

Ireland – University of Galway, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe**2022-2023****Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Galway, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	University of Galway
start date	1 / 9 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I realized at the start of my second year I wanted to apply for an exchange program. So I started my process on time and got accepted to my first choice which was Galway. After being accepted by the UU I was almost automatically accepted by Galway. I can not recall any problems regarding the application process.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU offers help where needed and organized a couple of meetings where you could meet other people going to the same location. All the questions I had were answered rather quickly by email or in one of those meetings.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation since I did not know what to expect.

language preparation

Most of the reading I do for my studies is in English anyway so I didn't need much preparation. If you are in university and think your English is proficient you shouldn't need much preparation. You will get the hang of it when you are there speaking English a lot.

finances

I had some savings which I could use. I also made sure to increase my loan for the time I was going to be there. You should apply for all your grants in time. I applied for the green grant which was an interesting experience to say the least. At last I put my student transport on a hold which gives you another 100 euros a month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the first week of studies I could choose all my courses which were very different from what I initially thought I was going to follow due to timetable clashes. Other than that I could almost choose whatever I wanted from the humanities faculty. So I chose a lot of different courses from a lot of different programs. Which was very interesting since this allowed me to further develop my interests. I highly encourage you to pick courses from different programs.

academic quality of education activities

Ireland – University of Galway, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

I thought the quality of the courses I followed were similar to the quality of the courses in Utrecht. Although they might expect a little less from you than they do in Utrecht. The classes were a lot smaller than I am used to so the lectures were more like seminars. There are usually no distinct tutorials like we have them here.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling was alright but they might take some time to respond to your questions. Don't be afraid to ask again because this might be necessary.
transfer of credits
Will take time

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation is very important. You should go to most of the activities even if you don't know anyone. Since everyone is new here, at least the Erasmus students, you won't have a hard time making friends. This is where I made a lot of friends, you might find new friends during different activities but it is a good start.
accommodation
<p>Accommodation is the hardest and most stressful part of this whole journey. I had a really hard time finding something. The first week I stayed in a hostel looking for a place. This week I swore to discourage you from going, since it's such a pain to find a place to stay. But over the course of my time in Galway I might have changed my mind about that. It's sure is hard and you should get something if you get the opportunity before you go. But you could just take a risk and see what happens, it might be the most memorable experience of your life.</p> <p>Now the more practical side of things. Try to get a room at one of the student accommodations. If this doesn't work go on student pad. If that doesn't work go on Facebook. If that doesn't work join all the groups chats you can get your hands on and you might find something that way. Since it is only Ireland you can always go back if it really doesn't work out. But take a chance, it might be good for you.</p>
leisure & culture
If you think of Ireland you think of pubs, music and nature. That is exactly what you get. Go to the pub as often as possible since it is by far one of the most fun things you can do in Galway. Some of my personal favourites where, O'connors, the Crane Bar and the Blue note. But the city is filled with fun pubs and great music. Other than going to the pub they have a lot of cultural events which should keep an eye on. Outside of Galway there is a lot of beautiful nature to discover which you should visit some time during your stay. You could either take a guide or get a group together and rent a go car, which is very easy and affordable. Join some societies and sport clubs, they will keep you busy and give you the opportunity to meet some locals. You should definitely join the Erasmus society.
suggestions/tips
Buy a bike, if you don't live that close it makes a life a lot easier. I bought a bike second hand in a bike shop, and sold it for a similar price. Also make sure you bring rain clothes and if you like hiking good shoes. Try as much as you can, not too much, before you know you're back in Utrecht.

CONCLUSIONS

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

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I would recommend studying in Galway, it is a great city with a lot fun things to do. You will have a great time, if you like pub's, live music, the outdoors and want a taste of the Irish culture.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you figure out the housing but don't be to stressed out.

Report 2

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Michelleestie@gmail.com
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?	Plane and bus
name university abroad	University of Galway (before National University of Ireland Galway)
start date	1 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION**exchange application process**

The application process seemed daunting at first, but it was actually quite straight-forward. It is exciting to go through potential destinations and figure out where you want to go. When looking for your dream destination, you will see how much is possible in terms of destination and subjects. Besides, it is exciting to think about your exchange, because even though it is scary, it is also pretty much the best time of your life!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office is really helpful for whatever question you have. I had some initial issues with contacting my host university, but that was quickly resolved with the help of the IO. They are available to you for all your questions and they respond quick as well.

academic preparation

As a student of English Language and Culture, going to an English-speaking country is exciting and an academic challenge in and of itself. Since I spent my bachelor's studying English culture, it is interesting to see how what you have learnt comes to life. Besides, the if you have lectures in English at UU, you will be perfectly fine abroad, since the level of teaching is the same.

language preparation

In Ireland, most of the people speak English, but you will see that lot of the things are also in Irish, as both are the official languages of Ireland. The university where I went to offered beginners courses in Irish, and none of the modules offered to visiting students required students to have any knowledge of the language. As I already study English, I therefore did not need to do any language preparation, but it might be fun to look up some slang/ popular language before you go, and maybe practice some words in Irish on Duolingo.

finances

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Before I went, I worked extra to save up for accommodation and extra trips. My accommodation was fully paid out of my savings, and I loaned extra money from DUO. I was in a fortunate position to receive grocery money from my parents as well. Studying abroad can cost quite a lot, especially if you are planning to explore and go on trips. I chose not to apply for a job while on my exchange, as I wanted to enjoy my free time exploring the country. However, it might be wise to do so if you have extra expenses or if you don't want to take a loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university offered a wide range of modules in different courses. There are a lot of courses that are different from what UU offers; which makes it even more interesting and fun to study here. I did several courses in Irish studies, so I could learn more about the country and area I studied in. Something that you might have to take into account is that in Ireland, a lot of things are done on their own time. It might take longer to get a response on an email, but at the same time, I had three weeks to try out different modules to see which ones I wanted to follow for the rest of the semester.

academic quality of education activities

The quality is good, but I'd say that a lot of the time, they expect maybe a little less from you than here in the Netherlands. This doesn't mean that the modules are easy, but in my experience they are perfectly doable. There is also a lot of academic support available for when you're struggling with certain aspects.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the University of Galway, you have many different support systems; the student union, which oversees many of the campus facilities, but also offers support in other things, there are (free!) facilities if you are struggling with your (mental) health, but there is also a lot of academic support; extra English classes for visiting students, all teachers having in-person office hours twice a week, IT services, accommodation offices, etc.

transfer of credits

The university uses the same ECTS as here in the Netherlands, which makes it easy to assemble a programme that suits the amount of credits you need for your exchange. They are also clear in the fact that they will send the Transcript of Records directly to the university as well to you, around 6 weeks after the exchange.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme started on the first day with an online meeting via Zoom, with some information on the basics of modules, university rules etc. This was the only online meeting I had in my whole exchange. Then the day after, we could pick up our studentcards and we had a big meeting in the aula of the Bailey Allen Hall. There, they told us all about the societies, the sport centre, the facilities and the volunteering programmes. There are many opportunities to make your exchange an unforgettable one. Since the university changed their name as well, we got an introduction on why they changed it and what the change symbolises. Throughout the orientation week, they planned lots of activities, which unfortunately did not get full quick. They also organised campus tours twice a day, which I really recommend.

accommodation

One of the only downsides of this destination is that accommodation was hard to find. I recommend starting looking right when you are placed, as the campus accommodation fills up quickly for visiting students. Starting from 23/24, they will have a new accommodation building, but do prepare for higher prices and a struggle to find anything. There are also a few off-campus student campuses, one of which I lived in for the semester. These are quite pricey, but it was really comfortable. Other options are host families or as a last resort a hostel.

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The univeristy does help a lot with their accommodation offices, but it is still recommended to start looking as early as possible.

leisure & culture

Galway has a rich culture and a lot of activities. If you like books, there are several beautiful bookstores to visit, pubs to drink at, cafes, greenery and a lot of nature. The city is the half-way point of the famous Wild Atlantic Way roadtrip route, and there is a beach and promenade. Around the city there are lots of famous nature sights and with a student/young adult leap card it is affordable to take CityLink buses to other cities in Ireland and even Northern Ireland. Do keep in mind that those kinds of trips do take longer since the infrastructure is way different than in the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

- Make sure to sign up for societies, for example the Erasmus Society/ESN, where you can meet other Erasmus students as well as local students who have been on an Erasmus exchange themselves.
- Do not be afraid to reach out to other people, it is scary for everyone!
- Do take trips to the famous Cliffs of Moher, The Aran Islands, Connemara, but try to do them out of the tourist season, you might see other students taking them!
- Order a young adult or student leap card, which will save you a lot of money using Citylink, Bus Eireann or the trams in Dublin.
- If you want to go on a bigger adventure, look up cheap Ryanair flights to the UK!
- Start as early as possible on looking for accommodation
- If you like swimming and sunsets; go on a walk in Salthill, where people swim in the sea all year long
- If you are a reader, go to Charlie Byrnes Bookshop (also recommended by Nicola Coughlan, who studied at the Uni of Galway as well) and Kennys Bookshop.
- Every Tuesday and Wednesday Night, Roisin Dubh has a Sisco; a silent disco!
- Other famous pubs are The Skeff on Eyre Square, The Kings Head, the Quays, The Front Door and many more!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! The university offers many modules to choose from, besides, student life is social and there are a lot of opportunities, even for visiting students. You can join societies fitting to your interests and Galway is beautiful to walk around in. There are many different daytrips available for an affordable price, so it also great for exploring more of the country. The university is helpful in making most out of your time there, and offers many facilities for when you are struggling to do so. Ireland has a rich culture full of pubs, music, folklore, dance and literature, which are waiting to be explored by you. Besides improving your English skills everyday, learning more about culture and taking fun trips, Galway is also perfect to get to know yourself a little better.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Although the Univeristy of Galway offers many different modules from different courses, I especially recommend this destination if you are interested in language, literature or culture.

2021-2022**Report 1**

permission to publish	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
contact details	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: kikiandrews@hotmail.nl
faculty/college	Humanities

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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 accommodations 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, the biggest difference was that I was suddenly 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.

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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 accommodation 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 accommodations, 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, it's really the people you meet on exchange that make it an unforgettable experience.

leisure & culture

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 cafés (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!

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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.

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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 accommodation I was staying at. They were always willing to help with difficulties regarding campus life, such as defect laundry machines and so on.
transfer of credits	I received my examination results the moment I had forwarded my preferred email address. This process presented no challenges whatsoever.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	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	
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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 weather.

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	
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

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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 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

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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 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!

Ireland – University of Galway, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe**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
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

Ireland – University of Galway, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

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 oriëntatie was erg leuk georganiseerd, soms verliep het een beetje chaotisch maar dat maakte het eigenlijk juist wel leuk.
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 Univeriteit 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 Ieren 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)
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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

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

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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
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;

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there is a pub at every street corner, to 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 then 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 that 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!

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 then 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

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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 Trintinity, 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 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

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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 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'Connels, 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

Ireland – University of Galway, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

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

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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.

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 counsellor 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

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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 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>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input 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
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.

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academic preparation
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

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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?