

2022-2023

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 yes: allegrarose20@gmail.com my weblog yes: my Facebook account yes: Allegra Geiger other (social) media yes:
faculty/college	Humanities Faculty
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	19 / 09/2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20/ 01 /2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>Utrecht University made the exchange process very easy and smooth. We had a few pre-departure meetings filled with info in order to prepare us for all the steps that had to be taken prior to leaving Utrecht. Many emails were also sent out which included all the deadlines for submitting documents. The most helpful piece of information we received was the Exchange Guide pdf, which included a detailed list of steps to take before, during, and after the exchange process.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>Support from Utrecht University was efficient, and I always felt like there was someone to help.</p>
academic preparation	<p>Academic preparation consisted of spending many hours searching through the courses available at the University of Bologna, in order to pick which courses would suit me best in relation to my studies. I also tried to select courses predominantly in Italian.</p>

language preparation
I already had obtained a C1 level of Italian, and therefore I was not required to take lessons. However, to improve my Italian I decided I would take two courses in Italian, and one course in English during my exchange, so that I could have a balance between my mother tongue (English), and Italian. This way I could improve my Italian, while also not feeling overwhelmed having all three courses in Italian.
finances
I applied for the Erasmus grant, where I received 300 euros per month. On top of that, my parents also gave me a monthly sum each month for rent, and some extra for groceries, etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Two of my courses (both in Italian) were part of the DAMS faculty at University of Bologna, which stands for Discipline of Art, Music, and Spettacolo (theater). I took two courses which were both related to Cinema. My third course was sociology, which is a part of the faculty Economics, Politics, and Social Sciences. While I felt that I learned a lot, I wasn't particularly a fan of the teaching style. It consisted solely of lectures (no seminars), and all of our progress for the semester was measured in two exams. It was very different from what I had experienced at Utrecht University, where we are also given small presentations, group assignments, weekly assignments, and papers, and our grades are an accumulation of all of this work. Instead, at the University of Bologna I had to study for 1 or two exams, and my entire grade was based off of that.
academic quality of education activities	I feel that academic quality is higher at Utrecht University. At UU, we are taught a broader variety of skills, such as speaking skills (presentation), writing (papers), group work and collaboration (group projects), and also time management (weekly assignments). Whereas at UNIBO, we only had to prepare for written exams.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Very good. The staff was always responsive and there to help.
transfer of credits	Credits are the same, so that is made easy.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The university did not organize much, but I mainly relied on ESN network. I met many people through the programme and am so thankful that they organized many weekly events.
accommodation	

<p>Accommodation was difficult to find, I had to rely on family friends who were able to get me into contact with some of their friends, which is how I eventually found a studio apartment in the center of the city (so it all turned out well). Other than that, UNIBO does not give too much support in regards to housing (understandably).</p>
leisure & culture
<p>TONS to do in Bologna. There is always some time of event almost every night of the week, whether its live music, theatre, a protest, an art show, bars, or dancing at the disco. People there are very active and you will always find something to do. I love the Italian culture of going out for an espresso or aperitivo, even between classes. The food is AMAZING!</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Look for housing very early, because there is a bit of a housing crisis in Bologna with the amount of students living there compared to the size of the city. Sign an official housing contract if you can. I heard stories from friends who did not get their deposits back after they hadn't signed an official contract. Also, try and try as much food as you can, its delicious! Another suggestion is to join esn, I found it was the number 1 place for meeting people, especially since people aren't very social in classes, since there are no discussions or projects together. Also, travel to nearby cities! Bologna is in a perfect location, with the train you can easily reach Rome, Milan, Florence, Verona, and Venice for a day trip!</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
<p>YES! I would recommend it because of the city. It is so student oriented, and there is so much to do. The location itself is close to many cities so you don't feel isolated. If you ever get tired of Bologna, you can reach many places in just an hour or two on the train (and its not that expensive).</p>	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
<p>Try to attend ESN events. It might seem scary to go alone at first, but you'll find that SO many people have also come there alone. I was nervous to go alone at first, but then I realized that almost everyone else there was feeling the same way, and just wanted to make friends. Also, the ESN trips are quite fun, and you can get to know people because you spend a significant amount of time together, whether its a whole day or even a weekend.</p>	

Report 2

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: joelle-dj@live.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Kunstgeschiedenis / Art History
destination city & country	Bologna, Italy

how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	6 / 9 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 1 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process was quite smooth, as I kept track of deadlines and applied to everything well on time. Especially the part of applying from Utrecht University was clear, however the communication of Bologna University was always quite last-minute and you had to search well for what you needed to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I have always received quick responses to my emails that helped me. Besides that I didn't need much support. The provided PDF-guide was really helpful in preparing me for my semester abroad.
academic preparation	I didn't do any particular academic preparation.
language preparation	I didn't do any language preparation, as I followed all of my courses in English. I did however apply for a language course in Bologna as soon as possible (check the deadlines and be quick, because I still didn't get in unfortunately).
finances	I used the Excel-format for budgeting provided by the International Office which I found super helpful and gave me more clarity. Using my savings, the Erasmus grant and DUO I managed to finance my semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The university had a big selection of (English) courses that suited my interests. I did end up changing my Learning Agreement a few times due to timetable issues or other reasons, which was easy. I ended up following courses to do with my bachelor Art History and courses in other departments such as film, gender, and culture, which was nice.
academic quality of education activities	The quality of the education is definitely lower than in The Netherlands. I found many courses to be chaotic in content and purpose, missing a clear line. The exams were mostly oral, one paper and one written exam. The scoring is super high with most courses even if you don't know everything. This made studying very relaxed but also a bit underwhelming sometimes. I managed to follow only masters courses even though I was still a bachelor student. Only one course really felt like a masters course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not use a lot of support at the university in Bologna. My coordinator answered emails about signing my Learning Agreement fast and teachers were also reachable through email or in class.
transfer of credits	

For the transcript of credits, you simply email the international office of Bologna for the check out (you can look up the details on checking out on their website). I received an email within hours with my transcript which they also sent to the IO of UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no University-bound welcome programme. There is an ESN (Erasmus Student Network) which organises many events throughout the whole year, but do keep in mind this is mostly focused on drinking a lot and partying, and I ended up not attending any events. You do get a nice discount on Ryanair though. It is possible to attend classes without having them in your program, so if you're not sure what courses you want to follow you can just try them out in the first weeks.

accommodation

I can not stress this enough, but housing is absolutely terrible in Bologna. Before applying there, I was under the impression that accommodation was affordable, but there is an extreme shortage and many scammers. If you want any chance to find accommodation, you have to start trying at least half a year before arrival. Despite all my efforts, I ended up paying 800 euros a month in cash for a room and I spent 2 weeks living in my landlords house because of their terrible organization. You can look for rooms on HousingAnywhere, Uniplaces and in Facebook groups, but be very aware of scammers and assume that you will have to pay at least 550 euros a month if you start looking on time.

leisure & culture

I loved the Bolognese culture so much. It is a very leftist and 'alternative' city, with amazing food and great bars. I found the living expenses like drinks and eating out very affordable. I took many day- and weekendtrips to different cities in Italy, because Bologna is so central. For this I used the trains (which are pretty okay) and Flixbus. The people in Bologna are nice, social, and pretty loud. The city is busy, but small, and I bought a bike which was the most convenient way of getting around. The surrounding nature is beautiful and I did a few nice walks in the hills.

suggestions/tips

I'd suggest getting a bike, looking at rooms really early, going to lots of bars, eating all the great food there is and enjoy this amazing experience :) you can always contact me for more specific recommendations etc.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the city is wonderful and central, the university is beautiful and the courses are interesting but not too hard. However do take the housing crisis seriously and save up what you can for the rent.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I'd suggest going by train to be more environmental (you can get the Travel Green grant), even though it is a long travel: you can maybe even explore a city on the way to make it more fun! I kind of regretted going by plane because it's so bad for the environment.

2021-2022

Report 1

faculty/college

Humanities

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	University of Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process is described in clear steps on the website: https://students.uu.nl/onderwijs/studeren-in-het-buitenland .
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling from the UU was really good, whenever I had questions I could e-mail them and got a response within a week.
academic preparation	None
language preparation	I did an Italian language course for beginners (A1).
finances	I did try to save up as I did not want to work during my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The courses that I had determined before I went changed a lot once I got there. Some courses were suddenly postponed to the second semester, some courses just weren't given (for no particular reason). So don't put too much hope on actually following the courses that you want to before you go, but also don't stress too much about the application for the courses: the University was very easygoing and did not really have strict deadlines for submitting your course plan.
academic quality of education activities	The teachers were really nice and the lectures were interesting. The education system is however a lot different than it is in the Netherlands - classes are a lot less participatory and exams are (to my opinion) easier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The counselling was really bad actually: first it wasn't really clear who I could contact for questions about courses etc. and once I found that out, they never really responded or they responded after more than two weeks.
transfer of credits	

E-mail the exchange office of the UNIBO, they reply slowly but they can send you your transcript of credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was none physically as there was still COVID.
accommodation
I got a room in a shared apartment in the city centre with other international students. The apartment was really great (I got it through a friend who had stayed there before). I strongly recommend starting your search for an apartment early on!! A lot of people did not find a place to stay. Dove Vivo is actually a trusted website with a lot of student apartments.
leisure & culture
Bologna is really central, so you can easily visit other cities: we visited Milan, Modena, Verona, Rome, Naples, Sorrento and Positano. Plus Bologna is a student city with a lot of great little squares and restaurants and terraces and bars.
suggestions/tips
Go to piazza Santo Stefano!!!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes!! There is a huge international community of students so it's really easy to make friends quickly. Also Bologna is a really beautiful city with a great historic centre and the food and the people are amazing.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
None

2019-2020

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna (Alma Mater)
start date	6 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 1 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I had to write a motivational letter describing why I should be accepted to my uni of choice. I also had to explore other uni's as a back up! Once you're accepted you have to go to a lot of paperwork, but nothing too crazy. You have to get your Learning Agreement signed (already pick out some courses you'd like to follow) and arrange your OV vergoeding.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I've had none other than e-mailing IO a couple of times with small questions.
academic preparation	Not sure what to answer here. Ive followed all the mandatory courses and my knowledge was enough for all the courses I took in Bologna.
language preparation	I feel like this wasn't entirely enough. My passive skills: yes, but my active skills were rusty and I had fear to speak.
finances	I got an Erasmus scholarship and Travelcost compensation! Which was nice and I needed it. I filled out shorter dates on my LA after consulting IO than everybody else so I received in total 300 euro's less than my friends did...

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed a history course, two communication courses, and a course about pedagogy in interculturalism. The organisation was terrible. You knew nothing, there was limited information available & on the day of the exam you had to wait if you were unlucky, the entire day before you were called up!
academic quality of education activities	Not impressed, UU got me used to a certain level and this did not level up... It was very passive, there was no guidance, the students were allowed to use wikipedia as a source AND they didn't even cited their sources most of the cases. Other than the insane amount of books I had to read in a short time there was no challenge.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Minor to none.
transfer of credits	Went smoothly :)

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Nothing from the uni, I went to some Welcome activities from student organisations for Erasmus students
accommodation	I found an apartment on my own which was a great place, close (but outside) to the centre and affordable! Me and my housemate were very lucky, Bologna is even worse than Utrecht when it comes to finding accommodation...

leisure & culture
Lots of things to do :) For sport related activities you do need an medical certificate... That didn't seem worth getting for just 5 months. I ate really well, saw lots of the city and explored Northern Italy a bit since Bologna is such a central city.
suggestions/tips
Flixbus is way cheaper than train and goes to a lot of cities! If you wanna go on daytrips during the weekend :)

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would suggest the city because it's so beautiful, I didn't like however the clear division between natives and erasmus.. I felt very unwelcome. But there is a big Erasmus culture so you'll find plenty of friends! They city is so lively and lots of great food to eat and drinks to drink. Lots of art and musea as well, perfect.	
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	Language- and Culture Studies

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	03 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 07 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process went quite smoothly. As long as you follow the instructions and make sure that you're aware of the deadlines, there shouldn't be any trouble. Also, don't pay too much attention to the faculty that you're placed with: I was placed with Audiovisual techniques in Bologna, which is not my forté at all, but the university in Bologna was not strict about that at all, and you're free to follow most courses as long as they're on the same campus.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Utrecht University is very helpful and offers structural support. The Exchange Office is very quick to reply, and if you get tired of emails, just make an appointment or call them up. That helped me a lot, and it's a lot clearer than digital contact. My advice is also to let it kind of come to you; I spent a lot of time worrying about things I	

had no business worrying about. It is very unlikely that the university forgot about you; they'll send you an e-mail if you do forget something.
academic preparation
I do not have a lot to say about this point, because academic preparation is hardly necessary. If you take classes in English, they're bound to be at a Master's level (Laurea Magistrale/LM), but they're comparable to courses at level 2 and sometimes 3 in Utrecht, perhaps depending on the subject.
language preparation
Bologna is a very internationally oriented city, and I have met my fair share of people who didn't speak a single word of Italian, and who get by easily. Of course there are also people living/working in the city that don't speak English or have difficulty with the language, but it shouldn't be too much of a hindrance. Courses at the university are offered in English, though they are on a master's level - also, not too much of a hindrance. The teachers speak English with a rather heavy accent but with very few mistakes. It might take some getting used to if your English is a little rusty. Of course I do recommend you speak some basic Italian, just because it makes the experience more fun and more inclusive.
finances
Bologna is not any more expensive than the average student city in the Netherlands, though one can hardly say it's cheap. The housing is expensive, unless you get lucky, and the food tends to be expensive as well, though the Italian products are of course very cheap - so cook a lot of Italian food, and your wallet should not be in any trouble. You can also request a bus card that's valid for an entire year and costs ten euros (just once), so that makes traveling around the city very easy. Cultural activities are also very cheap.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content of the courses was more than satisfactory - I might have made a good choice, of course, but my courses were very interesting and gave me an in-depth introduction in the Italian curriculum. Actually, the one course that wasn't specifically about Italy was relatively the worse. My advice to anyone looking to get a good insight into Italy and its history, take all the introductory (and typically 'erasmus') courses that UNIBO offers. Now, organisational-wise, the courses do not differ greatly from the way courses are organized in the Netherlands. It depends on the teacher whether there's a lot of extra material or not, though generally, my teachers never expected me to do a great deal of reading, nor did they discuss the readings in class the way teachers often do in Utrecht. This is to be expected, I suppose, since the teaching style in Italy is usually giving lectures with the students playing the part of a rather passive audience (though most teachers are very happy if a student is assertive).
academic quality of education activities
The teachers are very well educated and well suited to their jobs, but the way of teaching in Italy is a little one-sided and it seems that the teachers do not expect too much from their students. I mostly get this feeling because high grades are easily earned, or at least more easily than in Utrecht, and teachers sometimes seem surprised if people chime in during their lessons. The teachers are very helpful, however, and very appreciative of assertive students in particular - but it seems to me that if you really wish to learn or improve, you need to be assertive. Otherwise the lessons are simply lectures with the teacher speaking almost exclusively. There are no seminars, of course, which helps to explain this trend (or is a side-effect of it). Because of the corona-virus, half of my classes were online, which meant that inter-student dialogue (as far as it existed at all, really) was non-existent. There was some dialogue with the teacher, maybe even more than before Corona - many teachers expressed the need for more contact, because it felt like there was no audience if no one ever said anything. The online lessons were well-organized, by the way.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was a bit of a problem at times, since it is rather unclear where one can get what information, and no one seemed to know exactly who the right person was to go to. The only cohesive explanation of how things work at the university was really at the very beginning, during registration, and that was in truth an automatic speech of two minutes that didn't help very much. I was helped mostly by other students when I had specific problems or didn't understand the way things worked within the structure of the university.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits is no problem, since Italy works with ECTS and the specific grade for a course does not matter under Erasmus conditions (Italy does have a different grading system, but unless you need a specific grade to count for your degree programme at home, it doesn't matter).

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There wasn't really one, as far as I know of, although I think that the belated welcoming programme had to be blown off because of the Corona virus. I was already in Bologna for over a month at this point, hence the 'belated'.
accommodation
Accommodation in Bologna is expensive, though I would say that it is comparable to Utrecht (which is, yes, also expensive). Bologna does seem better suited to international students than Utrecht can be: it is not very difficult to find a spot, as long as one is willing to pay for it. If that's a problem, then it will likely be difficult, and you may just end up sharing a bunk with someone else.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a wonderful city with a great many things to do. The historical centre is beautiful and welcoming. The sheer location of Bologna in Italy is also a commendable aspect of studying there, since you can get to most of the major (and also minor) Italian cities by train quite easily. Think of Florence, Rome, Venice, Milan, but also smaller cities like Rimini, Ravenna, Ferrara.
suggestions/tips
The serre at the Giardini Margherita, Villa Ghigi at Via San Mamolo (truly wonderful views), the Basilica of San Domenico (has a wonderful square), the local opera and, as I said above, the travel options.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! Italy is a lovely country, and Bologna is a lovely city. There's much to do and to see, many people to meet, the classes are interesting. Of course there are academic differences, as I've explained above, but those aren't necessarily negative ones. All part of the package, so to speak. Besides, Italy is not that far from the Netherlands - you'll find that a lot of things are very similar, so it's not as many leagues out of one's comfort zone as I imagine China would be. I'll say that I'm very much biased when it comes to Italy, and that I never once thought of going anywhere else; but I'm confident that you'll enjoy Bologna even if you do not have any particular feelings about it beforehand. In fact, I think you might just leave with a strong preference for the city!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I should note that my actual stay in Bologna amounts to about two months, due to the Corona virus. I was lucky enough to have even experienced a month of in-person teaching, because the faculty of humanities starts a bit

earlier there than others. Despite the 'Corona Experience', I loved my time in Bologna, and would recommend it to anyone. I sincerely hope that the Corona measures will be lifted once you get to study there!

Report 3

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	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I followed the timeline provided by the International Office. Everything is explained very well but the process requires a lot of paperwork, so it's sometimes a bit confusing what needs to be done and when. Especially for the Erasmus+ grant and the public transport compensation fee you have to keep an eye on things yourself and keep all the deadlines in mind.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I already knew long in advance where I wanted to go and therefore did not need a lot of counselling. However the IO was always at my disposition whenever I needed them and they responded quickly over email.
academic preparation	I had already finished my bachelor's and felt pretty secure therefore that I would not encounter much trouble studying abroad.
language preparation	I'd started learning Italian 3 years earlier by following language courses and to be fully prepared I followed the Italian courses at the UU.
finances	I'd saved up some money, but eventually did not need to use it because the Erasmus+ grant, the public transport compensation and my usual DUO amount were enough, even though I also went on trips and went out for dinner more often.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I had made a study plan in advance and had it checked and signed by my own program's counsellor. However, halfway through the mobility period I had to get my courses accepted by the exam committee and they suddenly rejected one of my courses (because it was 'too similar' to my basic program). I had already been

<p>following this course for two months and it was worth 12 credits and therefore critical for receiving my Erasmus+ grant. Fortunately, the IO spoke to the exam committee and eventually they accepted the course anyway. Funnily enough, this was the course I eventually had the most trouble with because it was so unlike the things I'd already done at the UU.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The Università di Bologna has a whole different way of teaching than the Dutch universities. It's way more theoretical. I study Film and did courses like Film Analysis and theory and tecnics of editing, but everything was so theoretical that we never really did an analysis at all. This frustrated me since I've always loved writing papers more than readying and studying for exams, and in Bologna the only thing I did was read thousands of pages only to find super specific and factual questions at the exams. One course had the easiest exam I've ever made and I wouldn't have had to read those 100s of pages at all, the other course was so theoretical and the questions on the exam so difficult and specific that I had a hard time passing. The academic quality thus differs quite a lot per course. Also: oral exams are awful. They're often taken in front of the rest of the class, and everyone has to wait the whole day until it's their turn, instead of having a schedule and showing up when it's your turn. I had to wait for 8 hours in a musty classroom in total panic before I could finally do my exam.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>My contact person responded to my emails (about the forms that needed to be signed) quickly and besides that I did not use counselling or support.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>Everything went smoothly after the UU received my Transcript of Records.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>
<p>UNIBO has a Welcome Day for international students but it takes place at the start of October. Since I'd arrived on the first of September I wanted to orientate a bit earlier so I attended some welcoming activities organised by ESEG, an organisation for Erasmus students not bound to UNIBO. I'd recommend this because, even though I mainly wanted to make Italian friends, the internationals that come to these activities are more eager to make friends and are therefore easier to bond with. Since I did my courses in Italian where most of my classmates already had formed groups of friends, I had a some difficulty making friends there.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>Finding accommodation in Bologna can be tough. I can only say that I've been really lucky, cause a friend of mine already found an appartment in March. Most important is to start looking as soon as you can. When asking other friends where they'd found their rooms they mostly answered with 'I was lucky' or 'through friends'.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>Bologna is a city full of cultural activities. There's a festival almost every weekend, there's museums, expositions, live music in bars and on the streets, there's semi-legal raves going on in university buildings once in a while... You won't be bored!</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Go explore the colli bolognesi (the hills south of the city). The views of the city and the mountains are astonishing and it's so incredibly close to the city! It's the perfect way to get out of the hustle of the city for a while and enjoy some tranquillity in nature. I'd recommend trail 902, but on this website you can find two other beautiful walks as well: https://bolognauncovered.com/2018/05/22/top-three-walks-in-the-bologna-hills/</p>

Also: visit the centri sociali! They're basically the centre of the social student life in Bologna. XM24 and Labàs are the most well-known ones.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, Bologna is a beautiful city with loads of different faces, there's always something left to explore and the city is amazingly vivid and lively. However, do prepare that the academic education can be quite tedious and different from what you're used to.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Have some friends or family over! I was quite homesick at some point but some of the best moments I had when my friends and family came to visit. Best of both worlds!

Report 4

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: l.b.m.linderhof@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	3 / 2 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 3 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I had to write a motivational letter and I had to address which course I'd like to follow. When I knew I got accepted, everything was managed by UU and Unibo.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling was okay. You still have to do a lot yourself, which makes sense since every foreign university works different. The guide we got from the international office was very useful.

academic preparation

I did two language courses of the Bachelor Italian culture and language at the UU. It wasn't necessary to prepare otherwise.

language preparation

I did two language courses of the Bachelor Italian culture and language at the UU.

finances
I didn't save a lot of money, since my loan would continue.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
welcome & orientation programme
study programme (content and organisational issues)
welcome and orientation programme: I didn't participate in such a programme, since my lessons started two days after my arrival. study programme: It was quite easy to organise a study programme, since you only need to enroll yourself in the exams. There's no such thing as in Utrecht, where you mostly have to sign up weeks prior to the start of the courses.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is almost the same as at the UU. The differences are mainly found in the way the University of Bologna organizes the courses. There are lectures and no seminars. You have to do a lot yourself, you don't get a weekly schedule like in Utrecht. You have to get used to that, but it makes you very disciplined. The information you get in the lectures is of the same quality as in the Netherlands. I must mention that there's not really the need to write papers, but that a lot of exams are oral.
transfer of credits
It went quite smoothly. Because of Corona, it took a bit longer to receive them.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES
support guidance of host university
The University of Bologna offered me very clear information about the coronacrisis and what that would mean for the (international) students. We received information about the last developments in- and outside the university.
support guidance of home university
Utrecht University advised me to come home as quickly as possible when it was known Italy would go in lockdown. I managed to talk with the study advisor on what to do now I was home again and that was very useful, since my whole planning got messed up.
online offer and quality of digital courses
The quality of the digital courses was the same as at the UU. It's helpful that the courses in Bologna are all lectures, so that makes it a lot easier to organize the online courses. Every lesson I followed would continue online.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
For me, it was a bit difficult sometimes to follow my exchange digital, since I barely knew how the university worked at that moment. Sometimes the teachers didn't respond to the e-mails, since they were very busy responding to other students, since it was new to everyone. Overall, the digital exchange went very well and the process regarding the exams was very clear.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the University of Bologna. There are a lot of various interesting courses that you can follow that are very different from the courses at Dutch universities. Also, the University of Bologna has high quality education. Moreover, the city is simply amazing, since it's a real students city and tourism isn't overflowing the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're considering to go to Bologna for your exchange, please do it! You won't regret it! Even though I have been there for only 1,5 months, it was one of the best experiences of my university career!

2018-2019

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20/ 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It was honestly a lot of work. Just did the standard stuff you had to do at our home university. I told the university my preferences and then in February I heard I was allowed to go to the University of Bologna, lots of stuff to do, like curriculum and also motivation letter etc.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Our university gave us a lot of information and send us e-mails on the right time. It was just that still a lot was very unclear for me, but that was more the fault of the University of Bologna, there should be something that provides immediate good contact with the partner university.
academic preparation	I just followed my courses in Holland, half of them are in Italian, but furthermore I didn't do that much academic preparation, just that my courses are about Italian language and also culture, so that might have helped me somehow or in some way a bit.
language preparation	I study Italian language and culture so I automatically prepared for my exchange when it comes to language. I also spent the summer in Italy, like I always do, so there I already got to practice my language, furthermore I didn't do that much extra, cause already in my from day to day life I spoke Italian a lot.
finances	The financial aspect of an exchange is very personal, I got the Erasmus grant and the so called grant for transport, which was both honestly a lot to arrange and still is. Furthermore my parents paid for every single dime of my exchange, housing etc. I got a monthly payment from them, honestly you can make an exchange as expensive as you want, but if you want to have a lot of fun it becomes more expensive immediately.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	It was just that it was unclear if I had to do a Studyplan here and furthermore everything was unclear here in Italy, so for instance I thought I had to apply for the courses, but apparently you only apply for the exams, and the studyplan thing I found out quite late, but when I found out where to find it, it was very easy.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic quality of the teacher is good, nothing bad to say about it, teachers were always late, but you adjust to that, so then you come late as well. The only thing is that things were and still are super unclear, for instance exams are a total disaster, everything takes super long and is way to stressfull and unorganized, teachers don't give you the proper information about the course and the exam, you always have to ask them, and they also tend to reply to e-mail in like a month.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't get any support when it comes to the exchange, you have to arrange it all yourself, for instance it wasn't clear to me that I had to do a check in, it would be nice if the university here would send us e-mails about what we are expected to do. Furthermore the offices are just weird, they are open just a few hours per week and its always super busy.
transfer of credits
Credits were always clear for me, it was just that sometimes the schedule of a course would change with anyone telling us. I try to obtain 30 ECTS here, and most of the other students just 15. But it was always clear how many credits I would get, its still a blur when it comes to the grades, cause we have a different system when it comes to grades.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I didn't go to a welcome of the university, honestly in my opinion they didn't do enough when it comes to that. The people at the international office were really nice, but it was just all a bit unclear and you really have to organize a welcome and orientation programme yourself, cause the university was not to keen on that.
accommodation
I found my accomodation at home, already in like may I believe. I didn't want the stress of going here and trying to find a house, cause that has been a long and very stressfull process for a lot of people here. I live at Camplus, it's a Campus with a lot of students that includes breakfast and dinner, you really pratctice your italian this way.
leisure & culture
Italian culture is obviously my passion. I am used to being it Italy for a long, but being on your own without your parents is a completely different experience. The italians are very over the top and dramatic, but once you are in their group and are the most complementary and warm people that exist. I have done a lot of trips here in Italy, which was all super nice.
suggestions/tips
Arrange your housing already at home! This way you will arrive a lot calmer here in italy. Furthermore try to go with the flow of taking it easy and don't get to stressed or angry when things are very ill-organized. Indulge in the great food here! Bologna is a heaven for lovers of simple food, AKA a pasta or lot of pork meat and cheese.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would absolutely recommend this destination to people. The university not so much, it was just to unclear and unorganized for my taste, but you do get a lot of indidividuality here at the univeristy. Bologna is the perfect city for students. It's a city in which people work live and study, unlike Florence which is full of tourists. So if you want to study in Italy or in southern Europe, do Bologna, it's a warm city with a huge student life.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Erasmus exchange is a lot to arrange, I will be honest with that, and sometimes it is really like I really need a break from this, but at the end it all worth it. You will grow a lot as person here. In the beginning you can be afraid about not making friends, but it is super easy, everybody opens up easily and everybody wants to make the most of their time here.

Report 2

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	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	27 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process took some time but it was always quite clear what you had to do. The international office at the UU helps you pretty well and always responds fast on documents that need to be signed. Gathering all the signatures and documents just takes some time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office at Utrecht University is quick to respond to any questions and the office is opened a lot so you can just walk in for a signature or a question you have. They also organise a predeparture meeting before you leave where you will meet other UU-students that go to the same city of country.

academic preparation

I personally followed only courses of free choice on exchange since I already completed the rest of my bachelor program before the exchange. Therefore I was free to choose whatever courses I liked. I did not really have to prepare anything academically beforehand.

language preparation

In the academic year before my exchange I followed the Minor Italian Language and Culture at the UU in order to prepare a little bit for my stay abroad. In the end it is possible to take a lot of courses in English in Bologna so this is not a necessity at all, but of course it is nice to be able to speak a little Italian. The average level of English of a Dutch student is definitely enough to manage in Bologna.

finances

Bologna is not a cheap city. Already the average rent is quite high (comparable with Utrecht I think) and also the supermarkets are expensive in comparison to the Netherlands. Going out for dinner can be relatively cheap, although this is of course always an expensive way of eating. I personally had to save quite long beforehand, on top of for example the Erasmus Grant, to be able to afford my stay, but it was definitely worth every euro.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
As stated above I followed courses of free choice in Bologna. Therefore I could quite easily pick courses in English. I took a course in Political Philosophy, a Seminar in Comparative History and Politics and Introduction to Italian Culture. The last one is a course especially for international students and is meant to introduce you a little bit to the history and the culture of the country you live in. It consists of one lecture a week, some special events, and ends with a big paper (4000 words) that you have to write on a related topic. I did not have many organisational issues, everything is in general just a bit more chaotic and laid back than what I was used to but if you just accept this it is fine. The only annoying thing is that it takes a lot of teachers and university staff really long to respond on email for example (if they do at all).
academic quality of education activities
In my opinion the quality of the courses differs quite a lot. I took a course here with a lot of international guest speakers of which the quality was quite high. On the other hand in another course it was sometimes even difficult to understand the English of the teacher and the quality of that course in general was quite low. Therefore I think you have to be a little bit lucky with your teacher. On average the level of the courses and the exams is not as high as in the Netherlands
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office in Bologna only opens about two hours a day and is then often quite crowded. Therefore it is important to be there on time if you want to get your stuff done a little bit fast. But they help you pretty well there. Sometimes it is also difficult to get in to contact with your exchange coordinator by mail (if you need a signature for example), therefore always start to mail them in time and don't hesitate to mail again and again. Otherwise they often always have office hours during which you can drop by to get stuff done.
transfer of credits
This has not happened in my case at the time of writing. I do not expect any problems when it comes to this though. As far as I know the transfer of credits always goes fine between Bologna and Utrecht. The exam committee in Utrecht has also already approved my courses and the credits so that should be fine.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome program was held in the week before I arrived which was a little bit weird because I was already quite early in Bologna in comparison with a lot of other exchange students. The first week I had to figure out some things by myself because of this but it was all fine in the end. It is very easy to sign up for courses here so that was no problem.
accommodation
It is hard to find a room in Bologna, especially in the old city center. I have been very lucky that one of my best friends was in Bologna for the first semester and that I could take over his room really easy and even just within the old center. Searching for a room is easiest by Facebook I think. I rented my room from Erasmusland, which is an organisation similar to ESN. It is always a good idea to see if they have a room available.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a super vivid city. There is a lot to see and to do and the bars and restaurants are always crowded. In Italy it is probably studentcity number 1, therefore there are of course a lot of parties and activities. There are a lot of international students as well and next to ESN there is also Erasmusland that organizes so many activities, parties and trips that it is almost impossible to not get in contact with a lot of fun people. Apart from that, Bologna is located really central in Italy, and has a big trainstation. This allows you to explore the rest of Italy very easy by train (Florence, Venice, Verona, Parma, Milan) or by plane of course.

suggestions/tips
After arrival I would immediately become member of ESN and Erasmusland. Their membership card is 10eu each but you will have this money back in no time because of all the discount you will get in bars, clubs and on activities. Just join some of their activities in the beginning because that is the easiest way to get into contact with a lot of new people

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Bologna for an Erasmus exchange. The university offers quite a lot of courses in English, therefore you do not need to be fluent in Italian to study here, in one of the most beautiful cities of Italy. The studentlife is booming and it is for a reason that Bologna is called the culinary capital of Italy. Furthermore, the city is not yet overwhelmed by tourists, like Florence or Venice, and the size of the city (compareble with Utrecht) is perfect for one semester since you can really get to know the entire city, without it getting boring. Perfect Erasmus destination in my opinion.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
It is very important to check if your faculty is located in Bologna itself. The university of Bologna also has campuses in surrounding cities like Rimini, Cesena and Forli. Maybe this can also be nice but you should be aware of the fact that if your courses are located on those campuses you won't be studying and living in the city of Bologna itself. I know that some people only found out about this just before their exchange, so make sure to check this in time.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	04 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The formal preparation went very easily for me, mostly you just have to follow the guidelines the UU provides
counselling & support at Utrecht University
It was alright, I did not ask for much support so I did most of the research etc. myself. There were some helpful meetings, but there was never anyone present that had been to Bologna, only other places in Italy. This might have been helpful.
academic preparation
Apart from language preparation, I did not do any academic preparation.

language preparation
I followed a A1 Italian course at University college, which was a very nice course to get some feeling with the Italian language. I would recommend doing a course while still at home, even if it is just for the basics.
finances
I saved some money for my travel to Italy with working, but furthermore did not change my finances too much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did my courses in English. There is quite a big variety of English courses to follow. Most of the things I did were on Italian culture, Italian history or Italian society, I really enjoyed this opportunity to learn about Italy.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality differs per course, in general the level is a bit below the level of Utrecht University. I did not spend too much time studying and learning, I thought my courses were rather easy and low in work-pressure. Usually exchange students get quite high grades and most of the time you won't have to worry that you won't pass a course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support was a bit messy, but if you'd reach out for help or contact everybody was very nice and helpful. If you do most of the things on your own, they will also leave you alone.
transfer of credits
Not yet received

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The student welcome in Bologna was 2 months after my arrival, so I did not attend this, since I had already figured things out on my own and had already met plenty of people on my own. This welcoming programme is weirdly late.
accommodation
Accommodation was the hardest part of my stay. It is very difficult to find good and cheap accommodation in Italy. It is beneficial to speak Italian or find somebody who does who can help you with contacting people. I ended up responding to loads of people on facebook, but it is very difficult to get one of those rooms because they're often with a minimum stay of a year. Try and find Italian people who are doing an exchange and leave their room for half a year and see if you can arrange something with them. There's useful facebook sites and websites, and in Bologna you have some agencies or advertisements in the streets. It might be stressful to go to a city without having a home but you'll find something!
leisure & culture
Bologna is a very nice town for leisure & culture, and it is in the middle of Italy so you can easily travel through the country. You can join Erasmusland and ESN to get to know other erasmus students, they provide many activities and cheap little travels. However, I'd recommend just trying many places and not stick too much with the bars & restaurants that you go to with the organisations because there's so much more to discover than only those places. There's something for everyone in Bologna, it's an amazing city for culture and leisure!
suggestions/tips

Take the train to other cities, and see if you can even do some nice trips or hikes, because the area is very beautiful and you'll have enough time next to studying. Every first Sunday of the month all museums in Italy are free so use that! There's many activities organised by cultural organisations, you can get a ARCI pass for example, which allows you to go to a lot of nice bars, concerts, events etc. Going to the cinema is a great way of learning Italian. On Wednesday;s there's live music at Labas, which is a squatters centre, it's a really nice place. Try and learn the language because it will open some doors for you and it is a beautiful language!!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would, Italy is a beautiful country, and Bologna is for me the best city in Italy for students to go to. There's a nice student culture, the food is amazing and there is a lot of thing to do everyday.

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> susdorf.marek@gmail.com
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Research Master Gender Studies

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Bologna University
start date	20 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It was a long time of preparing and sending the application, collecting documents and asking for references and some advice from other people that had already taken this exchange.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The Utrecht University was very supportive, helpful and professional, they helped me a lot with filling in the forms and making my decisions.
academic preparation	My only academic preparation was actually following my courses at Utrecht University. I knew what courses I wanted to take at the receiving institution so I was already prepared for them in terms of my academic knowledge.
language preparation	I did not take courses in Italian although I went to Bologna. The language of instruction at the receiving university was English. Despite of this fact, I took some lessons in Italian which I enjoyed very much.
finances	The Erasmus grant helped me a lot but of course it did not cover my all expenses. I had some savings and also tried to earn some money from my own commissions.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I absolutely loved the courses at Bologna University. The staff at the university was very helpful, supportive and also professional. I did not find any additional and unnecessary obstacles or problems regarding my stay there, everything was in the right order.
academic quality of education activities	I enjoyed the courses also in terms of their academic quality. The system at the receiving institution differs a lot from its Utrecht counterpart but I managed to understand the rules and obey them. There is a greater emphasis put on lecturers rather than seminars but actually, thanks to that, I learnt how to deal with such kind of classes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Bologna University was very helpful and supportive, I did not encounter any superfluous difficulties there.
transfer of credits
Everything was in right order, I only needed to submit the transcript of my grades and the stuff from the University did all for me.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
It was a challenge at the beginning as this kind of situations may be a challenge, everything is new and you need to learn how to find yourself in the right pace in the right moment. But after a while it was all well-known. The only thing is to be patient with learning new rules.
accommodation
Well, I found it actually astounding that it was so difficult to find accommodation in Bologna, but it turned out that because of the size of the city and the large number of international students it was extremely hard to find and also search for a place to stay. The renting portals are all in Italian, it is actually hardly possible to get accommodation if you do not know Italian or an Italian person. Luckily, I had friends who helped me with that.
leisure & culture
It was absolutely amazing to stay in Bologna, there are many miscellaneous museums and attractions, the architecture is fabulous, the people are great and the food is gorgeous. I did enjoy staying in Italy, it was very teaching at many levels.
suggestions/tips
If you are going abroad I would recommend to get to know as many people as you know. Firstly, because of your network. Secondly, because you never know when you will need some help when you are abroad, alone in a foreign country.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely yes. Bologna University is very welcoming, the staff is very friendly, the academicians are so professional and the courses are extremely interesting. The city is fabulous and has got much to offer. I definitely enjoyed staying there and would do that once again if I could.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try not to miss deadlines and always bear in mind that you have to do the paperwork connected to the exchange. There is a lot of forms to fill in.

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> i.t.m.geerlings@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	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	Bologna, Italië
name university abroad	Università degli studi di Bologna
start date	14 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It can be difficult to get in contact with the exchange coordinator at the receiving university or find an updated version of the website where you can choose courses from at the time of application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Not a lot of guidance, but availability through email was helpful and very helpful and the people at the international office helped me a lot with bureaucratic problems.
academic preparation	None.
language preparation	None, besides taking a dictionary.
finances	Applying for the erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took three Italian courses: Antropologia Culturale, Sociologia and Arabo 1. The courses were difficult to follow in the first few weeks but I started to understand more and more. In the end I could understand most of the lectures and was able to take the exams in Italian and Arabic. The organization of the courses is very different from the UU, so there are for example only lectures and no seminars.
academic quality of education activities	Good professors that usually give student the opportunity to ask questions and participate eventhough there are only lectures and no seminars. However, it still feels way more passive than taking a course at the UU, because you are forced to prepare and participate while in Bologna everything (usually also attendance) is based on your own responsibility.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	It was hard to get in touch with my exchange coordinator, but the welcoming day was useful. After that, there was no more counselling or support, but that was also not necessary.

transfer of credits
Not done yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
After the check-in, there is a welcoming day where you get important information on the studyplan, class hours etcetera. Very useful.
accommodation
Accommodation in Bologna is a mess. Too many exchange students for the accommodation available for them. Many people ended up living in way too expensive rooms or airbnb. It is really hard to find a room when you're not there yet, so I went there first without housing and only luckily found a room on the day before I would have to leave my hostel and have nowhere else to go because everything was booked or more than 100 euro per night. My advice is to live a bit outside the city center and buy a bike because it is still really close, cheaper, more options and having a bike in Bologna is anyway the best thing.
leisure & culture
Great city, nice things to do and to see. A lot of the museums or things to see that are also free or not expensive. Many places for drinks, nice food, aperitivo etc. Also around Bologna are a few nice cities like Ferrara. Tour of Bologna is recommended.
suggestions/tips
Travel to other places and cities because in the end, Bologna is very small. Also visit things in Bologna like the Archeginnasio and places like the Teatro Comunale. Buy a bike and a good lock for the bike because they get stolen a lot. Drinks in via del Pratello. And eat a cotoletta alla bolognese.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes absolutely, Bologna is a great city that is not too big and filled with students or places that are made for students. There are a lot nice bars, cafes and cheap restaurants which are perfect for students. I had interesting courses with great professors and really nice italian students. Met great people from Bologna and all over the worlds and you run into the same people because the city is small which is great.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
save a lot of money before going.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	University of Bologna

start date	29 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	It went really easy. I registered for the rest places and Bologna was my number one. After already a few weeks I got an email that I was accepted by the University.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	/
academic preparation	
	I didn't need to do any academic preparation before I left to Bologna.
language preparation	
	It is not necessary to speak the Italian language in Bologna. Many courses are taught in English and almost everyone speaks English.
finances	
	The prices in Bologna are more or less the same as in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	At the University of Bologna it is possible to choose courses of different faculties, you only need to follow half of your courses within your own faculty. I was assigned as a students of the humanities faculty, but I also follow courses of the economics faculty and the political science faculty. I didn't have any organisational issues.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of the courses differs. Some courses have the same hight of academic quality as in the Netherlands (University of Utrecht) and others were a bit easier. It depends on the content of the courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	/
transfer of credits	
	The transfer of credits goes very slowly. Check frequently if the professor already registered the credits and otherwise contact him/her.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	During the first weeks they organized different welcome programs for the exchange students. At these meetings they explained
accommodation	
	It is really hard to fin an accomodation in Bologna, since it is a bog university city. Make sure that you start early with looking for a room and do not wait until you arrived in Bologna. It can take a few weeks before you have found something. Rooms are overall quite expensive in Bologna, more or less the same prices for rent as in

Utrecht. Watch out with transferring money to 'landlords' before you have seen the room. A lot of people got scammed by fake landlords.
leisure & culture
/
suggestions/tips
/

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, it is a great university with a lot of diverse course offers. I also highly recommend the city itself and the atmosphere. It is a small city, but therefore really easy to meet people and to discover the city.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Start searching for a room early, before you arrive in Bologna and watch out for fake landlords and scamming.

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	Faculteit Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Italian language and culture

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I tried to follow all the deadlines, asked friends who had been on Erasmus in Bologna for advise if needed, but all in all it was all quite simple. The steps to follow are quite clear.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I didn't use much counselling before going on Erasmus, except that I wanted to find a substitute course in Bologna for an obligatory course that I had to still follow at Utrecht University. For this I contacted the Exam Committee of UU, and they accepted my request.
academic preparation
Academically I didn't need to prepare much, except of course that I had a good look at the Course Catalog of Università di Bologna to find out what courses I wanted to follow.
language preparation

As my bachelor in Utrecht is Italian language and culture, my study already provided me with enough basis of the language to study without problems in Italy. On top of that I was lucky to have an Italian flatmate still in Utrecht for 4 months before leaving, so I could practice already daily for 4 months before leaving to Bologna.
finances
Together with the Erasmus Grant I had some money saved up, from my job, and from the 'regular' student loan that I take. That was enough.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the beginning I had planned to follow courses with a total of 39 ECTS, which already before I even started classes turned out to be way too much. Next to that some courses were given only at the Campus of Forli, which is at least 1,5 hour by bus, so in practice following courses at another Campus than that of the city of Bologna was impossible. It could be done maybe if that was the only class I had on that day, but since I had one in Bologna too it wasn't doable. Also the course timetables overlapped for some courses, so in the end just 3 courses was more than enough. One course I also ended up changing because the course content overlapped too much with a course I had already followed in Utrecht. Changing courses is quite easy, as you only have to subscribe for exams, otherwise you can just attend all courses you like. So better to attend a lot of different courses in the first week or two, to see what you like, and then continue following those and 'dropping' (stop following) the rest.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses was good, only in one courses, Pedagogia Interculturale, we were with about 100 students, and they made us do presentations in groups of 5-6 in front of that big of a group. As there were many groups to present, for weeks students had to listen to presentations.. This didn't really work very well.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I only went to the International Office once to make my registration complete, other than that I didn't use any counselling or support services so I can't tell anything about it. I just had some e-mail contact with the professor of the course of Linguistics that I was following and which counted as a substitute of a obligatory course at Utrecht University (with permission of the UU Exam Committee), about the course credits, as I had some confusion about that. He was helpful and answered my questions via mail clearly and fast.
transfer of credits
At the check-out at the International Office of Bologna my transcript of records wasn't finished yet, as one of my three votes wasn't put in the system yet. Later after coming home they sent the Transcript of Records to the International Office at UU and they in turn sent it to me. The transfer of the credits themselves is still in the progress.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a welcome speech for Erasmus students, but I didn't go as I had already met some people with whom I had plans. Other than that I'm not sure if they had much orientation or welcome programs, in either case I didn't attend any of it as I felt I didn't need it.
accommodation
I was quite lucky finding a room via a room website of Bologna, (not via the University), and have had a good experience in my house. It was big, well maintained, in a nice area just outside the city walls(center). A little bit

more expensive than I had hoped, but then again, it was basically thrown in my lap, and it being also a single room (not shared), I accepted and didn't regret it.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a very lively vibrant city. Nightlife, live music, theatre, cinema, events.. There is always something to do. Plus, if you want, there are no less than 3 Erasmus organisations, ESN, Erasmusland(ESEG) and ELBO. Every Wednesday at the Empire pub there is a Language Tandem where you can talk and meet other foreign students as well as many Italians.Plus from 23 till midnight there is a free salsa lesson.
suggestions/tips
Getting a public library pass is free, and renting books AND movies is also FREE! Also it's worth visiting the parks in the hills south of Bologna, they are easy to reach either by bike or by bus. For example Parco Villa Ghigi, if you climb to the top of the hill you have a great view over the whole city. Also a walk to Basilica San Luca is worth it.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Bologna as a city to study! It is beautiful, almost no tourists, lots of students, lots of cozy bars and cafés, lots of things to do.. It has a great vibe. Also many Italians say that in Italy it's the best city to study. The university as well offers many good and interesting courses, the only thing is that in the beginning if you didn't arrive on time it could happen that you had to sit on the floor because there wasn't enough place. But a bit later in the semester this was no longer a problem.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Start on time with studying, or at least try to keep on track with the reading material. Because in Italy for most courses you usually only have one exam at the end of the semester, which means you have to learn a lot and if you start only just a week or two before the exam you might find out it is too much to learn in too little time.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I started my application process a bit late because at first I wasn't sure if I wanted to do an exchange. When the time to sign up for the remaining places came, I immediately applied (that was end of November 2015). The amount of papers to get ready in time is quite a lot. But it's just a matter of spending some time figuring out who is responsible for what in case you need help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support at UU was very good. Emails were always answered quite quick.
academic preparation	I chose Bologna for several reasons and my academic preparation was more concerned with me trying to align my research focus in Utrecht with what I was going to spend the semester doing in Bologna.
language preparation	I chose courses to be followed in English in Bologna and Italian is one of my mother tongues, so it wasn't need for me.
finances	It was a bit unpleasant to wait until the very end to know the amount I was going to receive, but everything worked out fine. Just follow the deadlines for applications and it's all fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	University of Bologna was a bit unorganised in terms of schedule but it was just a matter of understanding the way things work.
academic quality of education activities	The quality of courses were very good. I just struggled for not being used to having large classes (with 80 ppl) in some of the courses, but on the other hand it was good to be exposed to different types of pedagogies.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I never really had to contact anyone for anything besides what was asked by UU and for that it was always easy to reach the people in charge.
transfer of credits	

I still do not know how this will work.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
Since I already knew the city, the country and the culture, I didn't feel lost once I arrived and didn't have difficulties figuring things out.	
accommodation	
I found a room within 2 weeks with the help of friends.	
leisure & culture	
Bologna offers a lot in terms of culture and this was also one of the reasons I chose to go there. I knew the city would inspire me socially and academically to figure out how to develop my final thesis in UU.	
suggestions/tips	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend University of Bologna as a destination for your Erasmus exchange. Bologna is one of the oldest universities in Europe and one can gain a lot from its tradition. In addition, the city offers a lot in terms of student life and it's a destination where you can bridge acquiring academic knowledge with exploring and being inspired by the city's cultural environment.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	31 / 1 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 6 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The exchange application process was very clear and easy. More or less everything was stated online and if anything was unclear, the international office could always help me out.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	

The support I got from UU was very helpful. Usually they would respond to my e-mails within a day.
academic preparation
The academic level in Italy was very much in line with the dutch academic level so no preparation was needed.
language preparation
Even though all the courses I attended were in English I learned some Italian just to get by in daily life. Though I would certainly recommend this it is not absolutely necessary.
finances
Prices in Bologna are more or less the same as in Holland, but life on erasmus is definitely more expensive than in Holland. You will want to make a trip every now and then and go out for dinner and drinks a few times a week. Make sure to take this into account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Studying in Italy is not the same as in Holland. You have way more liberty. You can, for instance, choose whether you attend classes or not. Also, the deadlines are very negotiable.
academic quality of education activities
In general, the level of classes was about the same as in Holland.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really seek counsel at the receiving university. I only had direct contact with the teachers who were generally very friendly.
transfer of credits
The grades in Italy are given on a scale of 30 (30 being the highest). It is not very rare to receive a 30 so in Holland they translate this as a 8,5, which seems fair to me.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university as well as organisations such as ESN or Erasmusland organised city tours, welcome dinners/lunches so this was well taken care of.
accommodation
Housing in Bologna is quite expensive (comparable to Utrecht) and difficult to find so make sure you start looking on time.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a very central place in Italy. Within two hours by train you can be in Milan, Venice, Parma, Modena, Florence, Ravenna and Rimini so there is plenty of places to visit on a day trip.
suggestions/tips

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

Yes I would recommend this university. Bologna is a real student city, so life revolves around students. It might not be as impressive as Rome or Florence but it is definitely a great place to study.

do you have any additional advice or comments?
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