



## Universitat de Barcelona

2022-2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
I underestimated the amount of all the paperwork for this exchange. So my advice would be: start early and read the documents thoroughly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange office doesn't respond that quickly, it takes a few days for them to respond to your email. take some time in advance to organise your documents. But they are very helpful, be a little patient.*
*Remark from the IEO: The International Exchange Office was understaffed at the time so their response time might have been slower than usual
academic preparation
I did choose my courses in Barcelona beforehand.
language preparation
I achieved B1 level Spanish through a minor at Utrecht University. To be able to speak Spanish in Spain is very valuable. Since most Spaniards do not speak English.
finances
I have increased my loan from DUO.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I sorted out my courses at home, I should have done that a little more thoroughly. A mistake I made is that I had two exams in the same time slot. I couldn't change courses anymore, so pay close attention.
academic quality of education activities
The workload is less heavy than I'm used to. The exams differ, some are at the same level as I'm used to and some of the exams are easier. Some of the teachers are very strict, but most teachers are way more chaotic, in comparison to the Dutch professors.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had some issues at the start, I needed to change two of my courses and that was impossible. The exchange officer was really strict and not so helpful for erasmus students, unfortunately. Some of my Erasmus friends experienced it in the same way.
transfer of credits
I have not finished this part yet, so I'm not able to say anything about it.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I did attend the erasmus students introduction day, and my biggest advice is to read all the erasmus documents thoroughly.
accommodation



I live in an apartment with a girl from Belgium and one from the Netherlands. We live in el Born, in the centre of Barcelona. I found it via Instagram

leisure & culture

I found a tennis coach here, and I was training every week with other Erasmus students from Austria and one Dutchie. I arranged all this myself. And that is also a tip: if you would like to join a sports club, actively pursue it yourself. I also played a lot of padel, everyone plays a lot of sports in Spain, which I liked so much.

suggestions/tips

In the beginning it might be a bit overwhelming. But for me it helped to focus on what I wanted to do, which was doing sports and make a regular group of friends. If you invest in that in the beginning, you will enjoy it for the rest of the time.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I can definitely recommend Universitat de Barcelona. Keep in mind that the bureaucracy works very differently, and not all employees at the uni speak English. That is why it is nice to have a basic level of Spanish. The people in Spain are very helpful and will never ridicule you for your pronunciation. My experience is that people appreciate it when you try.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Goooooo! I did miss my own friends in the beginning, but precisely because I experienced that, it was even better when I got used to it and now I don't want to leave!!!

Barcelona has it all: beach, mountains, culture, sports clubs and great nightlife

## 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 agency 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<sup>th</sup> of February, but I already went the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 safe 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.

<b>(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
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.

<b>CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES</b>
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 again ;).

## 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 explanation.

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.



<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
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 agencies, 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!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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

<b>PREPARATION</b>
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.



<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
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.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
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.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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 instution.
accommodation
I had to arrange housing myself. That wasn't very hard, because it is very easy to find an appartement 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
<p>Barcelona</p> <p>Breakfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Baluard bakery</li> <li>* Brunch and cake</li> </ul> <p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Flax and kale</li> <li>* Federal café</li> <li>* Alsur café</li> </ul> <p>Drinks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Champagneria</li> </ul> <p>Tapas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bar cañete</li> <li>* Gata mala</li> <li>* Cañota</li> <li>* El xampanyet</li> <li>* Quimet &amp; quimet</li> <li>* Cerveceria catalana</li> </ul>



<p>* El nacional (mini restos)</p> <p>* Barbas</p> <p>Dinner:</p> <p>* La dama</p> <p>* Toto</p> <p>* Disfrutar</p> <p>* Pez vela (paella plek)</p> <p>* Lateral</p> <p>* Bar lobo</p> <p>* Observatori Fabre (onder sterrenhemel)</p> <p>* Gallito (onder W hotel)</p> <p>* Boca grande</p> <p>* Guzzo</p> <p>Drinks/cocktails</p> <p>* The lime house (GT in el borne)</p> <p>* Xiringuito Excriba (paella en witte sangria)</p> <p>* Boca chica</p>
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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 accommodations.

## 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 overlapped other courses. All international students had the same problems with their schedule, 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 apartment 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 dissappointed. 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. Thhe 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

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
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!	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
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!	