

2022-2023**Report 1**

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: miloubongenaar@gmail.com
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen / 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	Barcelona, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	12 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	At first I thought it was quite challenging because everything took long and there were so many things to arrange. Looking back I think it was mostly me being overwhelmed and afraid to miss a deadline, because all the steps are actually explained pretty well by the International Office. If you just keep your head cool and bear the deadlines in mind there is absolutely nothing to worry about.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	It was nice to always have somewhere to go to with questions. The IO helped me well, especially when I did not get my top two picks (both universities near Cape Town, South Africa). I was disappointed to not get my favorite places but luckily there were nice options in the universities that had places left over.
academic preparation	I did not academically prepare myself and it was also not necessary. I think exchange universities usually give you access to mostly first year courses, unless you go to a fancy private university. All the courses I followed were outside of my major except for distribution management (which was either a 3 rd or 4 th year course), which meant I didn't need to prepare myself as the courses were entry-level. I also didn't opt for difficult courses because it was not really in my field of interest anyways.
language preparation	I did not need to do anything. Most universities in Spain require you to speak some amount of Spanish, but not the UAB. Luckily for me, it is possible to go to this university without any knowledge of Spanish as long as all your courses are in English. My inability to speak Spanish did sometimes prove to be a bit more difficult, since not all of the staff at my uni spoke English. All the teachers did, but some information desk-staff did not.
finances	You have to be prepared to spend more than you usually would back at home. I partially prepared by saving up a little bit and I increased my DUO loan to the maximum amount. On top of the possibility to increase your loan, you receive a grant and you can get compensation for your public transport (studenten-OV), but because living

Spain - Barcelona - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

abroad and making the most of your time abroad is quite expensive I would advise you to save up a little bit. Spain overall was cheaper than the Netherlands, but you still spend more than you think and you don't want to say no to things you could experience there because you don't have the money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Like I mentioned before, my selection of courses was limited because I needed to pick courses taught in English, so that narrowed the choices down a bit. What narrowed the choices down even more was that I accidentally registered for courses via the wrong site. While that was mostly my fault, I would like to add that the site of the UAB is absolutely not organized well. There are so many sites that finding your way is almost impossible. It is like a maze. That also fits with the organisational structure of the UAB. When I was trying to change my courses (which they only allow 3 weeks after the courses have already started), I was getting the runaround from the various offices. It took me a full week to secure a course from a different faculty. It was very discouraging. The people in the offices were obviously very busy because of the confusing structure, which resulted in them just trying to semi-help you and get rid of you. It only worked out if you refused to leave until they fixed it at the spot, because otherwise your questions would fall between the cracks. Most times emails would be answered quite quickly but sometimes information would be missing from a form which meant you had to resend it and have the International Office sign it again.

academic quality of education activities

There were not a lot of education activities offered (or I must have missed them) so I cannot really evaluate this.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I am unsure what exactly is meant by this. They don't really provide you with a mentor or something but you can always go to the International Office of your faculty or the general helpdesk of your faculty for information. Always pay attention though, because in Spain it is not uncommon that some hours during the day places are closed during "siesta-times". This was true for the International Office of my uni which was open from 8-13.30 and again from 16.30-18.

transfer of credits

I have not received my credits yet. I hope everything will turn out alright with that, but I am hopeful because about a week ago I received an email from the UAB that they were going to send the Transcript of Records to me and/or my university on the 24th of February.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The UAB is connected to Erasmus Student Network (ESN), which means there is a small group of students that are present at all UAB ESN activities. They organised really nice things such as an integration weekend, volleyball days, speedrounds of getting to know people and walking tours. Every Tuesday there would be drinks at Sonora and after going out to WOLF (nightclub). In addition to ESN, there are a lot of promoting agencies in BCN. For example Shaz list and Rumba list -but especially Shaz list - gave you free access to certain clubs on certain nights and organised trips to Montserrat or the Costa Brava.

accommodation

I found the place I stayed at on housinganywhere. It is great that you know that you are not going to get scammed and for that I was willing to pay the service fee they charged. However apparently the woman I was

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renting the place from also charged a service fee so that was unfortunate. Besides that I was really happy with the place and my flatmates. However, I would just like to emphasize that it is not unusual in Spain to have a window that is looking out onto a wall or -in my case- our kitchen. When looking for a room I highly advise you to look for one that has an exterior window. I had one that was inward facing and our living room did not have a window at all, which I really hated.

leisure & culture

Barcelona is a vibrant and lively place. There are many things to do, museums to visit (many are free first Sunday of the month), markets to go to (flea markets and foodtruck festivals), the nightlife is absolutely wild and there are many nice places around Barcelona to go and visit. You can look at the Gaudí's houses or walk down the Rambla or through the small streets of Barri Gòtic. To top it all off, Barcelona has a beach. Barceloneta personally was not my favorite but you have all summer to explore which beach you like best.

Barcelona has a very strong Catalan culture. You will notice this in how much pride people take in speaking Catalan, the Catalan flags everywhere in the city, and the holidays that they celebrate: La Mercè, Diada Nacional de Catalunya.

suggestions/tips

The biggest recommendation I can make is I think the Bunkers, a viewpoint that looks out on the city and gives you a great view of the city and Tibidabo as well. The sunsets here are incredible, but the vibe here is also so cool and in summer sometimes there are (hobby) DJ's doing their sets up there while the sun is setting. It is incredible. I also really recommend travelling to Blanes from Barcelona. It is a trainride of about 1,5 hours and it is so worth it. The views from the train were already mesmerizing. I could buy an amb. recurrent ticket for 10 euros which gives you about 4 months of unlimited transport with Rodalies which was absolutely incredible. Sitges was a beautiful town as well and I think there is an annual movie festival. While in Barcelona I also went to Elrow during Halloween and Brunch in the Park, which I both really loved.

One of the other things I am going to miss greatly is the sushi buffets. During the days you could get an all-you-can-eat buffet for around 13 euros and the sushi is really tasty.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Barcelona is a big city in which there is always something to do. There is always something going on and that is also what makes it such an attractive travel destination. I highly recommend Barcelona and as far as the UAB goes: I liked it and I met a lot of nice people, but the uni in itself is a bit disorganised and chaotic. It took me some time to figure everything out which was not ideal. I can't compare it to other Spanish universities though, so I will just leave it at that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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Report 2

faculty/college	Universiteit Utrecht - Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spaanse taal en cultuur
destination city & country	Barcelona, Spain/Catalonia

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how did you travel to your destination?	plane
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	12 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was quite easygoing, but i found that there were some uncertainties. Unlike UU, UAB doesn't have all necessary information published online, which means you need to actively ask (by email or phone) if there is something unclear about the application. Keep in mind that during the whole month of August the UAB closes, so you won't be able to contact them during this time. So make sure to have most things ready before August to prevent stress.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the support at UU very good. Every time I needed a signature or had a question, I got a response to my email within 24 hours. And the fact that there was a pre-departure meeting was nice, this way I got to meet other students going to UAB. We made a group chat to help each other out when things weren't as clear, and this was very helpful.

academic preparation

I don't believe I had any kind of academic preparation besides the regular courses I had followed at UU. But at no point during my stay at UAB did I feel as if I wasn't academically prepared enough.

language preparation

I had been learning Spanish for several years before I went on exchange and most of my courses at UU are in Spanish. So for me there was no language preparation done specifically for this exchange. Though, I wish that in the summer I had started learning Catalan on Duolingo, just because Catalans absolutely love it when you speak (a bit of) their language.

finances

I am very fortunate that my parents pay for most of my costs, they helped by giving me 700 euro per month. Besides that, I got 'zorgtoeslag' (about 110/month), 'studenten OV vergoeding' (104/month), the Erasmus grant, and I had saved up about 2500 euro (of which most I have spend during my stay).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was quite a struggle to get all my things in order at UAB. The first couple of weeks i couldn't access my courses in the Campus Virtual. The issue ended up being that i had forgot to send my ID and health insurance card, so after i did that it was all fixed.

academic quality of education activities

Most was good. The didactical skills of most professors i found to be very good. Though i did also find that the culture in class is less professional in some courses than i am used to at UU. With this i mean that it sometimes felt like high school, students talked while the professor was speaking, didn't pay any attention and didn't seem to be interested at all during class.

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counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The communication at the UAB can be not great. There have been times where i had sent a document by email to get it signed and it took them more than 10 days to send it back to me. By that time i had already physically gone to campus to ask them to sign it, which they luckily did. It is a bit confusing for what issue you have to go where there, because there is an international support office, but also an academic help desk.
transfer of credits
As of the moment i'm writing this, this has not happened yet so i can't comment on this. But i did get an email saying that they will start sending out the Transcript of credits starting the 24 th of February.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Before the semester started there was one online meeting with a (not very informative) powerpoint presentation. Besides this there are various international welcome activities during the beginning of the semester. I only attended a couple of those, which i recommend doing to meet people at the beginning of your exchange.
accommodation
I came to Barcelona early in the summer to find a place to live. I had heard that there are a lot of (online) scams out there with housing, which was why i wanted to be able to view the room in person before transferring money or signing a contract. I was able to find a room in three days! I paid 485 (bills included) for a big room in the middle of the centre of Barcelona (next to plaça de catalunya). This was a good deal compared to other things i viewed online. Personally i recommend living in the city of Barcelona instead of the UAB campus.
leisure & culture
There are tons and tons of things to do in Barcelona. You definitely won't get bored as long as you take initiative. There are great places to go out, hang out in the sun or have a nice meal. Tip: learn a bit of Catalan, besides learning Spanish, because local people absolutely love it when foreigners speak their language.
suggestions/tips
Go out of your comfort zone!! This is how you meet people and won't get bored. It can be scary of course but this is also what makes things exciting.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I had a great experience. Though this was because of the amazing people i have met and the great friends i have made. The uni was fine, but for me the experience abroad was more important than the school.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I definitely recommend going for little trips outside of the city, there is amazing nature all over Spain/Catalunya very much worth exploring.

2019-2020**Report 1**

	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
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permission to publish contact details**	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: marieclaire.battjes@gmail.com abroad: marieclaire.battjes@gmail.com
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Barcelona, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	05 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	As I was too late for the regular deadline for applying for a study abroad, my options for universities were limited. Nevertheless, there were some places available in Spain, and as I wanted to learn to speak Spanish, this was perfect for me. The application was fairly easy. I needed to hand in some documents which didn't take too much time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office is very helpful if you ever have a question. They replied on my e-mails very fast and they were always clear.
academic preparation	I didn't need any academic preparation.
language preparation	My courses were in English so I didn't need any language preparation.
finances	Due to the Erasmus grant and some extra money I would receive from my parents, I didn't save up before I went to Barcelona. However, I would recommend to save up some money as life can get quite expensive if you want to take day trips or if you want to go out for dinner a lot. I highly recommend day trips to for example Girona, Sitges or Terragona.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took some classes in English literature because my Spanish wasn't sufficient for taking classes in Spanish (or Catalan). Therefore some of the only classes I could take were in English Literature. The method of teaching is different from Dutch universities, as you do not partake in class discussions as much. For every subject, I had two classes a week. A class was a combination between a lecture and a workshop,

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where the teacher would do most of the talking. Sometimes the teacher would ask the class something but we never actually had a discussion. I had to do a presentation once. Also, the teachers really do not care about being on time. In the beginning this was very frustrating but once I got used to it, I enjoyed it. Everything was a lot more laid back than at home.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the education was not very high. I had one course for 3 rd year students and this course was definitely the most interesting one, Origins of English Literature it was called, but it was still fairly easy to pass the test with a high grade. Especially the courses for 1 st year students were fairly easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
When I was still at home, my exchange coordinator from Barcelona always replied quite fast and satisfactorily. However when I arrived in Spain, it was totally unclear for me what day I would start and where I had to be. As my exchange coordinator didn't reply, I went to the university to get answers (I had to travel an hour to get to my university). Nobody was able to answer my questions but finally I got to make an appointment with my exchange coordinator two days later. Other international students had a lot of difficulty with this as well. Later on, I think because my exchange coordinator was less busy, contact got better again.
transfer of credits
This didn't happen yet, as I just got back.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The Introduction week was delayed so I didn't go.
accommodation
If you start looking on time I don't think it's too difficult to find accommodation. It can be quite expensive though. I had an apartment in the Gothic area and I paid 670 euros a month but other rooms in the building were around 500-600 euros a month. The accommodation is called Erasmundus and I highly recommend! A lot of international students live there and the location is amazing. If you don't want to live in the Gothic area, as it is very touristic, I would recommend Gracia. This neighbourhood is not so busy and more traditionally Spanish. I would not recommend el Raval because it is quite dodgy. Only if you live close to the ramblas it is quite fine.
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in Barcelona. Beautiful museums, great night life and ofcourse the beach is amazing. The atmosphere is amazing. There are a lot of viewpoints where you can see the entire city: on the Montjuic, the bunkers, and at Tibidabo. Beautiful to go there at sunset.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If what you're looking for in your study abroad is a good education, I think there are other universities in Europe where you can enjoy better education. In that case I would not recommend the UAB (although it is still the best university from Spain). However, if you're going abroad for the experience, I would highly recommend Barcelona. The city is amazing and you will meet the most wonderful people.

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 2

Disclaimer: This report was written by a student who was abroad during the Covid-19 outbreak. We encouraged students to return to Utrecht in March, in line with the government regulations. However, some students decided to stay abroad, against our advice.

permission to publish contact details**	optional ; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)		
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: suze.van.dam@casema.nl	
faculty/college	Humanities/Utrecht University		
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture		

destination city & country	Barcelona, Spain
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Universitat de Barcelona
start date	02 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	It was a bit stressful and frustrating sometimes, but manageable.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	There were a couple of meetings I went to, which was pretty informative so I'm glad I did. I did however feel that the attention was slightly too much on 'picking your host country' and not enough on all the paperwork that had to be completed.
academic preparation	
	Nothing specific. I would take courses in (art) history and geography and I figured I would be fine (which, as it turned out, I was).
language preparation	
	I took the four available Spanish courses at Utrecht University: Español 1, 2, 3 and 4. I also took two additional courses that were part of the BA Spanish Language and Culture: Lengua, Cultura e Identidad, and Cruces de Fronteras.
finances	
	I worked about 20 hours a week next to my studies and saved this money in order to be able to afford everything without loan.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
welcome & orientation programme	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>For some reason I cannot click on the section "Welcome & orientation programme": I had to visit the International Office after my arrival. The two ladies were super nice and patient. At the end of that same week, there was an introduction for all the faculty's exchange students, where they gave us some information about the enrollment, Spanish and Catalan classes, etc. After that, they had prepared a really nice lunch and we could chat with the other exchange students. Then we did some informal activities to get to know each other, and then they gave us a tour through the building. Lastly, they gave us an optional city tour through the neighbourhood of the faculty, which was super nice and informative. After that, they left us and what was left of the group (including me) went to have drinks together.</p> <p>The content was really interesting, but the structure of the individual course I took varied immensely. One course was really well-organised, with powerpoints, a planner and descriptions of the essay exercises. But I also had a course that was extremely vague; the teacher just walked in and started talking and we took notes of that; there was no coursebook or handout, he didn't use a powerpoint and he didn't upload anything and he said something like, 'I won't make the exam very difficult, I'm not a nasty guy, I just want you to be present during these classes and listen, and you'll be fine, no one will fail this course' which I thought was pretty weird. The other courses didn't have planner either, the teachers just gave you an exam date at some point and they'd upload their powerpoints. The content of all of my courses were quite interesting, except for one, which did not match the course description at all. Also, the teacher's powerpoints were all in Catalan, which made it pretty hard for me to follow let alone study his slides. When someone asked him a question, he would answer in Catalan. Strictly speaking this use of Catalan was against the language rules of the Universitat de Barcelona (as this course was a Spanish course), but I didn't want to be that one annoying exchange student out of 200 Catalan students who was going to complain. I eventually quit the course.</p>
academic quality of education activities	
	Not applicable (left before I experienced mine).
transfer of credits	
	Not applicable.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES	
support guidance of host university	
	<p>It was quite messy.</p> <p>On March 3 - during the onset when no one was feeling worried yet - we received an e-mail from the International Office that said the UB had drawn up a general protocol.</p> <p>On March 12 we received an e-mail from the UB - in Catalan - that said the university would close immediately. The 13th we received one from the International Office in Spanish and English.</p> <p>After that, two more e-mails from the UB, both in Catalan.</p> <p>On April 8 we received an e-mail from the International Office of my faculty that asked us to answer a couple questions regarding our stay (had we left Spain, were we still continuing to follow our courses, etc).</p>

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support guidance of home university
At the start of the 'threat', Utrecht University sent us an e-mail that told us we were allowed to go home if we felt uncomfortable with the situation. Later on, we were strongly advised to go home. I received updates quite regularly, both from the university as well as from the International Office.
online offer and quality of digital courses
Horrible. Only one teacher started taking action right after the university closed, explaining what she thought would be the most sensible solution right now, that she would upload powerpoints with extra information etc. Other teacher said something like, "hey, not sure what's going on, I'll let you know". For one course it took weeks before the teacher sent his students as much as an email. I think I had my first online class a month after the university closed.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
I would say, act a bit quicker, but I feel like it was a combination of Spanish mentality and the university's mentality, which was way less professional than what I am used to.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I really liked the location, because it was in the very centre of the city, but I later discovered some faculties aren't (so I would check this beforehand). The ladies from the International Office of the Faculty of Geography and History were extremely kind and helpful. I liked the fact that the level of the courses was lower than what I'm used to, because my Spanish is only B2 - so this is ideal if you want to improve your Spanish. The ESN Network for the UB is super fun and active in Barcelona. They organise many activities (sports/clubbing/picnicks/city walks etc.), some for free and some with a great price reduction (Sagrada Familia visit for €7 instead of €20). ESN is an amazing opportunity to see more of the country and to meet many new people from other countries. And lastly, Barcelona is just a gorgeous, vibrant and diverse city -- there is so much to do and see, you'll never get tired of it.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No

Spain - Barcelona - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**2017-2018****Report 1**

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

faculty/college	Humanities / School of Liberal Arts
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	Barcelona, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	07 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	Although I found it very clear, it was heavily bureaucratic. A lot of documents are needed, and motivations are required. Besides, the deadline on 1 December might seem far away, but in order to complete all the documents required, it went a lot sooner than expected.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Good! The International Office is very helpful and has always responded quickly.
academic preparation	
	Since I applied for exchange during my third academic year and the exchange itself took place in the first semester of my fourth year, I felt I had enough academic 'luggage' for my exchange. The fact that the subjects I applied for bore resemblance to some courses I took at UU already, helped as well.
language preparation	
	During high school I started learning Spanish, and at UU I took a minor Spanish Language. Besides, my travels in various Spanish speaking countries have made me feel comfortable enough to break language barriers and adapt quickly to local dialects and variations of Spanish. The Catalan language, though, was new for me, and it took me quite some time to manage. Fortunately, UAB Idiomes Campus (The Language Service) offers two Catalan courses, Catalan Basic 1 and Catalan Basic 2, free for exchange students!
finances	
	By working in the Netherlands I had already acquired some savings. This combined with the Erasmus grant and the luck I had living together with friends in a cheap place, made it easy. Although food and leisure activities are generally cheaper than in Holland, housing can be expensive in some neighbourhoods especially in the centre (Gracia, Eixample, etc.).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Rather than choosing for a program adapted to Erasmus exchange, I decided to subscribe for the so-called Selected Courses, meaning that I took classes given in Spanish and/or Catalan together with local students. The

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UAB offers a great variety of courses, with an interesting combination of different subjects (such as the interdisciplinary course Human Ecology, and the culture critical course Music, Identity and Gender). Nevertheless, the language spoken during the course depends on the teacher, which means that the language can change shortly before hand.
academic quality of education activities
Generally good. The courses I took belonged mostly to the '3 rd or 4 th grade', equal to a level 3 course at UU. The only 1 st grade course I took was unfortunately little challenging and highly conventional in its approach, i.e. little student participation and discussion.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Welcome Point, teachers, and other students were very helpful, the Gestión Académica (Academic Administration) a little less.
transfer of credits
Apart from the differing credits per course (6 ECTS instead of 7,5 at UU), I have had no difficulties with the transfer. I would recommend, though, to bear in mind the reduction of grades obtained at UAB when incorporating credits into your UU study programme.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Although I have not participated in any of the welcome activities organized by either international student organizations or Erasmus, I did go to an introductory Catalan course provided by the UAB. This workshop was refreshing and fruitful, and inspired me to take a free Catalan course (Català Bàsic 1) offered during the first weeks of the first semester.
accommodation
I did not partake in any offers from UAB, but came to know that the Vila Universitaria, located in the mountains right next to university houses students from €280. Most of my friends chose to live in the centre, a more pricey option (€300 - €400+ per room). I lived cheaply in Sant Andreu, one of the popular, working-class, 'barrios' of Barcelona.
leisure & culture
Barcelona is well known for its lively going out, art and music scene. Since I am into alternative music and cultural activities, I enjoyed many concerts and workshops (<i>talleres</i>) offered in various (squatted) social and cultural centres in Barcelona.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! It was really nice to get to know parts of Barcelona that don't appear on tourist maps or in travel guides. Barcelona has so much more to offer: mountains surrounding the city, quiet beaches at the outskirts of the city, alternative (music) events, its local Catalan language oppressed yet being spoken actively, and people willing to guide you through their city.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Spain - Barcelona - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Although it might seem a small detail, I would recommend to bear in mind before departure where your university of preference is localized. I was unhappily surprised to find out during the first week that I would be travelling minimum 2 hours per day, for I had no idea that Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona was located in the mountains and about an hour travelling with public transport. Nevertheless, I have never had such challenging and adventurous bicycle rides on my way to school and do not regret my choice in any sense.

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> e.vanhelvoirt@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	Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	Barcelona, Spain
name university abroad	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
start date	06 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION**exchange application process**

There are some documents to be filled in and sometimes I found this very unclear. But when I handed these in it was all very good organized by the UU. Also the UAB is very late with giving the information needed, so I knew the application was okay just one month before I was going and this was sometimes a little stressful. In conclusion, their systems are very different and late compared to the UU.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office of Utrecht University is very helpful, they respond fast to e-mails and my insecurities about the application were solved by them.

academic preparation

I took my subjects as a minor and these were quite different than the subject of my bachelor. I am used to write papers and this academic skill was needed at UAB.

language preparation

I took some subjects Spanish at UU, but this was not really needed because the main language is Catalan at UAB. I did join an extra language school that I arranged myself in Barcelona centre. This was very useful and fun. The UAB also offers Spanish lessons, but this price is more expensive than the language schools all around Barcelona. Also they offer Catalan courses and these are for free. It is very important that your English level is okay enough otherwise it is very hard to understand anything.

Finances

I had some savings from my parents and the Erasmus grant was very useful as well. In Barcelona I worked in a bike shop and this gave me the money to spend there. Supermarkets, like Mercadona, are cheaper than in The Netherlands and drinks in bars as well. The houses are the same price like in Amsterdam, like 500 euro (for the centre).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I choose 5 subjects in the faculty Humanities. These subjects were very interesting and I learned a lot about the global change and geographic aspects. This was new for me and I really enjoyed it. I also took an image of art class what was fun. The content was mostly paintings from around Barcelona and it was very nice to talk about subjects in the environment I was living. I really enjoyed the classes and the teachers were very nice.	
academic quality of education activities	
The academic quality is a little less than at Utrecht. It is more like in high school where teachers are controlling and checking your homework. But it was nice to be in a different school.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
I did not use it but the international office was very helpful.	
transfer of credits	
They have not been transferred yet.	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
I did not really attend everything. there was a day where International Students got welcomed and this was nice! Also there were mentors that could help you anytime, I did not really need this but it is nice to have people that know the system and can help you out.	
accommodation	
I organized my house on my own and it was in the centre. It was great	
leisure & culture	
Very nice! Barcelona has a lot of nice museums and cultural heritages that I visited.	
suggestions/tips	
Look for an apartment in Barcelona centre instead of staying in the Villa.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes! Barcelona is a city with so much nice things to offer. Beaches, cultural heritages, shops and super nice restaurants and bars. The UAB is also nice, but I would recommend to live in the centre because UAB is not really in Barcelona, 35 minutes by metro, so this is not that easy when you are going out late and travelling back. I had an amazing time at UAB and in Barcelona so I would definitely recommend it.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
No. I had a great time and if you have a positive and open mentality everybody will enjoy it.	