



## University of Cambridge

2022-2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>The application process was relatively straightforward but lengthy. It comprises basically of two stages: one must first apply to Utrecht and subsequently to Cambridge. For my application within Utrecht, I had to submit a letter of motivation, CV, transcripts and a certificate of English proficiency. These documents had to be submitted by 1 december. After submission, Utrecht decides (randomly I presume) which students it will send to Cambridge. The number of students depends on the number of students coming from Cambridge to Utrecht. This number can vary greatly. After Utrecht accepts your application, you subsequently need to apply to Cambridge. For this Cambridge application, you need to submit your transcripts, a letter of reccomondation and your CV. Moreover, unless you have a valid language certificate, you will need to do an English test from Cambridge. Because I had a valid TOEFL at the time, I was exempt. Usually, all of this will be a mere formality so do not worry too much about it. What is important to keep in mind however, is that this process is lengthy and you will only get a definitive answer from Cambridge somewhere around June/July. When it comes to colleges, you are not allowed to pick or give preferences for any college; Cambridge will allocate you randomly. This may be a bit disappointing to some who have a strong preference for a college. However, every college in this place is unique and has something special. Wherever you'll end up, I can assure you that you will grow to love your college and its people.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I can be rather brief on this point, absolutely brilliant. I've send the IEO an embarrassing amount of emails with questions, and they were always quite fast with a thorough reply. Moreover, I had some issues concerning my Erasmus grant, in which they were of tremendous help in sorting it out with me. Thus, do not hesitate to contact them. They are incredibly friendly and always happy to help.</p>
academic preparation	<p>Personally, I did not really undertake any academic preparation. I read one book from a Cambridge university lecturer, 'letters to a law student', which is intended for first year lawyers in the UK. Although you are not a first year lawyer, it does help you to get a grip of what studying law at a UK university requires. It is worth to keep in mind that studying law in the UK can be quite different from what you are used to in the Netherlands.</p>
language preparation	<p>I did not really undertake any language preparation. If you do struggle with English in some way however, I would recommend doing some (legal) readings in English (could be anything really).*</p> <p>*Note from the IEO: As this student mentions in 'exchange application process', you need to have a valid language certificate or you need to do an English assessment. We will provide you with the information on how to take this assessment after you have been selected for this destination.</p>
finances	<p>I do not have much to add to what has already been said by previous students. Cambridge is an expensive place to live in, so do keep that in mind when you apply. The biggest expenses will be your accommodation, but the price of your accomodation varies greatly around different colleges. The biggest benefit is that you do not have to pay the Cambridge tuition fees, just the Utrecht ones.</p>

## **STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)



As exchange student, you are allowed to pick any course from the Law Tripos programme. Personally, I took EU law, human rights law and international law. Your Director of Studies (who is basically your academic tutor) makes sure that you will get supervisors for these courses. Your DoS will also advise you with respect to your choices of papers. Some papers build up on previous ones, so therefore they might recommend you to pick another one. I was really happy with my eventual choices and thought they were all very interesting and quite doable.

academic quality of education activities

Outstanding! Every paper has one supervision per two weeks. These are small-group teaching sessions, in which you discuss the topic with a supervisor and 1 to 3 other students. As also mentioned by other students, you are expected to have read and prepared all the relevant materials very well. Furthermore, you are expected to actively participate in the discussions.

Next to supervisions, there are lectures which are given by leading academics in the field. The lectures (only) last an hour, which makes it easier to keep your concentration. Furthermore, each lecturer will provide you with a lecture handout, which is basically a summary of the content of the lecture in which you can add additional notes. I found these incredibly useful!

What is also worth mentioning is that you have to write a minimum of two essays per paper per term. Therefore, you can expect to do a lot of writing while you are in Cambridge.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Absolutely perfect. Cambridge has many places you can turn to for help. All students have a Director of Studies (for all academic related issues and advice) and a Tutor. Furthermore, each college has a tutorial office, which can help you out with basically anything. There are also college nurses, counselling services and several student-led initiatives.

transfer of credits

Because I still have to do my exams at the time of writing, I have not had my grades officially transferred. What I can say about this topic, is that for one paper, Utrecht's Board of Examiners grants you 12 ECTS. If you decide to pick any courses which may have overlap with your courses in Utrecht, the number of ECTS will be reduced. Personally, I think 12 ECTS does not properly reflect the amount of work I had to put into my courses here in Cambridge compared to Utrecht (for comparison, Cambridge considers their courses worth 20 ECTS). Furthermore, the process of determination of overlap was not very clear and transparent to me. However, the Board of Examiners was always happy to answer all of my (again embarrassing amount of) emails.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme was pretty good. There is a separate week and welcome programme for international students specifically, but I decided not to join this one. I did participate in the welcome and orientation programme from my own college and the law faculty. As far as I am aware, there is no particular university wide welcome and orientation programme, so again this will depend on your college. My orientation programme was quite fun, there were several activities organized to get new students acquainted with Cambridge. I can recommend joining these, since it is a great opportunity to meet new people and to ask all your possible questions. It really helped me to settle relatively quickly in Cambridge. The law faculty also organized an orientation programme during which they told us everything about the library, exams, lectures, timetables etc.

accommodation

As previously discussed, accommodation will vary greatly depending on your college. From my personal experience, the accommodation from my college was pretty decent. Each room has a sink, some chairs, sufficient storage space and a desk. Furthermore, I shared a kitchen and bathroom with four other students which was



fine for me.
leisure & culture
Join some societies! There are so many societies in Cambridge (I found the Taylor Swift appreciation society particularly remarkable), so there is definitely something for you. It is a great way to meet other students from Cambridge. Personally, I joined the Cambridge Union, the Law Society and the Dutch Society, all of which I really enjoyed and which I can highly recommend!
suggestions/tips
My suggestion would be to go to formal dinners at other colleges and to attend your college's May Ball at the end of the year.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Cambridge. For me, it was definitely the most enriching experience so far. I have really enjoyed the small-scale teaching, academic depth, traditions and all the people and social activities. However, I would not recommend this university to everyone. While Cambridge is an amazing place to study with an outstanding reputation, you do have to keep in mind that this university requires you to work hard. You have to be prepared to spend many days studying, and sometimes work long hours to finish essays or to prepare for supervisions. What is also worth keeping in mind is that you do not have any midterms in Cambridge. Therefore, your final exams are about all of the materials you have had to study throughout the year. On a more positive note however, all other students spend a lot of time studying as well, which definitely creates a bond. Furthermore, if you enjoy studying law and are looking for an academic enriching experience at one of the most famous universities in the world, this place is definitely something for you!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
When you're in Cambridge, I would recommend to attend as much lectures and events as possible. Although most lectures are recorded, in my opinion, you'll get more out of your experience here if you attend them in person. Furthermore, it is very easy to get caught up in work, because you will often find that you have no time to finish all of the readings. Do remember however to enjoy your experience here. Time goes by incredibly fast because of the short terms, so try to make the most out of it!



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process was relatively straightforward and did not cost much time and effort. I think I had to write a very short motivation letter and provide my grades and CV. I had some questions about the language requirement and both Utrecht University and the University of Cambridge were very helpful with this, but, inevitably when communicating with two different institutions, this did take up some time and was a bit cumbersome.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International Exchange Office has been very helpful throughout the application process and the exchange itself. The team is very helpful and kind and generally respond to your emails quite quickly!
academic preparation	
	I did very little academic preparation. All I did was buy a booklet on the English legal system to familiarise myself with this jurisdiction and I ended up not even finishing this before I got to Cambridge. Cambridge University did provide some reading listst about a month before the exchange started, but I don't think they were mandatory and I definitely don't regret not reading any of it before I started my exchange. You'll be busy enough once you get to Cambridge, so I'd just relax in September when you still can!
language preparation	
	I did not do any language preparation.*  * Note from IEO: Cambridge does have a language requirement. If you do not meet this requirement you need to take the Cambridge language assessment. We will provide you with the information on how to take this assessment after you have been selected for this destination.
finances	
	Cambridge is very expensive, but I was aware of this before I started the exchange. I worked in summer and September to save some extra money, my parents give me a bit every month, I borrowed from DUO and I received some money as an Erasmus grant (though not for the full extent of my stay in Cambridge).

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I took Tort Law, Law of Contract and Human Rights Law. Each of these subjects had about 2 or 3 (1 hour) lectures per week (all recorded), and a supervision every other week. I wrote about 8 essays per term. In the last term, I had no essays and only a revision lecture and 1 or 2 supervisions per subject. The only grades that counted were the final exams in May. This means I was stressed in the last term, but in the first two terms I really enjoyed studying out of pure academic interest, without the pressure and prospect of exams (something which is hard to do in Utrecht, given the short duration of subjects there).
academic quality of education activities	
	In terms of the quality of education, Cambridge is everything it is made out to be. All of my supervisors and lecturers were extremely knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects, which definitely motivated me to do well in supervisions. The other students were all really intelligent and hard-working, but I never felt any sense of competition and they were always kind and helpful. In general, the atmosphere in Cambridge made me feel motivated to study: apart from the intelligent staff and students, the libraries (in the colleges, at the faculties and the University Library) were great places to work and I never had problems finding a spot (like in Utrecht). I would say the level of the content was more difficult than in Utrecht, but it was challenging in a good way and definitely not 'too' difficult for me.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	



The University (but especially the colleges) offer a huge range of counselling and support options.

transfer of credits

I will receive 12 ECTS per subject (I am yet to take the exams), so 36 ECTS in total. Personally, I would not say the workload at Cambridge is any less than in Utrecht and it has never been made clear to me why Utrecht University awards us so few credits for a full academic year.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

I arrived at my college with all of the other first years starting that October. I did not take part in the International Freshers' Week (nobody told me that was going on), but I did join in with the "normal" Freshers' Week at my college. It was fun and helpful, and I would definitely recommend joining in! I would not have wanted to miss it. I only wish I had realised beforehand that the Freshers' Week would be mainly with students who only just came out of high school. Sometimes it was a bit difficult to socialise with them, because of the age difference and the fact that I had already been at university for a couple of years. This is unavoidable though, and ultimately it was no big deal - just good to be aware of before you start.

accommodation

I stayed at my college. I was allocated a nice room in a historical building and shared the kitchen and bathroom facilities with 12 others in my corridor. It is quite a lot, but it wasn't much different to living in student housing in Holland. I would say I cooked for myself on most nights, but I also ate in the dining hall quite often. They served relatively cheap (about 4 pounds) and good meals and I didn't need to do shopping, cooking or washing up. But more importantly, it was a nice way to catch up with friends at the end of the day and hang out. The accommodation was quite pricey, about 190 pounds per week. That said, you got more than just a room, kitchen and bathroom. There were porters at the college 24/7 to help you with absolutely everything, there were repair people, nurses, sports facilities... And the bathrooms and kitchens also got cleaned daily, which was amazing!

leisure & culture

Cambridge is a really nice place to be a student. There is always something going on and there are always people to hang out with. Most of the museums are free, many concerts (by music students) are free, there are always plays running (by amateurs and professionals) and there are loads of good restaurants in town! My college JCR (the body representing undergraduates) organised activities such as karaoke, a petting zoo, game nights etc. In addition, Cambridge has dozens (if not hundreds) of college and university-wide societies that you can join! I for instance joined the college rowing team ('boat club') and the Cambridge Union (a debating society).

suggestions/tips

I would encourage anyone to join a society - it's a great way to meet new people and take a break from studying. Another classic tip would be to do the walk to Grantchester - it's a beautiful village not far from Cambridge and they have a cute tea garden where you can get something to eat/drink before you head back to town. If you like music, I would definitely recommend looking into all of the free/cheap concerts at colleges and at the West Road Concert Hall - there is something on almost every single day! And, of course, try to visit as many colleges as you can! I've found that a good way to do this is by going there for brunch/dinner - you usually pay a bit more if you are from another college, but it's still cheaper than eating at a restaurant, and it's a nice excuse for you to have a look around.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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



I would definitely recommend going on exchange to Cambridge! Of course it's hard work (and expensive), but I think it's worth it. Not only is the quality of education outstanding, it is also a historic and beautiful town with some great architecture and really nice people. Because you stay here for a full year, you can really settle in and feel part of the community. It truly is a unique experience that you shouldn't want to miss out on!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
I was helped during the preparation, but one of the things that stood out to me the most is when I got overwhelmed by the broad choice in destinations Utrecht offered, I was very kindly helped with getting started.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
not something specific during preparation
academic preparation
I studied law and for that it helps to get an understanding of the legal system. It works different and they do expect you to know how it works.
language preparation
not really needed. Maybe look into some british slang but you will learn in quickly any way.
finances
Cambridge is not cheap. I was lucky with the erasmus grant, but I do recommend working the summer before you leave.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Tripes (Law)
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was high. I met a lot of people that were important in the field of law. It was really awesome to have a supervision and to have you supervisor tell you in a very nonchalant matter that he helped set up the patent system in the UK.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The nurses are always there for you. I was also assigned a mentor who was immensely helpful. Cambridge is really on top of giving help when needed. It might differ per college though.
transfer of credits
They grade different in the UK so this was not easy.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There is a orientation programme. First for the internationals, this was a lot of fun. Then my college put us into the orientation programme of the freshers, this was a usefull but a bit awkward sometimes because of the big age gap. When we requested to tag along with the postgrad orientation that was allowed.



accommodation
The accomodation was beautiful. It was built in the 1952 and it gave that vibe as well. It was expensive and the single clasing made it really cold in the winter, but it did give that Cambridge vibe
leisure & culture
A lot of things are free to if you a member of cambridge, so make good use of that! Also I am more than willing to give all the tips to eat, whether it is brunch, lunch, dinner, of something sweet.
suggestions/tips
Go to at least one May ball, they are expensive, but so worth it.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
100% I had an amazing time and cried my eyes out when I had to leave.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

## 2021-2022

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process is straightforward. I recommend to attend the meetings of the International Exchange Office, because they really guide you through the process and make clear which deadlines you need to meet.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office was helpful in answering any questions.
academic preparation
Before arriving, my college in Cambridge sent me an optional reading list, but it was also emphasised that there was no need to read all of it. I ended up reading one (short) book about the English law system, as it is quite different from the Dutch law system. Although this was helpful, it was not necessary. You will learn everything you need to learn during the course and they do not expect you to have extensive background knowledge of the law already.
language preparation
I did not do any language preparation. The compulsory language test is doable if you are able to speak English on VWO-level.
finances
I found Cambridge quite expensive. The rent I had to pay in Cambridge was similar to what I paid in Utrecht, but note that this may differ per college. The Erasmus grant was helpful but does not cover all your expenses, so make sure you have some money saved up. Each college in Cambridge has its own cafeteria, where you can have lunch and dinner (and in some colleges even breakfast) for only a few pounds, so this is a great way of keeping your expenses low.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)



As an Erasmus students, you choose three papers. I chose Tort Law, Criminal Law and Human Rights Law. Tort and Criminal were first year courses and Human Rights a second year course. I found Criminal Law the most challenging course, so first year courses are not necessarily 'easier' than second year courses. I found Human Rights Law a very interesting course and would recommend it, if you are interested in this area of law.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was very good. For each course, you have one supervision every two weeks, usually consisting of a discussion of the content with 1 to 3 other students lasting one to two hours. At first, this may seem frightening, but you get used to this way of teaching rather quickly. You cannot 'hide' behind other students and are expected to have studied the materials thoroughly.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Especially right before coming to Cambridge, I had quite a few questions. The international office in Cambridge was very helpful in answering these questions. You also get assigned a Director of Studies, who is there to help you with academic and personal issues throughout the year, which I found helpful.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received my grades.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

My college (and the University as a whole) organises a Freshers week, which many activities to get to know other students and life at Cambridge. There were also activities organised specifically for international students, but I mostly attended the general Freshers week. This was a great way of meeting other students.

accommodation

The accommodation differs per college. I did not have my own bathroom and my room was rather small, but I also know other exchange students with much nicer rooms. Despite these differences, most rooms are okay. I lived in a house with eight other third year students. We shared a kitchen, four toilets and three bathrooms which was more than enough. My housemates turned out to be my closest friend during the exchange, so your accommodation may also be a great source of meeting people.

leisure & culture

Cambridge and each college organise a lot of activities. There are many clubs and sports you can join. One fun thing in Cambridge are the 'formals'. These are nights where you can get a three course dinner in college for a reasonable price, where you wear your gown and a fancy outfit. Many students celebrate their birthdays by going to a formal and it is really fun to experience it and its traditions. I also recommend to go to a May Ball at the end of the year.

suggestions/tips

You have three short terms in Cambridge (which are eight weeks long). Between these terms, you usually have a month of no teaching during which you are expected to study independently. You have plenty of time to do other things too, so I recommend to use this time (if you have the means) to travel and explore other parts of the UK.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend the University of Cambridge for an exchange. It is a once in a lifetime experience to study at such a top-university and to enjoy high quality education. Besides the academic aspect, the people are very kind and there are a lot of other activities you can do to immerse yourself in the Cambridge culture.





do you have any additional advice or comments?

Be aware that Cambridge is a very academically challenging place. Although as an Erasmus student you do less courses than the other students and supervisors are aware you are an Erasmus student, you are still expected to work hard. Nevertheless, the hard work will pay off and you will gain amazing experiences alongside it.

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went smoothly. Make sure to attend the meetings the International Office holds in order to ensure you're on top of deadlines and what documents to hand in.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Any question you have can be answered by the International Office.

academic preparation

The only academic requirement I'm aware of is a 7.5 overall average. Academic preparation pre-departure is not necessary, although some general reading about the common law system in the United Kingdom could be useful.

language preparation

In your application process you're required to take a language test that consists of a reading, writing, listening and speaking section. I personally did no preparation for this test and found general VWO-level English to be sufficient.

finances

The United Kingdom is relatively expensive in comparison to the Netherlands. Our year did receive an Erasmus grant, which helped a lot with expenses, but due to Brexit I'm not sure if this will continue to be awarded in the coming years. Each college has its own cafeteria that offers breakfast, lunch and dinner at a very good price (approximately a few pounds per meals). It is also important to note that the university does not allow students to work during the academic year, so make sure to have enough saved up before departure.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As opposed to the local second year students who take five papers, Erasmus students 'only' take three. The papers I took were Law of Tort, Law of Contract and Human Rights Law. All three each had their own perks. For example, while Human Rights Law was the most interesting content-wise, it was also the most challenging out of the three.

academic quality of education activities

It is clear that the professors at Cambridge are all very knowledgeable and invested in their subject. While this is great for teachers to have, it could sometimes also result in very high expectations towards the students.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Every student gets assigned a Director of Studies, who you meet with at the beginning and end of each term, that oversees your academic progress. Moreover, each College has a head of the mental health department that you can speak to for personal queries.

transfer of credits

At this point in time I have not yet received information about the transfer of credits.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
At my college, Erasmus students were included in the Freshers week program, which is a week of fun activities for incoming first year students. There was also a week designated for International students to meet other international students and sort out more practical things, such as registering with a GP or setting up a UK bank account/phone number.
accommodation
I was lucky to be put in the college with the best accomodation at the University, but the quality can differ a lot among colleges. During first term I lived in a big room with a double bed, my own bathroom and a kitchen that was shared with the rest of my floor. This apartment, however, was meant for first year students, so I requested to be placed in a house with third year students for the remaining two terms. Here, I lived in with three other students and we shared a bathroom and a kitchen. Personally, I found this to be no problem. A cleaner comes by to clean the communal spaces and take out the trash almost every day.
leisure & culture
Cambridge offers a great variety of social activities. I would recommend going to the Society Fair in the beginning of first term and signing up to some societies. This is a great way to meet people outside of your study/college.
suggestions/tips
I can highly recommend becoming a member of the Cambridge Union. While membership is pricey, they have amazing speakers and events almost every day of the week during term time. One of my most notable moments during Lent term, for example, was seeing Robert DeNiro at the Union.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Going to Cambridge was a very unique experience that I definitely do not regret. At the same time, it's easy to romanticize the place and be negatively surprised upon arrival. When deciding whether to apply to Cambridge, be aware of the extreme competitiveness and the high expectations that will be put on you. It is truly not comparable to the UU with regards to student mindset and the amount of pressure that is put on students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application proces for Cambridge is slightly different compared to other uni's, though quite straightforward.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange office has always promptly answered to all my - often last minuite - emails. I am glad with their help and assistance.
academic preparation
I was quite in the dark as to how to prepare for the comming year. I had no clear picture as to what was expected to do over the holliday (I learnt that the freshers do receive a 'reading list' before the start of the term). I decided to google for some past supervision sheets (found them on the faculty's website), and did some general backround reading (reccomended: 'letters to a law student') but did not do much further preperation,



which in the end, appeared to be fine.
language preparation
I did not do any particular preparation, but turned on English subtitles whenever I watched a series or film and listened to some podcasts (The Guardian's one is highly recommended).
finances
No preparation.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme is quite different from the one I was used to in Utrecht. Oxbridge universities have their own distinguished way of teaching in which 'supervisions' are the central role in teaching. However, the 'half-papers' are thought in more Utrecht-styled 'seminars'. I would not recommend doing a half-paper in the end, partially because the workload is not really 50% of that of a regular paper but more like 75% but also because I liked the supervision-thought style better.
academic quality of education activities
The level of education is undoubtedly of very high quality. You should realise that an important reason why is that students are expected to work harder than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support is excellent, although this might depend on to which college you have been allocated.
transfer of credits
This is quite a complicated process, of which I am in the middle of right now.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
It should be noted that every college has their own 'fresher week programme'. My college had organised an excellent week-long programme of activities, during which I met all the first years students. You should definitely arrive a day in advance to settle in (and absolutely not later since it is a great way to 'integrate' into your college).
accommodation
The accommodation is (again depending on where you will be allocated to) absolutely stunning. Expect a substantially higher bill than your Utrecht rent though.
leisure & culture
Cambridge is a thriving student city, with lots of leisure activities for students. Although students make longer study-days than those in Utrecht, there are plenty of activities to undertake (such as joining a society, the Union, a (college/university) sports club, or simply have fun with friends in one of Cambridge's clubs).
suggestions/tips
Although there is a lot of focus on your academic work, do not forget that the exchange is a great opportunity to have fun!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain



This exchange is not suitable for every student. You must be willing to make (sometimes) long days to prepare for a supervision, or finish an essay. However, I have genuinely enjoyed studying here, both for acadamaical reasons, but also because of the fantastic atmosphere and social events.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

See above.

## 2019-2020

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

The application process was different in our year than the years before. We did not have to do an interview and the motivation letter we wrote was read, but nothing was decided based on it. The idea was that out of the people who wanted to go, names would be drawn to make the process more fair. In the end, maybe because of Brexit, only four people applied and we were all able to go because there were five places. The application process itself was fine. The uu-website is clear, and so were the information-meetings. You do have to make sure that you get all the documents right, which requires some attention to detail and e-mailing (to get the right signatures). We had to do a language test, but this is nothing to worry about. It was a bit annoying that the exam committee decided to afford only 36 ECTS for a whole year in Cambridge in the middle of the application, when our learning agreements had already been signed. We will get 45 ECTS in the end, because they accepted that they could not change this so last minute, but it is still weird that the UU does not follow Cambridge's advice to award 60 ECTS.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office Rebo was very helpful. They quickly responded to emails and took the effort to hold information sessions.

#### academic preparation

I did no academic preparation and I do not think it is necessary. The common law system is very different, which is why I decided to take some first-year papers in Cambridge, but even my third year course did not pose any problems in this regard. They give you enough material in Cambridge to learn about the common law system as you go. My college (you are assigned to a college in cambridge) did send me a list of material and questions I had to prepare before I got there, so it might be worth it to start in time if you get something like that (but the other people who went to Cambridge did not have to do anything before they got to Cambridge).

#### language preparation

Apart from the language test we had to take in Utrecht, I did no language preparation. If you understood the textbooks from the few English courses we have in Utrecht, you'll be fine.

#### finances

You do not have to pay the tuition fee that 'normal' students at Cambridge pay, but the Utrecht tuition fee. Nevertheless, Cambridge is more expensive than Utrecht. I had to pay a college bill of £1700 per term for my room. There are three terms, but the last term I did not have to pay anything because of Corona. I spend a lot more money on food in Cambridge. Most colleges have a buttery where you can eat dinner for about £5. For me that was usually a cheaper option than actually getting groceries. I went to the buttery about once or twice a week and the other days I made dinner for myself or with friends. There is also the option of eating in Hall. That means getting a three course dinner in a more fancy room than the buttery. My college had these dinners every night except for Saturday and I ate there occasionally when it was someone's birthday or someone was visiting. These cost about £12 (with wine). There are generally just a lot of events in Cambridge. I went to two Law balls (about £100) and you have to pay to get into clubs (£5-8). However, there are also a lot of free events. There are free drinks-events organised by law firms every week and an infinite amount of lectures you can go



to. My college also had a fund that you could apply to for reimbursement of costs you made in the context of your studies. When my laptop broke down I got £300 pounds this way, which was very nice. I was still able to apply for the Erasmus grant despite Brexit and got €2448 at the start of the year. My parents agreed to pay the tuition fee and my books, and I used the Erasmus grant, my DUO loan (€550 per month), my savings and the additional money I get from my parents every month (€375) to pay for everything. It's also relevant to remember that Cambridge is three terms with 6-week breaks in between. During the breaks I could stay in my room, but in some Colleges this is either impossible or you have to pay extra.

**(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

welcome & orientation programme

study programme (content and organisational issues)

WELCOME & ORIENTATION PROGRAMME (I'm unable to type in the field above): I was allowed to arrive in my room a few days before the official start of the year. With one of the other Dutch girls I took part in the introduction week for Internationals. This was pretty nice, and we got to see the town a bit, but it is not really necessary to take part in this week. Shortly after we had an Erasmus welcome dinner. This was fine and the international office in Cambridge is run by very nice and helpful people. After this I had an introduction week for freshers (which you kind of are if you go to Cambridge as an Erasmus student) from my own College and this was the most valuable, because the people from your college are the ones you are going to see the most of. There are a lot of college societies and university wide societies. I took up college Netball and lacrosse. This was very low key and we only had one match every weekend that lasted about 30-45 min. I am very glad I joined this because it is an opportunity to meet people, and especially also some non-freshers. My director of studies (someone who keeps track of your academic progress) organised a practice supervision for us on Law of Tort because she was also our supervisor for that paper. This gave us a good idea about what to expect.

STUDY PROGRAMME: Every term is 8 weeks long. I had 3 one-hour lectures every week for Criminal Law, 3 one-hour lectures for Law of Tort and 2 one-hour lecture for Intellectual Property. The lectures are quite similar to the lectures in Utrecht. Every two weeks there is a supervision for the papers (courses are called "papers"). For me this meant that on even weeks I had a supervision for Criminal Law and IP and on uneven weeks I had a supervision for Law of Tort. The supervisions require quite some preparation as you are only in a group of 2/3/4 people and the supervisor. There is a lot of reading. I did not always manage to do everything on the list, but you have to make sure you can really talk about the subject studied that week. Often there will be mandatory reading and further reading. I only did further reading if I needed it for one of my essays. I had to write essays for my papers every other supervision (so 2 per term per paper).

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education was great. Most lectures were very clear and given by good lecturers. You get a lecture handout for each lecture and I used this to take my notes in (that way you don't have to type over things that are already in the handout). The academic quality mainly shows in the supervisions. What your supervision looks like really depends on the individual supervisor, but the small group-size means that everyone prepares well and contributes to discussions. I had my Tort supervisions with just one other person and we got tea and cookies. I found this a nice setting to discuss the material. In hindsight I think it is really good that we had to write so many essays, because it becomes easier the more you write them. The Law library in Cambridge is great and I usually sat there for some hours during the day to work. Every college also has its own library, so libraries enough.

transfer of credits

I have not gotten my grades back yet so my credits have not been transferred yet. As I mentioned earlier we get 45 ECTS for the year.



## CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

### support guidance of host university

At one point I got daily e-mail updates about the consequences of the coronavirus from the University and my College. The second term had just ended and I had planned to go home for two weeks. I ended up catching an earlier flight than I had planned and have not yet been able to return to Cambridge. The student services from my College are really helpful and nice but the fact remains that there is just a lot of uncertainty for everyone. When I went home I only took my laptop and a few clothes and all my other stuff is still in Cambridge. Because of travel restrictions it is not clear when I can collect these, but the college really tries to offer as much support as possible. Me and the other law students from my college have had a virtual meeting with our tutor (someone looking after you well-being at your college) and he even suggested that if you have a chaotic home environment the college can pay for a hotel (I luckily did not need this). The Law faculty also managed to make a lot of books and materials available online. This was great, because while I had taken most of my books home I had left some in Cambridge.

### support guidance of home university

I received some emails from my home university, but I don't think there was a lot of additional support. We got an email telling us to come home if at all possible. Most of the problems the coronavirus caused me had to be solved by Cambridge, so support guidance of my home university was not really needed.

### online offer and quality of digital courses

While at home I had two more supervisions for each paper. A great advantage of the small supervision groups was that it was relatively easy to hold them virtually. It's a bit harder to have a virtual discussion because you have to make sure you are not talking at the same time and you cannot just add something while someone is talking. All in all, the supervisions still provided me with useful information for my exams. For IP the lecturer also posted online lectures that we could watch in our own time. Our exams were very different from what we had been preparing for all year. We had open book exams for which you had 24 hours. At first I thought this would be great, but I really hated it. Because it's open book you feel like you don't really have to remember everything because you can look it up, but it just meant that the exam took me a lot longer than a real exam would have. I felt like it would be a waste not to use most of the time I was given and I started checking and reading about things I actually kind of knew already.

### suggestions/tips on digital exchange

I think a digital exchange will only be useful if the groups in which you follow lectures/supervisions are not too big. That way you can ask all the questions you have and have the feeling you are talking to actual people, which is different where you can see that many people are taking part in the meeting but you only see some of the faces (well). I really think digital exchanges can never come close to physical education and I really missed the social aspects of Cambridge that made working hard worth it. It's great that technology makes it possible to continue education, but an exchange consists of so much more. I met a lot of new people and really lived in another country and for me those were essential parts of the exchange.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I absolutely loved my time in Cambridge and would definitely recommend it. There are so many interesting people, the colleges are beautiful and the papers are interesting. I really liked the college-system. I worked hard and went to the library almost every weekday with the other Dutch girls. However, there is still enough time to do fun stuff and other activities. At one point I went out twice a week (this is a great way to make friends!). In Cambridge they usually go to the club at 10 pm so you'll be in bed by 2/3 am which is ideal. I only did work in the week-ends a few times. The hard thing about Cambridge is that you really have to keep up with the work



for supervisions, because you cannot come there (entirely) unprepared and it would be impossible to catch up with everything at the end of the year. Because every supervision provides a list of further reading, it's easy to feel like there is always more to do and you've never done enough. The trick is to accept that there are always people who will do more than you, but that that does not mean that you should do more. For me meeting new people and having fun while in Cambridge was really important. Before coming to Cambridge I really worried about the workload and it almost made me not go, but that really should not be a reason not to go. Since most people spend their days in the library, it soon feels normal and not that much of a sacrifice. I liked going with the other Dutch girls, because we would have our (sometimes quite lengthy) lunch-breaks together and catch up. Our year ended really weird because of coronavirus and I'm really sad to miss the May week. That is the week after exams when everyone in Cambridge is extremely relaxed and just doing fun stuff and the May balls are that week. I hope I will be able to go to next years May ball.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice is to make the most of your time in Cambridge by trying a sport/ going to interesting lectures/ have fun movie nights with friends/ go to one of the many student plays/ go out to clubs or parties organised by your college etc. There is so much to do in Cambridge! There were a few times during the year that I was really tired of all the work and worried I was behind, but this is normal and should be put in perspective. It is very very rare for anyone in Cambridge to fail a subject. You are really working to get a good grade and as an Erasmus student very little depends on what grade you receive. If you want to go to Cambridge you have to be prepared to put in hard work, but don't let that stop you from actually enjoying your stay there.



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process was long but transparent. It consists of a couple of stages (i) the application to Utrecht (December) (ii) the application to Cambridge (March/April). For the UU application we were required to submit a transcript, CV, proof of english proficiency and motivation letter. In January you discover whether you are nominated by the UU or not. You subsequently enter the University of Cambridge application process which can take a while. This appears to be more a formality, once you are accepted by the UU you have passed the biggest hurdle. The Cambridge application process is lengthy in the sense that most of us received the definite answer from our Colleges in July. Although it is unlikely you will not be assigned a college after passing the UU selection, it takes a while to get certainty.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International Office is super helpful, you can email them with all your questions and concerns and they always reply in a timely manner.
academic preparation	
	I did not prepare anything in particular. Everything will become clear once you start your papers. The benefit of Cambridge is that you follow the same paper for the entire academic year, this allows for a lot of time to really dive into the subject matter and do extra readings if you feel unsure about something. If you feel like you do want to do extra readings some papers upload a reading list onto Moodle (the equivalent of Blackboard) don't be intimidated by the size of the list and don't think you are expected to know everything before the start of term. It is uploaded just for your benefit, if you want to prepare in advance.
language preparation	
	One useful tip I would want to give is try to accommodate yourself with reading English texts. It does not have to be necessarily law-related but being accustomed to reading in English will be a great benefit at the start of term, it will help you digest the assigned readings with less effort. The reading can be dense and reading in a language you are not used to takes a lot of energy and time.
finances	
	Cambridge is an expensive destination so it is a good idea to make a financial plan. The Erasmus grant alone is not enough to cover all the additional expenses.

<b>(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	You have the possibility to follow three papers which you can choose from a wide range of both first, second and third year options. Some courses are fully focussed on the common law system but some others, especially some second and third year courses have a European dimension which might feel helpful and a bit closer to home (although I never experienced an difficulty with the understanding the functioning of the common law system). Each paper consists of lectures and supervisions. While the lecture are somewhat similar to what you are used to at the UU, the supervisions are teachings in small groups (usually 2-4 students) in which you discuss the material on a deeper level.
academic quality of education activities	
	In my opinion, the supervisions really testify of the quality of education in Cambridge. These small group teachings allow you to engage with the material, be critical of certain decisions and reach a deeper





understanding of the subject matter. The professors teaching the supervisions are real experts in their field and I felt it was a unique experience to be able to discuss topics with professionals who have so much expertise within their field.

transfer of credits

The UU awards 45 credits for a year in Cambridge which I do not think does justice to the amount of work that is required from students. Especially taking into account that according to the University of Cambridge a year should equal 60 ECTS.

**CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES**

support guidance of host university

The communication, especially with regard to what form the exams would take and when they would happen took a lot of time. It was only at the beginning of May that we received a finalised timetable which was not always helpful with regard to revision. However, I recognise this is an unprecedented situation for academic institutions which can explain the delays. We did receive weekly updates on the progress and the university has been transparent.

Uncertainty remains with regard to the collection of belongings. Most students left Cambridge thinking they would come back at a later stage leaving their belonging on campus. Very little help and guidance has been provided on how to pick up belongings under this new 14-day quarantine rule.

support guidance of home university

The UU International Office gave a timely indication and clear guidance of what was expected from students

online offer and quality of digital courses

Teaching in Cambridge is divided over three terms, the last term (Easter term) is also known as exam term and is dedicated to revision for the exam. The largest part of the programme had already been covered by the time online teaching started. Although online teaching differs from face to face teaching I think the supervisors dealt well with the restrictions. The revisions supervisions were delivered via Microsoft Teams and the supervisors sent regular emails to check in and were always available to answer questions.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Three main things really helped me tackle the online teaching. (i) Make sure to have a set schedule dedicated to teaching, it really helps to have a routine and it also makes sure that you are not always 'switched on' but give yourself time to relax. (ii) Be extra well prepared. The dynamics online are different than in a classroom which in my opinion often resulted in less questions being asked. Make sure you read the material and write down questions you might have to make sure they can all be addressed. (iii) Keep in touch with friends who are following the same course or organise (online) study sessions together. It is a great motivator to know you are not alone and it also makes it more fun.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend a year in Cambridge! I learned a lot about myself and my future ambitions and I feel it helped reach a deeper understanding of some areas of law. This year has been quite a challenge and you need to be willing to put in serious effort but all the hard work is rewarded. Even taking into account the sudden and unfortunate ending of the year I would do it all over again.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Have fun! Cambridge is a magical place and although you will be required to work hard don't be blindsighted and miss out on all the amazing opportunities it has to offer.



PREPARATION
exchange application process
Very thorough and detailed but apparently needed,
counselling & support at Utrecht University
They were very friendly and always willing to help.
academic preparation
-
language preparation
An English exam which you had to pass. This consisted of a test (reading, listening and writing) and an interview by phone.
finances
England is expensive, however, this was known knowledge in advance.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
welcome & orientation programme
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Cambridge was very organised and obviously the content of the subjects was of a high level. The supervisions which consisted of small groups made your time worthwhile.
academic quality of education activities
-
transfer of credits
We got very little credit in comparison to the work.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES
support guidance of host university
The host university kept in touch and supported us throughout.
support guidance of home university
The home university supported us and kept in touch. The advice was to come home early.
online offer and quality of digital courses
This was of the same level as the face to face education. We had online supervisions and lectures. There was a lot of correspondence by email, whereby supervisors were more than willing to answer any questions.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
-

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



Most certainly, I would advise everyone who is willing to put in the work to study in Cambridge. The environment is lovely. The students, supervisors and professors will make your time spent worth.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-



2018-2019

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process was all right. It consisted of handing in a letter of motivation, a signed letter of your Tutor (a letter of recommendation), a CV, list of your marks and a financial plan. I got invited for an interview and a few hours after the interview I already got I call that I was selected to go to Cambridge.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I went to several talks on studying abroad and visited the REBO International Office multiple times. Their help was always really lovely. They gave good advice on what to focus on and gave an overview of all the deadlines and documents that needed filling in and signing. If you have any questions or insecurities, please do not hesitate to send them an email, phone them, or just head over to the International Office in person! They're very happy to help and offer great advice.
academic preparation
I did no academic preparation and I did not find that I missed out on anything during the exchange itself. The common law system is very different from the civil law system, but I felt that I figured out a lot of things during the year itself. If you would really like to do some preparation you could pick up a general book regarding the common law system in general (e.g. how it works with precedent, overruling cases, how the law is structured), but in all honesty I really feel like this is not a necessity at all.
language preparation
I didn't really do any language preparation before I got here. I did have to sit an English exam specifically designed for (European) students coming to Cambridge, and a few days in advance of the exam I just read some articles on the BBC/the Guardian and listened to some British radio. In hindsight this probably wasn't even needed, as the exam isn't too difficult to pass I'd say. When you've passed, I really wouldn't worry about your English level at all, it is going to be good enough and you'll improve rapidly once you get here!
finances
<p>Near the end of my first year in Utrecht I had quite set my mind on going to Cambridge. I had looked into finances and immediately noticed that it is way more expensive than in Utrecht. This is why I massively upped my student loan (thank you DUO!) to put unspent money on the side to get some "savings" for this year. On the Cambridge website and on websites of the Colleges you can generally find an overview of how much a year of studying at Cambridge will cost. Generally it is about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the normal Utrecht tuition fees (so +- 2050 euros, NOT the Cambridge tuition fees fortunately!)</li> <li>- living expenses in general are estimated to be 9000 pounds for a year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This includes accommodation. Prices of accommodation differ quite a bit per room and per college as well. You generally get your room for the full term (there's 3 terms, which include 10 weeks of renting your room), and I paid around 1600 pounds for the term.</li> <li>- Meals at college are about 4.50 pound per meal, but can be a little more expensive. It depends on your college (and your friends probably!) how often you eat at your college. If you prefer cooking yourself, you need to take into account that groceries are generally more expensive in the UK than in the Netherlands as well. Sainsbury's is probably the most accessible shop (it's right in the centre of town) and generally one of the more expensive supermarket chains.</li> <li>- On top of that you of course have your normal living costs which include insurance (you can keep your Dutch insurance fortunately and travel insurance is only a few euros a month. Inform about this at your own insurance company!), buying clothes, mobile phone costs, etc. A return ticket to the Netherlands is usually not that bad if you book well in advance and are flexible. You can get to London Stansted and back for as cheap as 30-40 pounds sometimes! Trains from London Stansted to Cam will cost around 10 pounds.</li> <li>- Going out is generally a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands I'd say, as drinks are pretty pricey at times. To offset that, sports clubs (especially the ones affiliated with your college) are free and there's a lot of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



other free societies you can join for other types of leisure!

- Books are about the same price as in Utrecht, but you will need less of them (as you only take 3 modules anyhow!) If you're lucky your college will refund some or all of the books you've bought over the year. I think I spend about 200 pounds in total on books. You can also read books in the Law Library which saves you from buying them (you unfortunately can't take them home with you though), and the store "Heffers" usually offers second hand books at a reduced price as well.

If Brexit doesn't make things horrible, you might still get an Erasmus grant which is about 2000 euros. This greatly helps reduce the costs of this year, making it much more affordable.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme is really intense, but absolutely great fun and I'd undoubtedly recommend it. The terms are each 8 weeks long, after which you get a 6 week holiday (during which you are expected to do work, especially during the one between Lent and Easter term!). You basically only have 2 terms of actual supervisions and lectures, and the third term is literally just the exams you need to focus on, with little to none lectures or supervisions (just some revision supervisions and 'catch-up' lectures). Each paper you take has a supervision every 2 weeks (so 4 per term), with 2-3 lectures a week. The supervisions are an hour long each and the lectures are generally only 50 minutes (they start at five minutes past the hour and stop five minutes to the hour).

You choose three papers out of a big list. I chose Law of Contract, Tort Law and Intellectual Property.

### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is excellent! The lectures are provided by leading experts in the field, usually those who have written your textbooks as well. They are very knowledgeable and are usually very good at lecturing. In Utrecht I always wrote all my notes by hand, but I discovered here that it's much easier to take notes on my laptop. For each lecture you get a "lecture handout" which is a global summary of the lecture (they're alike to the PowerPoints you get in Utrecht, but way more elaborate), and it's easy to add your notes to this lecture handout digitally.

The lectures are quite similar to Utrecht, and I feel it is the supervisions which make the system different than in Utrecht. As you probably know, you have fortnightly supervisions with an academic and 1-2 other students. Everyone comes very well prepared, which means that you can easily have more in-depth discussions about the materials, which I found incredibly interesting. At first I found the supervisions incredibly daunting ('What if I come across as not well-read?!'), but after the first few had passed it started to become something I actually looked forward to! It really sparked my interest and it was so nice to be able to exchange thoughts on certain matters which had kept me thinking over the past few days. Don't be afraid to speak your mind and certainly don't be afraid to ask question. Supervisions are specifically designed for you to learn. Try to make the most of it! Don't see it as a test of your knowledge, but as an opportunity to expand your knowledge massively and engage with the materials critically.

The only thing which slightly bothered me is that the lectures and the supervisions didn't align. We sometimes discussed things in supervisions which had not been covered in lectures yet, and other times the lectures covered things we would be discussing in our supervisions of the following term! This sometimes made it harder to stay on track, and in this sense I do prefer Utrecht's system.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at the university is excellent! Each term you get a "start of term" meeting with your Director of Studies (aka. DoS, the person who helps you with the "study" part of your life here) and your tutor (the person who focusses on your welfare during your time at Cambridge), and you also get "end of term" meetings with them.

If something is wrong, you can always contact them about anything and they will try to help you as well as they



can, or refer you to other counselling services at the University. However, you generally do need to let them know when something is wrong: the meetings are quite short which means they cannot pick up everything which is going on. If you need help, don't be afraid to ask!

transfer of credits

My credits have not yet been transferred (as I have not received my grades yet!) but generally you do not get as many credits as you'd think. You do a lot of hard work over this year, but this is not reflected in the ECTS you get. You can expect to get 12-15 ECTS per paper (and you only take 3 papers during the entire year).

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme is organised by your college mostly! There might be a special event going on for international students, but this is not the standard for each and every college. The freshers' week is really lovely, and I would wholeheartedly recommend you to participate in it. It's a great chance to meet new people and prepare yourself for the things to come. You will probably have some "Freshers' Fair" where you can learn about all sorts of societies in Cam. I'd recommend visiting the fair and to sign up to things which look fun to you! Cambridge has a place for even the most niche interests, so I'm sure there will be something which suits you.

There was also an "Erasmus" dinner in my year where all the Erasmus students at Cambridge got to meet up. Even though it was fun, I can't say I really stayed in touch with other Erasmus students (apart from the ones from Utrecht!) as there's not a lot of other events going on where you can continue meeting up with them. I primarily focussed on meeting people in my College and I can say I met such lovely and kind people there!

accommodation

My accommodation was quite lovely! I shared a house on the side of town (about a 15 minute walk from the city centre) with 6 other students from my college, all graduate students. This was slightly unusual as most of the housing is "in college", but it was nice regardless. I applied for one of the bigger rooms. My room was fully furnished, but I did have to bring my own bedding. My room was cleaned once a week (fully dusted, vacuumed, and my bin was emptied) and the kitchen and bathroom, which I shared with my flatmates, were cleaned Monday to Friday

If there's anything wrong with the accommodation (e.g. a lightbulb broke, the window doesn't open or whatsoever) you can just send a ticket to Housekeeping and they will generally come to fix it in the next few days.

leisure & culture

The British culture is undoubtedly different than the Dutch one. I had some British friends before I came here so I was slightly prepared for the British, but there were still many surprises. The British are very indirect (i.e. when they say your essay was a "good try", "interesting", or something along the lines of that, it means that you wrote quite a bad essay). I once also told my British friend that the film we went to see was "quite good" and he literally thought I didn't like it, as "quite good" apparently meant "not very good". It was quite mind-blowing that "quite good" apparently does not mean it was good.

The British also have a great sense of humour and sarcasm, which I absolutely loved. They are usually quite reserved, but once you get to know them well they're just such lovely, kind and amazing people.

Tips for leisure would be to join a society or a sports club. Meet people, do fun stuff, wherever your interest lies! For most sports there's at least one club run by students which you can join. Every college also has general sports clubs for more popular sports (e.g. football, net ball, rowing) where only people of your college can participate in. This is a great way to meet more people in your college. If you want, most of these sports clubs also play games against other colleges, which adds a lovely element of competitiveness. The sports clubs sometimes also organise "socials" which are just social events -usually drinks- to get to know people even



better.

suggestions/tips

Don't "just study" in Cambridge. Even though the work can be hard and it can be a lot of work, please make sure you make free time to do things on the side as well. Cambridge has so much more to offer than just the educational part. Societies are a great way to meet new people and build friendships. Find something which interests you and just join, it's very rewarding and it's really one of the things which makes Cambridge so special!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I'd absolutely recommend Cambridge! I had such an incredible amount of fun here and it was so much better than I could ever have imagined. I learned a lot about myself, discovered what I'd like to do the upcoming years, I made amazing friends and I made memories I'll cherish for a long time.

Do however know that you WILL be working hard here, there's no easy way to do Cambridge, really! It's going to be a lot of hard work, and don't expect to have the weekends completely off. You will only take three papers/modules, but it's still a lot of work. You will have time to do fun things on the side, and please do engage in those activities, but don't expect heaps of free time and to do a lot of partying. I feel incredibly grateful for the whole experience and the grand time I had here. It's hard work, but it's very rewarding.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Work hard, but don't forget to have fun! It's easy to lose yourself in work and deadlines, but do fun stuff and meet new people to keep yourself grounded.



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process for an exchange to the University of Cambridge is a bit different from the application to other exchange locations. You are asked to send in your academic transcript (your list of grades), your resume and a motivation letter, like the other students, but you are also required to send in a letter of recommendation and you will have to do an interview. Once the International Office in Utrecht has accepted your application, the University of Cambridge has to accept it as well. The only thing you need to do for the application to Cambridge is obtain a certificate that proves your level of English is good enough (e.g. a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency or the equivalent TOEFL iBT score).
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I found the International Office very helpful. They answered all of my questions concerning my application quickly and kept me up to date with application deadlines etc.
academic preparation	
	Academic preparation is not necessary, since you're not expected to have previous knowledge about the courses you are going to do. Your College might provide you with a reading list of books. Doing this reading is completely optional and you are not expected to have read any of those books before the start of the academic year (but you can read them out of personal interest of course).
language preparation	
	As I mentioned before, you will have to send in a language certificate. I chose to do the TOEFL iBT test for which I did quite some preparation, since you will have to get a good score in order for the certificate to be sufficient. Preparation material for this test can be found online. Besides, I took the course 'Legal English for Academic Purposes' at the Babel language course centre in Utrecht, for which I received 7,5 ECTS. I found this course quite helpful but not at all necessary.
finances	
	Cambridge is an expensive exchange location. You will live in one of the beautiful Cambridge Colleges, but the rent is quite high. Besides, the cost of living in the UK is higher than in the Netherlands (groceries, going out etc). I increased my student loan a couple of months before I went to Cambridge so that I had saved enough to pay for my first College Bill. For this exchange location you will receive an Erasmus grant, which is very helpful.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The Cambridge academic year is divided into three terms of eight weeks with breaks of five or six weeks in between those terms. You are able to choose three papers which you will follow for the full academic year, with exams at the end of the third term. I chose to take Law of Tort (first year paper), Company Law (third year) and Intellectual Property (third year). Because the papers I took are taught to students that are in different years of their degree, some of my lectures clashed. However, the University provided me with recordings of these lectures so that I didn't have to miss anything.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of education at the University of Cambridge is really high. Besides lectures that are given by people highly regarded in their fields, you have supervisions with only two or three other students and a supervisor. These supervisions are similar to our seminars ('werkgroepen'), but involve a lot more interaction between you and the supervisor since there are only a couple of other students present. This requires you to have done thorough preparation on the supervision topic and to actively engage in discussions during the supervisions.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Counselling at Cambridge is very comprehensive. You get appointed a Director of Studies who looks after your





academic achievements and whom you can ask any questions relating to your degree. Besides, you will get a Tutor who looks after your wellbeing and whom you can go to with any personal issues. You will have a meeting with both these people at the beginning and end of each term.

transfer of credits

For a full academic year at Cambridge, you will get awarded 45 ECTS.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the beginning of the year, there is an introduction week during which you get to know all about your College, the University and the other students. This week is called 'Freshers' Week' and is filled with many fun activities. Most Colleges have a 'family system', which means that you get appointed College parents (second year students) whom you can ask all about life in Cambridge, and College siblings (first years). You will meet them in Freshers' Week as well.

accommodation

Accommodation is very different depending on what College you go to. You won't have to arrange your own accommodation; this is done by your College. At my College, the accommodation was great. My room was very big and modern and had an ensuite bathroom. I shared a kitchen with 7 other students who lived on my floor. The rooms and bathrooms were cleaned by the bedders on a weekly basis and the kitchen daily, which was great.

leisure & culture

The University of Cambridge has many societies you can join, which I highly recommend you do. I would suggest to Google them or check them out at the Freshers' Fair in the beginning of the year. They are a great way to get to know people and have a great time during your stay. The most popular activities in Cambridge are rowing and theatre, both of which you can do easily without having previous experience, but there are many more societies or sports you can join.

suggestions/tips

Cambridge is an academically high-demanding place and you are expected to work really hard. Therefore, make sure you find the right balance between working hard and enjoying your exchange year in the UK.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would absolutely recommend this destination for your year abroad if you like to be challenged academically. You will be studying at one of the best Universities in the world, which is both very intense and very exciting. Your exchange will not be like any other exchange, since it involves a lot more work and less sightseeing. However, Cambridge is a beautiful city to live in, the people are absolutely lovely and you will get immersed in the quirky Cambridge culture, which is a great experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Applying to Cambridge for my exchange year was the best decision I have ever made and I wouldn't trade this experience for the world.



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process was transparent and efficient. The application in Utrecht consisted of a motivation letter, CV and transcript of records, followed by an interview. The University of Cambridge required additionally a language test. Both universities communicated clearly and were readily available if any help was needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I did not contact Utrecht University for any counselling, because I did not encounter any major problems. All documents and other support I received from Utrecht University was helpful and efficient.
academic preparation	The academic level and types of assignment were remarkably different in Cambridge, and there is no real way to prepare for this, you have to get used to it while studying at Cambridge. However, my three years in Utrecht did provide me with the necessary skills and knowledge to be able to do the work requested in Cambridge.
language preparation	Before going to the UK, I needed to do a language test to get the C1 level. This level is sufficient to do the work in Cambridge and to take part in social life in the UK. I did not do any further language preparation, since my level of English was sufficient.
finances	The application for an Erasmus grant was transparent and clear. This grant was useful, and together with own savings and the monthly state loan this year abroad was easily affordable.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme was a lot different than in the Netherlands, with a lot of essays to write. There was a high variety of subjects in the three papers I chose and the papers took a whole year to complete. This enabled us to study the subjects very thoroughly, and to come to new, interesting conclusions. I therefore liked the study programme and the way in which the studies were organised.
academic quality of education activities	As expected, the academic quality in Cambridge was impressive. The essays required us to study the subjects in real depth. Also, the supervisions (with only two to four students and a professor) really raised the academic quality, with possibilities for substantial discussion with the professors.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There were a lot of support bodies and welfare organisations in Cambridge. There was extensive attention for student welfare, with each student having a tutor to turn to with any personal problems. I did not need to make use of these possibilities, but it was nice to know that there was support if needed.
transfer of credits	The procedure of transfer of credits is not completed yet. My grades have been published and I expect the faculty in Cambridge to send the results to Utrecht's international office. I expect the procedure to be completed reasonably efficiently. The information about the procedure is clear and readily available.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	When I arrived, all students took part in a fresher's week. This made me feel welcome immediately and enabled to make friends very quickly. It also let us know the important information for a year in Cambridge. The



welcome events were fun and well organised.

accommodation

All accommodation was in college, which was very nice. This way, we lived with fellow students and made me feel at home quickly. My room was large enough. Food was served three times a day in hall, which was also very convenient. So all in all, the accommodation provided was of a high level.

leisure & culture

There were lots of fun activities to do in college and in Cambridge in general. There were lots of parties, academic activities and sporting activities. For example, I often went to debates at the Cambridge Union and I played in my college's football team. There was enough room for leisure in addition to the studying. Also, Cambridge is a place with lots of history and culture to experience.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend to anyone going to Cambridge to not get caught up in too much studying due to academic pressure. Cambridge is a unique and interesting place, with lots of fun activities and societies to take part in. It is important to also take enough time for this.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes. Cambridge is a nice place to spend a year abroad. While the academic side of the exchange will help you advance your academic qualities and also your ability to think creatively, the huge number of cultures and interesting people will bring you a lot of nice memories.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I took quite a lot of time to write a good letter in order to get an invitation for an interview. I would recommend you to do the same. The interview was much shorter than expected. I prepared for the interview by going through my letter and CV and to imagine not only the standard interview questions that they would ask, but also the questions they would probably ask for after having read my letter of motivation. So for example if you discuss that you read papers of a certain professor from Cambridge then they will very likely ask you to elaborate on that paper or if something is mentioned in your CV but you did not discuss it in your letter then they will ask you for it, i.e. the interview is there to fill in the blank and to tell something new, not merely to reiterate what they already read in your documents.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I always felt supported by Utrecht University. I could always send emails and get an answer within a few working days.
academic preparation	Maybe buy a book to prep for legal english, but that is also not very necessary.
language preparation	I took the TOEFL test and I bought a book to learn more Legal English vocab.
finances	I had two jobs before I started my year abroad so I saved enough money. But do take into account that it is pretty expensive, so you might need to take out a loan.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took contract law, Intellectual property and company law. Contract law was definitely the most difficult one, as it was a common law paper, meaning you have no or hardly no statutes and you need to learn all the case law by heart. You are not allowed to take case law to the exam and you cannot write the names of cases in your statutes. Hence, the system is very different from Utrecht and it asks you to memorize way more than at your home university.
academic quality of education activities	The quality of both the lectures and supervisions is really high. Compared with the UU you don't have a lot of supervisions (once every two weeks per paper), however you have these supervisions in a very private setting with only 3/2 or 1 fellow student, so you have to prepare it diligently. The lectures are a bit smaller compared with Utrecht but still all students are attending.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There is a lot of support. You have your DoS which is your academic advisor and your tutor who is there for personal issues if you need it.
transfer of credits	Every full paper gives you 15 credits. 3 papers were definitely doable.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	



A dinner was organised by Cambridge with all the Erasmus students attending. I befriended some of them that evening, but my close friends were the ones I met in college during the introduction week and during my first term. The introduction week is with the first year students of your college. I think the first few days were a bit of a struggle as I found the freshers a bit young and therefore hard to connect with. But during my college's Fresher's Fair I joined one of the student societies and that's where I met a group of third years which I got really close to.

accommodation

The accommodation was fine. Every college is really different. My college sent me the accommodation options just before moving to Cam and I could choose between value rooms, standard rooms and standard plus rooms. I chose the value room and that was fine.

leisure & culture

I enjoyed rowing a lot. I also enjoyed going to theatre and dance shows. There are so many societies and I would recommend you to make use of it as much as you can.

suggestions/tips

There is also a Dutch society that you can join. I went to formals with them and got to spend Kingsday in London with some of them which I really enjoyed.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, definitely it was an experience of a lifetime.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The last term (exam term) is definitely a tough one. In term 1 and 2 there are many social activities in term 3 everyone is studying quite a lot. You have at least 6 weeks before exams start without classes, plus you have two months off before every terms starts and it is expected of you to work hard as the year comes closer to your exams.