every day of the week. Irish people are very welcoming and they are open to international students. Galway is a real student city so during the bank

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

holidays it is a little bit more quiet. Once summer approaches you will also notice a lot more tourists visiting. In terms of leisure activities there is a lot to do. Not only does the university have a lot of societies that you can sign up for, there are also a lot of daytrips that can be made along the west coast of Ireland. The nature is very beautiful and for example the mountaineering club organizes hikes every weekend.

suggestions/tips

If you go to Galway, I would suggest looking for accommodation in time. For the rest I would suggest not to plan too much, and just experience everything as it goes!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university and destination because it is a great way to meet new people, learn about a different culture and spend some time abroad. Galway is a rather small city and therefore nice to live if you're only moving there for a short period of time. After having lived there for 5,5 months it felt like home, I knew a lot of people and I knew my way around.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2017-2018**Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> n.m.c.cornelia@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Arts & Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Science

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland
start date	28 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process was easier than expected, you write a motivation letter, make a budget list and search for the Universities you want to go. The most important part is that you take time for this and start early, it is not difficult just time consuming. I would also recommend to already start looking within the universities that you find interesting and search for the courses that you would want to follow. This can help a lot with your motivation letter since then you can explain why you would want to go to 'this' or 'that' exact university and not another one. (Except of course for the city, write something about that too).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

They helped me a lot. Don't hesitate to ask questions. And don't listen too much to the questions of other students because it makes it often very confusing. After the "studying abroad" presentation I thought everything was clear, until people started asking questions and I started stressing. If you want to go to NUI Galway, don't listen to the students who go to other Universities, especially not the ones outside of the EU. The application process for here is very simple. Only important thing is that you send them your application through post. But you will get E-mails from the International office there, that are very colourful and clear about the process. But even if you don't understand some parts just E-mail them! You will get an answer within a couple of days!

academic preparation

I did not do a lot of academic preparation, make sure you have your pencils and notebook, and stuff like that. But you get a Diary from the University if you arrive at the beginning of the year (which is also a nice memory of your time there).

language preparation

Also did not do a language preparation. If your English is not the best I would recommend watching some "Peaky Blinders" or "Game of Thrones" or any television show with at least one or two Irish accent having actors so you can practice understanding the Irish. It's a beautiful accent but I did have some difficulty to understand some people at the beginning. But you get used to it very quick.

finances

I lended more money (student loan), saved some from working + Erasmus Beurs, and put my OVcard on "Abroad" (you get about 79-ish euros a month), definitely go for the Erasmus Beurs, but it is not as much as you

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wish it was.... Ireland is quite and expensive country and if you are a smoker DEFINITELY make sure you are prepared for the semester you are there. But never let the finances, or lack of, get in the way of studying in Galway or abroad. it is worth it, a 100%.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first week you get introductions, and the way you register for certain classes depend on which classes you want to take. You have until the end of the first month to revise your chosen courses. So I would recommend applying for the courses around the 20th of september. Before that you can go to different courses and see what you like without already being written down for the courses that you did not go to, but later maybe do choose. It will be better for your "presence"grade. So write down the courses you want to take but wait until the end of the month to register (unless it is an English course or other courses with paper applications of special requirements).

academic quality of education activities

NUIG, is a very good University, and I dare to say better than Utrecht University within the field of Media Studies (Journalism), English and Philosophy. The teacher student relation is very good, and all the teachers are very open for questions or if you struggle for a deadline. Just be open about it on time, that you did not understand certain topics or classes and that you need some extra time for your essay (if you need it) Also if your English level is not very high, just let them know, and they will help you with your essay (maybe even pre-read it if you're lucky, or tell you were you need to be for this) or keep this in mind while grading your essays. The only thing I have to say is DO NOT CHOOSE European Womens studies. I study genderstudies at Utrecht Universities and I love it! So doing a gendercourse which consists of very basic classes about certain women and what they did in what year without any dept or texts to read or discuss is boring as hell. It was like someone reading you the wikipedia page on "women" to you. The only good class we had was the guesthearing on menstruation activism (look this up, very interesting ;), it almost made it worth taking this course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Like I said before, they are very open to help and support students. During the study week their was a mini-Farm on campus to relax, and a "Support"dog in the library to hug. This University really takes the mental stress and pressure of studying seriously and they are really trying to help the students over come this or support them through it. There are many societies from the university that you can join and it makes it really easy to make new friends.

transfer of credits

The University will send it about 1 month, 1,5 month after your exams to your Home University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a nice orientation programme and they have a societies day. I definitely recommend going to the last one and join some societies (the first one is mandatory and boring but Necessary, they will explain everything to you about applying to courses and the university/getting to know it). Back to societies: they have about a million of them, so you WILL find one you love. It is a great way to make friends and enjoy your life in Galway from the beginning. They also organise campus and city tours and although I did not take any, it is probably a nice and easier way to get to know the city than through Google Maps + Getting lost (although it was fun).

accommodation

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

Hard, Ireland is going through a big housing crisis at the moment so accommodation is expensive and stressful. Expect to pay around 400-500 euros a month. If you can maybe go to Galway a bit earlier and definitely search through facebook and send everybody a message. I was very lucky in the end, and had an amazing house in Salthill with other international students who became very close friends, after 2 very stressful days of looking. I got it through an Italian girl I met on facebook before I went to Galway and who asked me when I was there if I wanted to live with them, because they needed one more person for the house. (Again I was very veeerrryy lucky). Downside is that Electricity was not included and they do not have a lot of places with central heating (my didn't have it) and the Irish aren't very good with putting double glass in their houses so bring a lot of sweaters.

I also knew some people who stayed inside a hostel for the whole semester, and although it sounds exhausting they did not mind because they lived right in the centre and often paid less than they would in a room. If you are LOOKING FOR A PLACE, look for something in Salthill, Galway centre or Corrib (that is the student accommodation, be early with it though, and although they do have a lot of rules (no non-corrib people after 20:00, and if you want to have friends over they can only stay for up to 3 days and you have to let them know, so I wouldn't necessary recommend it if you have friends who want to visit) you will be sure of good accommodation if you do it on time and you will get to know other Irish students very quick). Knocknacarra is also an option but keep in mind that this is pretty far from the centre and the busses in Galway are pretty shitty. I lived in Salthill and it was about a 25 min walk to university and a 20 min walk to town. I did rent a bike so it was perfectly fine, and even when I walked you get used to it, but I would definitely recommend getting a bike because supermarkets are pretty far away if you end up in Salthill. But it is very beautiful and you have an amazing pub on crawling distance!

Furthermore in Galway there are a lot of houses where you rent a room in a family or "hostess". If you are lucky it will be perfectly fine and you get your meals included but I would not recommend it. I did hear some success stories but most of my friends who lived in houses like that did not like it. There are more rules as well as you have less freedom to cook, or make a lunch whenever you want. One of my friends lived in a house where they could only eat breakfast between 7 and 9 and weren't allowed to cook, even though the food the landlord made was very verry bad (if you see a place like this in Knocknacarra DO NOT GO THERE, the landlady is apparently crazy)

leisure & culture

Galway is the most Irish city in Ireland. It's big enough to go out and have an amazing time but small enough to get to know quickly. You WILL fall in love with the town and you WILL hate leaving. Ofcourse it always takes time to feel at home in a new city and I felt a bit lonely at the beginning but that is normal if you study abroad, and it doesn't matter if you have one million new friends or zero.

Irish people are extremely friendly and nice and always in for a little conversation. Galway is booming with buskers and live-music. You can go out every single day of the week and you will always have live-music and a lot of (drinkin'/drunk) people. Yes the stereotype is true, Irish people drink a loooott. But they are fun drinkers. I would definitely recommend going to Roising Dubh Monroes, O'Connors and Queys. These are the places to make quick friends and enjoy a very good Irish night. Music they play is mostly folk, indie and golden oldies like Fleetwood Mac and Rollin on the river (from Tina Turner they LOVE this song).

Only downside of living in Galway is that you can only go out until 12, 1 or 2 O'clock in the morning (with the exception of the occasional after party when you end up in someones house after) but since they go out every day of the week it kind of makes sense. (at least you will have enough sleep after your night out). There are some nightclubs and they usually stay open until 2 maybe 2:30 as well. Electric is the place to be if you like techno/house and they do have occasionally really nice gigs with good DJ'S from all over the world. Carbon

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

and especially DNA are good hiphop/R&B wise and although I know some Irish who listen to a lot of TRAP it is not really existing within the going out scene.

Furthermore DEFINITLY GO ON hikes and see the beautiful Irish landscapes. Go the Cliffs of moher / Aran Islands ASAP and do not waste a single day of full sun. Because Galway is the most rainy place in the most rainy country so keep this in mind and use every free sunny day to do a trip. Because the landscapes are breathtaking!

suggestions/tips

There are some nice vegan restaurants and nice coffee places to go as: Secretgarden, jungle Café, Temple Bar, The Light house. Eat pasta and your plate at: The Pasta Factory, go to MCDonagh's for delicious Fish & Chips and try original Galway fresh Oysters (I did not like them, but def. try them!) and go to DoughBrothers for the best pizza. (Also Pizza & Pasta Napoli for cheap biiiggg pizza slices that are delicious for inbetween/before going out)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would DEFINITLY recommend this destination and University. The level is about the same as in Utrecht and although you have more courses to follow at once they are a bit easier and it is not hard to keep up to date while enjoying your student life. (but this always depends on the courses you follow, ofcourse) Galway is a beautiful town, people are friendly and it is a biiiggg student city. Even the Irish love Galway the most (they hate Dublin for some reason (I really loved it as well)). the University is very good, they have good teachers who love to help the students throughout the semester and the student-teacher relationship is great. The university is very international orientated so you have students from all over the world and it does a lot to help make you feel at home (societies (from sport societies to Caribbean societies, film, photo and everything in between (no initiation and you're not obliged to go anywhere it's completely on your own terms), mental health weeks, LGBTQ weeks (also Galway is very gay friendly there's an LGBTQ society, and Gay bars (def go to NOVA even if you're not LGBTQ because they have a bottle of wine for 9 euros before 21:00 and it is a really nice place with on the weekends amazing/fun drag performances (also Roisin!! very LGBTQ friendly + throws gay parties))

The downside is the rain, definitely be aware that there will be a loottt of rain, you will get used to it but you will never fully accept it, finding accommodation and the wine prices (other alcohol prices in the pubs/clubs are about the same as in the Netherlands, you pay about 5 euros for a beer but you do get half a litre)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I think I included all the most important things (about finding accommodation/where, and where to be/go) Galway is a super safe city, ofcourse don't do stupid stuff but I think this is one of the most safe cities I've ever been. Get a bike, a rainjacket, travel through Ireland, join a society and enjoy the University (life).

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> l.r.z.bangma@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	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
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name university abroad	National University of Ireland Galway
start date	31 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I was planning on studying abroad in a different country than Ireland, but this changed last minute. However, all the steps that had to be taken were pretty clear.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office was very helpful and replied quickly to emails. They were of great help when I had to change my destination last minute. During my stay in Ireland, they were also very easy to reach if I had any questions.
academic preparation	There was no extra preparation needed.
language preparation	Apart from the mandatory Erasmus language test, no extra preparation was needed.
finances	I received the Erasmus grant as well as the public transport allowance, and also saved some money before hand. Although the expenses are fairly similar to the Netherlands, I would definitely recommend saving some extra money so you can make some nice trips to other cities/sights.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	At the orientation day NUIG provided a booklet with all the information about the available courses and the timetables. Some courses that I thought were available beforehand weren't available anymore. However, NUIG offered a lot of other courses and it was fairly easy to find other courses that I found interesting and that didn't overlap. In the end, I followed classes in film, Irish culture, philosophy and literature. So eventhough I was there on a Film Studies contract, NUIG wasn't too strict in terms of the courses that I was allowed to take. After classes started, you still had about two weeks to try classes and if you didn't like them to change them.
academic quality of education activities	NUIG works a little different than UU. The classes consist mostly out of lectures. However, it is possible to choose seminars within certain subject areas. I would say the quality of the classes was good but a little lower than in the Netherlands, at least for my classes. All of my classes (except the literature class) had continuous assesment throughout the semester.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The counselling and support at NUIG is good. They were easy to reach and very helpful, also in the search for accommodation.
transfer of credits	Not received yet.

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
I arrived in Galway about a week before the orientation program, so that I could start searching for accommodation. NUIG organised an orientation day a few days before university officially started. This was very helpful to get to know more about the university and the classes. NUIG also has a lot of student societies and clubs, which is a nice way to get to know more students, especially more Irish students. I got to know some international students through a Facebook group as well as the international society which organised some activities throughout the semester.	
accommodation	
Galway as a housing problem. I was lucky and found accommodation within a few days, but some other people had a lot of trouble finding something and had to stay in a hostel for quite some time. So I would definitely recommend arriving a bit earlier and going to the accommodation office at NUIG. They have some contacts who are offering to take students in. Apart from this, there is also a Facebook group where people post available rooms. However, you don't always know if it's a scam or not so definitely make sure you arrange a meeting to view the room/house. Eventhough it's difficult, everyone I know ended up finding something.	
leisure & culture	
The societies and clubs are a great way to meet new people. Some of them also organise trips, such as surf trips. Apart from these societies, it's easy to arrange a trip with friends to for example the Cliffs of Moher or the Aran Islands. Galway itself also has a lot to offer. It's a small student city. It's beautiful to just walk around and visit the pubs. There will be something to do every day. Keep an eye out on events that are announced on Facebook, such as a vintage or crafts fairs.	
suggestions/tips	
On Tuesday, go to the Silent Disco at the Roisin Dubh, it's always a lot of fun. Visit the different pubs with great live music. Make trips. I also went to Belfast for a weekend which was great. I also would recommend renting a bike. It's very easy to get everywhere since Galway is not a big city.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, Galway is a great city with a great atmosphere and a lot of great pubs. From Galway, you can also make a lot of beautiful trips. In addition, NUIG is a very nice university with good facilities and a lot of possibilities in terms of the courses that they offer.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Arrive early so you have time to search for accommodation before university starts.	

Report 3

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> m.enghardt@hotmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities

level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Comparative Literature

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland (NUIG)
start date	11 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 05 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application itself was not that hard, but when I heard I had a spot in Ireland, the paperwork needed to be filled out. At first it was difficult to get started. The feeling of the documents that needed to be handed in was overwhelming. I kept fearing I forgot to hand in papers that would lead to me not being able to go abroad at all, but as soon as I got confirmation from the host university (NUIG), it got a lot simpler. Looking back, I had enough email reminders from both my university and Erasmus to make sure I did not forget anything and timelines were provided so I could check if I was still on track.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht University was great. I have had to send multiple emails to make sure I had the right document or to ask if they wanted to sign documents for me. They responded quickly and in a way that made it clear to me directly what I needed to do.

academic preparation

There was not much academic preparation. There were folders online from NUIG that showed the subjects we could choose from, but these were from the year before and therefore outdated. It wasn't until we got to the host university that we knew what subjects we could choose from and try them out. This caused me to change almost my entire list of courses I had planned on doing.

language preparation

Since it was an English speaking country, there was not much preparation in the language apart from the language test that we needed to do through Erasmus.

finances

I had heard from a friend who went to England how expensive studying abroad could be, so I started saving up the year before. This gave me personally enough freedom to travel through Ireland and go back to The Netherlands via Scotland. The money set aside was between 7000 and 8000 euro.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As mentioned before, the course program that was made available to me beforehand was outdated. Therefore I felt slightly unprepared when I got there and still had no clue what I was going to do. It turned out we had 2 weeks at the start of the semester to trial subjects we were interested in. However, if you did not join from the start, you did miss a lesson.

academic quality of education activities

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

The quality of teaching was not too bad. I am used to a more intense program with a presentation, midterm paper and end paper, where NUI sometimes only asked for an end paper. However, this might coincide with the 5 ECTS instead of 7.5 ECTS. The focus of the university also seemed to be more on social skills and therefore the clubs that they had for students. This, they explained, was because later on in life you have to work together with others and this is a skill you can only work on in those clubs, not in class.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not need much support once I arrived at the host university. They did have an international office that we could visit if necessary, but I only needed to do this for my Certificate of Attendance, which was no problem for them to sign for me.
transfer of credits
I still have to get most of my grades back and still hear from Utrecht University if the subjects I took were good enough to fill up the rest of my year. That I must say is the worst part, not knowing if the semester I put in, will be good enough and will be approved.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was done well. We had two days in which we were spoken too. The first day consisted of a general talk about the university and the city, we had the university president and Gardí (police) talk among others for that. The second day was the explanation on what we could study and how we had to sign up for different courses. Each subject was talked about by someone of the apartment it was from.
accommodation
Accommodation was not taken care of by the university itself. There were some buildings that were linked to the university or on university grounds, but these were already taken by the time I heard I was accepted. There was an accommodation office, but that would only place students in houses with families, sometimes only available for 5 days a week, so this was not what I wanted. I went online myself to try and find a place, which eventually led me to the house I ended up staying in (found via Daft.ie). However, the landlady was terrible at responding and so I only heard on the bus ride over to Galway that she could pick me up at the busstation and show me the house. All I had as a backup was a hostel I had booked for the first 10 days. It was stressful, but the house ended up being really nice. We shared it with 6 girls in total, all Erasmus students, and it was a 40 minute walk from the university and city, 10/15 minutes by bike, which could be rented for 3 months for only 35 euro.
leisure & culture
When it comes to leisure and culture, I was part of the surfclub, with which I ended up going on a surftrip for a weekend. The culture we experienced was mainly through meeting locals in the pubs and listening to the music. I did take subjects that had a lot to do with Ireland. Irish for Beginners taught me some Gaeilge. Archaeology took me on a fieldtrip to early Irish settlements. Irish mythology taught me about the beliefs that the people had, and sometimes still have. The traveling I did with friends caused me to see more of the landscape and meet people from other parts of the country too. This included Northern-Ireland where we took a cab tour to learn more about the time of the Troubles and a visit to the museum which showed more on the subject.
suggestions/tips
No matter where you end up going, do try to join a club if you can. You will meet local people and sometimes get to go on a trip or two. This is also where I found one of my best friends I had there. The others I met by sitting next to them during orientation, I have known them from day one and we are still communicating with each other from our own countries.

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would. The university can feel like they do not have everything organised when you first arrive, but that might be part of the Irish mentality that everything will be alright. The country itself is great, mainly the people are amazing. The students union at this university organises trips and events and also gives you cheap coffee at the bars on campus. Galway seems small, but it is very similar to Utrecht. I have also never felt unsafe here, even if I needed to walk back alone after a night out in the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go abroad, give it a fair try, but if it doesn't seem to be working out for you, don't feel like you have to stay and feel miserable. Most people you will hear from, will tell you they had a great time (I'm no exception), but for one of my housemates, it didn't work out the way she wanted to and she decided to go home after 3 weeks. Do not let any fears hold you back though, you might end up being the next success story.

2016-2017**Report 1**

faculty/college	humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language- and culture studies

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland, Galway
start date	05 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This went very smoothly. I had no problems as it was very straightforward process. Everything is explained with steps on the website of the uu so that was convenient.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Everyone at the international office was very helpful. However replying emails can take some time and also the helpdesk is open 2 hours a week which is not a lot.

academic preparation

Academically I did not prepare much. I looked at the booklet with all the modules that were offered, but I knew that a lot of changes could be made to the offered modules at the last moment.

language preparation

As my English is already sufficient I did not need extensive preparation

finances

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

I saved some money, but in hindsight it would have been smarter to save more. Rent was very expensive, almost double for what I pay in utrecht. Groceries were pretty expensive as well. I mostly had enough money, but i would have been more at ease if I did not have to worry about it.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

From my perspective the level of content that was offered at NUIG was a bit low. There were no extensive course manuals that explained what had to be read at what time. Also sometimes no deadlines were mentioned in the manuals that were posted on blackboard. Mostly the deadlines were communicated during class which can be chaotic. The subject that were offered were fairly interesting though and professors were very enthusiastic

academic quality of education activities

This varied from module to module. I took an irish language module and this was probably the best experience I had in learning a language. The teachers were very competent and even with my dyslexia I got on fine. On the other hand some lectures I took were very basic and the teacher seemed not to give a lecture, but more some kind of informal talk.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international officers at Galway were very nice and helped with everything. They were open everyday so it was easy to pop in and ask a few questions. I also had to arrange a lot concerning my dyslexia. The people at the disability office who helped me were also very nice.

transfer of credits

did not happen yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was nice and it helped me a lot to get to know all the ins and outs of the city. The University also offered a sports and societies fair. Here you can choose to play a sport or join a society. A society is a group that organize events for people with similar interest. I for example joined the DJ society which was a lot of fun, because they organized an open decks even every Thursday night.

accommodation

I lived in a house just out of town with other erasmus people. I found this on facebook from someone who was leaving the house. The room was very small and rent was quite expensive. I heard everones rent was high so prepare for that. I paid 440 per month plus heating, which was also expensive, because some houses use kerosine.

leisure & culture

the city looks very old and beautiful. the centre is quite big for a town of 80.000 people. There are a lot of pubs which are just wonderful. Almost everywhere you can find a traditional session around 10, which is exists out of traditional irish music and is fun to listen to. Pubs close at 2 ofcourse so get used to that. Other fun things to do is to visit the Cliffs of Moher or go to the Aran islands. Both are beautiful places and when you go, you can experience those rural scenery you come across on the internet when you google Ireland

suggestions/tips

If you go to galway and want to buy a bike take your time to search the place who is the cheapest. I just bought one very fast and eventually I found out it was very expensive compared to other places

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would certainly recommend this universiy. The academic level was not all that high, but the town and people were amazing. Everyone is very nice and you can most certainly find people with similaire interests.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

no

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland Galway
start date	04 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was fairly easy. All you had to do was fill in some forms and send them to your current university and NUIG. Both universities replied to my emails very quickly. Sometimes it was unclear to me what exactly I had to send in, so I feel like Utrecht could be a little bit more clear about that.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Whenever I had questions, the international office seemed happy to help me with those questions. I do feel like they could be more clear about which courses you are allowed to finish early as NUIG's semester dates are different from the Utrecht ones. NUIG's second semester starts one month before UU's first semester ends.

academic preparation

The NUIG website has some academic booklets with last year's available courses which you should use for picking the courses you want. Keep in mind that there is a chance the courses might change for the next year. NUIG won't give out the most recent academic booklets until the first day of orientation.

language preparation

As Ireland is an English speaking country and every high school in The Netherlands has obligatory English classes, there were no preparations needed.

finances

I saved up some money with my part time job, got some government funds and a compensation for my Dutch travelcard.

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
During my stay in Ireland I took six modules which were worth 30 ECTS in total for the entire semester. Each class has two lectures a week that take about 50 minutes each. Each lecture is with roughly 200 other students so there is little face to face time with your lecturers.
academic quality of education activities
I mainly took English modules during my stay in Ireland. As the lectures were so short in comparison to the 2 and 4 hour lectures I get at my home univeristy the lecture didn't seem to have a very high academic quality.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
All lecturers were aware of the amount of international students in their classes, spoke in a very comprehensive way and made sure everything was clear to all students. If you had any questions, you were able to ask those after the lecture. The NUIG International Office was very helpful as well and were open throughout every weekday. During times they expected a lot of students to walk in, they extended their opening times.
transfer of credits
NUIG uses ECTS, just like Utrecht University

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Orientation took place a couple of days before the semester started. The first day of orientation was aimed towards living in Galway, which was very practical. The next day was aimed towards the academic side of the stay so people were able to see which classes were available for international students, everyone received their student card and things such as borrowing books at the library were explained to us.
accommodation
Galway has a huge housing problem, so be sure to start looking for accommodation as soon as possible. If you don't manage to find housing before you get to Ireland, NUIG has a very helpful accommodations office which could help you find a place to stay. Also make sure to check the Facebook page House Hunting Galway.
leisure & culture
Galway is 2020's cultural capital of Europe and it really shows. Every time of the day a couple of street artists are either singing, dancing or showing their magic on the main street. There are lots of pubs to check out for everyone's liking. Societies are a big thing at NUIG. There are at least 200 societies and sports clubs for you to join.
suggestions/tips
Definitely join a society! It's a great way to meet the locals and usually there is free pizza!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this destination abroad! Galway is such a lovely city to live in. There is so much to do, you never get bored.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Galway
start date	03 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
You have to apply for Erasmus a long time before you go on exchange!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
If you sent an email to the international office they will get back on you in a couple of days.
academic preparation
language preparation
The Irish accent is not too hard to understand! The University of Galway offers a 10 weeks programme to increase your English. This programme is really helpful since it focus on academic skills in English.
finances
Living in Galway for a semester is way more expensive than living in Utrecht in general, since the rent is high (approxamitely 500 a month), you will make a lot of trips and the prices in general are higher.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
You can not choose your study programme before you go to Galway. During the introductuon days you are able to attend information sessions of different faculties and you will receive the timetable of all the available courses for international students. You can still switch courses in the following weeks. So I just attended a lot of different courses in the first weeks and in the following weeks I decided to follow the courses which were most interesting to me.
academic quality of education activities
The level of the courses are in general lower than what I was used to at the University of Utrecht. Moreover, only the seminars demand attendance.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The professors I met were more than willing to help me with questions concerning for example.
transfer of credits

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

The grading system in Galway is really hard to understand. My professors once explained it to me, but I still don't get it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In semester 2 the university organizes a two day introduction programme where they you will hear everything about the university, course selection, the sports and societies and more. Moreover, they offer campus and city tours during these days.

accommodation

Accommodation in Galway is scarce and the rent is high. I found my accomdation via the facebook of international students. I hired a room of a private person, but you have to be carefull here because I never received my deposit back. It is also possible to find accomdation via the university in student complex. I have been living in Salthill nect to the promenade, that was great place to live!

leisure & culture

You can easily join the societies and the sportclubs of the university. I would recommend to join one or more society or club, because it is a nice way to do something and meet new people.

suggestions/tips

Join the mountaineering club! You will go hiking in Connemara or another group of mountains with a nice group of people and you will reach the top of a mountain where you will never have come as a normal tourist.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Galway is a vibrant Irish city, you can go to the pubs everyday, but the you have to be aware that the city centre is really small. For me it was too small sometimes!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 4

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	Galway, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)
start date	05 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

Make sure to have a checklist of all the forms ready. It is not essentially hard to oversee, but if you're in your application and doing your studies and social life on the side, you might lose track. For me, I put off having some of my forms signed to the very last moment, which caused me a lot of unnecessary stress. It is very important to consider the processing time of all parties involved.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
There will be more than enough support; all you have to do is ask. Figure out when you start whom you should approach for specific questions. Who is it you need: your study advisor or the International Office? It will save you some time and effort. The mistake I feel I made a little to often was simply asking advice on topics the study advisor would send me to the international office for and vice versa.
academic preparation
Nothing can really prepare you fully on what you are getting into academically. At NUIG I found a lot of information about the courses in general, however, academic requirements weren't always as clear. In addition, it only became clear on the introduction day what courses were actually available. However, you will receive enough time to reconsider your choices if need be.
language preparation
I studied in Ireland, in a region in which English is the main language spoken. I didn't feel I needed a lot of preparation in that respect. However, I did encounter moments in which I was quite lost in translation. These, however, were mainly caused by a thick local accent and certain local idioms. It doesn't hurt to dive into these aspects of the language.
finances
I should have calculated better what the costs would be. I included the obvious rent, food, college fees, books, free time and some shopping, but it would have been useful if I had included the costs of friends and family visiting and emergency cash. Friends will cost you the extra pint, and it could add up quicker than you'd like.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme was very interesting. Each course here was worth 5 ECTS, and since I chose to do my minor here, I followed six courses in one go. It was quite tough at first, especially since the workload was not essentially lower than the UU 7,5 ECTS courses I am used to. The lectures were generally two hours a week, and some courses had 1 hour tutorials every fortnight. Enrolling in these courses was quite complicated; some courses are only available for a select few students, and one faculty has an entire different policy than the other. Keep a notebook and pen near you at all times during the introductory meetings.
academic quality of education activities
I am generally very satisfied with the quality of the courses I took. I followed a combination of History, relevant Literature courses, an Irish Language course, and a course specialising in Victorian serial novels. They were interesting, I genuinely learned a lot, and the teachers are simply great. They managed to make the course material appealing and relatable, and were always open to questions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I was able to get all the information I needed from the international office here, and the website also has plenty of information on it. It cannot be said enough that it is okay to ask questions.
transfer of credits
I was rather confused receiving my first grades back. My score of 70% suggested to me I had room for improvement, however, I hadn't received any feedback. I went to the professor to ask for that feedback, but as

Ireland – National University of Ireland, Galway

it turns out, a 70% grade was about as good as it gets. In the UK system (which was valid in Ireland), you pass at 40% and you score high at 70%. A list of credits and the way they are transferred is available from the international office at Utrecht University. Needless to say, it would have spared the trouble if I'd only checked.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was quite chaotic. At least I found it hard to oversee at all times what I was supposed to be doing where and when. However, everything turned out alright in the end; people are very much willing to help you out if you have any issues.

accommodation

If you're going to Galway, make sure you find a room on time. Housing here was not cheap. It was hard to find something, but not impossible. There is an Accommodation Office at NUIG which will have addresses they can call for you. Of all the tips I've been given and all the Facebook pages I've joined, this is where I got a room from and it is probably the most reliable source. I would advise them as soon as you can after arrival.

leisure & culture

Ireland and leisure basically go hand in hand. NUIG offers a broad range of extracurricular activities, sportsclubs, and social groups. I personally took the opportunity to learn something new, like kendo, and joined some social clubs with similar interests. In addition, Galway offers a large number of lovely pubs, live music, and a number of festivals depending on the season you arrive in. Galway attaches a lot of value to culture, and if that's what you like, this is the place you're looking for. It has a very historic city center, linked to its turbulent past with the English. It's incredibly near to the Connemara, the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands. These are stunning places that are absolute must-sees when you visit Ireland.

suggestions/tips

Join a social club and/or a sports club. I noticed that next to my courses, I had plenty of time to spare. Filling the gap of time you would usually spend with friends and family is essential to prevent yourself from feeling lonely and this is a fun and resourceful way to do it. You'll meet plenty of new friends, local and fellow Erasmus students, and they will make your venturing through town and visiting local highlights more than just sightseeing.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. The facilities are great, the teachers were incredible, and the city was gorgeous. Everyone is willing to help you out, you will have all the support you need. Medical help, mental support, and much more. Everyone is approachable, and every teacher is willing to help you. And the city itself, with its incredible history and culture, really makes the icing on the cake. Totally worth losing yourself in and finding a better version of yourself.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The smartest thing to do is to rent a bicycle. This will take you nearly anywhere and is by far a cheaper means of transport than public transport. Finally, should you go to Galway; Sally Long's is a great pub. Also, Monroe's has good food. You will find these places in the city center just off the shopping streets. I made great memories there, and I am sure you will too.