



University College Dublin

2023-2024

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>The application process at UU was quite clear. They organised a lot of meetings and the information was easy to find.</p> <p>The application process at UCD was a bit trickier. They did organise online meetings, but not all the information given in the meeting was relevant or accurate. For example, they gave us a time and day when the module registration would open, but they actually opened it a day before they said they would. This caused some students to not be able to register for their required modules since they'd already filled up. Adding to this, sometimes in the meetings they'd give us information on how to apply for something after the application deadline had already passed. So I'd advice to keep checking the website.</p> <p>Make sure to start your preparations on time! UCD often takes 2-4 weeks to reply to emails, so you want to make sure that you get everything sent out and signed on time.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University provided great support. They answered the emails on a timely manner and had many options for counselling.
academic preparation
Since Ireland has common law, I did a bit of research on what this is. Other than that, academic preparation was not really necessary. You just have to make sure that your chosen modules will fit in your study programme.
language preparation
Language preparation was not needed. However, there are some words that they used in Dublin that were specific to the area that you might need to get used to (E.g. police = garda, train = dart, tram = luas).
finances
Dublin is very expensive. Accommodation can easily be three times as much as is normal in Utrecht. Groceries and other expenses were a bit more expensive in Dublin than what I was used to, but it wasn't too bad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
UCD had released a list of law modules that they offered prior to the official registration, and this list was very broad and had a lot of variety in modules. However, when the official registration began they did not offer all the modules on the first list that they had showed us. This was a bit disappointing, since I found the options quite limited. Third level courses all only had lectures, whereas second level courses had tutorials as well.
academic quality of education activities
I mostly had lectures, but I had some tutorials as well. The tutorials were really helpful, the class was very small and there was a lot of opportunity to discuss the material. The lectures were not as informative in my opinion. Overall the classes at UCD were significantly easier compared to UU. Some professors gave us the exam questions beforehand so we could just prepare exactly what we needed to know. We also were not expected to go very in-depth.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



Once you're in Ireland, the support is quite good. You could very easily visit the offices there and get great help. They also had a lot of counselling for people who needed it. However, like I mentioned before, they take very long to respond to emails (if they even respond at all), so this was a bit difficult to deal with at times.

transfer of credits

The credits have not been transferred yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

UCD offered a lot of fun orientation activities and welcome meetings. This was very helpful for getting to know other students, Dublin, and the university itself.

accommodation

Accommodation was extremely difficult to get. There was campus accommodation, but this was not nearly enough for the amount of students that they invited to go to Dublin. They did not give us a clear date or time for when the application for on-campus accommodation would open, so we were just expected to keep checking the website for a week to see when it would open. They claimed that it was 'first come first serve' when applying for on-campus accommodation, but some students who applied right as it opened did not get a room whereas students who applied two hours later did.

Dublin has a housing crisis. Which means that it is not easy to find off-campus accommodation. Moreover, accommodation is very expensive. If you want to stay on-campus, you should be prepared to pay almost three times as much as you pay in Utrecht. Off-campus was actually a little cheaper and often nicer as well, but it is not easy to find something.

I stayed off-campus, but I was only able to find something, because I got some help. I did really enjoy my apartment since it was in the middle of the city, I was able to explore Dublin every day!

leisure & culture

Ireland is amazing to travel through. It is quite easy to get to other places in Ireland from Dublin. Dublin itself also has a lot of things to do, there was always something going on.

suggestions/tips

Staying in Dublin is a great opportunity to travel through Ireland! There are lots of surrounding towns which are super fun to visit. Public transport is really cheap, and the trains are quite reliable. Ireland offers a nice balance between city live and nature.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I had a great time in Dublin/UCD, and I would probably recommend this place to others. Plus points were that UCD has a really fun campus culture, which is something that I was not used to in Utrecht. Dublin is a really fun city and Ireland is absolutely lovely to discover. They also speak English which is a plus. Minus points were that Dublin does have a serious housing crisis and it is very expensive. The locals also struggle greatly with this. I also did not feel like I really learned new or useful things at UCD, which is a bit of a shame.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even if you do not decide to study in Ireland, I would still suggest visiting it at some point! The country is absolutely beautiful.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a smooth process. There were clear preparation meetings and there were some broad explanation documents which students could follow in order to apply. In general it is a process with a lot of questions and uncertainty, but there was always enough information to clear everything up.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The University was very quick to answer all questions and to help with the entire process. The meetings organised to inform all students interested in the exchange were also very helpful.

academic preparation

For me there were quite a lot of questions regarding the academics at UCD. There was not a lot to find about the manner of teaching or examining. Because i followed third year classes there was also no introductory class in which this all became clear. I found that the only way to get more clarity on the manner of teaching was to ask other students. After doing this during my first class everything was cleared up.

language preparation

I did not do any language preparation beforehand. I was not required to get a language certificate. Looking back on the experience I have also found that the best way to learn a second language properly is by being surrounded by it. It may feel a little uncertain at the beginning, but you get used to it fairly quickly.

finances

I spend the months leading up to my exchange working extra and saving this up for my exchange. After being provided with a spreadsheet telling me what the average rent would be I started by saving up for this. After saving up all the rent I saved up to have a monthly budget and to be able to travel around during my exchange. I put the grant money towards my rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content of the study programme was extremely broad. All classes are focused on a specific branch of law. The organisation of classes were a little more vague than I was used to. Signing up for the classes was quite a vague process, but after this was out of the way everything went smoothly.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was very similar to that of the University of Utrecht. The main difference was that the lectures and classes are given on a larger scale. I only had tutorials in smaller groups for one of my classes. The 5 other classes were all given through lectures in groups of around 80 students.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counsellign and support at UCD went fairly smooth. In general I did not have to wait very long for responses to e-mails. The contact person at UCD was always willing to help and did so thoroughly. I have not needed in person counselling so I can't speak to how this was organised.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received my grades when writing this. The entire process is therefore not known to me yet. I do know that it is expected of me to get the approval of UCD online. It will not be done by UCD for every student personally.



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a broad orientation programme. The first two weeks were filled with orientation activities. These activities were not only centered around getting to know other students and the campus, but also around getting to know Dublin city.

accommodation

Accommodation was a big issue. UCD could only give on-campus accommodation to a very small amount of international students. I was not able to get a spot on-campus so I had to find accommodation on my own. There is a big housing crisis in Dublin, so it was not an easy task to find a room for rent. I ended up finding a room last minute, about two weeks before the start of the semester. Even though it was a stressful experience I did end up in a very nice accommodation for my stay.

leisure & culture

Dublin has an incredible student life. The entire city is filled with things to do. The Irish culture is very easy to experience and the locals are very willing to teach you about their culture. The city also offers a big number of museums for free or with a big discount for students. A few times a year there are also culture nights, in which all museums are free to enter in the evening.

suggestions/tips

My suggestion for students going on exchange in Dublin is to make sure to travel around Ireland. Ireland offers bus tickets and train tickets for extremely low prices. You can travel across the entire island within hours for less than 20 euros. The public transport makes for a great opportunity to see a lot of different places.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would highly recommend both the University College Dublin and Dublin city itself to everyone. Ireland offers amazing nature and very nice people. There is always something to do. UCD itself is also very active in organising trips and also offers a lot of sports and other clubs.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you start early with finding accommodation. There is a very high chance that you will not end up getting a room on campus. It is a challenge to find accommodation, but it is not impossible. I ended up finding my room through the ErasmusU site.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

To apply for your exchange is not a hard process. However, I do remember that the definite registration for the courses was a bit tricky. The registration started a day before they said it was going to start, so i couldn't choose all the modules I wanted anymore. So pay attention to this.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The Utrecht University offers good suport. They want everyone to feel comfortable before their exchange so they will help you with all your questions.

academic preparation

I didn't prepare academically. However, what you could do is already read some things about the law in Ireland. It is very different from the Netherlands.

language preparation

I didn't prepare English. I felt like my English level was already above average and I didn't have a hard time understanding/speaking it.

finances

Ireland is an expensive country. Every month I got 1k from my loan at DUO but this wasn't enough. However, if you are responsible with your money I think it is probably doable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As I said the law is very different in Ireland. I took 3 international law courses so this wasn't that different. The level is not that high, but I would keep track of the courses otherwise you will have a hard time at the end to study 6 courses. I didn't have organisational issues.

academic quality of education activities

For all my courses I only had lectures. However, there are courses that do tutorials as well, where they discuss some questions. The quality of the lectures was fine. Make sure to take notes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

With questions you can just e-mail the exchange office of the university in Dublin and they will help you. You can even speak with the man in charge and he is very kind.

transfer of credits

I went for half a year so i needed 30 ECT's. Almost all courses were worth 5 ECT so i had to pass 6 courses. The grades don't really matter, because they will only transfer your points.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They do a welcome presentation where they explain you things about living on campus. Also in the first weeks they do some trips to places near Ireland.

accommodation

I lived on campus. It is nice to live on campus, because there are so many different accomodations and a lot of sports possibilities. Also not that far from the city. However, it is expensive.



leisure & culture

Me and my friends there cooked with each other every night. We lived at different accommodations so we switched houses a lot. Beside that we spent a lot of time in the pubs and clubs. During the day you can do sports or study.

suggestions/tips

Everyone is there to make friends. I was there already a week and a half before the real lectures started and already had a great time. Just try to contact people on campus. I met my best friend there already the first day by just asking where he was from. If you are a bit shy, there is a big groups chat with every exchange person. There a lot of people ask to do things so you can easily join.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would recommend it. Even though the weather is not the best, it is similar to the Netherlands. Irish people and culture are pretty cool to experience and the campus is really cool.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just have fun. It will be over sooner as you think so enjoy it.



PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was quite easy and clear. The UU provided information for what needed to be done for the application and there was also a helpfull information session beforehand. I needed to hand in a motivation letter, my transcript of records and a studyplan, no English certificate was needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I was planning on going on exchange in the first semseter but because I wasn't able to find a room I had to postpone my exchange to the second semester. The UU helped me pretty well with this and made it possible for me to go in the second semester.
academic preparation
I didn't do any academic preparation and it was also not needed.
language preparation
I had to take the OLS Placement Test in order to get the Erasmus+ grant. I took it online and it was quite easy and took about an hour or so. It was interesting to see at what level my English was.
finances
I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and the Erasmus TopUp for green traveling as well as the Travel Green Grant. It was easy to apply for them but keep the deadlines in mind! Dublin is pretty expensive so I also saved up some money, this way I was able to make it work but keep in mind that the living expenses are super high.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I choose elective law modules but was only able to pick them while I was already at UCD. There was a problem with my application which led to me not being able to apply in time so most of the modules I wanted to take where already full. But the UCD law department was really helpful and made sure I had some interesting modules.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was not much different than what I was used to at UU. The biggest difference was that I only had lectures for all my modules and no tutorials or seminars. This was nice because it gave a lot of freedom in how and when I wanted to study but I would've liked a tutorial once in a while for some extra depth.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UCD offered a lot of support in different areas, mental support and academic. Teachers offered special hours for questions or problems with the lessons wich I really liked.
transfer of credits
UCD send my transcript of records to UU and now my board of examiners is transferring them.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme



In the first week UCD organised a lot of orientation activities. Beforehand they didn't provided much information about this but when I arrived they gave me an overview with all the things I could do like campus tours, student societies and nice activities like Irish dancing.

accommodation

I stayed at in campus housing, this was quite expensive but also nice because most of the other international students were there aswell and it was close all my classes. The campus is a 20 minute busride from the city centre, but there is a small shop on campus, a gym, a cinema and some coffee and sandwich places. After my application process UCD send me a link for the campus housing. You need to be quick with it because there are limited places.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of nice things to do in Dublin and the surrounding area, te city is pretty big and has a lot of different areas. But I wouls also definitely recommend going to the Irish countyside!

suggestions/tips

There are a lot of free museums and so many nice pubs with live traditional music every night, I would definitely recommend The Cobblestone. And I would also recommend going to Howth, this is not far from the city centre and you can do a nice cliffwalk there. Dublin is a nice city to just wander around and end up in new places with a Guinness ofcourse ;)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend UCD, Dublin and Ireland to others! I had an amazing time, learned so many new things, made a lot of new friends and got to know a new wonderful city. I'm defenitely going back there as soon as possible.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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PREPARATION

exchange application process

In order to be able to study abroad one needs to fill out a lot of forms and be aware of all the deadlines. It is quite a lot to prepare, so I would recommend being organized and check your emails regularly. You also have to do a lot of research to be able to make an informed decision.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University provided several lectures that students could go to. In these lectures they would explain in detail what needed to be done. This was very informative and helpful. Furthermore, I did not seek out any support at Utrecht University.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation before going to UCD. For some courses you need to, but I did not choose any of those courses. I would recommend (if you are a law student) to look into the common law system, because we do not have that in the Netherlands.

language preparation

I already had a Cambridge certificate that was sufficient, so I did not do any other language preparation.

finances

Dublin is one of the most expensive cities in Europe. There is currently a housing crisis so it is quite hard to get a room. I chose to stay on campus. Accommodation is extremely expensive. I wanted to opt for one of the cheaper accommodations on campus but these were already taken. You have to be on time to be able to get accommodation on campus, since it gets full fast. I paid (approximately) 1300 euros a month. One should save up as much as one is able to before going here. Regular things are also expensive. Groceries can be affordable if one goes to the Lidl or Aldi. Bear in mind that the campus is located in a spot that is outside of the city centre, so you have to take the bus to go there. I bought a student's leap card, which means that the bus rides would be discounted. This made travelling to the city a lot cheaper. I also applied (and received) the Erasmus grant and the OV grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In order to receive the necessary amount of credits, one needs to apply for six courses. This accounts for 30 ECTS in total. I studied International Human Rights Law, Environmental Law & Policy, Social Inclusion Law, Employment Law: Contracts, Evidence: Foundations and Foundations of Political Theory & International Relations (a non-law course). All the law-related courses were lectures. Each course had one one hour and fifty minutes lecture per week. There were no seminars.

academic quality of education activities

I am a third year student and, therefore, took third year courses. These (law) courses did not have any seminars. I only had to attend lectures. In order to prepare for the lectures you had to engage with the assigned reading and sometimes had to answer some questions. Since there were no seminars, I would consider the academic quality a bit lower than Utrecht University. However, I still learned a lot. Overall the academic quality is good.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

When I arrived at the University they gave a presentation for Erasmus students and provided us with the necessary information that we needed if we needed to seek out support. I did not seek out any support. However, there were loads of people I could go to if I needed to.



transfer of credits

I needed to take six courses to receive 30 ECTS. I did not receive my grades yet, so I did not transfer my grades yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme started before classes did. There were quite a few fun activities. I did not attend many of them, but it is a good time to meet your people (if you stay on campus). There were more activities during freshers week, which was a few weeks later. During this time one can also apply for societies and sports, which I would definitely recommend doing, since it is a good opportunity to meet other people (especially Irish students). I was a part of the dance society, nutrition society, food society and the international student society. They organize activities throughout the week that one can attend whenever they want. There was also a presentation for Erasmus students with helpful information about the time abroad, UCD and Ireland.

accommodation

I lived on campus. It was approximately 1300 euros a month. The application process was quite stressful, since a lot of people want to stay on campus. One has to be there early to acquire housing. I wanted to go for the cheapest option but this was not available for me. It is hard to get housing in Dublin because there is currently a housing crisis. I shared my flat with five other people. I had my own bathroom, which was nice. There was a shared living room and kitchen.

leisure & culture

Dublin is a very homey, ambient and lively city. The people are very friendly. Irish people love going to the pubs and there is a drinking culture. The city itself is not too big. I also felt very safe during my stay. After a night out I would sometimes go back to campus on my own and I never felt scared. There is always music on the streets and in the pubs. Pubs generally close earlier but there are also plenty of nice clubs to go to. Ireland is also a beautiful country. There are loads of beautiful hikes. Overall, it is a really warm and social city.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend checking your emails regularly and write down all the deadlines and requirements. The process of applying is not too difficult, however there is quite a lot that needs to be done so it is useful to have a clear overview of everything. I would also recommend visiting other places in Ireland, like: Cliffs of Moher, Glendalough and Galway. A good way to meet people is to join societies. UCD also organises a fair amount of trips for students. These are mostly free and an excellent way to discover Ireland and meet other people.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend going to UCD! UCD is a very international university. One gets the opportunity to not only learn more about Ireland but also about people all over the world. I became friends with people from Ireland, Australia, Italy, the United States, Germany and Canada. Everyone was very welcoming, open and willing to make memories together. UCD provides loads of support to students. They also organise many activities. There are so many clubs and societies to join. There is something for everyone. Everyone was so kind to me. Dublin is also a very nice city. It is not too big but still big enough. There is always something to do and experience. The academic quality was good and the courses were very interesting.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



**Utrecht
University**

Deciding to go abroad was the best decision I ever made. I met so many amazing people and learnt so much. It is challenging and scary at first but once I arrived at my destination I was so excited and ready. It makes one more open minded. I would recommend doing as much as you can and do not be afraid to ask for help. Good luck!



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is very clear. It is a lot of waiting and that sometimes made me anxious, but it is just a matter of patience and making sure you do what you can as soon as possible. Make sure you start in time, just to give yourself some peace of mind and to ensure a spot at the university you want.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was very fast in answering my questions and I recommend sending your questions when you are in doubt about anything. Not only the exchange office but also your own faculty about possible courses you are going to take. Utrecht University is very helpful and in my experience glad to help.

academic preparation

I had to make sure that the courses I wanted to take at the University of my choice would fit into my bachelor programme. At the preparation stage, this is all still hypothetical because you will probably not get to actually pick your courses until a later stage. However, a big part of my choice for UCD were the courses they offered. Make sure you take a good look at this. I also recommend taking a look at the courses you are required to take after your exchange, you don't want anything to overlap.

I study law and since Ireland (along with other countries) have a common law jurisdiction, it would have been helpful to get some research done on this before the start of the courses. It is a very different system and if you are planning to attend UCD, take a quick look at this!

The people at UCD are very helpful with all the questions you might have about the academic preparation.

language preparation

Going to an English speaking country, I did not have a lot of preparation when it came to the language. I did look up some terms relating to law in English that I thought might be useful for my courses, since law in Utrecht is given in Dutch.

finances

Dublin is very expensive, not only accommodation but also going out and other activities. I worked the summer before my exchange to save up some money. I recommend having money set aside so you will be able to do the stuff you want and go on the trips you want.

The Erasmus Grant is a great help. This does take up a lot of your time and you have to be on top of this.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was able to choose between less courses than I first thought. However, I did get some interesting options and the process of registering to the courses was made very clear by UCD. You are able to change and drop courses for quite some time. One of my courses was not what I expected

Over the course of the semester, all the assignments, homework etc. that you have to do were clearly communicated.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality differed from course to course. The exams also differed in difficulty. Overall I would say that the academic quality is a bit lower than I was used to in Utrecht. But, having to take 5 courses and getting used to a different legal system, I still had my hands full on my uni work. Do not underestimate it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Before arriving in Ireland, all of the exchange students had plenty of time and opportunity to ask questions. All the documents you needed were signed in a very short time by the exchange office at UCD and they were all



very helpful if you had any questions or problems. There is a global lounge at UCD where you can go in person to ask questions, which was very nice.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received my grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The exchange office at UCD does a lot to make you feel welcome and to guide you around the campus. They organise some trips and social activities which I deffinetly recommend going to. However, there are very little orientation activities organised by UCD. There is no intro week with a lot of social activities so it is very much up to you to make as much friends as possible in the beginning.

accommodation

I was lucky enough to secure a spot on campus. The campus is a lot like I would imagine an American college campus to be like. It is a little outside of the city, very big and a lot of people live there. I was living in an apartment with 5 other people, all internationals. This was very nice. Accomodation on campus is very expensive, but I do think it is worth not having the stress of looking for a place to live in Dublin. Other student accomodations in the city (not affiliated with any uni) were also nice but also expensive. It is a bit stressfull to look for a room, but if you are able to get accomodation on campus, I would recommend taking it.

leisure & culture

Dublin is a great city, very lively and there is plenty to do. I had never been there before going on exchange, but I immediately felt at home. Culture-wise it is quite similar to the UK (don't tell the Irish, they are not big fans...), but there are some differences. Ireland is a beautiful country and worth exploring. I recommend doing this as much as possible. Take day trips, go on hikes and ask some locals for tips. DO not just hit the big cities, although these are great too, but enjoy the countryside, it is so beautiful and very different from what you are used to if you are from the (boring and flat) Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

Go into the city as much as you can. When living on campus, you have to take the extra step to actually get into the city (while the bus takes you there within 20 mins and goes 24/7, which is nice if you want to go out). But this is deffinetly worth it. Do you groceries at Lidl or Aldi, this is much cheaper than any other stores. Explore the city, the nightlife is great (even though everything closes at 2:30) but there is so much to do during the day too. Definetly go on some weekend trips to different places in Ireland, Galway is fun for a day and there are so much beautiful nature spots that you have never heard of but will never forget about. Go out, have fun, it goes by very fast. Talk to random people, go on trips with people you have met a few hours ago, make the most of it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, mostly because Dublin and Ireland in general are great. UCD was nice and I have had no problems there of any kind. It was a bit of a bummer that there are little social introduction activities, so you deffinetly have to make friends on your own. However, since UCD is a very big university with a lot of international students, meeting new people and making friends is not too difficult. This does mean that you are in a bit of an international bubble, but it is a lot of fun to experience all these different cultures.



**Utrecht
University**

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are still in doubt about going on exchange, I would really recommend going. It doesn't even matter where, just go. It is such a fun experience and you learn a lot from it.

UCD is a good university, Dublin is a great city and I would recommend going here.

If you have any questions about UCD, the preparation, or just want some tips, do not hesitate to contact me!



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was not difficult, because the steps were clear and you were informed by e-mail how to carry it out. You do have to be very careful to do everything on time, since there is a deadline for each step. But in general, everything speaks for itself.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

For questions and help you could contact the International Exchange Office, in most cases your emails were responded to quickly and you were clearly informed. Offline webinars were organized in advance in which you received a lot of information about the Exchange, which was very useful.

academic preparation

I did not need to do any academic preparation. In my opinion, this is not really necessary if you have successfully completed your previous courses at Utrecht University.

language preparation

I did not do any language preparation. Probably you can do an English language course if you want to improve your English before you go on the Exchange.

finances

Dublin is an expensive city, so it is useful to make an overview of the financial expenses in advance. I knew that the cost of a room in Dublin is very expensive, around 1000 euros per month, so I saved in advance and borrowed from DUO.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed 6 law courses in total since I planned to get 30 ECTS in total.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was comparable to the courses in Utrecht. 5 courses I took were from Level 3, which were logically more difficult than the one course from Level 1. The difference is that, unlike with courses in Utrecht, you only have a lecture of 2 hours each week, so no tutorials. This applies to courses of Level 3, for most courses of Level 1 or 2 you do get tutorials. During the lectures there is enough time to ask the professors your own questions.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

UCD provides good support if you have questions as a student, need help or have questions about your module.

transfer of credits

That would be 15 ECTS, because I took exams in 3 subjects.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is an introduction week for internationals on campus one week before the actual classes start. I recommend taking part in this because this is where you get to know most of your friends. You will also receive a lot of useful information about everything that happens on campus, where you can find everything and who



you can go to if you have any questions. In the first week when the level 3 modules start, an introduction week is also organized for the freshers. During this week you can visit the marquees to sign up for UCD societies.

accommodation

UCD has its own buildings with student residences, which are very expensive, namely around 1000 euros per month. I recommend trying to apply for an on-campus accommodation anyway. You get to know a lot of people from the same university and you are close to the buildings where you have your classes. However, you would have to take the bus for your grocery shopping, because the convenience store on the UCD is quite expensive, fortunately this is easy to do. Moreover, UCD is close to the city center and beautiful places such as Blackrock and Bray. However, it is difficult to guarantee that you will actually get one on campus, because there are a lot of students who sign up for this and lots are drawn. Moreover, the applications will not open until August. That is why it would be useful to look for an off-campus accommodation in advance.

leisure & culture

There are many exciting things you can do in Ireland in your leisure time. Of course the Irish pubs with concerts and museums that you can find literally everywhere in the city. But there are also many beautiful places in Dublin that you can visit during the weekend. You could take a weekend trip to Galway, Cork, Belfast and the Cliffs of Moher. You could also visit the Phoenix Park, an hour from UCD.

suggestions/tips

A tip is to keep a close eye on and adhere to all deadlines and start preparing early. In terms of modules, I recommend that you keep track of what you have learned that week with the associated legislation and case law. This is important, because you have 11 weeks of classes (so more than in Utrecht) and have to know a lot more case law. Finally, I recommend starting early to find off-campus accommodation in case you don't manage to find one on-campus. In terms of clothing, it is important to wear in layers, as the weather in Dublin can be very variable on one day.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university to the Exchange students. The reason for this is that it is very kind for foreign students, you are well helped with problems, there are many societies for which you can register for very cheap and everyone is very open and nice.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice is to definitely sign up for the societies and join the introduction activities, because you get to know a lot of new people there. Moreover, it is useful to earn/save enough money before you leave, because Dublin is an expensive city.



2021 – 2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The UU site has a very clear overview of all the countries you can go to. At first I had clear to myself why I wanted to go somewhere. Then the application process starts with writing a motivation letter. After that you will be selected and you can go on an exchange. I had Dublin as my first choice and that is what it turned out to be. As a tip, start on time with the online registration, that saves a lot of stress.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU is a very nice sending institution. You can contact the exchange office with all your questions and the site also clearly indicates in steps what you should think about during the preparation. There are also a number of online lectures where various important matters are explained
academic preparation
A year before I went abroad I did a Babelcourse, so that I knew what level English I had. The better you manage a language, the easier it is to communicate with fellow students. If you do not have the minimum of B2, I would strongly advise to take a language course.
language preparation
A year before I went abroad I did a Babelcourse, so that I knew what level English I had. The better you manage a language, the easier it is to communicate with fellow students. If you do not have the minimum of B2, I would strongly advise to take a language course.
finances
Dublin is not the cheapest city to live in, but is certainly the most beautiful one ;) I have made a financial overview beforehand, so that you are not faced with surprises during your stay. In addition, you can claim various funds (such as Erasmus+).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It was not until I arrived in Dublin that it was possible to register for courses. This was a bit stressful, because the boxes filled up quickly. Furthermore, an online platform that they are using is very clear and until February, it is possible to change your courses, our take extra/less courses.
academic quality of education activities
I had chosen to follow six courses, which is equivalent to 30 ECTS. This mainly consisted of lectures and for only 1 subject I also had tutorials. A lot of self-study was therefore required from the students. The Law society organised a lot of additional academic/educational activities about interesting legal issues.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support is very well organized at the university. For example, there is an office on campus where you can go for student-related questions. The teachers were also easy to approach for your studies (law).
transfer of credits
It depends on the teacher, but in general it takes a long time for the grades to be sent, at least a month. When it is a writing paper, you always receive content-related feedback. A month after your stay, you will get your transcript of records.



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, there was no such thing as a welcome programme on campus. There were, however, a few zoom lectures about the use of the media library, sports pass etc. . Hopefully another orientation week will be planned for the next semester.

accommodation

The accommodation was pricey, but definitely worth it! There were many advantages to live on campus: You live with many other students who study at the same university and you can also quickly reach your club/society and university buildings. It is always pleasantly busy. My accommodation was fairly new and well kept. If something was broken, you could make a request for the maintenanceteam and it was fixed the same day. In addition, the area is very green, you are close to the coast and close to the city.

leisure & culture

The Irish pubs of course, very nice to spend an evening there with friends. In addition, there is something to do on campus almost every day. From lectures, dinners, even high level concerts are given! And Ireland has a very interesting history. I studied the period of the troubles, what was very interesting. There are also a lot of (free!) museums in Dublin city.

suggestions/tips

Please start on time! The better your preparation, the better your stay. And I would recommend to live on campus. It's expensive but really worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. It is a very kind university for exchange students. The support from the university is very good and also the different clubs/societies which you can join are great! There are no language barriers, so you can connect with everyone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Be sure to save enough money before you go. Dublin is expensive. Some students had there a job but it's not funny to work there. Join the clubs and societies, they are very nice, and give you the opportunity to try something new (like climbing or dancing)



PREPARATION

exchange application process

It is a difficult process and you have to figure it out yourself. However, if you email the IEO office, they will help you.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As noted above, the IEO members give excellent help.

academic preparation

language preparation

University College Dublin requires a B2 niveau. Erasmus students may upload a letter from their home university attesting to their English Language skills being at a B2 level. The IEO signed this nomination letter for me.

finances

Dublin is an expensive city to live in. I was not aware of the high costs. The rent on campus is 1000+ euro per month.... Also, groceries and restaurants are very expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was hard to apply for modules at UCD. Students have to do it themselves. At a certain date/time the application opens and you have to be quick! Almost every module was full as soon as I wanted to apply. I had to send over 20 emails to make sure I could apply for enough modules to reach 30 ECTS. This was a frustrating and stressful trajectory.

academic quality of education activities

UCD only provides lectures for law students. (at least for the modules)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Law exchange students at UCD can email questions about anything to a special email address. The members are very helpful.

transfer of credits

Modules at UCD are worth 5 ECTS's.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

On campus there were a lot of activities and everyone was welcome to participate. The law faculty itself did not have an orientation programme except for an online information lecture.

accommodation

I stayed at UCD campus in the Merville Apartments. I really liked it. I shared my apartment with 3 other students.

leisure & culture



I really like the Irish culture. The Irish people are very welcoming and fun! Everyone drinks a pint of Guinness after work. So, the streets are always crowded.

suggestions/tips

You enter an empty apartment at the beginning of the semester. If possible I would recommend to bring some stuff for the kitchen (plates, cups, cutlery etc).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes!! Dublin is amazing and the campus is great too! UCD itself is nice and not too hard in my opinion.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was quite easy. In Utrecht you needed to give a motivation letter and a top 3 list of universities that you wanted to go to, and they did their best to accommodate you. With me for example my first choice was going a year abroad to Edinbrough, but they could not make that happen for me. So they send me an email if instead I was intrested in going for a semester to Edinbrough. Eventually I went for my second choice UCD. After the UU accepted me to go to UCD, they send my contact details to them. There I had to submit a few documents, like grades etc. After that I had to accept their offer letter and I was in.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at UU was good! They emailed me back really fast and were really helpful with any questions.

academic preparation

I have not done any acedemic preparation prior going to Dublin

language preparation

The university gives you a letter that you have at least more then a B2 level of English, so I did not need to do any language courses

finances

There where a lot of files to fill out and sign, so definitely stay on top of things.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

They only offer a few courses to internationals. These courses will fill out pretty quickly so that was pretty annoying. Eventually I had a full course load, but it was a hassle with the courses.

academic quality of education activities

Was good, but keep in mind with a lot of Law courses you only have the lectures not the 'werkgroepen'.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



Was okay, at the beginning they weren't really helpful with getting enough courses but for the rest they responded pretty quickly to all my emails.

transfer of credits

haven't had that yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Because of covid (I think) there was not really any welcome & orientation programme. I had one online webclass about the law classes but that was it.

accommodation

I stayed at the on campus accomodation which was really nice, but also quite expensive. Although Dublin is really expensive to live in general.

leisure & culture

There is enough free time to plan trips if you want too.

suggestions/tips

Dublin is a really expensive city to live in keep that in mind.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes it was one of experiences in my life. Dublin is a really nice city, the people are great and ireland in general is really nice, and easy because it is still in the EU so no visa or anything.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



2019 – 2020

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I always considered an English language country. This because of law firms who were very strict on the language, I once heard from a lawyer that he did not find an experience good enough if it was not in an english country because the language in the other countries (besides the Netherlands) is probably worse than how Dutch people talk English. The process was completely fine, unless I did not know that the second period of UU overlapped with the second semester of Dublin, because of this I got a delay in my study and I was bummed because of this. I would recommend to check this before applying!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Utrecht University has a very good counselling, I talked a lot with Vera about a lot of things. She was always very nice and understood every concern I had. I was the only one going to Dublin from Utrecht which made it very important to have good relationship with the international office of Utrecht because I could not discuss it with other students.
academic preparation	
	I did not go to Ireland fully prepared, I chose the courses over there and did not know what I was going in to, which made it pretty cool but also a little stressful.
language preparation	
	I did not have any language preparations.
finances	
	You should really bear in mind that Dublin is very expensive, I did not know that but it really is more expensive than the Netherlands. The residence at University College Dublin is very expensive but you do get safety guaranteed which made it for me an easy choice. Also UCD is not in the city which would make it difficult to go to class everyday if you did not live on campus. Because I lived on campus the holes in my timetable were no problem!

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
welcome & orientation programme	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	They were very welcoming at UCD. They had an welcoming programme, they made sure every exchange student got to know the campus (because it is very big) and they made sure that every exchange student felt safe. To me, the relationship between professors, counselors etc was way more friendly than at UU and they really cared for you. Every issue was dealt with immediately and they always asked if you were having fun and how the experience was going. Besides the welcoming programme, the organisational issues with for example your timetable were fixed very easily. Your experience was top priority and they always helped you immediately.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality was pretty similar to the UU quality. I had 6 courses: 3 level 1 courses (first year) and 3 law level 3 courses (third year). The level 3 courses were absolutely more difficult but still doable!
transfer of credits	



In Dublin they use ECTS as well but one course is only 5 ECTS which is why you need 6 courses if you want the full study load: 30 ECTS in one semester.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The host university was very chaotic at the time the coronavirus started. Because nobody knew what was going to happen, the host university did not know what to do yet. Because it was midtermbreak we did not speak to any teachers or professors so everything went through emails. Eventually the online schooling was very good and they were all so nice if you needed an extension because of travelling home or something like that. The online schooling for me was only for a short period, but if they are going to do that next year as well, it will probably be very good and not chaotic at all.

support guidance of home university

To be honest, I think the relation between the home and the host university could be better. At the time my host university expected me to be leaving the campus (I could stay if I wanted but it was way more usual to go), my home university did not let anything know, no updates, nothing. I missed that from the home university, I had a lot of friends who had direct contact with a counsellor and this counsellor would help them decide whether to stay or leave. Once everyone already left (including me) I got the e-mail that I had to come home immediately, I was already home otherwise there were no flights available anymore.

online offer and quality of digital courses

See the above. Digital courses were fine, but they were not expecting it at all so every teacher used a different platform which was confusing sometimes but very understandable.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Just don't do it, do it another year so you can really experience it, otherwise you can just follow comparable courses in your own country.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Of course, the vibe in Dublin is very good, the pubs, the people, the sports, everyone is very nice and friendly and even though it was only a short exchange for me, Dublin feels like home now. I do want you to be aware that you are going to a country with only people speaking English, which makes it very obvious that it attracts English language exchange students: I had a lot of friends from America and Australia, but I barely met other people with other languages and other cultures!.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you want to ask me more questions, please do, it is hard to tell everything on a form like this but you can contact me for sure.



PREPARATION

exchange application process

It takes a lot of time, but it is clear what you have to do.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The help from the University was very helpful. In the case you don't understand something you can always ask for help by email or telephone, or you can send an email. They generally react quite quickly.

academic preparation

It was not necessary to do any academic preparation.

language preparation

We had to take an English test. But the result didn't affect whether or not you were admitted to University. It was just for yourself to see what level you're on.

finances

Dublin is very expensive. But if you choose the right supermarket and places to eat, it can be a lot cheaper. Regarding to supermarkets you should go to the Lidl or the Tesco.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At Utrecht University i study Law. That's why I just followed the law courses in Dublin.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the education was as high as in Utrecht I think. But it was a little bit more difficult because i wasn't used to study in English.

Also the exams were different. During the exam you were not allowed to bring any jurisprudence or legislation.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Also the support from University College Dublin was good. When I arrived we had an introduction lecture. At this introduction the woman made everything clear and she said you can always ask her for help. During the semester I changed a lot regarding to my courses etc, and they were always very helpful and a lot was possible.

transfer of credits

Don't know yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I cannot say a lot about it because I missed this week. But from stories from other people I heard it was very nice to meet new people.

accommodation

I wanted to stay at the campus of University College Dublin, but I applied too late so there was no space anymore. I recommend to apply for this as soon as possible!

Eventually i managed to get a place at Griffith College. This was a smaller University, but it was very nice to stay here. It was quite expensive that's why I chose to sleep in the same room with somebody else because it was a



little bit cheaper (but still expensive). This was a really nice experience. I felt like I was living in a hotel full of students. There were a lot of houseparties and everybody was very open te welcome you in their room.

leisure & culture

UCD offers a lot of sports. There is a big gym, swimming pool, hockey fields and a lot of other sports. Besides that, you can join different societies, including a surf society (which was very nice I heard).

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend to go to Dublin and study at UCD. I have met a lot of nice people, explored the city and the pubs well and also saw a lot from Ireland. It was also an amazing experience to stay at the campus with a lot of other students around me.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You should join a sportsclub or/and society!! And try to get a place at the campus of UCD to stay!



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was very easy. UU provides you with plenty of information about what you should do for you application and what kind of documents you need to hand in. You just have to make sure that hand in the required documents in time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I didn't really use any individual counseling from UU, since the application procedure is very clear. UU provides you with all the needed information and if you still have questions you can always contact the international office, which responds quickly.
academic preparation	
	I didn't really do any academic preparation and I didn't really miss it when I was studying in Dublin. This might be because most of my courses focused on European and International law. If you take more courses that focus on the Irish law system, then it might be useful to focus on the Common law system. However, this is not mandatory and you can definitely study in Dublin without some academic preparation.
language preparation	
	Since Ireland is an English speaking country it is very easy to communicate with other people and to follow the courses at UCD. In case you want to improve your English before you go, you can do the language course that the EU provides and I think that UU also provides some language courses.
finances	
	Dublin is a very expensive city to live, so make sure you have enough money to pay very high amounts of rent. Renting a room in Dublin will probably cost you between 500 and 1000 Euros per month, where rooms below 800 euros are most of the time rooms that you have to share with somebody else. If you get a room on the UCD campus, this will cost you around 1000 euros per month. Besides that, the daily living costs in Ireland are also quite high. The prices of groceries are comparable to the Netherlands, but especially restaurants and pubs are a bit more expensive than in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	UCD has quite a broad range of courses that you can choose from. However, you have to take into account that there are several conditions that restrict the amount of courses that you can choose from (e.g. bachelor/master courses, overlapping schedules, etc.). The staff of UCD is very helpful and quite flexible when it comes down to organizing your schedule. In the first week quite an extensive introduction schedule, so this week is very useful to get to know the university, its systems and the campus.
academic quality of education activities	
	Personally I think that the academic quality is one little bit less than what you are used to at UU. They expect you to do a lot of self-study. However, the way of examination of is very different compared to the UU and actually easier.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The Erasmus officer is very kind and very helpful. She is always willing to help you with your questions related to UCD and provides you with a lot of information about the university and life in Dublin.
transfer of credits	



UCD and UU both use the ECTS system, so it is very easy to transfer the credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme is great and it is very extensive. In the first week of september there is an orientation week that mainly focuses on the student life in Dublin and all the student organizations have several activities. So this is a perfect week to get to know the university and the city.

accommodation

In Dublin it is very difficult to find accommodation and the prices are very high. I was lucky that I was selected for one of the student accommodations on campus, so I didn't have to search for my own housing, but I heard from a lot of students who had difficulties with finding a place. Besides that, all the accommodations are very expensive and the places on campus are no exception. On campus the cheapest accommodations are one little bit more than €900,- per month. However, the prices for other accommodation in the city are not much lower, except for when you are willing to share a bedroom with another student. In that case it might be possible to find a room with a price around €600,- per month.

As you can see, living in Dublin is very expensive, but personally I found it definitely worth the money. However, before you decide to go to Dublin, it is good to consider that it might cost you so money.

As I said before, during my exchange I lived on campus and I would really recommend that to people. It was very nice to live with so many (international) students close to each other and the campus of UCD is very nice and has a lot of facilities. The only disadvantage is that it is one little bit further from the city centre, so it will take you one little bit longer to get there in order to experience all the fun in the centre of Dublin.

leisure & culture

The Irish culture is definitely a good reason to consider to go to Dublin. The people in Ireland are very friendly and the Irish pubs are amazing. Every night you can enjoy a Guinness and some live music in the different pubs and personally I really loved that!

Besides that, Ireland is a beautiful country so there are a lot of possibilities for making the most wonderful weekendtrips. Especially the West and the North coast are very beautiful and a lot of student societies organize trips to different destinations in the country.

On campus there is always a lot to do. There are a lot of student societies and most students join several of those societies. In this way you can join the different activities of all the societies that you like and this also makes it very easy to get to know a lot of people. Besides that, the campus has a lot facilities (e.g. a supermarket, cinema, swimming pool, sport fields, etc.) and a lot of possibilities to play any sport that you like.

suggestions/tips

Make sure that you arrive a few days before the official activities at the university start, if possible. This gives you the possibility to get to know the city and the university before you have to start. This will make your introduction period more relaxed and I think those first weeks are very important since that is the period where you can get to know a lot of people, so a good preparation can be useful.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university to other people. Life in Dublin is very nice, the people are very friendly and easy-going, the country is very beautiful and the university is quite good.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



If you consider studying in Dublin, make sure that for you it is worth the money. Personally I think that the experience is definitely worth it. However, it is good to consider the costs of living in Dublin and may be it is good to compare this to living at other destinations.

PREPARATION

language preparation
I had no special preparation for the language. In Dublin they're speaking English. However, you have to be aware of the Irish accent, sometimes that's hard to follow. So maybe it's a good thing to prepare yourself by watching some Irish series or films.
finances
Keep in mind that Dublin is super expensive. Living there costs around 1000 euros a month (just for the accommodation). I ended up paying 800 a month, but I shared my room. Going out and shopping there is also more expensive. It's useful to save some money before you go to Dublin.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme there was easy to follow and well-organised. For most subjects there was only one contact hour. This made it important to go there. But the advantage was that the groups were small and at the same time explanation was given and there was room for asking questions and practicing the material. A disadvantage was sometimes that some teachers talked with an Irish accent. Then the English goes very fast and is more difficult to follow. However, we worked with Brightspace, a very convenient platform where all lectures could be found, so there was space to read something back later. And most of the lectures were quite comprehensive (so not only bullet points), do it was still clear to follow. Furthermore, the teachers were very very nice, especially for exchange students. So there was space to email them with questions and stuff.
academic quality of education activities
The quality was high. You had the same classes for 4 months, so a lot of stuff was discussed. But there was also good guidance. In between I had to write a paper for most of the subjects, so I had already discussed a lot of material once and the teachers were always willing to answer questions by email. However, I did notice a big difference between bachelor and masters subjects. I had one bachelor subject and that was of a lower level. There was a more chaotic way of teaching, less personal attention and the teacher was not always clear and also very late in returning grades.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was very good. We were informed in advance by a woman named Ulyana by email. She always answered all our questions very quickly and was very kind and helpful. Also when we were there there was a lot of attention for foreign students. We had the opportunity to talk to someone if we were not feeling well or homesick for example and we also had the opportunity to ask other questions about Dublin itself. There is even a special place on campus where exchange students can gather and there were a lot of activities organised (UCD Global). Furthermore, for a long time it was still possible to switch subjects to ensure that we had the best possible education. It was very flexible. And there was something to do here every day for exchange students. There is also a sport expo and a society expo. I highly recommend joining a society. You meet new friends and can do a lot of fun stuff.
transfer of credits



**Utrecht
University**

This is taking a very long time. I've had my grades back over a month now, but I'm still waiting for my transcripts of records. So if you want to graduate soon after you exchange, make sure you are already emailing them that you want to get them back soon.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a whole week of welcoming and introduction. It was very nice. There were a lot of Erasmus student party's and there was a lot to do on the university. I soon felt at home and knew how everything worked there. And as I said before, there is an expo for sport and society. Please go there. Note every sport is possible for half semester exchange students, but some are. For example, surfing. A friend of mine joined them and did a lot of fun trips with that group and met a lot of friends.
Accommodation
There was no place left on the campus of UCD. At first I regretted that, but afterwards I was very happy with my accommodation. I lived on Griffith College Dublin. It was a very nice accommodation. It was nearby the city. Everything was possible to walk. And we lived very close to the clubs. Furthermore, the distance to UCD was 30 minutes by bike. This was fine. Biking in Dublin is not very safe though, so make sure you have a good bike with lights on it. Going by bus to UCD was possible as well, if you got the right bus it was just 30 minutes. And last but not least, I shared my room. First I thought that was going to be hard, but it wasn't at all. It was such a nice experience and I became friends for life with my roommate. This weekend we are going to celebrate "carnaval" together.
leisure & culture
The people in Dublin are so nice. They are kind, love music and know what a party is. The town is small, but so cozy. There are bars everywhere with live music. And no matter what day it is, it's always crowded. Especially the temple bar is a party every day. Furthermore, there are a lot of great restaurants, lunchrooms, museums and stuff to do there.
suggestions/tips
Temple bar for having some drinks and listening to live music (especially "Bad Bobs" in the temple bar). Dicey's garden is a really nice club to go out. And in the same street there are a lot more nice clubs. Don't forget that you have to pay entrance. However, there's an app: "Vipsey" and sometimes you can have free entrances with that app. Cultural: trinity college and book of kells, guinness storehouse and malahide castle. Going for dinner: The bank on College Green, Sophie's or typical Irish: The Shack restaurant. And there's a lot more!!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! The atmosphere in Dublin is very nice. There's always something to do. Both at the university and in the city itself were a lot of opportunities to do something fun. The university is big, so there is plenty of room everywhere to study, eat or hang out with friends. Teachers are very nice in Dublin and very accommodating. They are always willing to help you and teach you things. Dublin is a fun city, with lots of live music and nice places to eat or go out. As well as studying, there's plenty of time left to enjoy yourself. There are also a lot of foreign students, so it's easy to make friends. For example, I went back in January to take a road trip through Ireland with Dutch and German friends. Ireland is a beautiful country and it is definitely advisable to go on a road trip once in a while during your exchange. Actually I thought the only drawback was that Dublin was so expensive, for the rest it was fantastic.
you have any additional advice or comments?



**Utrecht
University**

Try to save money before you go. Because there are so many fun things to do there, you'd like to experience that just like everyone else. And try to relax. Exchange is just the time when you shouldn't worry too much. You are there for your own development and to have the time of your life. Studying is easy to combine with all the fun things. Finally, join societies and try to explore Dublin and Ireland as well. Do fun stuff in the weekends, going on a trip for example. For example, the Cliffs of Moher are beautiful.