



2023-2024

Report 1

ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Philosophy and Religious Studies
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	RMA Religious studies

destination city & country	Torino, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	I traveled there by train and will return by bus (probably flixbus)
name university abroad	Universita degli studi di Torino
start date	04 / 09 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 02 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Unito has a dedicated website in which they provide all information for how to apply. Besides this, I also had to follow the steps required by UU. The link to the unito erasmus page is very helpful so I would recommend checking this frequently. There was, however, a delay in receiving a confirmation that I could go on the exchange so I received the definitive answer from unito only in July (if I remember correctly) so it's good to be patient. Here is the link to the page with information https://en.unito.it/international-relations/students-mobility/exchange-students-and-erasmus-mobility
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office is very helpful.
academic preparation	I took electives so did not do any specific preparation. Keep in mind that the courses can change.
language preparation	I started learning the language a bit before but studying this during my time in Italy was a lot more helpful.
finances	I received the Erasmus funds, the green travel grant, and had a part-time job which covered most of my expenses. Pro-tip: if you book early, there are flixbusses for 50/60 euro that will bring you to Utrecht so that is quite affordable.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>I looked at the course planner and by looking at the schedule of the previous year, you can get an idea of the time table. If the general website does not show the time table yet, try to go to the website of your specific department (the place where they teach the course, for example https://www.agic.unito.it/do/home.pl#submenu), and under 'studying' you can find the schedule for the courses.</p> <p>Classes are either 3x 2 hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or 2x 3 hours on Thursday and Friday. You can also follow a course as a non-attending student, meaning you do not have to go to the classes (although you still can in you want) and in the end you take the exams and receive the same credits.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>In my experience, the classes were a lot of work. I prefer a bit less class time and more self-study but I took all my courses as an attending student, resulting in quite an extensive weekly schedule (at some point, I had 28 hours of class a week compared to 9 in Utrecht so that was a big difference). What I found interesting, is that in my courses in Utrecht there is more conversations about how to rethink academic themes on a theoretical level, for example in terms of decolonizing research and education. At Unito, there is a good program in area studies for global and international cooperation, which allows you to take courses focused on area's that I knew less about (for example Pacific Studies and Latin American studies), so you learn a lot about places and ideas I was previously relatively unfamiliar with, which was very interesting.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>There is an international office and they usually respond relatively fast to your emails but not always with the answer you are looking for. For example, it took a lot longer to receive information about the Italian language course.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>My credits have not been transferred yet so I don't know.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>There is a welcome day two weeks after the start of the classes so it felt a bit useless (they explained, for example, how to use the public transport which i already had to use for multiple weeks). There is also a buddy system in place in which students from the department can help you with figuring stuff out. But mostly I oriented myself in the city on my own, I did not find the program offered particularly useful or fun.</p>
accommodation	<p>I found a room through facebook which was a sublet until december, but I ended up being able to stay longer (which was great). Keep in mind there are many many people looking for rooms so it can be difficult to find a place that is within your budget and also in a convenient or fun part of the city.</p> <p>If you can, it is nice to live in the center or vanchiglia/Vanchiglietta; i lived in crocetta which is also nice but the center/vanchiglia area is ideal when studying at unito.</p>
leisure & culture	<p>There is a lot to do. The ESN in Torino hosts many activities, there are groupchats to join, you can go hiking, do sports, join CUS (their version of Olympos), you can volunteer at Giovani per Torino or look at Stratosferica (place-making project to meet cool people), there are many museums and galleries, and it is well connected to other cities such as Genova and Milano. There is plenty to do.</p>



suggestions/tips

I had a great time at the bouldering gym (bside) which was also a convenient way of meeting like-minded individuals but that only works if you enjoy bouldering of course :)
Think about what you like to do in the Netherlands or if there is something new you would like to try and check if it is possible to do this in Torino, great way of meeting people!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! Torino is an amazing city, surrounded by mountains, with a great university, many students, and a lot to do. I had a great time.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The courses will give a lot of material to prepare for the exams (sometimes up to 400 pages for a 6 ECTS course). I found this a bit stressful as I needed to pass the exams before the end of the exchange but the exams were quite a bit easier than i thought they would be. So don't spend too much time on the studying and make sure to enjoy the city and all it has to offer (because there are many things to do/see/experience/try).
Also exam-wise: the exams in January/February offer you multiple dates. So you can take an exam either on January 9, January 23, and February 9. If you fail the first attempt, you can try again on the second date (which is nice)