



Universidad del Pacifico

2022-2023

PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
I applied during the second round of the application. I would recommend other people to apply during the first round so that they have more change of being able to go on exchange, because it is an experience, I would recommend to everyone. Application was relatively easy. Submitting all the documents needed in Osiris. But start with this on time, since for example for the study plan you need approval from the coordinator of your study.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
Since I decided last minute that I wanted to go, I was a bit short on time with all the documents I needed, but the teacher that I needed approval or help from have been super helpful and replied very fast. I was able to ask my questions and managed to get my application done on time.
Academic preparation
Before I left, I had to register for courses. This whole process was very vague. Beforehand we got a list of courses, with relatively little extra information about the content of the courses. Only a small number of English courses are being offered, and the capacity of the classes are very little. There is one day in which you have two hours to apply for the courses, since everyone at the whole university needs to enrol for their courses in this two-hour window, the website crashes a lot, and it is a very frustrating process. Because the website crashed and I could not get back in for about 45 min combined with the little number of English courses that were mostly full as soon as I could finally log in, I was not able to follow the classes I wanted. Make sure to be ready behind your computer as soon as the enrolment starts and make sure that you have back up options in case the class you want to take is full.
Language preparation
Since you can follow English courses, it is not necessary to speak Spanish. But I would highly recommend you try and learn Spanish, because it will give you a lot of opportunities. Within the university most people have a basic understanding of English, but anywhere else this level is close to zero. Do you want to enrich your experience than try to speak Spanish as good as you can because it enables you to talk to people that you will otherwise be excluded from. Also, in a lot of cases it is just very practical to be able to explain yourself. The university in Lima offers a Spanish course that you can follow during the semester, this course is 400\$ and 60 hours of classes. This can be an option, although I feel like the classes go very slow and I did not learn as much as I was hoping for. I would personally say that it was rather expensive and not worth the money. Going in the street and learn from experience might be a better option.
Finances (living costs)
On the UU website it says housing is between 300-400 euros. Based on my own experience and what I have heart from other exchange students, I think a better estimate is 400-500. This is because as an exchange student you take a furnished room, these are relatively expensive, but so much fun. Take a room in a house with multiple people because these are the first people you meet and the first people you will do things with. Next to this when you do groceries go to small "bodegas" and not to big supermarkets because the big supermarkets are very expensive. The small shops are supe cheap and will help you improve your Spanish because they do not speak English. Going out to dinner is also very cheap, if you find the right place it can be just a couple euros. Another tip is to look where you take out money, some places charge you a lot of service fees, while others do not charge any fees.



Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
The number of courses I could pick from were rather limited (because I could only apply to English courses (if you can apply to Spanish courses as well you have a lot more options). Also, the English courses were full very fast, therefore I could not apply to the courses I wanted. But although it was not what I wanted; I really enjoyed the courses. What I found very interesting is the strong emphasize on emerging markets (like Peru). I feel like this is not very highlighted at the UU, therefore I really liked this, especially because you are in the middle of an emerging market, and you see the differences and at the same time learn about them.
Academic quality of education activities
The quality of education is high. Pacifico is considered (one of) the best private school in Peru, the level is high. All the teachers have a very interesting background, they have all done very amazing jobs that are closely related to the courses they teach. They all talk from experience enabling them to give examples that they encountered during their career. They use different way of teaching than at the UU. At the UU you get a lot of theory, and maybe after having done the theory they apply it to some real-world examples. Here they start with the examples and provide the theory more on the go, which makes it less structured and maybe a bit chaotic, but also a lot more real-world perspective.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
There are some courses that are taught in Spanish as well as in English. As I wrote before the enrolment process was very chaotic and rather unclear. So, I accidentally applied for one course in Spanish (it is written very small and unclear). After finding out I tried to change to English version but here they are very strict. After the enrolment period (well 2 hours), there is no room for change. The university was unwilling or maybe unable to help me. (I must add to this that in the end I really loved doing this course in Spanish, and helped me improve my Spanish)
Transfer of credits
The Transfer credits were a bit vague. The UU website stated that you need 12 credits, but after I had already applied for my courses and could not change anything anymore, I got an email that it was 15 credits. This forced me to take the expensive Spanish course (400\$) because that was the only course that started later and that I could still apply for to obtain the credits needed.

STUDENT LIFE
Welcome/Orientation programme
The first week of university is the introduction week. During the introduction week you will get all the practical information as well as a tour through the buildings (there are only 3). More importantly, you meet all the other exchange students as well as your buddy that will help you out with any question you might have. You will do a lot of fun activities (they are voluntarily, but highly recommended), where you will spend time with the people you will see the rest of the period. This is nice because now when your classes start you already know some people.
Accommodation
There are two popular options when it comes to housing. The first one being living in Miraflores, this is like the centre, the place where the bars are and most of the outside of school activities. It is where everything happens. The second is living close to the university, which is what I picked. I found a house near the university for 420\$. I would highly recommend this house. It is called Casa Yllika, you can find it on google or internet. It is 5 minutes walking from the university, which is very nice with the unreliable traffic here and the fact that classes can start at 7;30 up until 22;30.
Leisure & culture



There are a lot of nice things you can do in Lima. The university will set-up some cultural activities that you can do, such as going to the old town or going to Callao where the harbour is. I filled my free time with surfing, going to the local markets, going to a lot of different restaurants as they are relatively cheap and undertaking activities with the other internationals and the Peruvians.

Suggestions/tips (need to know)

I would also recommend you to travel as much as you can. Peru is a very diverse country that has a lot to offer. The place I personally liked the most was Huaraz. Here you can do a lot of treks and every trek will be mind blowing. (The university will also organize around 2 or 3 trips that you can join, which is also very fun and well organized)

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

I would highly recommend this university and destination. The university is of high level and offers a different perspective. Peru itself is a beautiful country with a rich culture. You will have the change to explore it and learn about it. The food is great, the people are so nice, and it is an experience you can't miss out on.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Join the BBUP programme! It is a programme that will match you with a Peruvian student based on your hobbies. This is very nice because it is your first point of contact, and you will do fun activities together. BBUP is also the organisation that organizes most of the parties and you will only be allowed to go when you are part of this programme.



PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
The exchange application process at Utrecht University was not too difficult. I simply had to fill out a form, and after completing it, I received an email that I got accepted. Prior to submitting the application, I attended a meeting where a more detailed explanation of the overall concept of the exchange program was provided.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling & support at Utrecht University goes via e-mail: ieo.leg@uu.nl . All my questions before and during my exchange were answered within 3 working days. I found this really helpful and efficient.
Academic preparation
There was no academic preparation possible prior to my exchange. When I had to choose my courses at Universidad del Pacifico, some information was provided about previous courses related to the course offered. However, since those courses are not offered at the University of Utrecht, it was difficult to know whether I had sufficient knowledge to follow this course or not.
Language preparation
Initially, a Spanish course at Universidad del Pacifico was being offered. However, there were insufficient applications and thus no possibility to follow classes in Spanish. I would recommend following Spanish classes prior to the exchange since not a lot of people in South America speak English.
Finances (living costs)
Prior to my exchange, I did not have a clear idea of the living costs in Peru. The only thing I did know was the price I had to pay for rent. The price was comparable to the price I pay in Utrecht. My aim was to have the same budget per month in Peru as the budget I normally have in the Netherlands. In the end, I have been able to finance all my costs including a lot of traveling. South America is obviously cheaper than Europe, however, it was not as cheap as I expected. I would recommend saving at least €1000,- a month.

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
At Universidad del Pacifico, it is possible to choose your own courses prior to the start of the semester. I must say that this is not organized well. The site crashes multiple times and there is a specific timeslot in which you are able to register for the courses. Within minutes, the first couple of courses are already taken, which is inconvenient in case you want to follow English courses since there are only a limited amount of courses taught in English. However, in the week prior to the start of the semester, it is possible to get help by changing courses if necessary.
Academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education activities is surprisingly better than I expected. It reaches a high level that can be compared to the educational standards at the University of Utrecht. During the semester, each course had multiple deadlines and some of them also had mid-terms and end-terms. Especially the amount of presentations that I had to do during a semester surprised me.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
The counselling & support at Universidad del Pacifico significantly differs from the counselling & support at Utrecht University. There is one week before the semester starts, where they are willing to help you, however, as soon as the semester starts there is basically no counselling & support provided. I made a mistake during the application process and it turned out that one of my courses was in Spanish, even though I do not speak



Spanish. When I approached the coordinator of the exchange program, she told me that she could not do anything for me because the semester has officially started.

Transfer of credits

The grades in Peru are on a scale from 0-20 and courses are either worth 2, 3, 4, or 5 credits. This amount of credits should be divided by 1.5 for the standards of the University of Utrecht. At the end of the semester, Universidad del Pacifico will send an electronic transcript to the International Exchange Office (UU) where I either receive a pass or a fail for each course that I am following here.

STUDENT LIFE

Welcome/Orientation programme

A week before the classes started, UP had organized a welcome week. There were a variety of activities organized. The week started with an introduction of the University and a campus tour, in the evening there was a welcome dinner. Furthermore, there were activities such as a downtown tour, salsa lessons, rooftop parties, pub crawls, and surf lessons. It was well organized.

Accommodation

Before coming to Peru, I received an e-mail from the Universidad del Pacifico, with possibilities for housing. There were multiple options provided and I chose one of those options. However, as soon as I arrived here, it turned out that there were more options still available for other houses. Thus, finding accommodation in Lima was not difficult. The price range is around \$300 to \$400.

Leisure & culture

BBUP (Best Buddy Universidad del Pacifico) organized multiple activities per week. Particularly during the beginning of the semester, it provided a perfect opportunity to meet a lot of other exchange students. Additionally, there were several sports teams available for participation, which gave an opportunity to engage in leisure activities.

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Miraflores is a district in Lima where a lot of exchange students are living. It is close to the beach and close to the nightlife, I would recommend to search for an apartment in this neighbourhood. Furthermore, I can highly recommend Cruz del Sur as a bus company to travel with. It is a reliable company with comfortable chairs and reasonable prices.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

I would definitely recommend this destination, Peru is a beautiful country that has a lot to offer. I have followed classes from Monday to Wednesday, which gave me the opportunity to travel from Thursday to Sunday. Furthermore, the BBUP has provided many activities and that has been valuable to the experience of my exchange as well. Participating in this program has definitely added value.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

It has been a valuable experience to live in a completely different culture, therefore I would highly recommend going on an exchange. I have been traveling a lot during my free time and I would highly recommend that as well. It has been a balanced combination of meeting new people, traveling around South America, and studying at the same time.



2021-2022

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

PREPARATION	
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.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
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.