

2022-2023

Report 1

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: sigrid.de.boer@hotmail.com</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>	
faculty/college	Humanities	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Communication- and Informationsciences	

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>I think the most difficult part of the application process was the research to all the universities of interest. It is for example important to know if the university of your interest offers courses that fit into your study programme. Finding things out about the universities costed a lot of time and effort, but once I decided UNIBO (Università di Bologna) would be my first choice, the application and motivationletter itself were not that difficult.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>Although you had to do the research to universities and to general information about an exchange by yourself, you could always mail to UU's international office and count on a reply. For my questions about an exchange instead of a minor, I even scheduled a meeting with my study advisor, which helped me a lot. Of course, much information can be found on the website of UU, so I was guided there a couple of times. Sometimes it took some time to find out what I wanted to know, but it always worked out.</p>
academic preparation	<p>I didn't have to follow any specific courses for my exchange.</p>
language preparation	<p>I didn't study Italian, since I would follow all my courses in English. Because my studies in Utrecht is entirely in Dutch, I decided to follow some courses in English before my abroad period, as reassurance.</p>

finances
I had saved some money in the years before my exchange, thanks to jobs I had and allowance from my parents. Besides my savings, I had a student loan. During my exchange I was glad I still received this loan every month, since my period abroad was much more expensive than I calculated before. Of course it depends all on yourself how much you want to spend, I went on a lot of trips in Italy for example which costed me a lot. Fortunately, I could also claim the Erasmus grant and an OV compensation of 120 euros a month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the beginning, it was really hard to understand the UNIBO website and to even find out which courses were available for me. Eventually I chose 6 courses, each of 6 ECTS, which would get me a total of 36 ECTS (I only needed 30). Once I arrived in Bologna, it became more clear which courses were actually available and when the lectures would take place. Based on this new information, I compiled a new Learning Agreement (this time only 5 courses) and sent it to the guest university and international office of UU, who approved. This all happened a day before my lectures started, so you should assume that your study plan can even change if you're already in the place of your destination.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the lectures really differed and depended on the course. I would say the average quality and intensity of the courses is lower than the ones in Utrecht. Most of my courses consisted of only listening lectures three times a week, instead of seminars. Attendance was not mandatory in most of the courses. The exams of my courses consisted of essays of ca. 4000 words, but sometimes there was also given the option to take an oral exam instead of writing an essay. Oral exams are the most common method of assesment in Bologna, I think. They last for approximately 15 minutes, and usually they take place in front of the classroom. However, everyone is waiting for their turn and reviewing the material, so the other students don't really pay attention to the student who's talking to the professor in front of the class.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
A lot of information about courses and assesments I had to figure out on my own. That is mostly because of the culture difference, since the teachers usually don't give clear instructions about what should be included in an essay, or what an oral exam would look like. On the other hand, this also provided a lot of freedom around the subject you wanted to write about or in what way.
transfer of credits
While writing this document, I haven't received all my grades yet. Therefore I cannot share my experiences with the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university didn't provide a welcome programme (the lectures immediately started after the online check-in), but the ESN organization did. I would definitely recommend becoming a member of the ESN Bologna (Erasmus Student Network). Not only do they provide a welcome programme where you can meet other internationals, they organize events for international students throughout the whole year. You can follow them on Instagram and Facebook (@esn_bologna).
accommodation
It took some time to find accomodation. I mostly looked at websites such as Dovevivo, StanzaSemplice, and eventually found my room in an apartment with 3 other students on SAIS.com. There are several groupchats on

Whatsapp for Erasmusstudents in which also available rooms are being promoted. Some of these groupchats can be found on the website of ESN Bologna. Accommodation is quite expensive in Bologna, most of the people I knew paid more than 600 euros per month. However, for this price you can live in the centre of the city.
leisure & culture
Like I said, there are a lot of activities being organized by ESN, almost every day of the week. These activities often take place in the evening, in the form of parties. Besides that, ESN organizes trips to other places in Italy and even other countries. I would in any circumstance recommend going on trips to other cities, even if you don't want to go with ESN, since everything is easily accesible from Bologna. Some of the best moments of my exchange were during one of those trips to for example Rome, Naples, or a daytrip to cities closer to Bologna. Furthermore, Bologna offers a lot of good cafes and restaurants, since the city is known as the food capital of the world.
suggestions/tips
See above.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend UNIBO to other students, especially since Bologna is really focused on students. There are a lot of exchange students, as well as Italian students, and a lot of possibilities for students to go out, to party, or to study in a café/at the university. The university is not as well organized as for example UU is, but for the 6 months I was there, this was not a problem for me.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If you want to go on exchange, do it! Although I am really happy I chose Bologna, I think the location doesn't even matter that much. The experience itself is what makes it great.	

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	31 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	

<p>If you are interested in studying abroad, I would really recommend to start orientating early. I knew that I wanted to go to Italy, so that already narrowed many universities down. I knew some destinations I would be interested in studying, like Rome and Venice. So I looked at the course catalogue if there were courses I liked. In the end I made a top 3 of the universities I wanted to go to and already had a list of courses I was interested to follow. Just keep in mind that finding your top 3 takes a lot of time.</p>
<p>counselling & support at Utrecht University</p>
<p>Since I orientated on time, I didn't need much help from the University of Utrecht. However, whenever I had any questions with regards to studying abroad the International Office were helpful and responded fast</p>
<p>academic preparation</p>
<p>I wanted to follow courses from disciplines I had not discovered in my own bachelor. In this case, it is smart to look at bachelor courses. At the course catalogue from Università di Bologna bachelor courses are shown as 'laurea' and master courses 'laurea magistrale'.</p>
<p>language preparation</p>
<p>Università di Bologna is one of the few Italian universities where you can follow quite a few English courses. The courses I chose were in English and next to that I followed an Italian language course given by the university. In my first year of my bachelor I followed Italian language courses at UU, so I already had the basics of Italian.</p>
<p>finances</p>
<p>Because I knew that I wanted to study abroad, I put money aside for my savings. Living in Italy is not super expensive, however, the rent in Bologna can be very expensive.</p>

<p>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</p>
<p>study programme (content and organisational issues)</p>
<p>In Italy they do not have seminars like we have in the Netherlands. They give lectures only, so there is not much interactivity in the class. Be prepared for chaos, since it is not clear when the exam dates are published. At the end of the course you have to book for the exam (the date is often one month later, but you can book the exam often every month.).</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The courses I chose were good to follow and of good academic quality. The only thing is, is that I had to get used to lectures only.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>I did not need much help from the university, however, whenever I needed something got quite fast answer. For this it might be good to arrange things (as in certificate of attendance) on time.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>I did not have any problems with regards of transferring the credits. As long as you ask for approval on time to the exam secretariat. Should it be necessary, don't wait too long to amend your learning agreement as both UU and the receiving university have to sign it.</p>

<p>STUDENT LIFE</p>
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>
<p>At the university of Bologna we had a welcome programme - which started two weeks after the classes had already started - they show you around the campuses and give you a small introduction to the university.</p>

accommodation
I would recommend to start searching early for a place to live in Bologna. It is unfortunately extremely difficult to find a room in Bologna. If you do not mind to share a room, the costs will probably be around 400 euros per month, otherwise be prepared to increase your budget for a single room. In addition, pay attention to where your room is located, because if it is outside the city walls you could consider buying a bike to move around in Bologna. Since the busses aren't always the most reliable one.
leisure & culture
Bologna might not be the most touristic city, however, it is an amazing city to live in as a student. It is known to be a student city and in the evening there is always something nice to do.
suggestions/tips
There are nice study cafés where you could go to study instead of the library (if you want to switch things up). At Piazza Verdi (which is located nearby via Zamboni the university street) you can buy really cheap coffee. This is a good one to keep in mind in you will make long hours in the library.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Bologna is an amazing destination for your Erasmus. The city actually kinda reminded me of Utrecht, since it is also small (not as small as Utrecht), pretty and gezellig. (Gezellig is the Dutch word for nice)
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By train and Flixbus
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	27 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It took some time to figure out all the stuff you have to think about before going on an exchange. Sometimes it felt like an extra course. The UU webpage gives a lot of information about the application process, so I would recommend to take a look there when you don't know what to do. If you miss information on the webpage, you

can always send an e-mail to International Office. They will help you where they can. Although it all took effort and time, it is absolutely worth it.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The communication with International Office in Utrecht went smoothly. They responded to my e-mails within a short period of time.
academic preparation
I did not prepare myself academically since I've chosen courses in my area of interest.
language preparation
Except for learning some basics on Duolingo, I did not prepare myself linguistically. The fact that I cannot speak Italian did not hinder me during my exchange.
finances
I got the Erasmus grant and the money I saved before I went on exchange. You are probably going to spend more money than you would expect. Therefore, I was really happy I saved some money before departure.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I've followed some communication courses, but also some courses about Italian culture. I would recommend taking the Introduction to Italian Culture course. Most students are Erasmus students there, which gives an opportunity to meet new people. I've followed four courses from which three were on Master level. Although the Bachelor courses are easier in general, the Master courses were still doable as a third year bachelor student. Something I wasn't aware of is the fact that you can choose your own deadlines or exam dates. Most courses provide four options. This way you can personalize your own exam period.
academic quality of education activities
I've experienced some differences in the level of education. When I attended my first class, the professor told us that we have to cite resources in our papers and that we had to "pay attention" to Wikipedia. These things are basic knowledge in the Netherlands, but apparently still need to be noticed in Master courses here. It was relatively easy to get high grades. Compared to the UU, I had a lot of classes during the week. Although they weren't all mandatory, I had to get used to this. All the classes were lectures, there were no seminars.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The communication with Unibo was OK. It took a long time before I got the information I needed to sign up for courses and the check-in, but in the end the information was clear. I was worried about the communication before I arrived, but you will get used to the way they work.
transfer of credits
I didn't received my credits yet, since I'm still waiting for some results.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There wasn't a welcome programme from the university itself, but there are two student organisations (IC Bologna and ESN Bologna) that organized activities. Participating in these activities really helps getting to know not only the city but also other students.
accommodation

Finding an accommodation was quite hard for me. I was surprised by the insane rent prices in Bologna. At the end, I was kind of forced to rent a room which cost me 700 euros per month. This is a lot for a room that wasn't even in the centre of Bologna. I would recommend SAIS or Stanza Semplice to look for a room or you can send a message in the ESN groupchat on WhatsApp (link can probably be found on their Instagram page).
leisure & culture
Bologna is similar to Utrecht and therefore it is the perfect student city. It is not very big, so I could visit my friends very easily. There are a lot of international students and the student organisations organize lots of trips and activities.
suggestions/tips
Go to student bars like the Irish Pub, Cucchiaio d'oro, and the bars at Via Pratello for example. Especially on Erasmus nights! If you want to relax somewhere out of the busy centre, Giardini Margherita is the perfect place. Besides, I would really recommend to go on trips with friends to visit other beautiful places in Italy. I've joined a field hockey team which also gave me the opportunity to see more of Italy but also of its culture. This really made my Erasmus experience complete.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend it to go on exchange to Bologna! The fact that the city isn't very big and not touristic at all makes it very livable. In general, people speak English, so if you don't speak Italian it's not a problem at all. You can meet a lot of international students through the student associations because they organize activities almost every day. From what I've heard from other people who went on exchange, this isn't always the case, so Bologna is very international oriented!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't worry to much about the application of courses and exams. It often happens really last minute, but that is just typically Italian (you'll get used to that), it will work out eventually! Ask other students for help if you need it, because everyone is very helpful!

Report 4

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>							
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">my e-mail address</td> <td>yes: allegrarose20@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>my weblog</td> <td>yes:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>my Facebook account</td> <td>yes: Allegra Geiger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>other (social) media</td> <td>yes:</td> </tr> </table>	my e-mail address	yes: allegrarose20@gmail.com	my weblog	yes:	my Facebook account	yes: Allegra Geiger	other (social) media
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

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.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Support from Utrecht University was efficient, and I always felt like there was someone to help.

academic preparation

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.

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)

<p>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.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>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.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>Very good. The staff was always responsive and there to help.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>Credits are the same, so that is made easy.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>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.</p>
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	

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!

CONCLUSIONS

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

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).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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.

Report 5

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: 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	Kunstgeschichte / 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 accomodation was affordable, but there is an extreme shortage and many scammers. If you want any chance to find accomodation, 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)
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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 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.
academic quality of education activities	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

<p>papers more than reading 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 apartment 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/ 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.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>
<p>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.</p>

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 indibiduality 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?