



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Taal- en Cultuur studies

destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
start date	04 / 01 / 2023
end date	16 / 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for a UC school is definitely more work than a regular one. The first step is the same for everybody: you make a top three of where you want to go and apply. Once you know your destination, and if that destination is a UC school, that is where it starts to get more complicated, because you have to make a new top three; this time of the UC schools you want to go to and what you would like to do there. It is a lengthy process with a lot of tiny details, but it is doable if you just take your time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The process is complicated, but the international office walks you through the most part, which is amazing.

academic preparation

I did something completely new at UCLA, and I feel like I did not need a lot of academic preparation. As long as you have experience with college and writing in English, it's fine.

language preparation

UC needs some proof of your English proficiency, but there are a lot of options for that. If you know how to speak and write in English, you will be fine.

finances

An exchange to the US is very expensive, and UC asks you to send them proof of your financial ability to pay for this exchange. Housing, groceries, flights, basically life here, is very expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took sociology courses here instead of communication courses and I am so happy I did. UCLA offers a lot of courses that Utrecht does not, so it is very cool to learn about things you would not necessarily learn about at home. Course registration is a bit of a challenge though. Everyone gets an enrolment appointment, a time when they can register for classes and not everyone has the same time. This means that sometimes your appointment time will not be great, which means that you need to have some back up courses. You are completely responsible for your own schedule, you get to choose when your class is. It has its advantages, but it can also be very frustrating when the class you wanted to take is full.

academic quality of education activities



I think it's easier to get higher grades in the US than it is in the Netherlands, but higher grades here are expected. 80% here is considered to be below average. But the quality of the education is good.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There are options available if you need it. Have not used it myself.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I went in the second semester, so there was nothing. Which was really sad.

accommodation

Great, but expensive. If you live in University housing, you have furniture, but nothing else like bedding.

leisure & culture

LA is such a big city and there is so much to do. Public transport is cheap, but takes long. California is also an amazing state with a lot of nature and national parks nearby.

suggestions/tips

Don't underestimate the size of LA, and California. It is huge. Become friends with car owners, makes your life easier. Join clubs, go to sports games, these are great ways to make friends.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I loved my time here. UCLA has such a beautiful campus and so many fun things to do on and of campus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States
name university abroad	UCLA
start date	15 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 6 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There were a lot of steps involved in the application process (lots of forms with the visa application, language proficiency, other documents etc). I think the VISA application was the most stressful, but eventually it worked out for everyone.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Cathelijne (exchange coordinator UU) was easy to reach and very helpful, however there is still a lot you have to figure out on your own and sometimes things will get clear only at the very last minute.

academic preparation

Personally, I think the workload and the level of difficulty of the courses was higher with the ones I took in Utrecht. I did have some challenging courses, but it was very doable.

language preparation

I didn't really do much language preparation before departure because I was told that in general the level of Dutch students was good enough. Group projects and debates were maybe a bit challenging in the beginning, but not too much and the language change went very smooth.

finances

Living in the US (especially California) is expensive. I lived at cooperative housing which included a meal plan (highly recommend!), which eventually saved me a lot of money, but living on Campus, Health insurance, school supplies, going out, buying school supplies is quite expensive. Los Angeles doesn't really have public transportation, so we used Uber a lot (which also adds up). I was lucky with friends that had cars, but you still use uber a lot. Besides, being on exchange you want to see a lot of places and do a lot. We travelled a lot, which was super nice, but also costs you a lot.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Enrolling in courses was chaotic and stressful. I took psychology courses that had lots of prerequisites, but the psychology department wasn't allowed to give PTE beforehand. This meant that I had to contact them after the courses were open for enrolment and chances of them being full before they could help me were quite high. Some people were struggling with the quarter system, but since it is kind of the same as what I was used to in Utrecht, I didn't really have issues with it.

academic quality of education activities



In general I think the courses at UCLA were a bit more easy then back home, but they do have a great offer of educational activities (conferences with impressive guest speakers, great research facilities etc)
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't really use counselling and support during my exchange, but I know UCLA provided counselling if you wanted that.
transfer of credits
It was a bit unclear if we had to contact the exam commission of Utrecht, or if this went via UCLA.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
We didn't have an orientation/welcome programme because we arrived at the start of winter quarter and most orientation programmes were at the beginning of the academic year
accommodation
I stayed at the Cooperative Housing (COOP / UCHA), and it was honestly the best part of my exchange. There were a lot of exchange students, and it was very easy to make friends. We ended up doing almost everything together (Going out, going to campus, travelling, organising parties etc). I had to do a kitchen shift of 4 hours once a week and we had to clean bathrooms twice a quarter. It was not as clean and maybe as organised as on campus housing, but you pay significantly less and the community is more close.
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in Los Angeles, but everything requires a car. Los Angeles is very widespread but versatile. But I haven't had a single day I got bored.
suggestions/tips
Biggest suggestion is to check out UCHA and try to find a community with people you can do a lot with and that want to explore the city/country as well (e.g. other exchange students). This is what has made this year absolutely the best year of my life!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. UCLA is an amazing university and I loved being on campus and taking the courses. I made friendships that I know will last when I get home and have seen some amazing places.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Save money, find a nice group of friends, and don't stress too much during the preparation. Eventually there are people that could help you and it is definitely worth the effort!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geo Sciences
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Science and Innovation Management

destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States of America
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
start date	20 / 09 / 2021
end date	10 / 06 / 2022

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>I found the application procedure of UCEAP, which UCLA is a part of, quite intensive. After my placement at UCEAP, they required me to choose a top 3 of UC universities, as well as deciding which major I wanted to follow per UC including its corresponding courses. Unfortunately, for the majors I intended to follow, many prerequisites were in play that hampered me from following them. This made me adjust my choice of majors several time (and thus also my courses) and was quite a hassle. Fortunately, thanks to the help of the UU International Office, everything turned out well! Moreover, it was only later that it became clear to me that after you have been placed at your UC, you can easily choose other courses for your major. So, if you don't immediately have a great idea which courses you want to follow, you can easily adjust that.</p> <p>Regarding your VISA, I would advise you to fix this asap! The process of getting all your documents right takes quite some time, as well as getting yourself an appointment. Therefore, start with this right away once you get your DS-2019 form!!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I have had a lot of contact with the International Office during the preparation for the exchange. This was mainly COVID-19 related, but it was also about my problems choosing majors. This contact was very pleasant and helpful! Cathelijne from the International Office has been in contact with me quite regularly about my application struggles and she was super caring! She really helped me to make my exchange a reality!</p>
academic preparation	<p>I did not do any academic preparation before my exchange. I did, however, try to figure out which courses were interesting to me per semester and wrote these down in advance, so that enrolling in courses at UCLA was more manageable for me.</p>
language preparation	<p>UCLA required us to take a language test prior to our exchange. I have undertaken the online Duolingo test because it was by far the cheapest one compared to the other tests and was also quite easy to arrange. For example, for other types of tests you had to make a visit in-person. As a Dutch student, it is certainly not necessary to stress for this test! The average level of English among Dutch students is undoubtedly sufficient to pass this test and meet the UCLA standard.</p>
finances	



I would take an estimate living cost of \$6000 per semester. This *excludes* the cost of flights, but *includes* the cost of leisure, housing (see this chapter!), shopping, nightlife, insurance (which is very expensive) and trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

What I recommend is to take a good look at what the prerequisites are for each course, because they are quite strictly. It is also important that you register for your courses directly once registrations open, because the majority of the (nice) courses are full within the first fifteen minutes!

academic quality of education activities

In general, I did not think the level of education was much better than I am used to at UU. Though, I did find that the professors at UCLA were very passionate about their profession and conveyed that to the students. This really increased your motivation to participate in classes. I also had the idea that it was quite doable to get good grades with some effort. I also noticed that a big difference with Dutch education is that you get a relatively large amount of homework and that the focus is very much on reproduction instead of insight. As a result, the exams were often not that hard in terms of difficulty but required you to do a fair amount of stamping/studying throughout the weeks.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

haven't had a lot of contact with the UCLA International office or any other council. I did extend my exchange with them for an extra six months during my time here and this went quite easily. However, this took quite some time.

transfer of credits

In the portal of UCLA (myUCLA) you get the possibility to send the obtained grades directly from UCLA to UU, so you don't have to wait for the International Office there. As a result, converting the obtained marks into ECTS was quite easy. It is a good idea, however, to send an overview of the courses taken to the UU Examination Board during your last semester, in order to have permission in time for which courses you can count towards your degree. This will make your transfer of credits the fastest!

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At UCLA they don't have an orientation program. However, I met lots of people through my housing (see below).

accommodation

I have lived in the "UCHA Coop". This was a living space within walking distance from campus where you could live for around \$600/month (food included). The only requirement of living here was that you had to work 4 hours a week. However, this was hardly any effort and resulted in a very cheap stay. A significant proportion of the people living here were also UCEAP exchange students (often from Europe), but students from other countries were represented too. I have shared my room here with 2 others (this is also the case with the expensive on-campus rooms) and have made friends for a lifetime! You will see your Coop friends every day and will form great connections. As on-campus rooms quickly cost \$1400 and in my opinion are also less personal than the UCHA Coop, I strongly urge everyone to register for the UCHA Coop!

leisure & culture

Los Angeles is an enormous city and thus has lots of activities to offer. The most visited place would probably be Santa Monica which is only 20 minutes away by bus. For other locations, it would be nice to make use of the car. Luckily, I got to surround myself with people that were in possession of cars so I could get around quite



easily. However, I would not stress about missing out on this, as of the many people that you will meet, some will have a car (as there is no other way in LA)!

suggestions/tips

To have a good balance of studying and enjoying your time in Los Angeles, I would advise you to take 12 units per semester only. While 16 units will also be possible, it doesn't give you much space to enjoy your time in Los Angeles, while also getting great grades.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Without a doubt I would recommend UCLA to everyone! Being able to make friends for a lifetime and surround yourself with a bunch of new people has been amazing. Besides, it remains super cool to tell people I went to such great university as it is also known to be one of the best universities in the world. Lastly, Los Angeles is a great place to live and explore!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I don't have any other advice, but if you would have extra questions, you can always reach out to me throughout the International Office! As I enjoyed my time here immensely, I would love to help out everyone that wants to have the same great experience!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

1 faculty/college	Geesteswetenschap (Humanities)
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study programme	Media & Cultuur (Media & Culture)

destination city & country	Los Angeles, Verenigde Staten
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles
start date	20 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process went well for me. I took a lot of time for myself to read about the different countries and universities to find the best fit for me. I would advise you to look for a university that fits with your interest, but also for a country/city that you can see yourself living in for the duration of your exchange. After I applied I got accepted at UCLA, my first choice.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Cathelijne has been of a really great help to me. The preparation for my exchange went a bit rough because of the Covid restrictions and the uncertainty of the students being able to travel, but Cathelijne will always be there to answer your questions and discuss what is best to do. My study advisor also helped me to look at the possibilities of extending my exchange and what courses I could take that would fit the program in Utrecht.

academic preparation

I didn't do much for academic preparation. I made sure I figured out I knew which courses I wanted to take, but that's it.

language preparation

Before I applied for this exchange, I did an English course for six weeks in Brighton. It helped me to get more comfortable with speaking English, and it also helped me to discover that I really like to meet international people and to study abroad. After this course I took the TOEFL test, which in my opinion is OK for Dutch students.

finances

I knew that I wanted to go abroad in the first year of my bachelor in Utrecht. I worked a lot to save money in the next four years. In addition to this, DUO gives every student abroad around 100 EUR because we do not use OV in the Netherlands, don't forget to apply for this option. The best tip I can give is save as much as you can back home, so you can do everything you would like to do on your exchange. LA is an expensive city, but it is worth it.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I only followed courses from the major DANCE. For me, this was perfect since I could not follow these kind of courses in the Netherlands. I had both theory and practice classes. If you are interested in following any courses in the arts abroad, do it! Utrecht University does not always see the value of these courses and will not give you



all the credit for it (at least in my case they won't). But if you are passionate about something and you would like to learn more about it, in the United States they do see the value of arts and appreciate it just as much as other courses.
academic quality of education activities
In general I would say that the level of education is lower than what I was used to in Utrecht, even though we had to do more assignments at UCLA. I always had to be present in class, and for almost every class I had a padlet or mini essay due every week. If you keep up with the readings and assignments it is doable to get good grades.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not get many counselling, but I also did not need this. There is an international office that provides a lot of information and counselling if you need this.
transfer of credits
Once I had all my grades, I asked for my transcript and now I am waiting for Utrecht University to transfer my credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The department of Worlds Arts Culture & Dance had two introduction days; one lunch in Royce Hall and one general Arts introduction dinner. I highly recommend going to these activities, I have met my friends from class during these events, so the first day of class already felt comfortable. Other than this, UCLA has a lot of activities and welcome events in the first week which is very fun to see.
accommodation
I stayed at UCHA (University Cooperative Housing Association), which I highly recommend! It is an association with three buildings and around 400 students from different countries. The rent is relatively cheap because every member needs to work four hours a week in the kitchen, cleaning, in the post office, there are different options. It is a place that makes it really easy to meet new friends and to have people around you to travel with.
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in LA, you can always go to the beach, a swimming pool, a museum, the theater, the cinema, a hike in the nature, a nightclub, a restaurant or spot any other famous place that you have seen in a movie. Sometimes it can be hard to move around LA since there is a lot of traffic and some things are far away, so keep in mind that it is either good to have a car (or a friend with a car), otherwise you can use either uber or the bus.
suggestions/tips
Definitely go out of LA and go to national parks in California. LA has a lot of interesting places and fun things to do, but the most impressive things I saw was when we drove a couple of hours to different national parks. Yosemite is my favourite national park, and after that the Grand Canyon. Another tip would be to participate in the American student life by going to football games or participate in a club. In this way you will feel like a true Bruin.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
YES. UCLA was a perfect fit for me, I could follow the courses I wanted, I travelled a lot, I met many new friends and I truly felt like an American student.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



Universiteit Utrecht

Enjoy every day you have during your exchange! After Covid and while talking to other students at UCLA I realised that we are very lucky to be able to travel and study abroad. It may seem like there is a lot to organise before you go with the visa and finances etc, but it is truly worth it!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Los Angeles, US
name university abroad	UCLA
start date	24/09/2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13/12/2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It's a lengthy exhaustive process to apply to UCLA. First you apply to the UCEAP program in order to get accepted there, and then once you get accepted you start another application process to apply to 1 of the UC's in California. It takes a lot of time and effort to arrange everything and it's definitely stressful, but it's worth it once you're there.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Sometimes it was a little daunting because in applying to UCEAP I feel like you have to figure out a lot of things for yourself. I was told I would be able to get a language statement so I wouldn't have to take the TOEFL test because I study English, and then once the deadlines had passed for the language tests I found out the university couldn't give me a language statement because on paper the English Language study main language is Dutch. I was lucky that I'd completed an IB programme in high school so it didn't slow down my application, but things like this definitely made it a stressful time for me and I wish Utrecht University was a little bit more of a help during this process.

academic preparation

UCLA is a competitive university and all its students are very ambitious and aim to get straight A's. If you're used to taking on more than the average student, UCLA will be perfect for you.

language preparation

I took IB in middle school so I was already near-native, and since I study English I knew language wouldn't be a problem for me.

finances

I had no idea how much I would spend in LA. I also wanted to travel before, so I made sure I had more than enough money so I could do what I wanted and make the most out of my time there. I worked a lot before I left and now that I'm back I'm working even more to compensate. I definitely spent a lot of money, but I have zero regrets, because I did everything I wanted to and now I'm taking just 1 course so I have plenty of time to work.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied English at UCLA as well. I took 3 courses: Environmental Literature, Literary Los Angeles and Creative Writing Poetry. I enjoyed all of these courses a lot. The professors are great at teaching and they have a lot of time available for students and want you to get the best out of your time there. You can always email your professors your ideas for an assignment and you can send them your draft so you get a lot of feedback on your



assignments before they're due. It's definitely more preparation work than in Utrecht though, I needed to read a lot more and I got quizzes every week for 1 of my courses, so you really can't afford to procrastinate.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education is very high at UCLA. The professors challenge you to go the extra mile and they also expect a lot from papers and assignments. They have very high expectations, but I really enjoyed that because sometimes I felt that at Utrecht I could get away with slacking a little bit.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I wasn't in need of counselling or support.

transfer of credits

I took 3 courses, of 5 units each. The recommended number of units is 12, but English courses count for 5 so naturally you'll end up with more units. This also means you have to work a little harder, but it also means you'll get more ECTS in return, which is why I can now afford to take just 1 course for this quarter. Transfer is easy, you just send information about your courses to Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

UCLA has an orientation programme, but naturally it's mostly geared towards students that will stay here for at least a year. It's mainly about the clubs and organisations you can join there. Another big part of the orientation program is that you have to take short online courses throughout the quarter about for example sexual harassment. These are mandatory and usually take up a couple of hours.

accommodation

I lived in UCHA, which is a cooperative housing unit. It's cheap compared to the cost of living in the dorms or apartments, but that means it can also be a little dirty. In exchange for paying cheap rent, you have to work 4 hours a week, usually in facilities or the kitchen, but that's also a great way to meet other students. The coop is definitely the best place you can live if you go to UCLA. They also have coops at other universities, for example Berkeley. The people in the coop are really welcoming and friendly, and are very interested in other cultures, because mostly international people live there. It's an incredible opportunity to make friends from all over the world and it's really easy to make friends there.

leisure & culture

I've explored a lot around LA, I've been to my friend's house near San Francisco for Thanksgiving, and I've been to the Valley for Christmas at another friend's house. I've also done weekend trips to San Diego and Santa Barbara, and I even went to Mexico. It's really easy and especially if you make international friends, they will also be excited about doing a little exploring. Besides these trips, I've mostly done a lot of partying.

suggestions/tips

I would definitely suggest living in the coop if you go to UCLA. It took me a long time to make the decision, because I really wanted the typical American campus experience, but the dorms can be isolating and actually some people that lived in the coop moved there from the dorms because they were lonely and the coop is a much more social place.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! I've had an amazing time here and I honestly couldn't have had a better experience. UCLA is great for it's academics, I learned a ton and it has motivated me to work harder. It's also been great to live in LA, it's an



enormous city so there will always be things to do, but the area in which the university is located, Westwood, is great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The process of applying might seem daunting and it definitely is at times, but you forget about all of this once you arrive at your destination, because it's such an amazing opportunity and I think everyone should take it.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Economics & Business Economics
destination city & country	Los Angeles, USA
name university abroad	UCLA
start date	23/ 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

In the beginning the application process is not super difficult or time taking. Utrecht University has a lot of options for studying abroad, so I first thought about what I expected for my exchange period and what I wanted to experience. I decided that I wanted to go to a English native speaking city outside Europe. After I made a top 3 of cities interested and a motivation letter I was ready to apply. When you apply for the UCEAP program, the application takes more effort than for other destinations. After the program admitted me I had an extra application including a motivation letter and indication of courses I wanted to follow for my top 3 campuses.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support were good. Every time when I had a question I received almost immediately an answer and I received some good advice for my motivation letter.

academic preparation

I am in the economics and business economics honours program, so I was lucky that my GPA was already good because of that. Since I decided my destination quite late, I didn't really do any further academic preparation.

language preparation

Since I have an English speaking study programme and the native language for my destination would be English either way, I didn't have to do any language preparation.

finances

I knew from the reviews I had read before that my exchange would be expensive. To finance everything I got a job and I got financial aid from my parents. In total I spend around €12000 for my whole exchange including fees for visa, trips, food, dorm etc.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Programmes at UCLA are organised very well. Sometimes things looked difficult at first but when you take a better look it's easy. Personally I knew a girl who went to UCLA a year before, which really helped me to answer questions as which meal plan or dorm were best for me.

academic quality of education activities

In my experience the academic quality of UCLA is super good. Professors are really engaged in their courses and most of them care about their students, even when the whole course involves over 300 students. In my opinion the material and tests are a bit easier than in the Netherlands, but they also expect you to get higher grades. Moreover professors expect more engagement of students in their courses. Every week I had homework that



was graded and in lectures they ask you questions to answer with a remote (iClicker). In Utrecht I don't go to lectures that often, but at UCLA you have to, since those lecture questions are part of your final grade.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UCLA has a very good service centre for international students; the Dashew centre. Luckily for me I never got in trouble but whatever happens to you (passport/visa stolen, you got scammed etc.), they will always help you and it is super easy to reach them.
transfer of credits
When you are sure you are going to follow certain courses, you need to fill out a form with a description of each course, so the exchange office can determine your credits. As for now I am still waiting for getting my credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
UCLA's welcome and orientation programme is not super extensive but they have some events for international students. You get an online orientation program to get to know the buildings and life in LA. For welcome programme they organise a few events in the first few weeks of the quarter.
accommodation
International students can choose between staying off campus and on campus. When you are staying off campus you can choose to stay at a co-op or rent an apartment. When you are only staying for 3 months, renting an apartment is maybe to worth the energy. I chose to stay on campus in a dorm. It is much more expensive than a co-op but I wanted the real American experience of living in a dorm and for 3 months the price of living there is not that bad.
leisure & culture
LA is super big and without a car your not very mobile. Public transfer is bad and distances are super far. Luckily the UCLA campus is in a super nice area and close to Westwood. The distance to Westwood from campus is around 20 minutes walk or you can use the electric steps (bird) that can be found all around the campus. When you have some friends that have cars it is easier to go to different places. Of course the weather is super good, so it is very nice to go to the beach. LA also offers some very nice museums and UCLA is literally next to the Getty museum. UCLA also offers nice events as the football games and basket ball games with super fun tailgates.
suggestions/tips
The UCLA campus is super big and there are over 40,000 students. When I arrived I didn't really know how to find friends but UCLA offers a lot of clubs, sororities and fraternities, also for international students! EuroBruins is super fun with European students studying at UCLA. They throw nice events every week. Also sororities and fraternities are super fun and even when you are only staying for 3 months, they all treat you as if you are one of them. Personally I didn't involve in a club, but UCLA offers clubs for literally every interest possible.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend UCLA to others. The weather is always beautiful and it provides a super good combination for fun and academic quality.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



Apply, even though you are not sure you will get the campus you want. First I was scared that I would not get UCLA and almost wanted to choose a different country/city because of that. Now I am so glad that I tried and got what I really wanted.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	UCU
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Science Program

destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States of America
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles
start date	07 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It was a very lengthy process with multiple applications to submit, firstly to UCU, then UU, then UCLA so a lot of patience and dedication is needed. Nevertheless, it pays off at the end once it is all complete and you receive your letter of admission to go on exchange!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The staff was very helpful. Any time I had any problems/questions I would send an e-mail and receive a response almost immediately, as the staff is also aware of the lengthy procedure and want to facilitate it as much as possible. In addition, the resources provided proved helpful when encountering issues.
academic preparation
There was absolute no discrepancy between the academic preparation at UCU and at UCLA, the preparation is impeccable and not at one point did I feel like I knew less than my fellow classmates at UCLA.
language preparation
Considering UCU is taught in academic and social English, speaking English 24/7 was no problem at all either socially or when writing papers, doing presentations and writing exams.
finances
Compared to the Netherlands, and UCU cost of living there is a large difference in how much money is spent at UCLA and in LA in general. It is a very expensive city and so be prepared to have a large budget because the fixed costs such as rent, food, transport etc. is incredibly more expensive than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
At first the enrolment of courses was confusing as it is a very different system as that of UCU, due to the size of UCLA, hence it was a bit of a puzzle with little instructions. Nevertheless, afterwards it became clear as to what was needed to enrol in classes, and who to contact and it was no problem at all.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the education was very good! I met many inspiring professors who are very dedicated to their field and very open to meet students out of class during their office hours, which is beneficial considering the size of the classes are huge! Personally, I think academically it is less demanding as the assessments are fewer and participation is not mandatory, considering they are classes of around 100-150 students, hence it is more impersonal, which at first took time getting adjusted to. It really depends on how much one makes of their own experience.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At UCLA there is a center for international students called the Dashew Center, where they organise multiple events for international students to meet each other, which really helped at first to meet new people the first couple of days. They present you with multiple different resources for different scenarios you may encounter and are available almost every day of the week with any issue and very open to talk and accommodate any of your social/emotional/legal needs.

transfer of credits

At first the conversion of credits was confusing as they do not use the same system. Nevertheless, once you understand how many units you need to fulfil the program at UCU it is very easy. I am still in the process of transferring my credits to UCU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was one presentation before the quarter started in which all the exchange students were invited to attend. This is actually where I met my closest friend, and so it definitely eased the transition. A

accommodation

I stayed in the dorms on the hill which I recommend as it includes food in the dining halls and so don't need to worry about cooking and preparing considering how pricey food is in LA. It was shared dorms and bathrooms, but everyone was friendly, and clean so it was not an issue and a great part of the experience!

leisure & culture

LA is a very vibrant city with a lot to do and so one can never be bored. There are many clubs on campus that organise various events weekly and so getting involved is the best way to get to know the city and the people! There are various sports facilities with daily classes, matches and sport games to attend!

suggestions/tips

Get involved as much as possible, and make use of the great facilities, staff and opportunities offered only at UCLA! It's fascinating.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes!!!! It has been the most amazing and mind opening experience. If you're set on wanting the American and Californian experience, UCLA is the place to do it with millions of things to do, the beach, hollywood and Beverly hills very close there is never a moment to be bored!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Apply for housing early as it is a lengthy process and works on first come first serve basis. Create a budget as you will end up spending a lot more money than you think!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies
destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States of America
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
start date	24/09/2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14/12/2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I started preparing for studying abroad about a year in advance. Taking my field of study and my ambitions into account, I decided that I wanted to go to the United States. As I wanted to explore the field of museum studies, I figured that I should best go to city with a rich culture, history and a good amount of museums. Los Angeles was therefore my top choice, and I made sure to state all of these considerations in my motivation letter during the application process. I also checked the course catalogue of every university I was interested in, to see if the school offered courses that were relevant for me.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Ingrid organized two pre-departure meetings and sent out a couple of emails full of resources to help prepare for the exchange. I could always email Ingrid any questions, and she usually replied quickly. The UU study abroad website and the UCEAP website were also very helpful. Note that although the university can offer help when needed, it is always your own responsibility to actually get everything in order in time.

academic preparation

-

language preparation

I needed to take a TOEFL test. I did not really prepare for this, except for looking up what to expect during the test. The average amount of English spoken TV, movies, music, and websites provided enough preparation. What I found really helpful was to change the language settings on my phone and computer to U.S. English!

finances

I used my own savings to finance my exchange, and my parents helped where needed. Prepare to spend a lot more money in the U.S. than in the Netherlands! L.A. is an especially expensive city to live. Also make sure to bring at least one credit card (Visa and Mastercard are accepted in most places). I had a Visa card from a banking alternative (Revolut) that allowed free ATM withdrawals and a very low currency exchange rate, since those costs can be fairly high with a European credit card.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was not able to enroll in all the classes I wanted, since prerequisites were needed for some courses. During the first two weeks, however, students attend classes they are interested in to see if they want to enroll. A lot of people therefore drop or add courses during those weeks, thus opening up spaces for others. Make sure to go to classes during those weeks! If a class is full, instructors would sometimes give PTE numbers to students who are really motivated to take the course but were unable to enroll, especially if they are exchange students



who will not be there next year. Don't be afraid to ask and to show enthusiasm - that is extremely appreciated in America.
academic quality of education activities
Depending on the courses you're taking, you may find the academic culture to be more focused on content and expanding your knowledge than on academic research and thinking critically. Specific research seminars obviously focus on developing research skills and writing research papers, but most courses are more about studying primary sources instead of producing new material or looking at the broader academic discourse.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UCLA and its international office offer numerous resources for support or counseling if needed.
transfer of credits
At the time of writing, my credits have not been transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
<p>UCLA offered a lot of orientation activities at the beginning of the quarter. Some orientation programmes are organized every quarter, but as I arrived at the beginning of the academic year, I was able to attend the general "back to school"-activities. International students are required to attend a number of orientation meetings, which can be a little confusing and overwhelming at times. Take notes, keep handouts, and bookmark important websites, and you will be fine.</p> <p>A tip for orientation: check the Dashew Center website regularly, as they offer a lot of fun orientation activities, not all of which are included in their events schedule. Some can be found through the iStart menu, such as a bus tour of L.A. - this tour was a lot of fun, and a great way to get familiar with the many different areas, neighborhoods and cities in L.A., and their history and culture.</p>
accommodation
<p>Start looking for accommodation early, as it can be hard to find a place to stay in LA. I found a sublet through the "UCLA Sublets/Apartments" group on Facebook. Look for sublets within walking distance of campus, since it is hard to get around otherwise. Respond to every ad that seems valid, ask for pictures or videos, and video call before agreeing to anything. It is very common to share your room with one or more people, but don't let this scare you off - it actually is a lot of fun! I shared my room with two other girls who became my best friends in L.A. Sharing a room or/and an apartment is a great way to get to know people and to feel at home.</p>
leisure & culture
<p>The easiest way to get around L.A. is by car, Uber or Lyft. There's a lot to do and to see in and around L.A., and I recommend using your grace period to travel around the rest of California. Westwood, the area UCLA is situated, is a fun and safe neighborhood; it has 2 movie theatres, a comedy club, shops, and beautiful architecture. Every part of L.A. offers things to do and see, but make sure to look up which areas to avoid (Skid Row, South Los Angeles, Hollywood at night, etc.). Join student clubs to enrich your experience and to make friends, and check the Dashew Center website regularly for events (such as Thanksgiving dinner).</p>
suggestions/tips
<p>Don't just stick with other international students - make some American friends too! It really helps to learn about American (college) culture.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

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



Definitely! The great academics of UCLA and its proximity to everything L.A. has to offer makes it a great university to study abroad. L.A. is a beautiful city, and very different from any place I have been - including other parts of the U.S. It is exactly like in the movie, and living there is a surreal experience.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Los Angeles, United States
name university abroad	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
start date	01/ 09/ 2018
end date	14 / 12 / 2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was not that hard. First, I had to submit my application for the whole of the university of California. Later, when the UC accepted me, I had to make a shortlist of three campuses of the University of California system. In the end my first choice, UCLA, was the outcome.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at Utrecht University was good and especially Ingrid Dijkstra was very helpful. She helped me with a lot of my questions.

academic preparation

I didn't really have to do any academic preparation. My experiences and skills from Utrecht were sufficient to participate in courses over there.

language preparation

The language preparation I had to do was to pass an English language test. This was not very hard.

finances

I saved some money over the year before I went to the US and my parents helped me financing my studies over there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The level of the courses I took in LA, were not harder or easier than the courses I took in Utrecht. Only the language, I wasn't used to taking courses in English, made it a bit harder. Especially in discussion groups. But after the first weeks that wasn't a problem any more.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was excellent. Although the professors were not much better than the ones in Utrecht, they were only teaching their specializations. I took, for instance, a course about African postcolonial history that was taught by a professor who did research in Africa for over 20 years. He was an authority on the field of West-African history and he could tell way more than was written in our textbook.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not really need support from anyone over there, so I cannot say much about this. There were a lot of opportunities for support if needed.

transfer of credits



My credits didn't transfer yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme organized by the international centre of UCLA (Dashew Centre) was fantastic. I had the opportunity to take a bus tour through the city of LA and go to an international comedy night. They also organized study evenings with free food, which was great!

accommodation

My house was just outside of the UCLA campus. I did choose not to live in the on campus dorms, because they were extremely expensive. That's why I picked the UCHA Coop. The rents were much lower and that was partly because of the 4 hour chore shift you had to take every week. I worked in the kitchen every Thursday morning to make breakfast for the others who lived in the Coop. It was a fantastic experience to live in the Coop, probably the best experience of my time at UCLA. There were a lot of international students and Americans and that combination was great. I made friends from all over the world. Because it is way smaller than the on campus dorms (400 people in the Coop versus over 10.000 people in the dorms), making friends and seeing people every day during breakfast, lunch or dinner was easy.

leisure & culture

There are many museums in LA and around LA. The beaches are nice, the weather is always perfect, so you don't have to be bored. I would definitely recommend to visit the Broad Art Museum in Downtown LA and the Getty Centre, close to UCLA. Both great places. I would also recommend to take part in a club at UCLA. There are literally hundreds of clubs: sports, music, dance, but also culture and language clubs. I took part in the UCLA Track and field Club which was great. Made a lot of American friends.

suggestions/tips

The biggest suggestion I have, is to live in the UCHA Coop. I'm sure you would love it. It is cheap, there are a lot of nice people and it is very close to the campus. In short, the perfect place to live as an international. Also go to sports games if you like it. Definitely recommend that.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. Apart from what I wrote before, it is a great experience to live in such a big city. The city is culturally diverse and has a lot to offer.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Apply to UCLA!