

2022-2023

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Rome, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	LUISS Guido Carli
start date	09 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 12 / 22 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Since this program was a structured exchange directly between the PPE programs of Utrecht University and LUISS, I found the application process to be pretty straightforward. What is most important is to understand the deadlines, and as long as you stick to them, there should be no issues. My biggest recommendation would be to apply for and stay on top of the Erasmus grant program so that you can receive the funding before, or early on during your stay abroad.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support from Utrecht University was sufficient, and although there was some confusion surrounding necessary documents etc. they answered all of my questions efficiently and effectively.
academic preparation	The academic study culture of Italy differs fundamentally from that of the Netherlands. Be prepared for a different style of education, focused more on lectures from professors rather than the seminar-style courses of PPE at Utrecht.
language preparation	If your English is sufficient for academics at Utrecht you should face no issues at LUISS. I would highly recommend picking up at least a bit of basic Italian to help you through your day to day life, although most people in Rome speak decent English
finances	Rome as a city is not particularly cheap, housing is especially expensive for short term renters like exchange students. Once you have arrived, it will take some time to figure out your go-to spots, but you can find affordable places if you look hard enough (and in the right areas). I would recommend market shopping if you are looking to save money on anything from food to clothing.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

Philosophy, Politics and Economics. The content of the exchange courses align perfectly with the areas of study explored at Utrecht. You will find a lot of common themes in the academic approach to topics, although the manner of this approach is somewhat different. The organizational structure of LUISS is very Italian, so be prepared for a slower administrative pace as compared to the Netherlands.
academic quality of education activities
The professors are highly qualified and provide interesting lectures on the variety of topics. However, the lack of seminars (as compared to Utrecht) was a downside for me, as I find discussion-based learning to be particularly rewarding.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Staff and support was very friendly and helpful. I experienced no issues in resolving any problems or challenges that I faced during my stay.
transfer of credits
Being a structured exchange, the transfer of credits is very straightforward. The classes are partially pre-selected, and the ones that you do pick are clearly aligned with the PPE study program, so receiving approval from the Board of Examiners is no issue.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I still had many questions after orientation, and there was a clear difference between the orientation given to exchange students as compared to actual incoming students, but it was useful in getting some questions answered and getting a feel for the campus.
accommodation
This was the most difficult part of the process, as finding housing at a reasonable rate for the short period of time is especially challenging. Most landlords only look to rent for period of 6 months or longer, and I only stayed for 4 months. Make sure to book your room at the beginning of the Summer leading up to the exchange, do not wait until a couple of weeks before, because you will be stuck with very expensive places in less than ideal locations.
leisure & culture
The Italian lifestyle is everything you want it to be and more.
suggestions/tips
Explore the country and countryside while on exchange as much as you can. Try and visit some unexpected places, the experience is worthwhile.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Most definitely. Exchange is about more than academics, and those factors - culture, people, opportunities - are all found in abundance in Rome and Italy more generally. Rome is particularly unique, as there is always something going on and something to do. Everytime you walk through the city you see and experience something new.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go for it! Exchange wasn't something I expected to do, but I couldn't be happier that I did.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Rome, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	LUISS Rome
start date	09 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	applied for the ones I liked. This one was at the top, and I was very glad to have gotten it.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Counseling was very good, and it was clear from the getgo what I was getting myself into. Felt like there was also a good setting of expectations of what everything would be like.
academic preparation	
	didn't really need to. Felt like my level here would be sufficient to make do in Italy, and I was right.
language preparation	
	Started on Duolingo during the summer. Took Italian classes in Italy itself. Felt like it was very cool to understand the locals a lot better after 3 months
finances	
	Saved up a lot of money. All of it was much needed, as I didn't want to run into problems abroad. Took almost 3,000 euros with me, returned penniless.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The program was very good, and the content was an interesting expansion of the work we did here in the Netherlands. It was extremely well-organized, and this was also very welcomed.
academic quality of education activities	
	Academic quality wasn't too high. I honestly felt like the classes could have been more engaging, but the amount of ground covered was good. Also very cool to take classes that expanded on my curriculum here. Took one class too much, but that was fine.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

Had trouble being let into the IT system, with one course, with living space. Needed to mostly work that out myself. Felt like LUISS could have done more to fix these issues, but there were attempts to help nonetheless.
transfer of credits
doesn't work until now. Very annoyed that a class that I took and that I worked for now isn't showing up on my records.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
One day. Could have been better, and we were not really oriented in that sense.
accommodation
didn't get university housing and thus was in trouble when my other housing option fell through. Didn't really receive enough support on that account.
leisure & culture
Brilliant. Have never had more fun in three months than the time I spent in Rome, and there was so much to do that every day brought something new. One of the most fun times of my life.
suggestions/tips
Go see everything. Every church, every monument, every nearby city. Rome is an open air theatre, and there is a lot to do in the region as well. I took a trip to Morocco as well, which was honestly so cool. SO make sure to travel as well, if you have the time.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. 100%. Italy is culturally very close to Spain and France, so it felt familiar. The fact that I had been there before as well helped a lot. It also helped that I already spoke Spanish, which meant that I could follow conversation and written instructions well. And while the level wasn't necessarily astounding, there was a lot of intent to teach well by people who were extremely good at their professions.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I hope everyone gets to go on exchange in their studies! Was so cool.

Report 3

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: j.jasminehaifazahra@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: @jazfilmthings (instagram)
faculty/college	Humanities	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Philosophy Politics Economics	
destination city & country	Rome, Italy	

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	LUISS Guido Carli Roma
start date	12 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was quite early around December. We were required to fill in some forms, but it required a lot of attention as we need to ensure that the courses would be enough for the minimum required for the semester. Therefore, I spendt a lot of time going through the different courses that are available and matched my programme across different universities. I had to do it in advance of the deadline as it also needs to be revised by my student advisor. The process after the decision for UU was a bit more complex. As we need to also apply and deal with the admission of our exchange university. There are a lot of emails being sent, being received. Therefore it was important to keep up with our inbox.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think it was quite helpful. I contacted my student advisor a lot during this moment. Also the international office was also open to help with the documents that is often need to be signed and submitted before the deadline. They also provided us with pre-departure meetings which was very helpful. I also find the timeline where it lays out the documents/forms that need to be submitted very helpful to keep me on track for my erasmus grant for example.

academic preparation

I think there is not much academic preparation such as readings or revisions that need to be done. The most important thing for the academia oriented preparation is choosing the right courses.

language preparation

I did not have to take any language tests as my programme would be done in English. However I did have to do a language test in english in the erasmus website.

finances

Erasmus grant took a lot of time. There are many documents that need to be signed, filled out, and submitted such as the Learning Agreement. There are also finances for the housings for example or travel. However, this comes after the definitive statement that says that I have been admitted to the exchange programme by both UU and my exchange university LUISS.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My programme was Philosophy Poliitics Economics mobility program between UU and LUISS. I took three mandatory courses for PPE students and 2 electives which were optional. For these two latter courses, I chose two master courses that interested me.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was quite good. Although it was structured very different from UU, therefore it may be hard for some to get used to doing a semester of lectures and classes and a month of exam at the end.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There were tutors that was willing to help us a lot. The IT office was also very helpful and available on campus. However, there was no study advisor for the programme that I was aware of.
transfer of credits
It was quite easy and fast process. As the programme was already structured by both universities for PPE students, there was less concern about whether the courses I am taking in my exchange university matched with the programme I am doing in UU.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
It was very nice. LUISS made us feel very welcome, with a day full of orientation activities. I was able to meet a lot of other erasmus students who became long term friends. There were also a couple of other meetings made after the semester had started which really helped us make more friends.
accommodation
This one is what I struggled quite a lot with. Rome is a tough city to find housing in especially in the span of 3-4 months of looking in advance. For future erasmus students who are going to Rome, I would really advice them to try to find housing as early as they possibly can. Looking at platforms regularly also helped me find the housing I got nearing my departure to Rome.
leisure & culture
Rome and Italy is full of things to do. I don't think one would have troubles in trying to find what to do in this mega, historical, cultural city.
suggestions/tips
Rome is a city that is full of culture and historical landmarks. I think to get full experience, one should explore the city as much as they can. Interaction with people also made my experience evermore meaningful. Italy is also a country that is much affordable than The Netherlands. For instance in terms of travelling within Italy, it is very much more affordable. Therefore I would advice students to explore other cities near Rome, or even in other regions of Italy. Booking travel plans in advance, where tickets are much cheaper.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. As I said in the previous section, this city is a perfect place for erasmus. The city is very much alive, and there is an endless amount of adventures one can find themselves in when they are in Rome. The culture is also very different from The Netherlands, therefore it allows us to expand our perspectives and mind. Discovering new perspectives is something very valuable that I took from my experience. LUISS is quite different from UU. However I think that any UU students who is admitted to the programme by UU and LUISS should be capable of following the programme.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE)

destination city & country	Rome, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Bus
name university abroad	LuiSS University
start date	01 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

As LUISS University has a structured partnership with the PPE program in Utrecht, the application process was straight forward and well guided. The description of the destination and the instructions for the application process was helpful and, therefore, despite the necessary bureaucracy it was not very difficult to apply.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Usually, the International Office responded to my emails in very few days and sometimes even on the same day. Unfortunately, due to Covid no specific office hours were provided but that was not a big problem as their responses by email were helpful.

academic preparation

Academically speaking, the PPE program prepared me more than well for my courses abroad. In PPE I have learned how to work independently and in groups, how to do research and write essays and got an overview the disciplines that I am studying. Therefore, PPE provided me with a good academic background so that my courses at LUISS university seemed to be rather easy and far less time intensive.

language preparation

All my courses at LUISS university were taught in English. As my study program is fully taught in English, I was not confronted with any problems in terms of communication and the understanding of the teaching material. I did not take any Italian classes prior to my departure but I did some online Italian language practices during my stay abroad. Furthermore, most of the essential phrases in Italian I learned learning-by-doing as most people in Rome do not speak English.

finances

My expenditure in Rome were similar to the ones that I have in Utrecht. The housing prices differ significantly in Rome, depending on the location, size and how lucky you get to make a good deal. Moreover, most of the time I was very busy exploring the city or being in Uni so that I had very little time and energy to cook frequently. The restaurant and bar prices are really low compared to the Netherlands. This is why I ate in restaurants/ streetfood most of the time so that, overall, I had roughly the costs as in Utrecht. However, the financial grant that is included in Erasmus plus enabled me to cover most of the costs without using my personal savings.

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	LUISS University uses many online platforms and applications and to get information and attend classes was very confusing in the beginning. The professors and university staff was friendly but their English skills were often quite limited. As the university does not have universal time slots, it was very difficult to choose courses of interest that do not overlap. Therefore, I was forced to take courses that I was not that interested in, which was unfortunate as the overlap was only partially.
academic quality of education activities	Even though LUISS university is considered as one of the best and most prestigious universities in Italy, the quality of education is significantly lower than in Utrecht. More course load is higher and they have more lecture/ seminar time than at Utrecht University. However, the classes are barely interactive and all the discussed content can be found on the uploaded slides. The covered topics were interesting and relevant but quite often not sufficiently in depth. Most of the material in my courses in political science was presented as given facts and was not up to discussion, which I found a bit frustrating sometimes.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not have any severe issues that required support and, therefore, I am not able to provide a precise answer to this question. However, the majority of the non-teaching staff is not fluent in English, which makes the communication quite difficult. Furthermore, it was not clearly stated how to find and choose courses and where to find advice. Most of the explanation and support we received was provided by ESN LUISS rather than by the university itself.
transfer of credits	Italy has a similar credit system. However, it is unfortunate that our grade do not count for our GPA in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Unfortunately, there was not in-person orientation programme for international students but only for Italians. We did have an online introduction. However, they only provided information that we had already received before, so it was not very helpful. All social welcome activities were organized by ESN LUISS and they did an amazing job. They organized a full week with daily activities including city tours, sports activities, dinners and parties. However, only international students and a few Italian ESN members participated in these events so that it was very difficult to get to know Italians.
accommodation	Due to Covid, Utrecht University confirmed my exchange semester in Rome only 1 month before departure, which made it very difficult and stressful to find housing as most of the apartments located close to uni were already rented out to other students. I managed to get a room in time but moved to a different place after one month which was more expensive than expected but with a better location.
leisure & culture	It was a very enriching cultural experience and I tried to get to see as much as possible of Rome and Italy in general. However, the unreliable public transport system makes getting around very difficult (sometimes even impossible, especially at night).

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

We had a lot of classes and in the beginning I spent a lot of time attending them. After a while I figured out which of the classes are actually important to follow and for which ones I can study by only looking at the uploaded PowerPoints, so that I had way more free time to spend in the city.

Unfortunately, I could not find sports clubs. Most of the activities in Rome are connected to eating and drinking so that my friends and I often explored different restaurants, bars and cafes around the entire city.

suggestions/tips

I strongly suggest becoming a ESN member and participating in their events because that is the best way to meet new people.

Furthermore, it is worth to travel to small cities around Rome or to go to the beach sometimes. Rome is a big city and can be very tiring after a while, so I always found it refreshing to leave it for a few days.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I recommend LUISS Univeristy as a destination to study abroad. Rome is an amazing and fun city and there are a lot of places and events to visit. LUISS is a good university but there are very limited options for extracurricular activities and therefore the engagement with the uni in general is quite low.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

More clarity and guidance at Luiss university in the first few days, more acitivities with the Italian students to get access to their "student bubble".

In the structured PPE partnership we were only allowed to take political science courses. However, I would have preferred to take some courses in Economics and it would be great if this would be offered to students in the future.

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Rome, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	LUISS Guido Carli
start date	08 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application went smoothly and I always knew whom to ask in case of any questions. Of course, the pandemic caused some uncertainty, but I hope it will be less problematic for the students in the next semesters.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University and the International Office
academic preparation
provided great support.
language preparation
Since both my studies at the UU and LUISS are fully in English, I didn't experience any language barriers on an academic level. Before arriving, I used Babbel to learn some Italian and attended a private two-weeks course at RomaIT (a private language school) before the beginning of the semester.
finances
Life in Italy is cheaper in the Netherlands. Especially eating out and cultural events are less expensive. The Erasmus grant is a great support to finance your stay!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Program at LUISS and chose two extra subjects. In total I obtained 36 credits during one semester.
academic quality of education activities
LUISS is one of the best universities in Italy. However, compared to the Dutch system, it was relatively easy to obtain high grades without doing too much effort. Compared to other Italian universities the programs were small-scale and interactive. Still, from a Dutch perspective, this is more or less normal. I definitely enjoyed my stay at LUISS, but it also made me appreciate the Dutch education system even more.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at LUISS is a big plus! There you can really see that it is a private university and student-oriented. I never encountered any serious organizational issues.
transfer of credits
I am still in the process of transferring the credits, but so far it seems to go smoothly.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
ENS LUISS organized a very fun welcome week which gave a lot of opportunities to meet people and make friends. They kept organizing events throughout the semester and were incredibly motivated.
accommodation
Housing prices are more or less comparable to Utrecht. I had a lot of luck with finding a room, but generally I would recommend the LUISS housing support.
leisure & culture
I could make it short and just say: GO TO ROME!!! I could write a whole book on how much I fell in love with the city. I never got tired of exploring it and especially for people with a historical/cultural interest it is the best place to be. I am so grateful that I had the chance to spend so much time in the city and would certainly do it again.
suggestions/tips

My favourit tip is to explore the neighborhoods Monti and Testaccio.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes certainly!!! I personally enjoy the academic side more at the UU, but afterall an Erasmus semester is also not only about studying. LUISS has still a relatively high level of education and interesting professors who work in the field. I will never forget living in Rome and the people I met.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Never stop to explore the city further - even five months are not actually enough ;)

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE)

destination city & country	Rome, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Flight
name university abroad	Luiss University
start date	13 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

in progress

counselling & support at Utrecht University

did not utilize counselling as there was no need for it in my case

academic preparation

did the assigned readings in preparation for the specific classes

language preparation

privately did some online Italian language practices, however I did not have time next to my classes to take part in the university's language program

finances

my parents have the financial burden, next to the Erasmus grant

Italy – Rome LUISS Guido Carli

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
No complaints in terms of the communication of Professors, however the initial period was very difficult due to the chaotic organisation. When choosing courses we had limited guidance and oversight on the content of the electives. Moreover, initially I was confused about the platforms where vital course information, syllabuses and grades are provided for students.
academic quality of education activities
High quality of education. More course load than at Utrecht University, however easier examinations
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
no major issue arose in that area
transfer of credits
similar credit system

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
very helpful and welcoming
accommodation
had some issues with finding quality accomodation, however made it work in the second month
leisure & culture
the most amazing cultural experience
suggestions/tips
I strongly suggest becoming a ESN member and participating in their events

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I highly recommend Luiss University, as well as Rome in general for all students looking for an amazing cultural experience
do you have any additional advice or comments?
more clarity and guidance at Luiss university in the first few days