

**2022-2023**

**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	07 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process went smoother than expected. There was plenty of guidance from the UU's end; if I had any queries, I could easily email one of the coordinators.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counseling and support were fine; there were a number of information sessions about the exchange and the application session which were helpful. Once we had received our exchange destinations, the information sessions were divided into the areas, like Northern Europe, and Southern Europe.
academic preparation	There was not much academic preparation required for me. The courses which I took at Queen's were mostly first or second year courses.
language preparation	English is a second language to me, so I did not have to do any preparation.
finances	Finances weren't a problem either. We were still lucky to receive an Erasmus grant until May 15.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I followed three courses at Queen's: Broadcast Storytelling,	
academic quality of education activities	
The academic quality was high overall. We had some trouble with industrial strikes by teachers, so a lot of my classes were canceled. The quality of classes is higher at the UU, I'd say, but I still really enjoyed going to school at Queen's.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The counseling went a bit rough at first, but this was also partially my fault. Just remember to constantly check your QUB email, so you don't miss out on any important meetings. I had missed my meeting with my counselor because I didn't check, but we were able to meet at a different time.	
transfer of credits	
This has yet to happen.	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The orientation programme was great at Queen's. The teachers and staff were very welcoming and took us on a tour of the new campus and city. We ended up in the Parlour, a bar across from Queen's Students' Union, where we ate traditional Irish food and listened to live traditional Irish music!	
accommodation	
I stayed at BT9, a student village filled to the brim with, well, students. It was great living here because it puts you in contact with students from all around the world. The accommodation was provided from the University and any student can apply for it. This is also partially why I chose Queen's in the end, because of the accommodation it offers.	
leisure & culture	
Belfast is an amazing city. It's vibrant, has lots of fun little pubs, and the arts are thriving here. In Belfast you can go to the Titanic Museum, visit the iconic Crown Bar, or the peace wall in West Belfast. Belfast has a rich history (the Troubles, the Titanic, etcetera) and the people are super kind. In some neighbourhoods, you can still feel the tension between protestants and Catholics, but I never felt unsafe. People here are very positive and always in for a bit of fun.	
suggestions/tips	
Get a Y-Link card while you're here. It's free of charge and gives students a 50 per cent discount on public transport using Translink. The train connections from Belfast to the North Coast and Giant's Causeway are great and there are regular busses that go to Dublin. Also, don't get the kitchen set BT9 offers students. It's absolute rubbish; I had to buy a new pan in a couple of weeks after I bought the set. Also, go to the Lagan Meadows! It's a beautiful nature reserve/park right behind BT9. Sadly, I discovered it a bit late. Last, you've got to try BaoBun on Botanic or Lisburn Road, absolutely delicious.	

CONCLUSIONS
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would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. I've met some wonderful friends here. The surrounding countryside is astounding, there's just so much to see. The Northern Irish people are really nice and always willing to help. The classic Lanyon Building on Malone Road sets off a great vibe and so does the new Students' Union across the street! The SU organizes lots of activities for students and makes you feel right at home. Very positive experience overall.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I went on exchange the second semester. Consider doing this too as you'll have a better chance of good weather.

## 2019-2020

### Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	09 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I found it a little bit confusing what papers I was required to hand in at what point. On the information meetings you get all this information, but it's so much information that if you miss one small detail, it can derail your entire application. Next time I would make a big list of all the things to hand in and their deadlines, to make it a little bit easier.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Whenever I had questions I would send them to the International Office, and their team is incredibly helpful, so in the end it was a breeze to get everything sorted.
academic preparation
I did not think it was necessary to prepare ahead of time. The semester in Belfast didn't actually start until two weeks after I got there. Those two weeks were the perfect amount of time for me to prepare.
language preparation
As a student of English it was not necessary for me to do any extra language preparations, because I already knew the language.
finances

I had worked all summer, so I had a lot of money saved. My parents also chipped in. That in combination with the Erasmus beurs were enough to cover all my expenses.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses were quite comparable to Utrecht. However, as you follow more of them in a year, they are a bit more detailed, which I found very handy. The course coordinators were also the only teachers, as the classes were a bit smaller than in Utrecht. The contact with them was always easy and quick, and they were really nice.

academic quality of education activities

Very comparable to Utrecht! If not exactly the same.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I barely saw my Erasmus coordinator. If you need to come in contact with anybody, you need to take the first step.

transfer of credits

One Belfast course is 20 Belfast credits, which is 10 ECTS, so you need to follow 3 courses.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It was all very well organized. There were student assistants everywhere during the introduction weeks, which was awesome. My advice is to not go to the program introductions (specific to your studies) because these are meant for first years and are not at all relevant for us as second or third year students.

accommodation

All students that were on an Erasmus exchange for the first semester were all put together in Guthrie House, an accommodation that isn't opened in the second semester. I (and all my housemates) found the accommodation severely lacking. Whereas Elms is very modern, this house was quite old. Appliances broke very quickly. In the end, we were given back a portion of our rent, because of the shortages of the accommodation. However, the accommodation team was very accommodating and incredibly lovely, and my housemates were also incredible!

leisure & culture

Belfast is an amazing city for student life. There are plenty of pubs and clubs. The student bar (Speakeasy) is an amazing place to hang out and go out, and it's an incredible hub for activities.

suggestions/tips

Literally everything. Go explore the city, take a walk around Belfast Castle, go to the Giant's Causeway. It's such a beautiful environment!

### CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! Northern Irish people are incredible, you are bound to have an amazing time. The university provides you with so many opportunities as a student: free gym access, discounts on films, etc. There are also amazing societies you can join, I joined the musical theatre society for example, and I was part of a concert and a musical in the short time I was there. The courses are really nice as well!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

## Report 2

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

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	10 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 05 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process can be a little overwhelming because of the large number of files and documents that need to be filled in, but the International Office and UU website have summed up all the information needed on the website so checking that, to see if you've done everything you needed to, makes it a little easier to keep track of all the forms.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office helped me a lot and was always available through email, or in person during the walk-in hours.
academic preparation	I brought some of my studybooks with me, but other than that it wasn't very necessary for me to do any academic preparation
language preparation	I took the CAE test in high school already and had enough knowledge of the English language to feel confident going to Belfast without any language preparation
finances	I made a list of what how much money I had to spend each month and how I could divide the 80% of the Erasmus Grant I got at the beginning, which helped me to make sure I always had enough money left during the last few days of the month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There were some problems with the courses I signed up for, and it took a while to figure out how to fix this, but the great thing about Queen's is that you're allowed to change courses until two weeks after classes have started, so that gave me some time to make sure I liked the courses I was taking and to change the ones I didn't particularly enjoy

academic quality of education activities
I took some second and some third year courses, and the second year courses were fun but not really challenging, but the third year courses were (also fun) but a lot more difficult than the second year courses and than what I was used to at Utrecht
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Queen's offers a lot of great counselling and support for all students, even for exchange students. When I got pretty sick they really helped me out with getting to a doctor and they even kept checking in on me to see if I started feeling better.
transfer of credits
I haven't received my credits yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programma was fun the first few days, but it lasts a week and at the end the talks were really boring, especially if you're already used to academic life and living on your own.
accommodation
The university accomodation was a little expensive, but it was worth it. The rooms are nice and have everything you need, and you share the kitchen with other students, which is very nice and fun
leisure & culture
The hills around Belfast are amazing and offer great views of the city, they are very easy to climb and close to the city centre, you can get there by taxi or even by bus. They're really worth visiting
suggestions/tips
The Belfast Hills, Derry at Halloween has a great parade, and the Giant's Causeway is somewhere you need to have been when you're in Northern Ireland

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would, especially because I loved the courses at Queen's, they were so interesting and really taught me a lot. Belfast is a great city with a great nightlife and lots of other students, so it's never quiet or boring, but it's also small enough to make you feel at home
do you have any additional advice or comments?
It doesn't rain as much in Belfast as you might expect in Northern Ireland

### Report 3

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

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, Northern-Ireland
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	06 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 05 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	My application process went quite smoothly. At the early stages of the application process it might feel like you'll have to put in loads of paperwork but it's not that bad. Make sure to keep good track of every application deadline and who you need to get in contact with to get these documents signed and it's pretty much smooth sailing from there!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I found the UU International Office incredibly helpful. They'll send you detailed but concise emails about everything you have to take care of, when application forms are due and the appropriate steps you need to take to get them signed. The 'Handboek voor Uitwisseling' they offered which provides information on things like getting a VISA, what to do with your student OV etc. helped me out a lot too. Any remaining questions I had were answered quickly by the IO staff!
academic preparation	I signed up for a couple literature courses at Queen's which I had been doing for most of my bachelor at UU so I didn't really have to prepare.
language preparation	None
finances	I started saving up for my exchange about 1 year before I went to Belfast. I worked extra shifts whenever I could, especially during the summer holidays. My parents also helped me out with paying my accommodation fees at Queen's since it was a bit pricey.

### (interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme takes about a week during which you'll get a tour of the campus, meet your School, sign up for classes etc. It might seem a bit long but it does give you the time to familiarize yourself with the campus and how things work at Queen's before the semester starts. The program also organizes lunch for all new international students so you're bound to meet some new friends in your first week!
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Queen's required me to sign up for three courses in the English department, so on my application form that I had to upload to OSIRIS I listed Irish Gothic, Utopia/Dystopia and Modern American Fiction. I should note that Queen's can't let Erasmus students enrol for their courses online: my exchange coordinator at Queen's told me they could take note of my preferred courses, but official enrolment could only take place after I had arrived in Belfast and been given my student number and email address. So after some back-and-forth emailing with my exchange coordinator it turned out Utopia/Dystopia had already reached its maximum number of students, so I had to pick an alternative. After I arrived in Belfast I went to enrol for my courses, it turned out American Fiction overlapped with Irish Gothic in terms of schedule. I had to choose an alternative for that one as well. So I ended up taking Irish Gothic, Women's Writing 1680-1820 and Renaissance Performance, Gender, Space. I enjoyed these alternatives and learned things I never really studied in depth at UU, but I think I would have liked my original selection more in the end. In hindsight, I think it would have been better if I had chosen some back-up courses in case something like this would happen, because the original three courses I listed were one of the main reasons I wanted to study at Queen's.
academic quality of education activities
<p>Literature courses are structured pretty similar to the ones at UU, except that lectures (1 hour long) take place every other week and seminars only once a week (2 hours per seminar) so there's a bit more independent studying involved. In terms of academic quality, Queen's is also quite similar to UU: you're expected to participate in class discussions and be able to do close-readings on your own. However, I did feel like the bar was a bit lower for presentations. For example, for one of my presentations I had to summarize a scholarly article and present it to class for 5-10 minutes. Teachers usually won't mind if you prepare a script and read off your paper. This will be different for every course, though. Another presentation I did expected me to do my own analysis of a text or explore a theme within the text.</p> <p>Many courses at Queen's will provide students with a list of topics to choose from for the final essay, but you're always free to devise your own topic/thesis statement like at UU. Teachers will usually supply a lot of secondary articles to help you get started on your research (which I thought was very helpful sometimes) or help you deepen your knowledge of a particular topic/author etc.</p>
transfer of credits
I'm still waiting for my Transcript of Records to be sent to me and UU but that could happen any day now.

<b>CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES</b>
support guidance of host university
I contacted my teachers at Queen's as soon as I got an email from UU urging me to return home. They were all very supportive and understanding and told me I would not be penalized for not being able to attend the remaining classes. I was also told I had to inform the head of the School of English at Queen's that I would be going home so they could keep track of which Erasmus students were leaving, so I did and that worked out fine. I regularly received emails about changes to the assessment process (everyone was given two more weeks to finish their final essays). I was never in the dark about any issues or changes to the assessment process.
support guidance of home university

UU was quick to contact me back in March when the virus was spreading rapidly and the situation seemed to escalate further every new day. They informed me about international travel restrictions and strongly advised me to return home. They provided answers to my questions and concerns and I especially appreciated the regular email updates. I also thought it was great that the Erasmus team contacted exchange students about their grant and that we were allowed to keep all of it if we continued our exchange digitally. All in all, UU provided some great support and relieved some of my concerns at the time!

online offer and quality of digital courses

My teachers adapted very quickly to these challenging circumstances and really went the extra mile (or as far as their personal circumstances would allow them): they would put extra secondary material online as the physical library was closed, record lectures, set up Teams meetings for seminars or give advice on essays via email. They really stepped up and I really appreciated it.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

If you've returned to The Netherlands and your host university is in a different time zone, don't forget to calculate that in when online classes are scheduled.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would! Queen's offers some interesting courses and Belfast itself is a fun, small city with a lot of history and cute cafes. If you'd like to travel around, Belfast is about an hour away by train or bus from most sightseeing spots or hiking trails in the mountains which I can definitely recommend!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It helps to call some friends or stay in for some me-time if you ever feel homesick, but don't forget to keep going out there and visiting new places. I also brought a journal/scrapbook I used to write down my experiences and put movie/bus/sport's game stubs in, which will be fun to read in a couple years!

## 2018-2019

### Report 1

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

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English language and culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queens University Belfast
start date	11 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Clear. It can be overwhelming but when I had figured out where to find all the information it was quite easy.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support at Utrecht University was always good. When I had any questions about the process I would email the international office and the employees were always so kind to response quickly
academic preparation
I felt that the program I follow in Utrecht is stricter than QUB. I should note here that I took mostly second year courses even though I was a third year student because I liked the subject of those courses better. UU prepared me well enough to be able to study in Belfast.
language preparation
None taken because I study English
finances
It's good to make a overview of your expected expenses. It turned out that I spend less that I had anticipated before the exchange so that was nice. Make sure you have the money to see a bit of the country, it can be boring to just stay in the city of your university

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
No issues, I could take the courses that I wanted to take.
academic quality of education activities
UU expects more input from her students in seminars etc., I think it is just a different aproach but I liked the way UU works better. Overall the quality of the courses I took in Belfast was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good support
transfer of credits
No problems so far

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Good
accommodation
I did not stay in the accommodation that QUB provides but I heared good stories about it.
leisure & culture
Do not expect many musea in Belfast, leave the city to see the beautiful nature instead. Northern- Ireland has an interesting history so go on tours and try to find out as much as possible!
suggestions/tips

iFriends organises many events for international students, go there to find nice people and have a good time.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had a really great time. The university was good, I learned a lot and met some really great people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

## **Report 2**

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

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	12 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The amount of different files that have to be sent to the range of different institutions (and the way you as student have to function as mediator between them) can get a bit complicated and overwhelming, so it's smart to start as soon as possible with getting all the files in order. You'll have to do a lot of signing, printing, scanning, emailing both the home and receiving university, etc.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office at UU was extremely helpful - their responses to questions were always quick and clear, as were their emails with signed documents. Do ask for help if you're uncertain about something, as things can get quite complicated if you're not entirely sure which documents you need to hand in, seeing as this can change per receiving institution.

academic preparation

My receiving university did not require much in terms of academic preparation - other than a transcript of records I did not need to hand in anything else.

language preparation

Seeing as I study English Language and Culture, all of my courses were already taught in English and therefore I didn't need any specific language preparations.

#### finances

As with all the general exchange files, staying on top of the financial files necessary to get for instance the Erasmus+ grant is handy. I made sure to talk to my parents and discuss what my financial situation in Belfast would be with them before I left. Even if you're not going to use your financial plan while on the exchange, it's good to have an idea of what the different incomes and outcomes are during your stay and how they differ from those you have back home.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

I read reports of people saying that the courses they had indicated on their initial applications turned out to be unavailable when they got to Queen's, but I did not have that same problem. The main thing to keep in mind is whether the courses you are going to be taking do not overlap too much with courses you've already taken. I picked out my courses not on the hand of the courses on the faculty or course-specific parts of the Queen's website but through <https://qsiscat.qub.ac.uk>. All the information on there seemed to be up to date and clear regarding course content and examination etc. I ended up taking the courses Televising the Victorians, Shakespeare on Screen, and Contemporary US Crime Fiction. Because the semester is relatively shorter than in Utrecht (end sept-mid dec instead of mid sept - mid jan) and the course load is three courses for the entirety of the period, this did mean that the study rhythm is a bit different, which is something to consider. Also, instead of having deadlines spread out across one or two weeks at the end, all of my essays and assignments were due on one single day, which also requires a different kind of planning than I was used to.

#### academic quality of education activities

The quality of teaching at Queen's was very good, in my opinion. Especially the third-year courses were done in relatively small groups, meaning there was a lot of possibility for individual attention whenever necessary. The lecturers (who were in all my courses also the seminar professors) were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the content they were teaching. I did feel that the lectures were sometimes a little general or superfluous, especially seeing as they were only one hour instead of the two hours I was used to in Utrecht.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There were a huge number of activities, informational lectures and introductions over the course of the first two weeks of the semester, which was a bit overwhelming but also definitely helpful to get a sense of the place and the way things go. There was a meeting with the exchange coordinator for the School of English during that first week too, who helped explain some of the general regulations within the University and the School of English. After that, we could always contact the exchange coordinator through email if that was necessary.

#### transfer of credits

The results for my semester will only come in at the start of February so no transfer of credits has taken place yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

As mentioned previously, the welcome and orientation programme is quite big and long, but that did end up being helpful since it made sure you got to know the university buildings etc. in the first week.

#### accommodation

**UK – Queen's University Belfast**

I stayed in Elms Village, which is the university's accommodation and I would highly recommend staying there as an exchange student. While maybe not the cheapest option you can find, a friend of mine who ended up staying in private accommodation had a lot of trouble finding a place that would take her on for the short period and without her living in the UK already. I think it is less hassle to stay in one of the university accommodations, and in the end I think her place was about as much money-wise seeing as she had to sign for a six month contract. I ended up living with a mix of other exchange students and students for the UK, which was great. I think staying there really helped me feel more at home, seeing as there's always someone around in the kitchen/communal area if you're looking for company. The rooms are small, but in fine condition.

**leisure & culture**

While I personally am not very big on going out, my flatmates have had quite the range of interesting nights out in Belfast. In terms of culture - a black cab tour to educate yourself a bit about the history of the Troubles is recommended (I definitely wasn't that aware of the history before I got there and it is still a big part of the city), the Ulster museum is really nice, as is the Palm House in the park next to the main university buildings. Also definitely visit the Giant's Causeway, there's a bus there and back once a day and while it's quite the trip (over an hour each way), it's a lovely day trip.

**suggestions/tips**

I would recommend buying the bedding pack from the university accommodation (seeing as bringing or having to buy bedding/pillows on your first day is a hassle) but I would recommend not buying the kitchen pack (or bringing a lot of stuff with you). I took a mug and some cutlery with me, and bought some plates in the big Tesco near Elms Village on my first day. After that, there's an Ikea that's just a bus trip away to get some cheap but sturdy pans and other kitchenware. Also (and this is especially the case if you go the second semester) hold off on buying things because it may very well be that exchange students from the first semester have left stuff behind - I know my flat ended up with an entire cabinet filled with kitchenware/plates etc. for the next exchange students.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would highly recommend Queen's University Belfast. I think Belfast is a great city for the amount of time you're away on this exchange - it's about the size of Utrecht (a bit smaller) but that makes it really easy to get to know the place and get a feel for the structure of the city and the university. It doesn't feel too overwhelming at any point. The university is gorgeous (as is the library) and the range of modules available was great. Also, the people in Belfast are just generally extremely kind and helpful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just make sure to stay on top of the things you have to do, but mostly just enjoy your time away - be there while you're there.

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen		
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/> master's	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD

name study programme	Media en Cultuur
destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	03 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process for me was very easy to understand. Where there were problems or questions, I could easily contact the international office who are very helpful. It was something I could fill in on separate days.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was really wonderful. The staff was very helpful and friendly. I was unsure about some things since I wanted to do everything as good as possible, so I mailed with questions then.
academic preparation	In regards to academic preparation I didn't have a lot to do, since I am in my fifth year. Since I sort of finished everything, there wasn't a lot to do. The only thing I needed to do was to write as much as possible for my dissertation, so I would have an easy time after I came back.
language preparation	In regards to language preparation I didn't need to do a lot. My level in English was already C2 because of prior learning and studying. What I did do was watch some shows from the Republic of Ireland and Northern-Ireland to get a bit more acquainted with the accent and that helped.
finances	In regards to finances I got an Erasmus grant, so that helped quite a big deal. Especially since the accomodation costs were very high with a 110 pounds per week. Luckily I always have some savings for times like these. This was definitely an experience I wanted to use that money on.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme at the Queen's University Belfast is the reason for my Erasmus trip. University Utrecht is not a great school for practical filmskills which I desperately need for my career. Organisational it was okay since I was early with everything.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality was not what I was used to. I think I did about 35% of the work per week from what I'm used to in Utrecht. It was okay since I had time to get to know people and the country so that didn't bother me. Some courses like Editing didn't really help me.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	

I didn't really use any counselling and support at the receiving university abroad. All was fine and if I had any questions I would go to the teachers. Only time I used some support was because of my courses. There was a problem with the scheduling.
transfer of credits
In regards to transfer of credits, that didn't occur yet. Since I don't have all my grades yet because of some slow teachers. Hopefully all will be fine, since the grading system is very different in the UK. It's a pass from 40% up, while that wouldn't be a pass here, but it still should be.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme in the begin was great. Then we had a week off because of their special week to prepare students for the rest of their career. So I used that week to become acquainted with everyone and the city.
accommodation
The accomodation looked very promising in the beginning. The room was fine, apart from that there was a big wall in almost neon orange, literally the worst colour for a room to sleep in. The sockets for power were very unconveniently placed as well.
leisure & culture
The leisure time were good. It was a joy to go to the pubs or the cinema with friends. There would always be live music in the pubs and the beverages are very much better than the Dutch equivalents. The culture was very nice to know as well.
suggestions/tips
In the beginning and at then end it feels like avery short time, but while I was there everything felt very slow and like I had enough time to do absolutely everything. I began postponing things to better weather, apparently to a time most people would already leave. So do a lot with a lot of people, because you will probably never see them again.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I am not sure if I would recommend this university to others. I did not really learn a great deal to be honest. But still it was a great experience. I would definitely recommend Belfast to others. It may not be the most beautiful place but the country itself is. The people are very nice and hospitable. The university itself is helpful, but the level of the courses itself was a pity.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I do not.

## **Report 4**

permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: m.vanderdeure@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:



See end note for * and **	other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: <b>or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	BA-Media en Cultuur

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queens University
start date	03 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>I thought the exchange application process was a bit overwhelming at first, since there is a lot of paperwork. If you start on time, however, this should not be a problem. Especially choosing the modules was quite complicated, but I contacted the coordinator at Queens plenty of times and this was very helpful. The best advice I can give about this is that you need to try to be organized since you will need a lot of signatures and this will all take time and can get a little bit chaotic.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>The International Office is extremely helpful. I have contacted them a lot with questions, or sometimes just to check if I was doing things the right way. Don't be hesitant to contact them with any questions or doubts. The pre-meetings were also very helpful and gave you an overall idea of what you could expect.</p>
academic preparation
<p>I did not have to do any academic preparation. Since it is unsure which modules you will take until the very last moment, there was not much I could do before I left.</p>
language preparation
<p>I did not participate in any language preparation, but it is possible to follow English courses if needed. It is important that your writing is at the right level, but if you can follow English courses at Utrecht University without any problems, you will be fine at Queens University.</p>
finances
<p>Try to save as much as possible before you leave. The financial plan was helpful, but does not prepare you completely. Especially since I did not work in Belfast during the exchange, the money goes quite quickly. Life there is not extremely expensive but definitely not cheap. If you also want to travel around a bit you will need to have plenty of money saved up before hand.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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study programme (content and organisational issues)
Finding the right modules was one of the most time consuming things during the preparation. The module guide is not always updated and a lot of courses are not available to every student. Try to double check everything with your coordinator, and have a few courses as a back up since it happens quite often that certain modules suddenly are not available anymore.
academic quality of education activities
The modules themselves were extremely fun and stimulating. The teachers are very passionate about what they do and that shows. There was a little less participation from students than I am used to in Utrecht, but don't let that stop you. When you do participate, it only heightens the professors enthusiasm and they will give you just that little bit of extra support. The modules were quite challenging at times, but the grading is a lot less strict than what I was used to. If you do your best and pay attention you will most probably pass with a good grade.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had a lot of guidance from my coordinator, especially when I had to travel back home for a week do to personal circumstances. The teachers are also very helpful and will answer any questions or doubts that you may have regarding the modules or specific assignments.
transfer of credits
I have not yet received my records so I can't say anything about this.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Queens gives you an overwhelming warm welcome. The first week was very well organised and made everyone feel at home. This week gives you the opportunity to discover the city and meet the other international students. It also gives the possibility to ask any questions you might have and direct you to the right people who can provide help if you might need it.
accommodation
For Erasmus students they guarantee a place on campus, which was one of the reasons I chose the city. Even though the accommodation is very expensive, I would recommend it. I lived in BT2, which is a very new building that is directly in the city centre. You have a lot more contact with your fellow students if you live on campus and they organise a lot of cheap activities. They also have great communal rooms which give you the possibility to hang out with other people or just get some of their free coffee and tea. You do have to pay the whole rent when you arrive, so make sure you have this money saved up.
leisure & culture
I can honestly say that Belfast is a very underrated city. Not only does it have amazing museums, architecture and shops, the people there are extremely friendly. So friendly, that if you would go out by yourself, you would have made a new group of friends within the hour. It also has a lot of history which I can recommend reading into before you leave. A lot of people have lived in Belfast during the Troubles and can tell you incredible stories of its history. (Northern) Ireland is not a very large place, so travelling is quite easy. Even just a short busride out of the city will bring you to the most beautiful nature parks and hiking trails.
suggestions/tips
Definetely check out the local pubs. They are at the heart of Irish culture and will give you lots of possibilities to meet local people and make new friends. Check out The Duke of York and The Dirty Onion in Cathedral Quarter, Pug Uglies in the city centre and definitely go out dancing in Fibber Magees.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely. Belfast will give you everything you need from a city with its culture and music, and is surrounded by beautiful nature. The people will make you feel at home right away. Queens University is also a very good university that offers a lot of interesting modules and are very experienced with international students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Ask for help when you need it or are in doubt. There are a lot of people at Utrecht and in Belfast who are very willing to guide you through the process and let you make the most out of your stay. And just enjoy it, because it goes by really quickly.

**2017-2018  
 Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> r.m.thijssen@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	UU
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Lit (Translation, Creation & Adaptation)

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queens University
start date	09 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I have not experienced any difficulties applying for an exchange. There's a decent amount of paperwork, but nothing overwhelming. Going to an English speaking country in the EU has some advantages in this department I'm sure. Applying for accomodation and finding proper courses was not complicated either, everything can be found through Queens University's site.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I've only attended a single information seminar at the UU, which was informative but by no means instrumental.
academic preparation	None
language preparation	None
finances	Accomodation at Queens and living there was not more or less expensive than living in the Netherlands. Having to pay for the whole stay in one go can be bothersome, but I managed to get an arrangement allowing me to pay in two installments seperated by three weeks (enough for one more DUO infusion). The Erasmus+ grant also helps.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	No issues to speak of, I really enjoyed the programs at Queens. The professors are knowledgeable and very eager to teach. They have an amazing library (which I didn't use much but I heard it's fantastic).
academic quality of education activities	

For me it's difficult to say if the level of education is the same as at UU. The courses work differently as you have more time for them, but you're doing three at a time, and practically the whole grade is decided by the final essay (90-100%). I ended up having to write three 3000-word essays in 10 days (my fault ofcourse but you get the picture). I would say that the studyload is about the same per course as in Utrecht, but the courses are divided differently over the year, and it's six courses in a year instead of eight (so perhaps slightly lighter, you won't mind).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
No experience
transfer of credits
Pending, allegedly due to arrive at UU's Erasmus team without any help from me.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Exchange students are to arrive around the tenth of september, but courses only start by the end of the month. So in the beginning you have like two weeks to get to know everyone around, the first week of which is filled with activities to encourage this and informative lectures to remind you there's also going to be some studying.
accommodation
Most Erasmus students will end up living in Elms Village which is a sort of complex of student houses. It's all very neat and tidy and also very safe, with their own security team, standing guard at the only entrance the whole night through. Apart from that though, it's really a joy to live there among all the exchange students (there's Irish too but mostly freshers, and I feel like they try to keep us seperated as there were no Irish in my whole building). Even if you're a bit of a possum like me, you'll make a friend there on your first day.
leisure & culture
Belfast is really fun. I recommend steering clear of the nightclubs as much a possible (only if you absolutely need to dance) because the music is terrible and they close at 2:00. What's exceptional in Belfast are the pubs. Do not leave without visiting: Kelly's Cellar, Sunflower Public House, The Duke of York and The Dirty Onion. An exception to the rule regarding nightclubs is a bit of an underground jewel called The Menagerie, I've only visited it once but it turned out to be one of my best nights there (there was rock music that night, it appears they mostly play techno so check it out if that's your thing). Regarding daytime activities I implore everyone to explore the eastcoast including the giant's causeway, it's absolutely beautiful over there. In and around Belfast there's the Titanic museum, which is fun but perhaps not worth the 14 pounds, and Cavehill which makes for a nice walk, weather permitting.
suggestions/tips
More suggestions? The Students union has the cheapest beer. Pool can be fun even if you are garbage. Try some whiskey and learn to love Guinness.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would absolutely recommend this destination to everyone. Don't be tempted by that immense metropolis and take the time to get to know something smaller.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

No

## Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> e.m.deleede@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	Media & Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	17 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was kind of hard since the course catalogue of Queen's was/is not very accurate. I chose this university because of the interesting courses they offered, but in the end I did not take any of the courses I applied for at first. Also, my contact person did not respond very quick, which made it even harder. The people from Queen's I have been in contact with were very nice and helpful, but just a bit vague every now and then which was confusing.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office of the UU is very good. Always helpful and responds very quick to any inquiries.
academic preparation	I think the courses I took in Utrecht can be seen as the academic preparation for my courses in Belfast, because I took level 2 and 3 courses. Besides my general study program I did not do any additional academic preparation.
language preparation	I just started reading books in English instead of in Dutch and watched series with English subtitles.
finances	It is important to save money. I did not realize this before, because I thought I would spend as much money as back in Utrecht, but I found out that's not true at all. Sometimes your Erasmus can feel like on big vacation, during which you want to do everything you can. You will probably go on a lot of trips which can be quite expensive, especially when you're going to the UK.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I took two film courses and one drama course. To be honest, one of my film courses was incredibly bad, mostly because of the lecturer who was not able at all to lead a level 3 course. My other film course was fine, the teachers were very friendly and helpful and the films we watched were interesting.</p> <p>My drama course was the best, the teacher was very academic and informal at the same time and you could see he has been teaching for a long time.</p> <p>Since this year the semester system changed, and one semester consists just of three months. For me this was too short; I wanted to be there way longer. On the other hand, I have a lot of free time now because the second semester in Utrecht starts later, so I'm going back to Belfast in this free time just because I really love the city now.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>I would say the courses at Queen's were less difficult than at the UU, but that also really depends on the effort you do yourself. Generally, I can say it is easier to pass over there because you get a pass if you get just 40% out of 100%. While in Utrecht, you have to get a 5.5. I was quite happy with this, because now I had the time to discover the country and have fun abroad.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>My contact person was friendly. I did not hear much from him, but I knew that I could always email him whenever I had a problem.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>did not receive my grades or credits yet.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>the orientation programme was a lot, I think it took two full weeks in total, including a week especially for internationals and a week for everyone new to Queen's. Some meetings were useful, but some were a bit boring if you are a third year student who has already lived on its own.</p> <p>Anyways, it is very nice and thoughtful that the university organizes it.</p> <p>There were also a lot of parties organized because of the Fresher's week, which was nice to meet friends and do fun things together.</p>
accommodation
<p>Queen's has an amazing accommodation offer. They offer many different accommodations, and you can even apply for special needs or an alcohol free house and things like that. Basically, as an Erasmus student there is a big chance you will end up in Elms Village. I read some bad reviews about this place so I wasn't happy at first, but now I'm so glad I stayed there. Elms village is really like a bungalow park full of students. In the middle is the Treehouse, you can meet your friends here to play pool or table tennis and there is free coffee and tea every day. I made a lot of good friends during my stay, and I almost met all of them at Elms Village.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>(Northern) Ireland has such a nice culture. People are almost over-friendly and always helping each other. The Irish pubs are the biggest part of the culture, you can go there anytime to enjoy a pint and live music. The city Belfast itself is not too big, which makes it a comfortable city for newcomers. Although it's not the biggest and most famous city, it has a lot of artistic and cultural events going on.</p>
suggestions/tips

Try to get involved in the local life. There are many cultural festivals and events to join for example. Before I even left Utrecht I already got myself a voluntary job at the Culture Night Belfast, which was quite heavy because it was just in the first week of my stay, but it was nice to join the festival and feel like a real local.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I most certainly do. I had the most amazing time in Belfast. The University itself isn't the best, but my whole experience around it was most precious to me. The culture and people are so welcoming, the pubs are always a nice reason to go out and because of all this you make friends so easily. I think Ireland is really an amazing and unique place to stay.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are interested in Drama studies, please try to do the Educational Drama course. It was so interesting and taught me a lot about both Drama as an educational tool, but also about the Irish/English school system since we really went into a secondary school to provide a drama workshop.

## 2016-2017 Report

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

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	14 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

Sometimes the application process was a bit chaotic, because of all the signatures you have to collect and the concerned people that are not always available. But if you start on time this should not be a problem, it is just not really convenient and quite some work. The good thing is that you get a list of things you have to hand in, so if you follow this it can not go wrong!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

It was really nice that there was a premeeting, where you got information about a semester abroad. Above all this meeting was very useful, because you could ask questions to people who already went to the place you are going. Also the opportunity to meet the people who are going as well is very nice. The international office is also quite useful, because they answer all the questions you have if you go to the office or email them. The



**UK – Queen's University Belfast**

only downside is that the opening hours of the international office are not that great, they are not open that long.
academic preparation
By the University Utrecht there was not really any attention given to academic preparation. For the courses I followed at the Queen's University Belfast I received my programme for those courses pretty late, so I could not really prepare a lot.
language preparation
It is nice that there are some offers for language courses. I did not do those courses, but I followed a course at my home university that was completely in English as preparation. I think for most students there is not that much need for further preparation with the English language, because almost all the texts that you have to read are already in English at the University Utrecht.
finances
It was very helpful that you had to make a finance plan and had to hand this in. This gives a good overview how much money you need. Because of the early deadlines, most students know quite early how much they have to save, so you can already start working and looking for the grants that are available.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It was quite difficult to choose my courses, this was because the course catalog was not really updated. When I came at the Queen's University Belfast you had to make an appointment to let your courses get checked and they helped you from there. It was quite difficult to get this sorted out in advanced.
academic quality of education activities
I think the courses in Belfast were pretty similar to the ones in Utrecht, the quality is also pretty comparable.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There were a lot of presentations and information (by email, or flyers) you got, sometimes it was quite hard to sort out all the information. But it was very helpful that you had a contact person (and every one had to meet this contact person at the beginning). So if there was a problem you could always email them.
transfer of credits
I have not received this yet, so I can not really say anything about this subject.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I think this was really well organised, there were so many lovely activities! This was a great way to meet other international students, I really loved it.
accommodation
If you are an Erasmus student, they guarantee a place on the campus. This is a really nice accommodation, it was quite expensive but I think it is worth it. You get a furnished room, great location, a lot of security, 24/7 reception and a lot of other students!
leisure & culture

Belfast is a really nice city with a lot to do, there are plenty museums, nice buildings, wonderful nature and a lot of shops. There are also so many nice pubs! Queen's University Belfast also has a really nice gym and a lot of (sport)clubs you can join!
suggestions/tips
definitely join a (sport)club, it is a really nice way to try a new sport/hobby on a cheap way! There are so many things you can do, like fencing and climbing.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I certainly recommend to go to the Queen's University Belfast, there is a whole activity program for internationals, the people are extremely friendly, the campus is really nice, there is a lot to do, they have an amazing pub culture, and everything is well organized, what's not to love!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
It is smart to wait with ordering a kitchen packet (you have to do that in advance), because everyone in the kitchen has the same packet (so you end up with ten times the same stuff), it is a lot cheaper to buy it at poundland! I also would recommend to live on campus instead of searching your own place on a different location. This because almost everyone lives there, so you are missing out on a lot if you do not live on campus and the campus is a great way to make friends!

## **Report 2**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	14 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I thought the application process was very scary, but it wasn't all that hard. You just have to make sure you have all the documents ready before the deadline and everything will be okay. The documents weren't always easy to find, but friends and teachers can help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Except for it sometimes being unclear where exactly I had to go with my questions, the people at Utrecht were pretty fast with replying to questions and signing documents. The presentation we got on and the manual were also very helpful.

academic preparation
Academically I didn't really have to do much to prepare because the courses I took were all very similar to the sort of courses I normally take at Utrecht.
language preparation
Since I study English, going to study in an English-speaking country wasn't really an issue for me.
finances
I almost messed up my application for the Erasmus Grant, but I got it all done in time in the end. It was a lot of stress, but the application process is pretty guided so there's a clear checklist of what to do first..

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses I did in Belfast were fun and stimulating. I really enjoyed them. There were less tests than I normally have in UTrecht, so you really have to shine with your essay, but that's doable.
academic quality of education activities
The teachers were really passionate about their classes and really knew a lot about them. The content was challenging, specialised and interesting. It was a lot of work, but I enjoyed it very much.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Apparently I had a tutor, but they never told me who it was. However, the teachers were very open to questions and I had no problems in the end.
transfer of credits
I passed all my courses, but sadly the transfer of credits has not taken place yet so I can't help with that.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had two welcome programmes, one specifically for international students and one for general new students. That was a bit much and got a little boring after a week.
accommodation
The accomodation was expensive, but easy to obtain and very satisfactory.
leisure & culture
Belfast has a lot of museums, beautiful botanical gardens and a good connection to Dublin. I enjoyed it a lot.
suggestions/tips
The Giant's Causeway tour is really nice and so are the museums.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would, since the courses were really on a good level and very interesting. Academically, it was definitely a good choice. Other than that the people were nice and welcoming and the city was a lot of fun.

do you have any additional advice or comments?
No, I do not.

### Report 3

faculty/college	Language, Literature and Communication
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication- and Information studies

destination city & country	Belfast, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom)
name university abroad	Queen's University Belfast
start date	30 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I applied by writing a motivation letter for my first choice university abroad. I also had to choose the courses I wanted to follow and I had to construct a financial plan. In addition, I had to get my "study plan" approved by my study advisor.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	As preparation I went to an information meeting at Utrecht University, where I could meet other students who where selected for the exchange programme.
academic preparation	
language preparation	I made an obligatory language test. In addition to this I tried to read as much English books as possible.
finances	I saved money, made an arrangement with my parents who where willing to support me financially and I applied for the Erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I was allowed to choose all the modules within the 'Film Studies' department. To be sure I would choose suitable modules I contacted my 'contact person abroad' via email. I'm really glad I did this, because it saved me paperwork when I got to Queen's University.
academic quality of education activities	

The classes weren't the same as back home: the classrooms were different, seminars were shorter and (in my case) did not require as much preparation as my classes in Utrecht, but they required more participation in class itself. It was interesting to see 'the life' at another university.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had a meeting with my 'contact person abroad' who told me where my classes would be and where I could find my schedule and grades online. When I had a question I often emailed the Erasmus office at Queen's University or I contacted my professor when it was a question regarding one of my courses in particular.
transfer of credits
I haven't received my Transcript of Records yet, so I am not completely sure about the transfer of credits. At the beginning of the semester in Belfast, however, I got a lot of information leaflets, letters and meetings, where the different ways to grade in different parts of the world were also addressed.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I attended the Welcome and Orientation programme organised by Queen's University Belfast. This is where I met most of my friends I stayed connected to during my abroad experience.
accommodation
A arranged my accommodation before my departure through Queen's University. I lived in 'Elms Village' with a lot of other (international) students. The accommodation was alright and it was nice to live with other internationals, but I wouldn't have mind living in a proper 'student home', away from the 'university rules'.
leisure & culture
Elms Village organised some trips I attended. In addition to this my friends and I went on some trips around the country. Mostly we arranged this ourselves, but sometimes we participated in organised tours.
suggestions/tips
There is a lot of possibility to hike in the United Kingdom and Ireland, which is definitely worth the effort. So make sure you bring your hiking shoes if you come to Belfast!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend this destination to others, because I had a wonderful time in Belfast. The university is understanding towards international students and the city is upcoming and intriguing due to its past. The only thing I really didn't like about Belfast is the wheather.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
My additional advice is to go and meet local people. It is easy (and fun) to hang out with other international students, because they have the same life as you at that moment, but local people can show you things in the city you wouldn't see otherwise. The local people I met in Belfast were all very welcoming and nice.

### **Report 4**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Belfast, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Queen's University of Belfast
start date	12 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was quite stressful for me. It was difficult to get clear information regarding the modules that were offered by different universities and it took me some time to figure out which university would suit my interests best. The administration part was the stressful part for me because it included some deadlines and the paperwork and the waiting for signatures took longer than I expected. It is therefore advisable to begin as early as possible with the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The best support that I have received from Utrecht University was from my tutor who took the time to discuss several options with me and encouraged me to go on exchange. The International Office was also very helpful with explaining the paperwork and answering questions. I had some difficulties with reaching my Erasmus coordinator from my degree, since he did not reply to my emails and making appointments was difficult. However, this did work out in the end.
academic preparation	The academic preparation was not really an issue for me. Queen's University Belfast only emailed me the module manuals a week before classes started so I could not prepare a lot in advance. In hindsight this was a good thing because when I arrived at the university they informed me that two of the modules that I had chosen were no longer available. Therefore, if I had done a lot of preparation that would have been a waste of time.
language preparation	I did not do any language preparation because I study English language and culture and I was therefore already used to speaking English at university.
finances	Before going abroad I made sure that I had a general idea of my expenses and income. I had saved some money, but I mainly used that for travelling in the end because the combination of studiefinanciering and the Erasmus grant was sufficient for the everyday expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed three modules at Queen's: Late Medieval Literature, Women's Writing 1700-1820, and Writing New York 1880-1940. Each module was worth 10 ECTS and was taught during the entire semester. The content was very detailed and varied. Because the modules are longer than in the Netherlands, the topics can be discussed in more depth. Although two modules of my choice were no longer taught, there were many other modules to choose alternatives from.
academic quality of education activities
The teachers have an astonishing amount of knowledge concerning their topic of expertise. Their teaching skills are also very good and they take the students seriously and want to help them in each way they can. They even arrange individual meetings with students to ensure that essay topics can be discussed. My third-year modules gave me a lot of freedom concerning my essay topics, which challenged me to come up with original ideas. The feedback that they give is also very elaborate and helpful.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Queen's university was very helpful with helping me to set everything up in the beginning. I had an appointment with the Erasmus coordinator to discuss my modules and after two weeks she invited all Erasmus students of English Literature to come to a meeting to see whether there were any problems that she could help with. I have not had the need for other kinds of support, but I know that there were many ways to get help from the university when needed.
transfer of credits
Has not yet taken place so I am not sure yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme was really well organised. Students from Queen's were waiting for us at the airport when we arrived and they arranged the transport to the campus for us, which was nice because it was one less thing for us to worry about. On campus there was a 'Welcome Team' that was always there if you needed to talk someone, needed help with your bag or if you had some more practical questions. There were also two free dinners, which was a good way to meet other students. The welcome programme from the university itself was very good as well. It included a free breakfast as well as sightseeing tours, Irish dancing, buddy schemes, and pubcrawls. In addition, there was also a good deal of information about studying at Queen's and living on campus.
accommodation
I lived on the Queen's University campus in Elms village. This was a 15-minute walk to my university buildings. For some others it was only 10 minutes. Elms village housed a combination of international students and freshers. Although this took some time to get used to, it also made the place very lively. There is a small shop on the campus and there are facilities to hang out, study, and do your laundry. The houses are cleaned by a cleaning staff and each floor has a Residential Assistant who is there to help students with their problems.
leisure & culture
There are lots of pubs and bars to go to in the evenings. Some of them have great Irish live music, which is always fun to experience. Belfast has a good shopping centre, but also more cultural aspects such as City Hall, which offers free tours. Cave Hill offers a small castle and a great view of the city. It is also interesting to go and visit the peace wall to understand the history of Belfast.
suggestions/tips

**UK – Queen's University Belfast**

Try to join as many activities as you can during the orientation weeks. This way you get to discover all the good places that you can visit again in your own time. Definitely try to go to the Giant's Causeway. It is a relatively long journey but definitely worth it. It is also a good idea to go to the Saint George's Markt on Sunday.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would absolutely recommend Queen's University Belfast to others. The atmosphere of the town is very friendly, the people are always willing to help you or talk to you. The university itself welcomes international students and does everything they can to make your stay there as pleasant as it can be. By combining international students and freshers on one campus, you get to meet a large variety of people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?