



Universitat de Barcelona

2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process was really easy. We had to fill in some documents from the University in Barcelona and from the Erasmus + Grant. Only the contact with the University here was not that easy. The contact person didn't respond, wrote the signatures way too late. Luckily UU was really helpful and in the end the documents were signed and correct.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support from UU was really good. First my first exchange got cancelled, after my second exchange (which I chose after the first one got cancelled). At the moment it was very sad and I thought that my exchange would not happen, but then the UU send me the list of a few more universities, including Barcelona. UU accepted me under the condition that I should improve my Spanish and I did in Holland before arriving in Barcelona.
academic preparation
No academic preparation.
language preparation
I only had to improve my Spanish, so I took a course in Utrecht (not at UU). It was not a hard condition, but Universitat de Barcelona can give you Spanish/Catalan courses instead of English (without you ofcourse applying for it). That's why it might be helpful to do some Spanish in Holland.
finances
Erasmus is very expensive. You go out a lot, drinks, dinner, clubs fee etc, travels etc. With the DUO I got every month I could pay my bills and have some money left, but in Holland I really saved up 6000,-7000,- eu to spend here (and it is all gone). My rent was really high too, but that is more exceptional than normal (700,- for a very good location, tho...) But most of the people I met rent a room in between 400,- /500,-.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I did courses at the University here for in total of 23.5 points. I already have my bachelor, so my exchange was more for fun.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the Universitat de Barcelona is very low. If you want to be triggered on a academic level I would surely not recommend going to this university. if you want a really good time, more the experience of living in another city and enjoy life, I would recommend this university! But the courses are from a really low level, so you get good grades without doing much. I never did this less for studies and still passed the courses. An other nice thing about the university is that I followed a Spanish course on A1/A2 level (180,-) and got 5ECTS.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling is really bad (not that you need much of that), but I needed a signature from the university here and it lasted months to get it. Now a new person is in charge, so it might be different with her. But the one who was in charge before wasn't helpful at all.
transfer of credits
Not happened yet.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The University itself gave one hour of introduction the week before the classes started (so you should be here at least a week before the classes start). This introduction lasted for a hour, so there is not really a welcome or orientation programme on the Law faculty. On the Economic faculty I heard there was a nice welcome programm (for one day too), with gives games etc.
accommodation	
	I live the most center you can live. It is on Via laietana. But you pay a lot here. I rent my house from SpotAHome and the agency here is Barcelona Here. But I REALLY DON'T RECOMMEND this agency. So please dive further in where you can rent. My agencay scams a lot of foreign students with charging us for nothing. I would recommend the Facebook groups of Barcelona Erasmus and an agency such as idealista.
leisure & culture	
	Barcelona is amazing! It is full of culture, nice food, international people, beach, nightlife etc. Everyday is different and there is soooo much to see. The fact that it is such an international city makes it even more amazing. I met people from all over the world and therefore learned of a lot of cultures too.
suggestions/tips	
	Start with booking a room on time (I didn't), so you don't have to pay so much money. My university started at 14 th of February, but I already went the 1 st to explore the city, musea's etc. You think you will do this during your stay, but when you meet people it won't be that easy anymore to explore the city etc. Everyday is different here and you don't really plan things. I also went to Marocco (very cheap from here) and I really recommend going there too! Madrid I also went to with some friends, but go there before May, because of the heath.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
	If you just really want the experience of living abroad, living in Barcelona, exploring the city, cultures, nightlife and not doing anything on academic level I really recommend this University. You do go to the classes, but it is not many. If you want to be triggered on academic level and really want to learn something, don't go to this university. There is such a limit of courses they have available in English for exchange students and most of the courses (like Criminology, Environmental law) we already had during our bachelor's in Utrecht.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
	Just do it. It really is a lifetime experience and especially studying abroad (almost for free with DUO) is something you can hardly do in the future. I will forever remember this experience and this city will forever be in my heart!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	Via the website of the UU for students 'Studeren in het buitenland' you can find all the information about the exchange application process. Once you are admitted by the University of Utrecht, you have to send a lot of required documents to your university abroad. You will have to pick the courses ofcourse but also a lot of information on insurance and personal data are required. Be careful to provide all the insurance documents asked for.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	For me the support from the Utrecht University was really good. The website already states a lot of the



information you need and when I had any further questions the international office or my coordinator was very quick to respond. Also a lot of documentation has to be signed by your coordinator, so a fast response was really helpful.

academic preparation

My exchange did not require any specific academic preparation, since the courses that did require a high level of prior knowledge in a certain area were mostly excluded for foreign students.

language preparation

I tried to practice my spanish a little bit to refresh the knowledge I had from high school. This was not a requirement if you followed all your courses in English but I would recommend it because not all the information is always available in English plus it is fun to be able to speak with and understand locals.

finances

In my experience, half a year abroad is more expensive than half a year in your home country. Housing can be quite expensive in Barcelona but the most important is you go out for food, drinks and clubs, you can go on tours and try a lot of things. Therefore, I would recommend to save money before you go.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Law

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality overall is lower than in the Netherlands. However, it really depends on the level of the courses you take. I took for example a fourth-year course and a first-year course, the first-year courses are really easy and do not require a lot of effort, the fourth-year courses are more similar to the academic quality we are used to in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support I received from the university abroad was not always very good. In the application process the responses were usually quite fast but during for example the course registration period there was a lot of uncertainty and questions or problems were not resolved quickly.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits took quite some time, but I have heard that it is possible on request to get this done a bit faster. I would however, recommend if you need the credits transferred quickly to state this early on and ask for the credits urgently.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The official orientation programme from the university was not very elaborate, it was basically just one introduction day. However, the programme from ESN for example and other non-official erasmus organisations was super elaborate. Everyday you had various activities you could sign up for. So I would definitely recommend to check out ESN and other Erasmus programmes to meet new students.

accommodation

There are some options provided for by the University, however these are quite expensive and have a meal service and quite strict rules on quietness etc. For this reason a lot of people find a home by themselves. IMPORTANT: be aware of agencies, they can ask a lot of money for random maintenance or you do not get your deposit back. I would therefore recommend to try and find other students online to see if you can find an apartment together or read some reviews from the agency you are planning to rent from this is also true for



renting platforms.
leisure & culture
In Barcelona you can find everything, there are so many bars and restaurants to eat food from tapas and paella, to mexican and burgers. There are also a lot of street festivals and holiday celebrations all throughout the city (take a look at this also in specific neighborhoods). You can find clubs for going out at the beach and through the city with different types of music, so whatever you like. On the beach you can play beachvolleybal and find gymspots.
suggestions/tips
Try to find some instagram accounts that publish on the festivities in the city so that you do not miss local festivities.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If you are specifically looking for an academic challenge than I would not recommend Universidad de Barcelona, if you want to have an amazing exchange experience with lots of parties, culture and meet a whole bunch of new people I would for sure recommend Barcelona!!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It is a lot of work to apply and it takes some time to prepare everything correctly. I'd suggest everybody to start early and on time with this because it is not something you can do last minute.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support from the University of Utrecht was great. They were very willing to help with my many questions.
academic preparation
I didn't do a lot of academic preparation
language preparation
All my courses were in English and the English spoken in the courses is not difficult to understand. You do not need to have an extreme high level of English to follow the courses. I also took some Spanish lessons at the University of Barcelona, which were really fun. If you have some extra time before you leave I suggest to follow some Spanish lessons in the Netherlands because people really appreciate it if you speak some basic Spanish.
finances
The rent is a quite high in Barcelona, but that's about it. Everything else (except nightclubs ;) are very affordable and doable in Barca.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
welcome & orientation programme
I couldn't attend the orientation session because I had to finish my thesis in Utrecht, but I didn't feel like I missed a lot. Other students also told me the orientation session wasn't very useful.



study programme (content and organisational issues)
There is a limited amount of courses available in English, so if you don't speak Spanish/Catalan, you have around 7 or 8 courses you can choose from. I really enjoyed the courses I followed and they were organised very well. It is also possible to change your courses in the first (or maybe also still in the second) week. This could help you if you do not exactly know which courses you would like to follow.
academic quality of education activities
The academic level of the courses will in most cases lower than what you are used to. It is not very difficult or hard to follow.
transfer of credits
Did not have any problems with this.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES	
support guidance of host university	I did not receive many guidance from the University of Barcelona during these last few months. I would have appreciated it if I had gotten an email, but all I had to do was let them know if I returned home and that was it.
support guidance of home university	The guidance from the University of Utrecht was better than that of the UB. They also wanted to know if I stayed or if I returned home. They advised all students to return home, which was helpful that they gave us some sort of advice.
online offer and quality of digital courses	All my courses were offered online as well. You could really notice that it was new for my Spanish professors to do courses online, the system in Barcelona is quite old and not very digitalized, so this was a big step for all the professors to take. Luckily everything went well and I was able to finish my semester online.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange	Not in particular, it was very new to everybody so it was understandable that there were some problems at first.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes for sure, Barcelona is fantastic. It is an amazing destination to study. It really sucks I only had 4 weeks in total in Barcelona but I'm for sure going to return in the future. I recommend it to everybody, although the University was sometimes very hard to get in contact with and the application process can be quite frustrating.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Start on time with the application process and arranging everything. It's really not a last-minute thing. And enjoy every minute of your stay because before you know it you're back home ;).

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application was
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling at UU was great. The International Exchange Office did respond very quickly to me. When I had



some questions, they always gave me usefull answers.
academic preparation
Courses in Barcelona were very different from courses in Utrecht, but no specific preparation needed.
language preparation
The courses were thought in English, but knowledge of some Spanish can be helpful. Maybe try Duolingo or take Spanish classes when you are in Barcelona.
finances
Living in Barcelona was more expansive than living in the Netherlands for me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The choice of courses is limited, therefore I did follow some courses which didn't really bother me.
academic quality of education activities
Way of teaching is a bit different, in the beginning you really need to adjust your way of studying. Furthermore, almost all courses use books in Spanish, so you need to do quite a lot of self studying by just using google. Some teachers don't have a great level of English, which makes it sometimes harder to really understand the meaning of what they want to tell you. However, they are nice so you can always ask for explanaiton. Overall, quality and education is lower level than in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good. People with a lot of knowledge do help you out.
transfer of credits
I am still awaiting this procedure.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
ESN Barcelona offers a lot. I didn't do this.
accommodation
I rent a room for €600 pm. This price is quite normal. There are some angencys, but beware of being fooled. My advice is to start in a Hostel or Hotel and then just go visiting the apartments in the first week and check if it is what you want.
leisure & culture
Best city of Europe. Parties, beach, culture, shopping, football, food, all excellent.
suggestions/tips
Enjoy!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The destination; YES. Barcelona is a great city and has very interesting culture and beach and nightlife. Also



great place to show your family and friends around. There are many exchange students in Barcelona, so easy to make friends from all over the world. For the Dutch people, also many Dutch exchange students. For the University, I would recommend another University: Pompeu Fabra. Better located in the city and higher standard of courses.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go to Barcelona

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Don't underestimate it. It seemed pretty clear at the beginning, but eventually it took me a lot of time. So start on time! Occasionally, for example, I had to wait a while for a certain signature.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Really good. In the beginning there is a meeting, where they explain (almost) everything very clearly. They also have a really useful handbook, which you can consult whenever you have some questions or uncertainties.

academic preparation

Nothing. The level of education in Barcelona is even a little easier than in Utrecht I would say. So I did not need to do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I only had to do an English test for my Erasmus Grant, which did not take a long time and was perfectly great to do.

finances

I received my Erasmus Grant a few months before I went to Barcelona. It took me some time to make sure that all the forms were approved, but in the end everything with the finances went well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Organisation was definitely flawed. Some courses were really chaotic, others were super clear. Its definitely noticeable that much can be improved in the field of organisation. The number of ECTS you could obtain for a certain course did often not match the amount of time you spent on it.

academic quality of education activities

Some were really low, others were fine. It really depends on the courses you choose. The problem however is that you do not know this in advance.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It could have been better. They did give a welcome-speech, but it was not really usefull and half of it was in Spanish, which I found really weird. If you really have specific questions about assigning grades, ECTS, or substasive question about courses, I would recommend to send an email.

transfer of credits

That process is still ongoing.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I signed up for the ESN-programme. I would 100% recommend you to do that, because it is the best way to



meet new people. Most of my friends I met during this programme. It is also a perfect way to get the know the city, because they take you to all neighborhoods, and give you a good idea of what the city feels/looks like.
accommodation
I started looking for my apartment pretty early, in April. At that time there were still a lot of rooms available, but the prices were all really high (if you want a good location). In May I went to Barcelona to do some room-viewings. For me, this was really useful because some rooms did not look like the pictures online at all. Based on that, I picked a really nice apartment in the centre of Barcelona for a reasonable price. But overall, prices in Barcelona are pretty high, around 500-650 per room. But remember, if a room is 650 euro's, this does NOT mean that the room is perfect. Some agencies just ask higher prices than others.
leisure & culture
Loved it!! There is so much to see in Barcelona. The tiny streets, the beautiful architecture and the beach. I fell in love with the Spanish culture. Tapas, sangria's, siësta's, sun, and taking everything slow. The culture is honestly amazing and that's exactly why I would recommend everyone to go to Barcelona.
suggestions/tips
When you arrive in Barcelona, it might seem like a really big city. I would recommend you to start doing everything by foot or by bike (you can buy one easily for a pretty good price). This way, you get to know the city super fast. After a week, you will already conclude that the city is not that big and that the city has a logical structure. Once you know that, you're going to love Barcelona even more.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would 100% recommend Barcelona. The university has its flaws, but for me it was more about the experience and therefore, I did not really mind. If you want your education to be a higher level, I would recommend you to look at other universities in Barcelona.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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PREPARATION
exchange application process
There is a lot of paper work and you need to make sure that you double check all the deadlines on time, because you need to collect a lot of signatures, for all documents. The process is clear and not difficult, but it takes time to meet all requirements. Universitat de Barcelona responds rather quickly so that was helpful.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
When you have questions or problems, you can call or e-mail International Office and they will help you.
academic preparation
I did not do any academic preparation before I went to Barcelona.
language preparation
Having a fair basic knowledge of the English language is sufficient. When you want to follow Spanish courses, you can choose to follow a language course which the Universitat de Barcelona is offering. These courses are especially meant for (foreign) exchange students and you will learn the basic things.
finances



Be aware that living abroad is more expensive. Make sure you save money for it.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did five courses at the Universitat de Barcelona. These were all (law) courses in the English language. UB does not offer a lot of English courses and you have to make sure that your timetable fits without any overlap. This is complicated and takes time to check and organise. English capabilities of teachers: sometimes I did not really understand what a specific teacher wanted to tell us which made it difficult to understand the course.

academic quality of education activities

The academic level of the education (in Spain) is lower compared to the level I am used to at UU in the Netherlands. You have to do a lot of assessments and exams, so it is a lot of work (don't think of it as a stretched holiday). When you wish to be challenged at an University, you'd maybe choose a different country.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office in Barcelona was, to my opinion, not very kind nor much interested in exchange students. Although it's named " International Office"... When you have problems and ask them for help, they usually do not help you out.

transfer of credits

Universitat de Barcelona sent my Transcript of Records with my ECTS to my home University (University of Utrecht). UU is processing these credits now.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the first day there was an introduction meeting of 1,5 hours at the University. They explained some formalities of the University. They did this partly in Spanish, partly in English. This was not very informative but nice to meet the other exchange students for the first time. They introduced ESN, which offers activities in the city with Erasmus students. Through this, you can meet a lot of new people.

accommodation

Before I went on exchange, I searched online for a room and asked students who studied in Barcelona earlier, for tips. I'd like to advise everyone to book a room for the whole period you stay abroad, because finding it in Barcelona itself is very difficult.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of (cultural)activities and thereby you experience the city very well. The atmosphere is very nice and relaxed.

suggestions/tips

Experience the city as much as you can! There are so many things you can do out there. I enjoyed every single moment living in this beautiful city and would have loved to stay longer.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I have some hesitations recommending the Universitat de Barcelona when you want to improve your study skills. You'd better choose for another University or another destination. Some courses have learnt me some basics about International Law or Spanish Law, but some courses did not bring me much. However, the city of Barcelona itself can be recommended very much, for sure! The city is amazing, the atmosphere is lovely and the



people are nice. I will never regret my choice for Barcelona, maybe just for the University itself.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I did not take any Spanish language courses which I do regret right now. It is very nice to learn the language of the country you live in. When you try to speak Spanish, people are more willing to help you. My biggest advice in the end: just enjoy your time abroad and realise it's a very special time of your life!

2018 – 2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It went all okay. The communication with the host university and with my own university went very well. The university of Barcelona responded quickly to my questions.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support at the University of Utrecht was quite good in general. They don't encourage students much to go abroad, but they have been of great help during the preparation process.
academic preparation
In this regard I didn't have to prepare that much.
language preparation
My Spanish was already as good as it needed to be and my English was sufficient as well.
finances
The financial plan we had to create was a great way of managing your finances in the preparation process. Furthermore I talked to people who have studied at the University of Barcelona earlier and they told me what I could expect and where to spend and save money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
A disadvantage of my program was that you didn't have much different courses to choose.
academic quality of education activities
The level is not to be underestimated. You have to do many assessments and other activities.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
That was fine.
transfer of credits
The process of the transfer of my credits is not finished yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I couldn't take part at the welcome & orientation meeting. I had a good reason so it wasn't a problem at all for the receiving institution.
accommodation



I had to arrange housing myself. That wasn't very hard, because it is very easy to find an apartment in Barcelona. You can use, for example, the Erasmus students facebook or idealista.

leisure & culture

Barcelona is a great city to live in. There are many things you could do in your free time. Also, ESN barcelona organizes trips and activities every weekend.

suggestions/tips

Barcelona

Breakfast:

- * Baluard bakery
- * Brunch and cake

Lunch

- * Flax and kale
- * Federal café
- * Alsur café

Drinks:

- * Champagneria

Tapas

- * Bar cañete
- * Gata mala
- * Cañota
- * El xampanyet
- * Quimet & quimet
- * Cerveceria catalana
- * El nacional (mini restos)
- * Barbas

Dinner:

- * La dama
- * Toto
- * Disfrutar
- * Pez vela (paella plek)
- * Lateral
- * Bar lobo
- * Observatori Fabre (onder sterrenhemel)
- * Gallito (onder W hotel)
- * Boca grande
- * Guzzo

Drinks/cocktails

- * The lime house (GT in el borne)



* Xiringuito Excriba (paella en witte sangria)
 * Boca chica

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this destination to others. Barcelona is great. During the weekends there is much to do and there is an active community of exchange students you can hang out with. I wish I could do it all over again.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
no.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
A lot of people scared me that this would take a lot of time, but I thought everything was fine and clear.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange office in Utrecht is very helpful.
academic preparation
None.
language preparation
I already spoke some Spanish, but I did all my courses in English, so it was not really necessary.
finances
My rent was a lot higher than in the Netherlands, so I was a bit short in money. But you can also decide to go for cheaper accomodations.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
When you're used to the Dutch system, you really have to get used to the Spanish system as everything is very different. For the law subjects specifically, they don't use any laws or regulations. It is much more theoretical. Furthermore, the teachers are way more chaotic and you get the feeling that they don't really know what they're doing.
academic quality of education activities
Pretty low. Most of the topics you cannot really call academic. We had to write a lot of papers and do presentations.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They were very helpful and everything was clear. However, try not to switch subjects when you're already in Barcelona, as I heard that is pretty difficult.



transfer of credits

I haven't received all results of my exams yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university didn't organize much of a welcome programme, just a presentation of 2 hours. However you can choose to join Erasmus Student Network. They organize many nice activities for exchange students to get to know each other and the city.

accommodation

I chose to pay a bit more (650 euros) for a really nice and big room in the centre of Barcelona. I found it through an agency for housing for exchange students. There are also cheaper rooms, which are smaller or more out of the centre.

leisure & culture

ESN organizes many trips to cities around Barcelona. Furthermore, I decided to do bootcamp in the Ciutadella Parc which I really enjoyed.

suggestions/tips

Try to find a room in Eixample, Born or Gothic. Try to avoid Raval, as this is a shady neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, if you want to have a good time and have fun in a nice city. No, if you want to learn much at university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is easy. The website of UU provides a lot of information and provides per university often links to important information for your stay abroad at a specific university.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at Utrecht University was great. They responded always quick and were always able to help. You could always reach out to them: before and during your stay. I had to change my destination last minute which was stressful, but Utrecht University helped me so much!

academic preparation

There was no academic preparation necessary for going to Universitat de Barcelona.

language preparation

There was no language preparation necessary for going to Universitat de Barcelona, because they provide courses taught in English. Universitat de Barcelona does not provide many courses in English, so speaking Spanish would have been easier, also because sometimes classes are partly taught in English and partly in



Spanish.

finances

Barcelona is an affordable city. The expenses for renting a room might be higher in Barcelona comparing to the Netherlands, but there are also cheaper possibilities. Regarding the living costs in Barcelona, you can make it as expensive or inexpensive as you want.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Everything is chaotic at Universitat de Barcelona. There are no study materials provided for the courses. Some courses provide powerpoints, but that all. The level of the courses were really different to each other.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education activities were different per professor. Some professors spoke barely english, which gave the result that exams were not clear and the content taught in class was not clear. Besides this, some of the Spanish students did barely speak English, so classes were something partly taught in Spanish. When the class contained a lot of interaction, half the time I had no idea what the Spanish students and so sometimes the professor were talking about. Lastly, some of the laws or articles were only provided in Spanish, when the course was taught in English.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Relations Office (IRO) hasn't been always helpful. I wanted to follow a course at another faculty (which is possible at this university) but both faculties provided me different information about how to arrange it. Besides this, the university provides a few classes taught in English, but half of them overlaped other courses. All international students had the same problems with their scheduele, but the university wasn't helpful by looking for a solution. On the other hand, you can always email the IRO and usually they respond in 1-2 day(s)

transfer of credits

. I have not received my credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university started their introduction day with presentations of different societies/clubs for international students. The societies plan many trips and a few weekly events. The university didn't provide any welcome nor orientation programme, but there are enough other possibilities.

accommodation

I found an appartment myself by contacting a real estate manager. Another possibility is to try and find something by facebook. There are many facebook pages and groups for erasmus students to find a room.

leisure & culture

Barcelona has everything when it comes to leisure and culture. The combination of the city and the beach is great. Barcelona has many museums and garden. It is also a great city where you can walk for hours and you will always discover something new.

suggestions/tips

Watch out with paying your deposit for your accomodation in advance. Barcelona is famous for scams.



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Barcelona as a destination to go abroad. It is an amazing big city with enough to explore. Universitat de Barcelona is an 'ok' university. Overall, I enjoyed my time at this university, but make sure you will be able to enroll in enough credits.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process was not too bad, but there are a few steps to be taken. Overall I found this was quite easy and clearly indicated by the University.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Sufficient

academic preparation

Could have been better. It was not clear for me what the content of my chosen subjects would be. This resulted in some courses that I found less interesting.

language preparation

Sufficient

finances

Sufficient

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was quite dissatisfied. Some of my English courses were mostly taught in Spanish. Also, one subject was too similar to one I already followed in Utrecht, although it was approved on my learning agreement

academic quality of education activities

Not to good. The academic quality in Barcelona is a lot lower than in Utrecht. For me this was not a problem, but if you wish to be challenged this might not be the University for you

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was fine but very poor english so communication can be hard sometimes

transfer of credits

Fine

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They introduce you to the Erasmus network on your very first day. This is very nice if you like to make some friends

accommodation

I used erasmusu.com . This worked fine.

leisure & culture



The city has a lot to offer so there are plenty of things to do.
suggestions/tips
Go to Sitges or Cadeques in the weekend. Also climb the montserrat!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If you are looking for a place to have fun, enjoy the sun and meet great new people, this is the place for you. However, if you are looking for a challenge on academic level, this is not the place for you.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy!

2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process with all the documents took more time than I had thought. There are quite some things to take care of beforehand (and after). It should not be underestimated.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling at Utrecht University was good. Us exchange students were provided with all the information we needed for our time abroad and we could always contact the International Office for our questions
academic preparation
Well prepared
language preparation
I did a Spanish course beforehand and I took Spanish classes in Barcelona. Fortunately my classes were in English and people usually speak English in Barcelona. It's recommended to know some Spanish though
finances
Make sure you save extra money before your exchange. Yes, going out for dinner is less expensive in Spain, but living the Erasmus life itself is far from cheap since you want to make most out of your time there and experience the city with all its fun activities and everyone abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
When I arrived in Barcelona I was told that I had to change one of my subjects into another one because there was no professor to teach it. Also, because I had to follow 3 ECTS courses I had 6 subjects in total. This was not good for my time schedule, but the university offers the option to choose "single assessment" on subjects: you don't go to classes and you only do the exam. However, it's not easy to pass exams when you haven't visited classes. Therefore "continuous assessment" is recommended
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the subjects differed a lot. Some subjects were really in-depth and others were not. Also the English proficiency of the teachers differed.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The International Office abroad was chaotic and not very cooperative in the beginning of the semester when all International students had to visit the office for their documents (in the subject-choosing phase). Through the semester it got better.

transfer of credits

The credit system was the same as in the Netherlands, but some of the subjects were only worth 3 ECTS (in Utrecht the subjects are 7,5 ECTS). Make sure you pay attention when choosing your subjects. I experienced that the 3 ECTS subjects I chose were actually the same amount of work as the 6 ECTS subjects. After my exchange my Transcript of Records has been sent to my host university the moment my last grade was published. So that was well taken care of.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

You immediately feel at home with all the orientation and welcome activities. You will not get bored. It's a great way to meet people from all over the world. The welcome & orientation programmes are very well taken care of.

accommodation

There are websites that rent out apartments for (international) students in Barcelona. It's recommended to take care of accommodation beforehand so that you don't have to search for a place to live when you arrive.

leisure & culture

Gaudi, amazing tapas places/restaurant options, great nightlife, the beach with it's relaxed and "tranquilo" vibe, shopping walhalla and good weather; what more could you ask for?

suggestions/tips

Don't hesitate to go to lots of introduction activities to meet lots of people and to get to know the city. An apartment with other (exchange) students is also recommended; you easily become really close to your flatmates since you're all in the same boat and it's nice to come home to in a new city. Also make sure you have everything sorted with your Erasmus documents, you don't want to have to worry about it once you're there.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend going to Barcelona. The city really has it all. Every day something is going on in the city. You will not get bored! The university is not in the city centre but has a really nice park next to it and it's also nice to feel as if you're "out of the city" for a bit sometimes. Public transport to uni is good

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy and make the most of it!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was hard, but the exchange of (REBO, Paula Banning) really helped me to understand the process.

counselling & support at Utrecht University



I was very clear, they were nice and helped me.
academic preparation
The academic preparation was good, the level of teachers in Utrecht University is high.
language preparation
I had lived in Madrid before, so I spoke a little Spanish when I came here. Otherwise it would have been difficult to start in Barcelona.
finances
I think the cost of living in Barcelona is quite high.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Well, Universitat de Barcelona is a very strict university. I thought that Alicia Martin (coordinator of exchange students) was not very nice. She did not help me a lot.
academic quality of education activities
I think it really depends on the subject, what level of education you get
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I think this was not very good. The site was unclear and some things were only in Catalan.
transfer of credits
24 credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was not very good.
accommodation
I had a very nice apartment with other students.
leisure & culture
I saw a lot of culture and art, really loved it.
suggestions/tips
There are a lot of nice musea like the Miro foundation and the Picasso Museum.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, because I love the city!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No, I Don't.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process out of Utrecht went really easy and clear. But its a lot of work, so start on time! Step by step is written down what you need to do. But when you are selected you get in touch with the university abroad and I had to email a lot with them to get everything fixed, because their process wasn't that clear.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

You can always go to the international office for help, but everything was really clear, so that wasn't necessary.

academic preparation

This was not necessary for me. I have chosen subjects, where I didn't know a lot about, but the level in Spain is lower then in The Netherlands, so it wasn't a problem that I didn't know a lot about that topics.

language preparation

The UB offers some courses in English, they don't have a lot of courses in English, so if you want to have more choice I recommend you to learn Spanish (B1/B2). I have chosen for English courses, but I really wanted to learn Spanish, because a lot of people can't speak properly English in Spain. I followed a few courses by Fuentes, it was really good. When I went to Barcelona my level was A1/A2. I followed a 40 hours language course offered by the university and I ended the erasmus program with B1 level.

finances

I saved every month some money, from the beginning of my bachelor in Utrecht, because I already knew that I wanted to go to Barcelona. My parents sponsored me as well a bit, so that was really nice. Don't underestimate Barcelona, I thought Spain isn't that expensive, but Barcelona is very touristy so its more expensive than you think.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There were a lot of courses offered in Catalan in stead of Spanish or English. I didn't trust my Spanish enough to choose a course in Spanish, so I had a few options for English courses. The English courses I have chosen weren't in the end totally in English, sometimes they only had Spanish books or the teacher his English was not that good.

academic quality of education activities

Its way different than in The Netherlands. If you want to receive 30 ECTS in a semester, you have to follow 5 courses at the same time for 5 months long. You have a lot of hours where you have to go to the University, a lot of things are mandatory and a lot of groupwork. Sometimes it felt for me a bit like high school. But in general the level of the courses is way lower than in Utrecht and way more informal. But thats nice so you have more time to discover the city and meet new people and you experience another way of studying.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

On forehand I had to email a lot with the international office of the law faculty of the UB. Sometimes it took a while before they respond and it wasn't always really clear what we needed to do and when the deadlines were. I wanted to skip a course, because the material was only available in Spanish, but the international office didn't accept that because I was too late to delete a course, but we started to use the material after the deadline, so that was a bit confusing.

transfer of credits

I didn't received my credits yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was not a lot of introduction. The law faculty had one hour of introduction and ESN told something. But ESN (Erasmus Student Network) had prepared a welcome & orientation program for students of the UB. They organized a lot of activities and you got really easy in touch with other students.

accommodation

I have found my accommodation due to www.rentroom.com. It was quite easy to find a room, but start always on time to search for a room. I lived in the city center, in bari gothico, so that was amazing and my room was (relative) cheap; €450 per month.

leisure & culture

Barcelona is an amazing city, you have the combination of culture, shopping and the beach. The weather is awesome, around Christmas the temperature was still 15 degrees with sun! In my period there was the commotion about the referendum and independency, but if you don't look up the confrontation, you will be fine. It was kind of interesting, you learn a lot about the history between the Catalan and the Spanish people. I recommend to do a lot of trips to cities around Barcelona, its soo easy to go there and its not expensive

suggestions/tips

Even if you are not following Spanish courses, I recommend to follow a Spanish language course, to learn a bit about the language.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the destination for sure, Barcelona is awesome, with a lot of internationals and the Spanish language is very beautiful. It was the best time of my life! The university is totally different than the University of Utrecht. I prefer the University of Utrecht, but I think its really good to see how it works in another university and experience that for one semester.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Take it easy, its Spain, not The Netherlands. Everything is way more unorganized and they are not soo strict with the time. But I think its a nice experience to see how it goes in another environment.