



## Universidad del Pacifico

**2021-2022**

**The difficulties experienced by this student were due to the corona situation which was still actual then.**

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	First, I chose another university and after being officially admitted, I was told that the destination was cancelled. This did not come across as very professional. Also, I believe the whole process could've been made easier, it took many months and it involved a lot of different formalities and deadlines. I think I would have preferred to just deal with the host university instead, but I understand that this is not really a viable option. Unfortunately, I can not be more specific on what exact steps should be improved, as it's been quite a long time since I've first submitted my application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I will not forget the amount of uncertainty that Utrecht University gave me during the process. While the host university was more than happy to receive me, Utrecht University had a 'duty of care' which to them meant they are able to cancel your exchange up to the day of your departure. They were certain to remind you that no costs would be reimbursed if they decided to cancel your exchange, and highly advised against incurring any expenses. I guess they expect the students to buy their flights on the airport on the day of departure. For me, it felt as unnecessary and unwanted stress because I had to plan my life for either six months in Europe or in South America. I also did not appreciate the threat of the university not honouring any credits if I were to depart without an official go from Utrecht University. While I asked Utrecht University to get in touch with a student that went to Lima before, this contact was not established. I sincerely hope that future exchange students have a smoother experience in this regard!
academic preparation	Academically, I did not make any particular preparations.
language preparation	My advice would be to not select any country in Latin America if you are not willing to learn Spanish! You will be perfectly fine in university, but outside this bubble, you will feel handicapped. The more of a foundation you have before you go on your exchange, the easier it becomes to add more Castellano once you've arrived. I advise to make this your primary preparation objective and to start long beforehand. Although it's possible to take all courses in English, if you take courses in Spanish, you will progress much faster and I would recommend doing so.
finances	In Utrecht I live in a shared apartment and my total expenses are EUR 1000 (rent, tuition fee, groceries, holidays, sports, health care etc). In Peru things are generally cheaper, especially if labour is involved. The national monthly minimum wage for a full-time job is PEN 1000 (EUR 250). However, in the well-developed parts of Lima you might often encounter prices that remind you of Europe. In general, I think it's safe to assume you will spend about the same as at home, but you will enjoy an increased level of purchasing power. I would advise on checking out the website Numbeo in order to get a more detailed understanding of the prices.
<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I am used to studying in one field and having two courses per semester. At Universidad del Pacifico I was able to take a wide variety of courses, which gave me a broader perspective on other fields of study. What I also appreciated was the different testing methods that are used at UP. You can think of formats such as recording a



podcast or having a one-on-one with your professor. The enrolment process felt like buying festival tickets as there are limited spots and you have to enrol at a certain moment. It can be quite the puzzle to find courses that you like and that will reward you with 20 local credits and that do not overlap. I therefore advise to take the time to figure your schedule out before the actual enrolment process starts. I did not like the fact that I had to take six different courses in order to receive my 20 local credits (30 ECTS). The classes themselves took a lot of my time (20+ hours per week) and because classes are often spread out during the day (morning + evening) I felt there was not a lot of time off. First, I had classes six days a week but I changed a course so I at least had the full weekend off. All my classes were virtual, but from next semester and onwards the classes will be held on campus, so your experience will likely differ a lot from mine. I must also note that participation is an important part of your grade. This does not simply mean going to class, but it involves asking solid questions. Start doing this from the beginning! It's even better if you manage to build a solid relationship with your teachers. If you participate in a difficult course, you can volunteer to be the REA (class assistant) and your chances of passing the course will be highly increased.

academic quality of education activities

I believe that the professors are very knowledgeable and the education is of good quality. It is regarded as the best (and very expensive) university in the country and if you tell Peruvians that you study at Universidad del Pacifico, they are often impressed.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support was outstanding. I could either contact the professors, my buddy or the incoming coordinator. All have been proven to be very helpful.

transfer of credits

At this moment in time, the transfer of credits has not been initiated yet and therefore I cannot make any useful comments on this topic.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

During the orientation programme you might want to stay in Miraflores as many activities are hosted there (I did not). Try to sign up for and go to every activity, there's many cool things to do! Surfing, salsa, weekend trips, dinners and loads of parties.

accommodation

I have lived in various places in and outside Lima and would always negotiate a good weekly or monthly rent. The university is located in Jesus Maria, Lima. There are many affordable shared apartments there. I would recommend staying close to the university so you can walk or bike. Public transport is quite under-developed and many find themselves using taxi's, with the downside being that you will spend a lot of time in the heavy traffic. I would not recommend staying in Miraflores as I personally found it to be a tourist bubble with European prices. However, you can expect many exchange students to stay here which can surely make for a nice experience

leisure & culture

Many students will partake in weekend getaways, but I would also advise on travelling before and after your exchange. Peru is so much more than just Lima! I especially liked the north, as it's visited way less by tourists. Right after finishing my bachelor thesis at the UU, I spent one month in Bolivia. I then crossed the land border with Peru and explored the south before going to Lima for the introduction and the start of my studies. I stayed a total of 48 days in Lima, before travelling to the amazon region near the Colombian/Brazilian border in a successful attempt to escape the Lima winter. I plan to spend July and August in Colombia.

suggestions/tips



Please contact me via the university if you consider this destination, I'd love to provide you with honest advice over a call!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would highly recommend going on any exchange! It's important that the destination suits you. I knew beforehand that I love Latin America, so for me it was an easy choice. Also, I've been very satisfied with the professors, my fellow students and the quality of the education at Universidad del Pacifico.