

**2022-2023**

**Report 1**

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Universidad de Granada (UGR)
start date	06 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>The application process went quite smoothly. It might feel weird to figure out where to go and how it works at that specific university while you're still in the Netherlands, but in the end it is worth it. Try to start as early as possible, so you have enough time to compare different cities and universities. Looking back, I did not have enough time to figure out which courses I wanted to take at the UGR so I kind of impulsively choose 5 courses (30 ECT's), but I ended up changing them when I was there, because I was not content. Fortunately, the UGR gives you the ability to change your courses in the first weeks.</p> <p>The UU is very clear about what you have to do and how to do it, if you have any questions regarding the application process or the exchange itself, you can send an email and they reply quite fast. After choosing the city, the university and the courses, you're ought to write a motivation letter. Be aware that there are quite a few steps to take during the application process, so start on time. You apply for three different cities and universities and dependening on your motivation letter they will choose who is going to which city. Make sure to be able to explain why you want to go to one of those cities and that specific university.</p> <p>I did not go to any workshop regarding the application process, I did go to the information meeting and I would recommend going there. Also, you will receive an 'Erasmus exchange handbook' where every step of the process is explained clearly. Use it!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>The UU helped me a lot, because I had some questions during the process and they helped me by email. In addition, there are different websites and documents that are very useful (<a href="https://students.uu.nl/onderwijs/studeren-in-het-buitenland">https://students.uu.nl/onderwijs/studeren-in-het-buitenland</a>, and the handbook for example).</p>
academic preparation
<p>I did not prepare anything academically other than making sure I had everything I needed to go on exchange. I passed all the courses that I took at the UU before leaving, so I wasn't stressed about any exams that I had to retake.</p>
language preparation
<p>Although you have been studying Spanish for 1-2 years, it is still recomendable to prepare yourself for a Spanish speaking country. Just by practicing basic words you are already taking steps regarding the language preparation. I have to admit that I didn't really do anything other than going to class and following my courses at the UU as preparation - and I survived in Granada, but having a bigger vocabulary is always nice. However, you will be able to live in Granada even if you're Spanish is not great. They speak English (there aren't many English courses) as well and if you're there, learning the language will go faster. (Disclaimer: don't expect to go there as a B2 Spanish speaker and coming back as a native knowing the translations of all the words, understanding all the jokes and being able to express yourself using sayings and metaphors).</p>

If you want to prepare yourself, reading Spanish books, listening to Spanish podcasts and music and watching Spanish movies and series will always help. I didn't, also because I already had the level of Spanish I needed to be able to go on exchange to Granada.

#### finances

You can apply for the Erasmus+ Grant that is provided by UU. This is another application process that takes some time and patience, but make sure to use it. I also received money for the public transport. These steps are explained in the handbook and at the website of DUO, make sure to read it carefully and start on time so you have time to fix things (because you have to stop your student or subscription at the train station etc. )

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I went on exchange the first semester of the year so I arrived at the beginning of September in Granada, the first introduction days started the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. We first had a general information speech for all of the international students, the day after we had a welcome speech for the students of my faculty only. Both days, the staff was very happy and welcoming. They really expressed their excitement about us international students going to study at UGR, however the teachers weren't as excited.

During the welcoming speech, the staff told us that there was still time to change our courses during the first weeks. In the first week, you are allowed to go to different classes than the courses you chose beforehand so you can figure out if there are other courses that you like more. Also, I had some overlap with two courses I chose while I was still in the Netherlands, so in the first weeks there is time to fix that. Be aware that, even though the staff is very nice and helpful about it, it will be kind of stressful. You're in a new country, new university, another language, new people etc. and while the classes already started, you are still changing things and filling out different documents etc. Don't worry, in the end you'll be fine. Try to make sure to discuss everything with the UU as well, because they have to approve the new courses you want (Learning Agreement). Lastly, remember you are in Spain; some things take longer, teachers will be late, public transport won't always be on time (or will be full) and things like 'programación semanal' do not exist.

#### academic quality of education activities

A big difference for me was the amount of courses I had to take at the UGR. I was supposed to get 30ECTs in total, the courses in Spain are 6ECTs so in total I followed 5 courses and at the end I had 5 big exams (because of the UU, I am used to do 2 courses at the time, having several exams during the period and studying for a shorter period of time). I would say that the theory itself is not harder or more difficult than the courses at the UU, but it felt more difficult because you have more courses and everything is in Spanish - and yes, the courses at the UU are also in Spanish, but the teachers are able to explain/compare things in Dutch as well, most of the other students are Dutch as well and some references or explanations are in Dutch, in Spain nothing will be compared to Dutch (obviously). Keeping on track will help you a lot during the exam period.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

To be honest, the UGR is not as organized as the UU. In the end, they will help you but it takes some more time and patience. If you have a question, you have to ask it by using a Google form, if you want to talk to them you have to make an appointment etc. They needed way more time to reply, but it will work out. And, they are not stressed so you won't be stressed either.

#### transfer of credits

As I still have not received my Transcript of Records from the UGR, I won't be able to answer this question.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The introduction days were super nice, the staff was very kind and reassured us of everything. All the stress and questions you might have will be solved during their welcome speech. This is obviously not their first time welcoming international students, so they know what problems or questions you might have. The speech was very reassuring and after the introduction days I was really excited to start with my courses at the UGR. There is an introduction day for all of the international students and the next day I had an introduction day for international students at my faculty only. This way, you get to know the building and the class rooms. Besides that, it is a nice moment to get to know other exchange students.	
accommodation	
It was actually very easy to find a room. I looked at several websites: room-granada, Idealista, AluniNet and I was able to find a nice, modern room at AluniNet. The rooms are overall a bit cheaper than student rooms in Utrecht. When I was in Granada I did hear some stories about scammers and bad experiences with landlords or non-existing rooms, but I haven't had any problems luckily. Maybe try to avoid rooms you see on Facebook and try to find a room via via or by using the websites that I mentioned before.	
leisure & culture	
Granada is lovely! It is big enough to offer a lot of (cultural) things, but also small enough to be able to walk from one side to another within an hour or so. The people are very nice, super kind and welcoming. With every drink you order you get a free tapa, this can be a small portion of paella, olives, bread, lomo, popcorn, whatever you want! Also, Spain is still quite cheap and everybody lives on the terraces, even when it is winter time.	
suggestions/tips	
A must-visit is of course the Alhambra, make sure to book the ticket beforehand. Walk around the city, go to different clubs if you like that (Mae West, Backstage, Sarao, Ganivet, Paripe, Industrial Copera), go to the movies, to flamenco shows (Eshavira) and eat arabic food. Don't forget to go to the beach (Almuñecar, Motril, Nerja) by bus or Blablacar and during the winter you can easily go to Sierra Nevada to ski or snowboard. Because it is so close, you can go there for one day. Just take the bus and make sure to buy your ski pass beforehand ( <a href="https://sierranevada.es/">https://sierranevada.es/</a> ). Also, go to the miradores to have amazing views of the city (San Miguel Alto, San Nicolas, la Churra). Lastly, join the trips the Erasmus programs (Best Life Experience, Emycet, ESN) have to offer, because you will meet other exchange students. Via Facebook or others you are able to join Whatsapp groups where they send daily messages about trips and events.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend this destination to others. I have had an amazing time, I met some amazing people and the city is lovely. At first, I was also thinking about going to Latin America, but I am very happy with the decision I made. I know that Latin America is wonderful to travel through, but I am not sure if I would've liked living there. Granada however, is the perfect solution. It is still a Spanish speaking country but not too far away, so friends and family can visit you or you can go back to the Netherlands for Christmas for example. Living in Granada is very easy, there are a lot of international students, it is cheap, there are loads of cute restaurants and cafés and you get free food! It has a rich culture and beautiful buildings and viewpoints. It is close enough to the sea and during the winter you can go to Sierra Nevada to ski or snowboard!	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Enjoy every moment, because time flies!	

## Report 2

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: b.r.dejong@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Faculteit Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	BA Spaanse Taal en Cultuur

destination city & country	Granada, Spanje
how did you travel to your destination?	Vliegtuig
name university abroad	Universidad de Granada
start date	8 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
For the application, you have plenty of time and it's a matter of following steps and filling out motivation etc. At each step it was clear what you had to do and also meetings were organized.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office is easily accessible and basically you can ask anything. It was very clear to me who to contact if there were questions or uncertainties.
academic preparation
The courses I was going to take in Spain dovetailed well with what I had already done during the first period of my studies in the Netherlands.
language preparation
While studying Spanish Language and Culture, I achieved language level B2-C1, so I was prepared to take courses in Spanish.
finances
I received an erasmus scholarship

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The subjects and subject structure do differ greatly from subjects as we are used to in the Netherlands. I found that in general the subject matter was much deeper and more detailed and that, for example, exam questions did not consist of essay questions but mainly detail questions. I personally had quite some trouble with this.
academic quality of education activities
It is especially important that you perform during the (final) exam. Little to no midterm assignments are given and I did not write a single essay my entire stay.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Unfortunately, I'm not comfortable with this because it just wasn't clear who to go to. If you get stuck it's hard to reach someone. Generally teachers are only reachable for specific questions. But I generally got the most out of support and assistance from fellow students. Overall, it seems like this university is not set up to receive international students, in that regard.
transfer of credits
It is now March 2023 and I have been back for a month, but I have not yet received my transcript of records. Once again, making contact is difficult. We have to communicate via Google forms. I find it impersonal and 9 times out of 10 you get no response.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome days for international students were very massive and at first I felt very welcome. Practical things like changing courses if necessary were well arranged but things like student card pickup were a little less conveniently arranged.
accommodation
In terms of accommodation, I am very satisfied. I myself had found my room through Aluni.net. It all went very quickly, short lines in terms of communication and the site was accessible and had, for example, a personal area with all the information.
leisure & culture
Great. For students, there are organizations that organize all kinds of things. If you like large groups of students and many kinds of languages and cultures, organizations like Best Life Experience are highly recommended. I personally do not like them and actually went my own way from the beginning and made friends with my roommates and fellow students.
suggestions/tips
Use your (first) free days to plan tourist activities such as the Alhambra or take a walk through Albayzín. The first period is great to visit the beach; we were able to swim there for the first two weeks. When you start college you will already have a good idea of what the city has to offer.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Certainly, although I found the organization and subjects of the university a bit less, it also had good sides. Spanish students I found fun and motivated but I also loved things like the café at the faculty.  The city is really great and will always have a place in my heart. If you get the chance to study here, you will certainly not regret it and will find it unforgettable.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
If you get stuck at certain times or clash with the policies of the foreign university, contact the international office in Utrecht. They supported me and took me seriously when I had some problems, responded quickly and their approach and communication with the host university really helped me.

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: s.m.vanhove2@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	Taal- en cultuurstudies

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	UGR Granada
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process started a year before by looking up information about the places and universities I would be able to go to. I went to different workshops about the preparation of the deadline in december, about how to write a good motivation letter and what the language level was I had to have. I wrote a motivation letter and followed the deadlines of the UU in the application process. It's good to take the time for this part of the preparation of your erasmus, as it costs a lot of time and is important for what comes next!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU helped me a lot during the application process. The IO sent emails with guidelines and supported me in a good and helpful way.
academic preparation
I didn't prepare anything academically.
language preparation
I already had the level of Spanish I had to have to go to the university of Granada, but I did some extra learning myself (reading books, watching series, learning verbs etc.) to prepare myself for the life in Spain.
finances
I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and during my stay abroad I got money for my public transport card. You can arrange this by stopping your student public transport card during your stay abroad (in DUO). Thereby, I saved money myself to go on trips etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed courses in different study programmes, namely Modern languages and cultures, Anthropology and Linguistics. I switched courses in the first week because two of them overlapped and another one was not given during the first semester. I have to say that the first days everything was quite stressful and chaotic, as all the erasmus students have a lot of questions and some problems with the course inscriptions. Don't worry about

this too much, everything will be fine in the end and it is not a problem if you miss some of the first classes of a subject. The courses were all given in Spanish. At first it was a bit hard to understand the teachers (also because everyone had to wear mouthmasks^^) but you get used to it and in one or two weeks everything worked out!
academic quality of education activities
Because I followed courses in different study programmes, I have different experiences. The quality in the language courses was good, for me it felt more like highschool because of the interactive way of teaching and the many group projects. The subjects in Anthropology and Linguistics were harder and more difficult to understand because of the more technical terminology and scientific articles. Over all I would say that the studyload at the university of Granada is less than in Utrecht, as the teachers take more time to explain things and the students get more time for the projects. The material was not easier than at the UU I would say, but the material is spread out more and because of that I studied less than I do here in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Over all, the university was pretty good organised. Everyone is willing to help you, which gives you a welcoming feeling. But the organisation and planning sometimes was not very good and especially in the beginning it was a bit difficult to arrange things because even in the International office, the people didn't speak English very well. The teachers were friendly and everything online (the webmail and platform of the UGR) was easy to work with.
transfer of credits
I had some problems with getting my transfer of credits because I wasn't able to log in with my personal data. I sent an email but didn't get a clear answer from the UGR. After a while, I finally got a new password, which I used to get my transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
In the first week, the university arranged a welcome day for all the Erasmus students. The programme was very clear and the teachers very friendly. Although everything was a bit chaotic, it was not very difficult to arrange everything on time as everyone is willing to help you.
accommodation
The first week in Granada I stayed in a hostel, while went looking for student rooms. I was able to find a room in the city centre, which was the perfect location to stay. The student rooms in general are a bit old and not very modern, everything worked and as I was outside almost always (because that's how they live in Spain!) it was great to stay there for the semester. I lived with two Spanish and one Italian girl, we always spoke Spanish which was perfect for me to practice the language and learn about the Spanish culture.
leisure & culture
There are a lot of things to do in and around Granada. You can party every day of the week, go out for good (and cheap!!) coffee and food, visit flamenco shows and travel a lot. The Spanish culture is many-sided and there are many things to discover. Try things you never tried before, it will make your experience even more complete. Granada has a lot of hidden places with lots of history and culture, the Morish architecture is so pure and unique, I was impressed by all the buildings, palaces, gardens and streets. The Granadian culture really is a mix of everything! If you like art, good, chill vibes, live music and strolling around to discover little amazing spots, Granada is the place for you.
suggestions/tips
Go on trips with the Erasmus organisation to meet people and enjoy the amazing Spanish life! Enjoy every minute because time flies. There are a lot of amazing spots in Granada and not only the city itself, also the

location of this city is perfect. You can go to the beach and the snowy mountains at the same day and there are a lot of wonderful cities like Córdoba, Sevilla and Nerja and nature spots in Andalucía which are definitely worth the visit. And did you know that Granada is the only city in Andalucía where you get a free tapa with every drink you order? Not to speak about all the viewpoints, the arabic streets, the gipsy neighbourhood, flamenco caves, parks full of palmtrees and the most beautiful monument of Andalucía: the Alhambra! Try to speak Spanish, also with the Erasmus students, as you will learn really fast in this Spanish environment. Last but not least, count your blessings everyday in this beautiful place, you will look back on a once in a lifetime experience!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Granada is amazing, it is the perfect city for students. It is not too big and not too small, you can walk everywhere but you will discover new places everyday! As the city is not that touristic, you meet a lot of local people (who are very very kind and friendly) and you will have

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure to start on time with the application process and ask for help if you don't understand something, the IO of the UU always wants to help you! And above all, disfruta la vida Española, es una vida maravillosa!!

## 2018-2019

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.i.dekruif@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	Spanish Language and Culture

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Granada
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

I was afraid that the exchange application process was going to consume a lot of my time and that it was going to be very difficult to complete. But after all, it was not a difficult process at all! As long as you do all the steps that they ask you to do (of course), it is totally fine. Overall everything is clear!



counselling & support at Utrecht University
I loved going to the pre-departure meeting to hear the stories from other students that did the Erasmus programme to get an idea about their experience and I also thought that the e-mails they sent regularly helped a lot to keep on track. If you have a question about something, they respond quickly as well.
academic preparation
I didn't prepare anything academically before my departure.
language preparation
I also didn't do any language preparations since I thought that my level of Spanish was already adequate.
finances
Since I had a job on the side ever since I was 13 years old, and because I still live with my parents I could save up a lot of money to spend in Granada. Of course the Erasmus grant helped me out a lot as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme is very different from what I was used to here in Utrecht. I think you could say that content-wise it was easier, but since, at the end of the semester, I had to study for 5 subjects at once, it was a little bit more stressful. You could also say that some teachers like to explain everything very slowly and thoroughly and will provide a lot of background information. In terms of the organisation of the classes, I thought that they were overall pretty well organised. Online you can find the studyguides of each subject with all the themes that the teacher is going to discuss and they might not explicitly say "I'm now moving on to the next theme" but it is clear that they follow this schedule. What I think they did very well is that in the first few weeks you are allowed to follow any class you want, from any subject, so you can try them out and see how you like it.
academic quality of education activities
Overall the academic quality of the classes was lower compared to the academic quality in Utrecht. In most of the classes, you were supposed to come in, listen to the teacher explaining certain themes and that's it. There was one subject where we also had to hand in a few "essays", but never got feed-back on those, though they counted for your grade. A lot of teachers also didn't use powerpoints or any other support, and there was hardly any information available on the online platform (like Blackboard).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Every teacher had his/her own office, where they held so-called "tutorías". They had certain office-hours sitting there, and during this time you could pass-by if you had a question or a comment. I thought all the teachers, but all the staff of UGR in general, were very friendly. I once couldn't find a classroom and asked someone at the student-office, and they immediately walked with me to show me the classroom. So please don't be afraid to ask!!
transfer of credits
Since I haven't received my transcript of records yet, I haven't done this yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme

<p>I arrived two weeks before the classes started and already the first evening I met some of my best friends in Granada! I went to a tapas evening organised by one of the Erasmus organisations called "Best Life Experience", and it was amazing. Everybody is open to meet new people and talk about their culture, or any subject at all. There are multiple Erasmus organisations but because I went to an evening of Best Life Experience the first evening, I went to all their parties, meetings, trips etc. The university also organised some introduction days (of course not to be compared with the ones from the Erasmus organisations), where they give you all the information about the university itself, and certain programmes they organise. It's important you go to these meetings since this is also where you have to matriculate.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>I got my room via the website "room-granada.com", where you can book a student accommodation. This was absolutely perfect. Even though it was very hot still in September (there was no Airco) it was perfect. My room was located right in the citycentre, it was 16 squared meters and I paid 285 euros per month. I had 3 female flatmates, one from France, one from Belgium and another girl from Italy. it was absolutely perfect. The office was very close to our flat, and they respond to your e-mails very quickly. We also had a cleaner who came once a month.</p>
<p>leisure &amp; culture</p>
<p>Granada is perfect for students but also amazing to visit as a tourist! Of course there is the amazing Alhambra, but you can also go shopping, there are innumerable tapas places, there is a little botanic garden, there is a beautiful cathedral, a beautiful old Moorish neighbourhood... you name it! The Moorish influence is still very present in the city wherefore there are also very nice shisha places/teterías. Also the nightlife in Granada is absolutely amazing, there are bars and clubs in all shapes and sizes. The miradors (especially San Miguel Alto) are also breathtaking, a must-go!!!</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Rosario is one of the best places to go for a wine/bite in Granada! It's located in the neighbourhood called "Realejo". Do go there early though! It's almost always completely full. Also try Pub Continental where you can enjoy a beer and play boardgames. Chupiteria69 is the place to be to drink shots and collect points, if you get a certain amount of points you can get a sweater! Parabarap is a great club/bar to go for cheap drinks. Other amazing tapasbars are: Bar Babel and El Origen. Also, if you get any visitors and you want to go to the Alhambra, either book the tickets way in advance or go to one of the machines that are at some of the touristic spots such as Casa Árabe de Horno de Oro, Casa de Zafra or El Bañuelo for example.</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	
<p>YES definitely! Granada has everything to offer, it is the perfect student city. It is not a very big city wherefore you can walk everywhere, it is a very cheap city, you get free tapas at every place where you have a drink, the people are very friendly and there are a lot of Erasmus students wherefore it's very easy to make friends!</p>	
<p>do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>	
<p>Please enjoy every second because time flies!</p>	

## 2017-2018

<p>e-mail address</p>	<p><i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i>  jopvandermeen@gmail.com</p>
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faculty/college	humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	philosophy

destination city & country	Granada, Spain
name university abroad	University of Granada
start date	7 / 9 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 1 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It was quite easy to apply for this university as it is connected to the UU. As soon as I was admitted to the university (in february) I received my first messages, all in Spanish
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU was very supportive, although they didn't offer language courses. If you're abroad and have a problem you can always call or mail them and you will receive an answer in a day
academic preparation
To get enrolled for courses is quite a job, it took me more than a month to get enrolled for all the courses, also it is quite hard to find the courses and descriptions of the courses on the internet.
language preparation
if you want to study in Granada you should be able to speak Spanish, there are no courses in English.
finances
Everything is cheap, monthly rent is around 200, detour flights Amsterdam Malaga will cost you 60 and overall live here will cost you 600/700 a month

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The studyload is quite heavy, as one course is 4 hours a week and to get 30 ECTS in one semester you have to follow 5 courses. The academic level isn't too high, it's like going back to your first year
academic quality of education activities
As I mentioned above, the content isn't so difficult but the Spanish is.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They were not supportive at all. In the office international they don't speak English and they're always too busy to help you
transfer of credits
will be fine

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Goofd fun, nive people, several organisations organise parties and trips for erasmus students
accommodation
easy to find and cheap, you can be picky
leisure & culture
Granada is a beautiful city with a nice culture and a good nightlife
suggestions/tips
go to a language exchange to meet people and improve your spanish

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
yes, especially if you speak Spanish and like to party, If you're a more serious student, Granada might be not the best destination. If you don't speak spanish, go to a city where there is more choice in courses in English

## 2015-2016 Report 1

faculty/college	University of Utrecht		
level	<u>bachelor's</u>	master's	PhD
name study programme	Spanish language and culture		

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process for the Erasmus exchange was quite confusing, as the UU and the UGR require different documents. I would have liked to have one contact person that helped me out completing the required documents, and communicating between the two universities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
On the whole, every email I sent (and I sent quite a lot) was responded within a reasonable space of time. However, like I mentioned above, it was quite often very confusing as to who I had to contact with which question, and I had to repeat (the increasingly growing) story of, for example, the prolongation of my stay abroad, to various people, who all told me different things. So, on the whole, the counseling and support by the UU is very helpful, but the documentation for the Erasmus project would have been a lot easier if there would have been one person to help me out with various questions.
academic preparation

According to my own observations, the academic courses at the UGR were a lot easier than the courses at the UU. This also had to do with the distribution of the ECTS. At the UU, I followed two 7,5 ECTS courses per cuatrimestre, whilst at the UGR, I followed five 6 ECTS courses per semestre. Therefore, the courses here were easier, as there was less work to do per course. Obviously, the total amount of ECTS was the same.
language preparation
In the first part of the language assignment, I scored a C1 level in Spanish, I therefore consider that I was well prepared when I got here. I am expecting to score a C2 on the second part of the language assignment, seen as I have got even more fluent during my stay abroad.
finances
Seen as life in (the south of) Spain is a lot cheaper, I could manage easily with the Student Grant and the additional Erasmus Grant. My traveling costs were also covered by the Traveling Grant, that I received as I could not use my free travel card here (OV-vergoeding)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
On the whole I was very pleased with the subjects I chose, in some cases the course turned out to be very different than I'd expected, but this was (almost) always a turn for the better. The university is very very different here, but I found that this had a positive effect on my adaptational skills, as I had to adapt my working style and approach to fit in the University of Granada, I learnt how to think of and apply different learning approaches.
academic quality of education activities
When I first came here, I considered the university here to be easier. However, at the end of the semester, when I had five exams and various essays and projects to complete, I found this a lot harder than the two exams we had per cuatrimestre at the UU. It is absolutely essential to keep on track, elaborating and studying the course material as you go, seen as a semestre's worth of material is quite a lot to learn in one go.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I would like to repeat the comment mentioned above in the part <i>counselling &amp; support at Utrecht university</i> , as the guidance I received was okay, but very chaotic at times. I sincerely think that the help of a mentor would have prevented a lot of stress on my behalf. Obviously, there would have to be a mentor for every language course, as in my case he/she would have to speak Dutch and Spanish, whereas in other cases the second language may have to be French or German.
transfer of credits
Seen as I still haven't completed all my exams (my last exam is on the 30th of June), I haven't been able to obtain my transcript of records yet, and therefore, I don't know how my credits will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
During the orientation week, I visited the orientation days organized by the UGR, and only one of the excursions organized by Erasmus (a walk up to the gardens Carmen de los Mártires). The excursions organized by Erasmus were a lot of fun and useful for meeting people, and I advise future Erasmus students to participate in the activities. The reason I didn't go is because group excursions have never really been my cup of tea, and I preferred to meet people in a different environment.
accommodation
During the whole academic year, I stayed in a brilliant house in Granada, with plenty of lively housemates from different nationalities and my wonderful landlord! it was a marvelous experience which I consider to have been vital in the acquisition of fluency in Spanish.
leisure & culture
What I most enjoyed about living in the house I stayed in, was the absolute submersion in the Spanish culture. My landlord, Andalusian as can be, taught me a lot about life, love, culture and many other life lessons, every single one of which I have experienced as a moment of personal growth.
suggestions/tips
(This suggestion is applicable in Granada, Spain, but may not be applicable in other cities or countries, so take care to find out what is the most common way to find yourself a house in the country/city where you're going before you make yourself a plan.) In my experience, looking for a place to stay in Granada when I was still in Holland, was absolutely impossible! In Spain, people tend to hang up the advertisements in the streets with phone numbers, and the easiest way to look for a room is when you get here and get to meet people! My advice, for people who are going to Granada, would be: when looking for a place to stay, opt for booking an Air B&B room for two weeks, and look for a place to stay when you get to the city of your university abroad. Try to submerge yourself in the culture immediately, meet new people from the country you're staying in and find out if there is a place to stay in (one of ) the district(s) you like best.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Granada is so entirely, absolutely worth it!!!!!! It is a beautiful city, with wonderful places and an inspiring mixture of cultures and people!!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Participate in the Erasmus project! It is a life-changing, wonderful experience that no one should miss out on!

faculty/college	Universiteit Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication & Information Sciences / Psychology

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
After having decided where I wanted to go, I wrote a motivation letter, a studyplan and a financial plan. When I heard I was accepted by the university of Granada, I had to fill in quite a lot of other forms. Going on Erasmus comes with some paperwork, but you'll forget all about it when you arrive in Granada...	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The International Office helped me a lot; I could always email all my questions or go to the office for help. Without the people from the International Office, the whole process would have been a lot more chaotic.	
academic preparation	
I study Communication & Information Sciences, but decided to do a minor in Psychology. Before going to Granada I had never taken a Psychology course. I decided to only choose courses from the first year of Psychology in Granada; in case the other courses would be too hard (also... because all of the courses were in Spanish)	
language preparation	
I mostly learned my Spanish at home, using online apps like Duolingo and iTalki (an app where you can find people from a specific city, like Granada, with whom you can talk and exchange languages). I made some friends at the Language Cafe in Utrecht, which was really helpful for practising my speaking. I also took a conversation course at Fuentes and one Spanish course at the university. When I left, my level in Spanish was around B1.2/B2.1, which was just enough to 'survive'. It's really recommendable to practice your Spanish as much as possible before going: this will not only help at the university, but also in your daily life. Try to get used to the Andalusian accent as well.	
finances	
I received an Erasmus grant and my usual DUO grant. Life in Spain is cheaper than in Holland, so this should be enough. If you want to travel a lot, or go out or go for tapas a lot, I would recommend saving some money as well.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
Before going to Granada, you have to fill in a 'Learning Agreement'. This means you will have to search for courses on the internet, choose some courses and get an approval from the International Office both in the Netherlands as well as in Spain. Don't take this search for courses too seriously: 1. because the courses you find on the internet sometimes don't even exist anymore and 2. the process of registration of courses in Spain doesn't go as smoothly as it does in Holland. In Granada, during the first weeks of the semester, exchange students can go to every class they want, to check whether they like the class or not. During these weeks you'll probably discover that some of the courses you chose are harder than expected, different than expected or taught by a teacher with a really strong Andalusian accent. I would really recommend actually trying a lot of classes and choosing understandable teachers. Don't underestimate the Andalusian accent... When you finally know which classes you'd like to follow, you can go and register at the International Office. Try to go to as many	

classes as possible in the first week, so you can register as fast as possible, because otherwise it could be that the classes you chose are already full. Also, take a nice book... (the queue can be long) :) This whole process wasn't the best thing ever, but at the end I could follow all the courses I wanted to follow, so I was happy.
academic quality of education activities
This depends on the courses you've chosen, and especially on the teachers. In general I think I could say that the academic level is a bit lower than in Holland; the focus lies more on learning information than on thinking deeper and forming an opinion. A good thing to know about the exams is that most of them, at least those of the first year psychology classes, consist only of really specific multiple choice questions. So the focus lies on remembering facts rather than having a good overview and being able to combine information. However, one of the courses I took, called 'Condicionamiento, Motivación y Emoción', was a bit more challenging. The teacher was really (seriously, extremely) enthusiastic and wanted only the best of his students. This is something to think about in the first week: what kind of teacher do you want? And what kind of classes? (Also, if you don't like doing presentations, sometimes you can choose courses that have just exams, and no presentations/assignments/etc.). One last thing: I expected there to be a lot of Erasmus students in my classes, but this was not the case. Sometimes I was the only international student. Try to go to all your teachers in the first weeks, saying you're not from here. Also, if there's something you don't understand, you can always go to 'tutorías': most teachers will really appreciate it when they see you're interested in their course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people at the International Office are really friendly, although a little bit chaotic.
transfer of credits
I will receive this at the end of July.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme of the university consisted of two lectures: one general and one psychology-specific, which were helpful. Also, you could choose to join activities like a language exchange or a guided visit of some parts of the city. I had been in Granada for two weeks when the introduction started, so I only went to the information sessions. However, I did join a lot of activities from the many Erasmus organizations. Whereas in a lot of countries there's only ESN, in Granada there are at least 4 more organizations that help students get to know the city and each other. I tried ESN, Erasmusgranada.com and Erasmus Granada Best Life Experience. I preferred the last one. I recommend joining some of the activities: they will help you learn a lot of nice people and tapas bars!
accommodation
I stayed in a house close to Plaza Nueva, with 9 roommates. It was a great mix of Spanish and International (French, German, Italian, Greek) students. It's really easy to find a place in Granada, since there are more rooms than students. Just join one of the Facebook groups when you're still in Holland, or start looking for a room when you've arrived here. It won't be a problem! The prices vary from 150 outside of the city center to 200-300 in the center.
leisure & culture
Granada is amazing... the tapas bars, the relaxed people, the Alhambra, the amazing views from the Miradores.... I loved just walking through the streets, sitting down for some tapas, etc. The culture actually is really different. I realised when I was here that, for example, everything in Holland is extremely well organised,



but the people are extremely stressed as well. I liked the Spanish mañana, mañana culture a lot and I hope to bring a bit of it with me, back to Holland.

suggestions/tips

Although it's really easy to find international friends, I would recommend looking for some Spanish friends as well! Otherwise it's easy to end up in the Erasmus bubble, which I did more than I hoped I would.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! I honestly think it's one of the best cities to go to on Erasmus. It's small: you can go everywhere by foot. But it's not too small, there's a lot to see and do. The city is a great mix of cultures: from arabic influences, to the hippies in the Albaizin, to the many international students. Within half an hour you can go into the nature close to the city, for example to go skiing, hiking, or just to have a picnic with an amazing view over the city. Other beautiful Andalusian cities like Málaga and Sevilla are really close as well. Even though sometimes it can be a challenge living here, for example, sometimes the classes can be hard or the system can be so incomprehensibly slow, I'm looking back at five incredible months in which I've learned a lot about Spain and about myself. I got to know a lot of great people and I'm already looking forward to going back, although I'm still here...

do you have any additional advice or comments?

¡Que lo disfrutes!