



University of Edinburgh

2022 – 2023

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process was a little complicated, so do take your time to properly prepare! Try not to leave things to the last minute, since you often need signatures from your home University, which may take a while.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The support at Utrecht University was alright. I went to a short preparational lecture about the (administrative) preparations and applications for your exchange. However, they did not fully inform us about certain deadlines, which gave me some stress in the end. Therefore, I do strongly urge you to do your own research and to read the manuals carefully, do you don't run into some unpleasant surprises.	
academic preparation	
I did not really do anything to 'academically prepare' for this exchange, I started my preparations before the semester started, and when I could successfully log into 'Blackboard'. It is good to know what to expect from your courses, since you are allowed to switch courses in the first week. I would therefore suggest you to read into the assignments and the necessary coursework before the semester starts.	
language preparation	
I did not have to do anything to prepare my language for this exchange, since my level of English was sufficient to participate in the English courses.	
finances	
Since the UK and Edinburgh are quite expensive, I saved up in advance. Accommodation is said to have an average price of 600-900 pounds, and the costs of living are also quite high. Of course, it's also nice to make some trips if possible, and I have definitely spent way more than I would have in The Netherlands. So, these expenses are something to keep in mind.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I found that the study programme of Law is actually quite similar to that in Utrecht. The courses were taught in the same way, and mostly consisted of a lecture and a seminar. For me personally, I found the workload lower in Edinburgh than in Utrecht, since you do three courses in one semester instead of four. I did two 'third year' law courses (which they call honours law courses), and I did not think that they were too hard.	
academic quality of education activities	
The academic quality was nice, my teachers were good and I also enjoyed the content of the courses!	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The University of Edinburgh is really helpful and well-organized. Whenever I had a question, they responded quite quickly and effectively!	
transfer of credits	
I have just finished my exchange, so I have not yet received the transfer of credits.	



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I went to some of the events that the Office for Visiting Students organized, and that is where I have met my closest friends! It's a great way to meet other exchange students, and I would highly recommend going to some of the events in this programme.

accommodation

I had some trouble finding private accommodation, and I almost got scammed so be aware of that! Eventually, I signed up for University housing, even though I had heard that the chances of getting Uni accommodation are quite small. However, me and all my friends actually got placed in University housing, so I think this is definitely a really good option. I stayed in Brae house, which was really nice but there are also some cheaper options. However, I do not recommend staying in University housing on Cowgate, since my friends had trouble sleeping due to the noise coming from the street.

leisure & culture

The University had a really nice gym that was affordable! What also surprised me, is that almost all museums in Edinburgh are free. Also, I really liked the culture: the people were generally really nice and the students are very welcoming. Since the Uni is so international, students are not xenophobic at all towards Exchange students, which is really nice.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend joining a society while you're there; I joined the boxing club which was very fun, and I have done some amazing trips to the Highlands with the Hillwalking society. Most societies are really easy to join, and they are generally quite cheap! It's a good way to get to know other people and it really contributed to my experience in Edinburgh.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would highly recommend Edinburgh as an exchange destination, for numerous reasons. The city is very beautiful, the student culture is really nice and the people are very open and welcoming. There is always something to do and the city is really lively, filled with nice bars, clubs, museums, and fun activities.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

After two weeks of staying in Edinburgh, I found out that you can take the bus for free if you are younger than 22! This is called the 'Young Scot Card'. You can also get discounts on certain things by using this card (such as: getting in to the Castle for 1 pound instead of 20 pounds). So, if you want to save some money, apply for this card when you have arrived! You can apply online, but you can also apply in person in the national library.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process wasn't that complicated. It is very important to have things clear when you are going to start the application process. You have to make sure when there are deadlines, what you have to do and how much you have to do. I made a schedule/ list for myself in a notebook. Things I had to do in front, during and after the exchange. This works really well because then you can cross the boxes and you don't forget anything. The application process for the University of Edinburgh was quite easy. First you must apply for a form at the University of Utrecht, and after the announcement which University you are selected for, I got lots of emails from the University of Edinburgh. They send me mails with checklists and things to do. So it was quite easy if you



made a list of the things.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support from the exchange office of Utrecht University was great. I had lots of questions about the courses, application process, transcript of records etc. but they helped me wonderfully! The response was quick and they explained a lot.
academic preparation
Well I am not sure what is meant by the academic preparation. But I didn't prepare much for the exchange in that way. I was doing law courses and that is quite the same as in Utrecht University. There are lectures and tutorials and there is a final exam at the end. For preparation I did look up all the course descriptions and already write down some important deadlines. But most of the important stuff you get during the first week of lectures.
language preparation
I also didn't do much of a language preparation. In Scotland they speak English (obviously) but some with a Scottish accent. But that is fine and is OK to understand. I did a language test for Erasmus (was mandatory), and to get in the mood I read a lot of English books. But further than that, I didn't prepare much.
finances
Hereby it is also important that you write everything down or make a list. I also made a list because there are a lot of things to keep in mind. For example when the deadlines of the Erasmus application is, the compensation of the public transport (OV) and also have a look at DUO. Further than that I don't have any scholarships. Scotland is quite expensive. Especially Edinburgh. I rent an apartment through Air BnB (about 900 euro's p/m). That isn't the most cheapest way to find an accommodation, but it is secure. I heard a lot of people that were scammed via Facebook, so be careful! I was saving money for over a year I think. I borrowed a lot from DUO and all the money that I didn't use for University of Utrecht, I saved for the time in Scotland. I also worked a lot to save some more. So I saved quite a lot in one year. I was aiming on having 800 euros p/m for social activities, food, public transport etc. And I think, when you also want to do some nice trips in the Highlands and go out, it is necessary to have this amount saved. It also is important to have contact with your bank. They can give you advice because of the different currency in Scotland. They can also give you some tips on what to do best.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed four courses (Jurisprudence, Criminology, Family Law and Scottish Legal System). All of these courses had two or three lectures and one tutorial per week. So, there are more contact hours than I had in Utrecht. For the communication for the courses, they also use Blackboard (but they call it Learn). So that is easy because you know the system. Everything is really good communicated on Learn and they also send a lot of e-mails if there is a change in the lectures or with information about the essays or exams. For all of these courses, I only had a big exam at the end. There was also the possibility to make a formative essay. The tutor marked the essay and gave comments, but it was only to see if you understand the subject. So that was really nice and I can totally recommend that!
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the education at the University of Edinburgh is lower than in the Netherlands. There are more contact hours, but they discuss less per lecture. But because it is in English, and it is a whole other law system, it is still quite difficult to follow everything.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



There is a lot of counselling and support if you wish. All the tutors and lectures are really friendly (the one I had though) and you can always send them an e-mail if you have a question or if you have a bit of a wobble. There is also a international student support team who you can e-mail and i think it is also possible to just drop by in there office hours.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was quiet easy. The day before my grades where uploaded in the system of UoE, I got a mail with the question if I wanted to send the transcript of records to University of Utrecht myself or that I wanted that UoE sended the transcripts. It was all very easy and the UoE made it really simple and cleaer. They arranged everything.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was a bit different than in the Netherlands. There was an app and in that app was a calander with all the activities you can join from different societies. In Edinburgh are a lot of societies. From hill walking, to dancing, to tennis, to theater. All kind of stuff. In the first week there where 'fairs' where the different societies stood for answering your questions. This was in Bistro Square in 2022 in a big tent. And in the first week (almost) everything is free. You can join free tennislessons, can go to the Highlands for only 10 pounds etc. But you are on your one, so you have to figure it out on your own. You don't have a mentor class that arrange nice activities to go to. There was a Lawpawl introduction though. But you also can find this in the event app. In that introduction we had a walk through Edinburgh and all the important 'law' buildings. That is nice to know, because same as in Utrecht, you don't have all the lectures in one building. I recommened to do a lot of free activities to meet different people for different study programmes.

accommodation

My accomodation was really nice because I rent it through Air BnB. It was on Leith walk, about 30 minutes walk to the university or 20 minutes by bus. The busstop was 2 minutes walk from my appartment. It wasn't a student accomodation, but there where other students in it. A little bit the same as a student house in the Netherlands.

leisure & culture

I did a lot of trips in the weekends. This especially with Erasmus. In advance it was possible to book some tickets for nice Highland trips. But the bus system is also oke in Edinburgh. So it is also possible to do your own trip. A lot of people rented cars as well. Edinburgh is a really big city and there is always something to do. So you won't be bored! There are also a lot of coffee places and restaurants. And it is also nice to go to other parts of Edinburgh, especially Deanvillage, Stockbrigde or Leith.

suggestions/tips

Well remember that you can't see the whole country in one semester. So pick a few things you really want to see and futher explore the city because it is a really beautiful city and you live there!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I do. The university is great and the city is beautiful. Everything is really close to each other, even walkable if you like. The support staff of the university is verry helpful a the courses are nice as well and not that difficult.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure that you are on time with finding accomodation. Be aware that it is an expensive city and you will



spend a lot of money on food, alcohol, trips and other stuff. There are a lot of second hand shops, so if you need something and you don't have that much money left, I definitely recommend those shops! There are a lot of societies, but remember that you don't have the time to join everything you like if you also want to get good grades and do things with friends besides the societies. But those societies are a good way to find new friends! And finally, probably everyone at home wants to visit you, what sounds really fun, but there is so much to do in Scotland and time flies by! So make sure that you don't fill all your weekends with visitors but also enjoy your life in Edinburgh!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process took some time but was very clear. At first, I had to write a motivation letter, meet the language requirements and write a studyplan. After that, I had to meet the additional requirements for the University of Edinburgh. I needed a certain GPA and needed to write a strong personal statement.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
There was a opportunity to go to a pre-departure meeting. At that meeting there was a lot of information about the exchange program and there were students who shared their experiences. At the time of the exchange I could mail the exchange office if I had any questions. They always replied within a reasonable time period. I had a lot of support from the University of Utrecht.	
academic preparation	
-	



language preparation
For the University of Edinburgh there were no extra language requirements that needed to be met. Therefore, I didn't do any language preparations. When I got in Scotland I noticed that I could have practiced my academic English.
finances
Scotland is quite expensive. The rent for a private apartment or flat is very high. Also the cost of living is higher than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Comparing the study program of the University of Utrecht to the study program of the University of Edinburgh the UoE has more contact hours. I had lectures and seminars from Monday till Friday. For my idea the amount of work at the UoE was higher than at the UU. At the UoE I followed four courses at the same time and at the UU I follow two courses at the same time. I took the courses; Family law, Scottish legal system, Criminology and Contract and unjustified enrichment. This were first year courses. At the end of the semester I had four exams. The courses were very interesting and challenging. Nevertheless, if you start studying on time you will pass the exams.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education activities was outstanding. The lectures at the UoE are of a high educational level. The study program of the University of Edinburgh is quite demanding. For example, the exams were long and complicated.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
When you arrived you got appointed to a tutor for visiting students. The tutor was there to help if you had any questions. There was a welcome meeting with your tutor and other visiting students. Above that, the visiting students office of the UoE was very helpful if there were any questions.
transfer of credits
At this point my credits are not transferred yet. It took The University of Edinburgh till mid Feb to publish the marks. Nevertheless, I think that the transfer of the credits will succeed within the given timelimit.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
At the University of Edinburgh there is a welcome week with a lot of activities. For example, walking Arthur's seat, walking around town, pizza picnics, bonfires at the beach, parties and pubquizes. It is a good way to meet other visiting students.
accommodation
In Edinburgh it is quite hard to find accomodation. The first month of my exchange I stayed at an AirBnB in the city centre. I lived there with other students from all over the world. After that, I lived in a private flat with a girl from Amsterdam. There is a possibility to get flat at campus but students who are there for one semester are not guaranteed a flat. I heard I had a flat at campus on week before I left to Edinburgh.
leisure & culture
Edinburgh felt like a safe city. The Scottish people are very kind and polite. At the Univeristy there are a lot of oppurtunities to play sports or join a society. There were also a lot of activities around town in the period I went on exchange. There was a christmas market, rugby games, society nights and halloween. Edinburgh has



some very nice coffee places and cute restaurants. My friends and I travelled a lot through Scotland. The nature is beautiful. We went to Isle of Skye, The Highlands, Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Glasgow, The lake district and a lot more.

suggestions/tips

Start looking for accommodation on time.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the university/destination to others. Edinburgh is a wonderful city with a interesting culture. The people are very kind. There is a lot to do in the city, from walking around to partying in a technoclub. Travelling through the other parts of Scotland is also very nice. The nature is incredible. The University of Edinburgh is very welcoming to visiting students and I really have learned a lot about Scots law and improved my English.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I do not have any additional advice or comments.



2021-2022

Comment UU-REBO International Exchange Office : it's up to the host university to inform our exchange students on the available courses. Usually you can base your choices on the course list on the website of the host university of the current year since most likely it will be similar to the courses of next year.

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
Application process was quite easy. I did find it difficult to choose my courses, since they were different when I finally attended the University of Edinburgh. Guidance would have been nice, since I had to choose between totally different courses when I arrived. Thankfully it all worked out, since I got to choose other courses which were just as interesting! Just saying that a heads up would have been nice.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Honestly not the best. Slow communication and unclear which courses I was allowed to choose. Quite slow with responding to my emails as well which made it hard to meet certain deadlines.	
academic preparation	
None needed	
language preparation	
Not necessary	
finances	
Little bit vague when and how to properly apply for Erasmus+, these fees definitely did not cover my costs, so I worked before I went on exchange and saved up. This was fine since I expected this.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
It was clear what was expected! Very cool professors with a lot of experience in the academic field. The only organisational issues that occurred were the strikes, but this was due to pension funds being cut by 30% so it made sense!	
academic quality of education activities	
Good! Clear structure at the seminars and lectures. Really good and impressive professors with a lot of knowledge. Quality was good overall due to the structure and great teachers.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
Amazing! A lot of attention towards wellbeing of students which I found refreshing and something UU should pay more attention to as well. Immediately had an appointment with my tutor to talk about what the expectations were etcetera.	
transfer of credits	
Hopefully all good! Still have to receive my transcript. Was very clear how many points were equal to ECTS	

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
Since I started my semester in January 2022, COVID was still blocking a lot of activities. They did some	



introduction stuff online, but mostly it was cancelled. Law pals did some nice tours which made us familiar with the uni.

accommodation

Since I had to apply for an exemption to go to Edinburgh in the first place, I was not able to get into student housing. I looked for a room on spareroom and that's how I ended up in a lovely flat with four other uni students. This was even better than expected!

leisure & culture

Edinburgh is a city that has so much to offer! There are a lot of museums, theaters and lots of nature as well, which makes it a fun city! Nightlife is nice as well, so it has something for everyone.

suggestions/tips

Think it would be great to have orientation with students from different programs, but I can not really judge whether this is supposed to be the case since we had COVID.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Going on exchange was one of the best choices I have ever made. Edinburgh is a city that I will love forever, and the education there is really good and professional. I would definitely recommend Edinburgh!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Better communication between the host and home university, since this can be a pain for the exchange student. Definitely go on exchange since it will change your perspective and you will get to know a ton of new people and make a different city feel like home. Best part of my undergrad for sure!

2019-2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went smooth. Instructions from both the UU and the UoE were very clear.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Very good, the International Office staff is very experienced with sending students on exchange and have much knowledge. It is also easy to get in touch with staff that is able to answer your specific question.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I lived with international students before I left, and I thought this prepared me enough language wise.

finances

Living in Edinburgh costs somewhat between living moderately in Utrecht and much more. Housing is often more expensive, but everything else like groceries and travel is cheaper than in the Netherlands. You could say that essential products are cheaper and non-essential products more expensive. I payed for my accomodation beforehand, and used my Erasmus grant (€360,- per month) for daily expenses and trips. Usually this was enough. It may also be good to know that Scotland is generally cheaper than England.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I really enjoyed my courses in Edinburgh! You are allowed to do 1/3 of your planned ECTS outside of the school you're on exchange with. I would make use of that because the UoE is quite renowned in some other academic fields. I did two courses in human geography and I learned a lot from them. My courses in law were interesting too. I did one ordinary course and two honours courses, of which one full year course. Changing courses is possible until the second week of each semester. You should contact the visiting student office or your personal tutor if you want to change a course.

The difference between ordinary courses and honours courses originates with the following. Students in Edinburgh have the choice to do an honours degree or a non-honours degree. An honours degree takes four years and a non-honours degree three years. All (law) students follow the first two years ordinary courses which qualify them for law practise. Non-honours students do another year of non-honours courses after that, which enriches them with a bit more practical knowledge for practise. Honours students will instead study two more years of specialized courses to gain more in depth-knowledge to a niche area of law. In practise, almost all regular law students follow the honours programme because this qualifies them for better jobs.

academic quality of education activities

Courses at the UoE's law school are at least on the same level as courses in Utrecht. I thought that the ordinary courses are most similar to courses in Utrecht, but maybe in Utrecht there is a bit more space to discuss the context of the law. However, context in Utrecht is by far not as important as in honours courses in Edinburgh. Here, you will not learn sole application of the law, but to study the "why's" and "how's" of it. Honours courses also have a different style of teaching. For my courses, I was required to read texts (mostly around 200-400 pages for each seminar), form an opinion on the texts and discuss it during a two-hour seminar. Since you are allowed to choose both kinds of courses, I would take in mind the style of teaching you like most.

Maybe it is also good to know beforehand that social connotation of studying law is different in the UK. When I told people in Edinburgh that I study at law school, they regarded it as a high achievement, while in the Netherlands studying law is sometimes regarded as something you do when you cannot study something else. I also thought it was remarkable that students are very motivated to make most out of their courses, but that there is little competition between students. Students are generally very supportive to each other.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Good. Every student at the UoE is assigned a personal tutor at the beginning of the year. This is most often a professor that teaches one of your courses or a similar course. You are required to meet with your personal tutor during welcome week to complete your matriculation process, and also at least one time during the year.

transfer of credits

Your transfer of credits certificate is automatically uploaded in MyEd (UoEs system that tracks your study progress). You will need to ask the UoEs international office to send it to UUs international office.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The UoE offers a 9-day orientation programme called 'Welcome Week'. This programme starts at the first day of move-in weekend. Move-in weekend is the weekend in which students living in University Accommodation can move in their new place. The orientation programme consists of many different activities, from taster sessions of societies to meeting your personal tutor and from an orientation event of the school you're in to parties. Some of these activities are obligatory, but generally you are free to choose which events you go to. The events are a great place to meet new people and to make new friends. If you live in university accommodation, you are



likely to go the first events with your flatmates because they are likely to be the first people you meet. Welcome Week is mostly oriented at first-year students, but it has not the connotation as something only first years do. I think it is a good idea for exchange students to go.

accommodation

There are two types of accommodation you can find in Edinburgh: university housing, and private housing. The price difference between the two is often not significant. Since only first-year students, visiting students, and non-EU postgraduate students are guaranteed university accommodation, you will find mostly these students there. Most regular UoE students seek private flats with former flatmates or friends after their first year. Therefore, when you live in university accommodation you will most often live with first years (postgraduates have separate flats). I lived in a university house and I thought that was a nice experience. However, I have heard that it is not hard to find a private place. But you will need to take note then that most flats need to be hired as whole. Something like "hospiteren" does not exist in Edinburgh.

leisure & culture

Edinburgh is brimming both with a student culture and regular culture. Societies are of great importance to the student culture and definitely a good place to meet new friends. I was part of the Arabic Bellydancing Society, Bridge Society and (though not a society) learned Chinese at the Open Learning Centre. Being part of a society means that you will do the activity once or twice a week and that you have a social sometimes. There are also societies for a students in a certain degree (for example, there is a Law Students Society), but this is not the same as a "studievereniging". The function of these societies is to deliver formal advice to the School and to organize a ball once a year (Tip: the law ball is famous and happens in the Balmoral hotel so GO!). As regards to going out, Edinburgh students are especially good at clubbing. There are many clubs and more pubs than you'll be able to try in the city.

Also outside of the Edinburgh, Scotland has many to offer. I would definitely try hiking because the landscape is amazing. A special place to hike is the Cairngorms National Park, because this becomes a skiing area in the winter. So if you are into skiing, definitely consider studying in Edinburgh. I also made trips to Orkney, the Hebrides, Argyll, Glen Coe and Southwest of England. Those places were amazing.

suggestions/tips

Travel by bus and consider taking nightbuses on long distance trips, since this is by far the cheapest way to travel. Also while Dutch bank cards should generally work in the UK, mine got sometimes declined. Therefore I thought that it was more efficient to open an UK bank account. Also it is important to realize that the UK is a four-nation state with four distinct nations that have a special relation with each other. One of my housemates was for example from Northern Ireland and catholic, and calling her British was almost an offence.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! The University of Edinburgh has so much to offer: good education, nice people and many, many activities. I would go back any time.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You can always ask me for tips or recommendations. Please ask UUs international office staff.

PREPARATION

exchange application process



Utrecht University had strict deadlines for the documents which were required for the application process. However, the application process for UoE was sometimes a bit confusing (lots of questions you need to answer to enroll the university), but UoE was very helpful and responded quickly to any questions.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

International office is very helpful and they explain the deadlines for application which makes it easy to apply.

academic preparation

You do not need any academic preparations.

language preparation

Not really necessary. Every candidate for an Erasmus exchange has to do an Online Language Assessment before and after the exchange. I was a bit anxious because I thought my level of English was not sufficient enough. After I took the test 'before exchange', I was very relieved because my level of English was C1 and therefore I felt comfortable to go to UoE without further language preparations. Besides, UoE has some language courses available for visiting students if you are still not comfortable with your level of English.

finances

Living in Edinburgh is not cheap, especially because of the possible Brexit it got pretty expensive. However, I still received my Erasmus Grant and I got financial support from my parents. If I needed more money, these costs were paid through students loans.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You have to select at least three courses (60 credits for UoE). I chose the courses Scottish Legal System, Jurisprudence, Delict and Introduction to Criminology. The teachers had great knowledge and the readings were manageable. I really liked the course Scottish Legal System, because the last few weeks were completely focused on the Brexit, which I think is a really interesting topic.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is really high. The University of Edinburgh is a great university. However, the standard is not much higher than UU, but the way they take the exams is very different than you are used to at UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Visiting Student Office is really helpful! During Welcome week they were open for visiting students without an appointment. During the semester they had walk-in hours in the morning and in the afternoon only for appointments. You could also send them an email or ask a professor. You also have a Personal Tutor who is always available to answer any of your questions.

transfer of credits

I still have not received my grades yet, so this process is still pending. Therefore I cannot give my opinion.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first week, the university organised several welcome activities. I would definitely recommend to go to the Principal's Welcome Ceremony. After the Welcome Week, student societies continue with activities for about two weeks. Joining a society is a great way to meet new people and make friends.

accommodation



You can apply for University accommodation, but there might be a chance you will not get a room if you are a semester student. Personally, I really do not like to share my living place with 'strangers'. Therefore I did not apply for University accommodation. I searched for a short term let apartment. I found an apartment in Old Town which was a ten-minute walk from the University on George Square and Old College.

leisure & culture

The country is beautiful! And so is Edinburgh! But I would definitely recommend to see other cities in Scotland. I travelled through Scotland during the first couple of weeks when University was not that busy and the weather is great then. During autumn and winter, the days will be very short so if you want to travel through Scotland, make sure you organise that in August-September-October.

suggestions/tips

Join a society or sport club, it is the best way to meet new people. Go on trips with International and Exchange Student Society Edinburgh, but you can also organise a trip yourself.

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! The courses at the University were very interesting and high quality. Furthermore, Scotland is really beautiful and has many places to explore. Edinburgh is also really beautiful and has a great history.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not forget to travel around, Scotland has many things to offer!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process of the University of Utrecht is very clear. All steps that you have to take are viewed in your Osiris. Do pay attention to deadlines. After this, the application process of the University of Edinburgh starts. This required much more time and effort. I recommend you to work on this as soon as you receive it since the whole process is time consuming. You have to provide multiple documents, fill in lots of information and again write a motivation. Still, it is all manageable and should not stop you from applying.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The IEO is very helpful to give you support if you do not know what to do or need their advice. If you have multiple questions I would advise you to go to the IEO in walk-in hours instead of sending emails. They will take time to help you and probably have experience with your questions. Everyone I knew has visited to IEO for support and were all very thankful. Besides, they respond quite quickly to all emails.

academic preparation

I do not think academic preparation was required since you probably already followed some courses in English and have followed 2 or 3 years of law courses at the University of Utrecht. Be aware that you cannot follow any courses at the University of Edinburgh that you have followed in Utrecht. (This is because the examination board will not give study credits for these courses (or less study credits).

language preparation

In my case it was not really needed. Every Erasmus student has to take a English test in advance. If you are not happy with the test results it is probably wise to read some books in English before you go or watch series without subtitles. Again, in my view no serious preparation is needed.

finances



Living in Edinburgh is a bit more expensive than in Utrecht; especially renting a flat and groceries. Still, for me it was manageable and you can make it as expensive as you want yourself. The majority of the costs I made I could pay with my student loan and the Erasmus grant. I also received some support from my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

During your first week of study you can make changes in all the courses you chose in first instance. The Visiting Student Office will help you with this, to make sure you are enrolled in the courses you want but also in enough credits. I followed courses at different levels but in all courses the teachers were very good and the seminars a very helpful preparation for the exam.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality at the University of Edinburgh is quite high since it one of the best in the UK. You have to choose three courses instead of two. In my view, it requires more studying then in Utrecht but the study load also depends on the courses that you are enrolled in (honours level or ordinary level).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good, there is a support office for visiting students where you can walk in any time. You also have a personal tutor to help you with questions. (especially in the beginning).

transfer of credits

This is still a pending process; I have not received my grades so far.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first week, there are multiple welcome events. This is a good opportunity to get to know all the different sport teams, societies and to make some friends.

accommodation

Since I only studied here for one semester, the University could not guarantee housing for me so I searched for flats myself on websites/facebook. I ended up sharing a flat with one Australian girl, in the centre of Edinburgh. I really enjoyed this and was happy not to live in a Student Hall but in a pretty but small flat near the Meadows. I recommend you to start searching for flats as soon as possible.

leisure & culture

Scottish culture is quite noticable anywere you go. I highly recommend to see all the highlights in Edinburgh itself and book some trips to glasgow, Inverness and Ilse of Skye to explore the culture and country even more. Also, you could plan many evenings in town since there are many good life music pubs, comedy shows and clubs.

suggestions/tips

Pay close attention to all the student deals in town for food/drinks/shops.. Go on weekend trips in Scotland, you must see the highlands! I planned my trips in September and October so I had pretty good weather and long days.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. The University of Edinburgh is a very good university, with high quality courses, passionate teachers,



a great library, lots of societies and sport teams and a beautiful country for weekend trips. For me it was the perfect combination between studying and an exciting city and social life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Edinburgh is the perfect place for you if you want a combination of a exciting city life and a high level University. There was much to do in Edinburgh at night time, trips you could go on in the weekends and study to do during the day. My advice: start looking for accommodation as soon as possible. This can take a few months since you are not always guaranteed a place at university accommodation if you are just going for a one semester.

2018-2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was sometimes a little bit confusing. However, overall it was very manageable and the UoE was very supportive and responded quickly to any questions. The application process should definitely not stop you from applying.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very good. International office is helpful and quick in replying. Nothing specific worth mentioning.
academic preparation
No academic preparation is needed really. Just make sure you prepare your courses for the first week. Furthermore, do make sure courses do not overlap with your UU courses.
language preparation
Not really needed. I think most third year UU students will have no problem whatsoever coping with the English. However, if you're a law student and especially if you're insecure about your language abilities, I highly recommend taking the course Legal English for Visiting Students (LEVS).
finances
Living and studying in Edinburgh is not cheap but not significantly more expensive than Utrecht either. The exchange rate Euro-Pound sterling is what makes is slightly more expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses you choose beforehand are only indicative. Courses may change but it's also possible for you to change courses if you changed your mind. The International Office at the UoE is very helpful.
academic quality of education activities
Overall the academic quality is very good at the UoE. However, the standard is not that much higher than UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very good.
transfer of credits
Not applicable, since I haven't received my grades so far.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I definitely recommend participating in the welcome programme of the university, because there are so many activities and it's a great way to explore the city and make new friends.
accommodation
Decent, great location. Nothing very special. I've read some bad reviews about housing, but in my experience it's very nice. You have flatmates, so that's an easy way to make friends. And also, student accommodations are being cleaned once a week, so that's a plus too.
leisure & culture
Edinburgh has a lot to offer
suggestions/tips
Join at least one society or sport club. Not many exchange students do so, but it is a great way to make new friends, have fun and meet people from the UK. Otherwise, there is a risk you end up hanging out with other Dutch students only and that'd be a shame.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely yes. I've had a great time at the University of Edinburgh and I think the city has something to offer for everyone. I especially liked the student life with all the different societies and clubs. It is very different from the Netherlands, but in my experience so much more welcoming and friendly. Highly recommend.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't forget to travel around. A semester/year is over before you know it.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Utrecht University was quite clear about the deadlines and documents required for the application process. You just follow the steps in Osiris and everything will be fine. Applying at the University of Edinburgh required more effort, as you have to provide more documents and fill in more forms in multiple systems. Be sure to double check everything, even if you think you've completed every step of the process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I did not really need any counselling or support from Utrecht University. The communication with the International Office ran quite swiftly and smoothly. Therefore, I can only compliment UU on their procedures for exchange.
academic preparation
I went abroad to experience the common law tradition and to improve my skills of the English language. In advance, I did not prepare for this, as everything was going to be happening abroad.
language preparation
Every candidate for an Erasmus exchange has to do an Online Language Assessment in advance and after. The result of my test was a C2, which is the highest level. Therefore, I felt comfortable to go on exchange without



further language preparations.

finances

Apart from my Erasmus Grant, I received some financial support from my parents. However, the majority of the costs were paid through student loans by me.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In Edinburgh, you have to select at least three courses. I chose Commercial Leases, Unjustified Enrichment and International Civil and Commercial Litigation. The teachers had great knowledge of their subjects, the readings per week were quite feasible and the assessments were clear and fairly doable.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was high, as Edinburgh is one of the top universities in the United Kingdom. I took three third-year courses, which are at an honours level. However, the materials were both accessible and sufficiently in-depth.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

If I had any questions, I would ask a fellow student, a Professor or contact the Visiting Student Office. Thereby, any problems along the way are easily solved.

transfer of credits

This process is still pending, which makes it hard to comment on this section.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university has several welcome activities during the first week. Student societies continue this for about two weeks, allowing you to participate in a host of different activities.

accommodation

The accommodation was arranged via the University, which was quite easy. However, accommodation in Edinburgh is quite expensive and you don't really get much in return.

leisure & culture

Scotland really is a country in itself, albeit it is part of the United Kingdom. Therefore, there's plenty of options to discover the land and the culture. The city itself has plenty of options to exercise, go clubbing or explore musea and do fun activities.

suggestions/tips

Go to the Isle of Skye in May, it is absolutely beautiful and you don't want to miss out on it. May is the best month to visit Scotland, giving you the best chances for sunny weather.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the courses at the university were of a high quality and interesting to take. The land itself has so many options to go exploring that I would recommend this destination to students, friends and family.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



No.

**2017 - 2018**

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	Was stressfull and a bit weird to have to do it so long before actually going, although not too much work.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Very helpful. Fast in responding to any queries.
academic preparation	
	Nothing specific.
language preparation	
	I did not partake in any specific language preparation as my English is/was already quite good.
finances	
	Living in Scotland was rather more expensive than I had thought. The Erasmusgrant should be higher for the UK - especially compared to the Erasmusgrant made to some other European students, for example the Belgian students I have met.. Due to the heavy studyload I was unable to work so in addition to having a full loan from DUO, I was quite happy that my parents were willing to help me out every now and then.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Excellent quality of courses and much choice, although I did have to get used to following semester or full-year courses opposed to the normal 8 week courses offered in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities	
	Overall a much higher standard and quality than in Utrecht, however, as I have only taken 3 rd and 4 th year honours courses I cannot give a very ballanced account as to the 1 st and 2 nd year courses (especially the Civil Law Honours taught by Paul du Plessis stood out for me).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Support is good, both mentally and physically a lot of attention to health. I have not needed any counselling, but have heard from friends that this is excellent.
transfer of credits	
	I am not quite sure how this works. As I understand it, my transcript at home will just say that I passed my courses here. To me, this is a bit of a pity because I have gotten some excelent results here in Edinburgh which I would actually like to see tranferred into credits at Utrecht University that would be counting towards my overall grade because this would be improved.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	Was a very welcoming week with loads of options both social and academic. However, more focused on freshers than on any other student groups (were less activities for older students) but nonetheless a very good week and met loads of nice people.
accommodation	



Rather expensive and small. Would in hindsight have sought for private accommodation opposed to through university.
leisure & culture
Awesome! Edinburgh is cultural centre and Scotland is one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited.
suggestions/tips
Join some of the societies! There are so many of them that there is one for everybody.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Edinburgh as a destination for an exchange (or any other type of visit); both the vibrant academic life and the many cultural and adventurous activities that can be undertaken in the city and in Scotland make for a wonderful experience.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I do not have any additional advice or comments.

PREPARATION

exchange application process
I had no problems with the exchange application process, the university was quite helpful in assisting with the process. I contacted them a couple of times with my questions and they were happy to help.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international office was helpful.
academic preparation
I looked carefully into the courses the university had to offer. I also made sure they did not overlap with the courses of the bachelor at Utrecht University.
language preparation
I already felt quite comfortable about my english, I took a legal english course via the JSVU which wasn't that helpful to be honest. Most importantly, I improved my english while being there
finances
Before going on the exchange, you had to make a financial plan, which was quite useful. Going on exchange is very expensive and by making such a plan it helps you realise how much money you should set aside. My parents were very supportive but I worked hard the summer before to make sure I had enough money while being there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Study programme was interesting, you could chose your own courses but you have to be quick. Otherwise the courses of your liking might be full. I chose the courses: Scottish legal system, media law, punishment and society and commercial law. Media law and punishment and society were full year courses which was very interesting because you had a lot of time to focus on certain topics. Scottish legal system was helpful as the



Scottish law system is a mixed system of civil law and common law while in the Netherland there is a civil law system. In the the first two week you are able to switch courses which is nice if you the course is not how you expected it to be

academic quality of education activities

I thought they were of high quality. The tutorials are very small scale (10-15 people) which is good because everybody is encouraged to participate. Furthermore I followed two full year honours courses which very very interesting because you dug deeper into certain topics.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support was good at Edinburgh university, you have a tutor which you have a conversation with at the start and who you can contact when you have personal problems. Next to that, there are multiple activities around the year to destress like the opportunity to pat some puppy's.

transfer of credits

It was easy to get your transcript tranferred, it was possible to do this online.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcome week organised by the university which seemed to be more focused at the freshers. So I'm not sure if I would recommend participating in this week as you are not divided in groups or anything you can just attend the activities. Via your accomodation there is also an introduction week and I would strongly suggest people taking part in this as you get to know people in your accomodation and the activities are fun and accesible!!

accommodation

I lived at Riegostreet which was quite an old building but it was fine. The location was perfect, a five minute walk from Edinburgh castle. I was very happy to live so close to the city centre as the public transport was very expensive and not that asse

leisure & culture

The people in Edinburgh are very friendly. There is enough to do, there are a lot of societies at the university. there is literally a society for everything, e.g. there is a whisky society, a chocolate society etc. They are easy to take part in and most of the time you can come by and visit the society to see if you like it. I participated in the dancing society, the field hockey society, the dutch society and the debating society.

suggestions/tips

I already mentioned some tips above. So carefully pay attention to the location of your possible accomodation, it is easy to walk everywhere but it makes it way easier if your accomodation is located in the central area. Take part in the introduction week of your university accomodation, this is great fun and an easy way to meet people who live close to you or to get to know your flatmates. Another suggestion is taking part in any or more societies, this is a great way to get to know people. Lastly, I would strongly suggest keeping up with the lectures and tutorials as it can be a bit overwhelming as it is unfamiliar and in a different language.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would strongly recommend going to this university. It has interesting courses and Edinburgh is a lovely city. It is definitely a city I could live for a longer period of time. It is amazing that the university has so many societies, so there sure is something of your liking. Next to thay, it is a great location to see more of Scotland or



the UK. The academic quality is great and the university staff is very friendly, enthusiastic, helpful and passionate about the course they are lecturing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you have chosen your courses as soon as possible, to increase the chance of them being available. Carefully watch the deadline to apply for university accommodation. In Edinburgh the library is of great quality and there are lots of copies of different books, check this first before buying any of the recommended books.

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process is fairly straightforward. It is important to inform yourself well about the city you are choosing. The best way of doing so is through contacting those who have gone in previous years.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Any questions you have will be answered by the support staff, especially during some confusing parts of the Erasmus grant application.
academic preparation
No real academic preparation was needed, just be well aware of deadlines that can be found on each course information website.
language preparation
If you speak an adequate amount of English, no additional preparation is necessary.
finances
With the Erasmus grant and an additional loan my costs were not that much higher than in Utrecht. However, be aware that you'll be using the pound which can fluctuate heavily against the Euro.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses are well organised and all information for them can be found online. All content is distributed in a similar way as on the UU, through blackboard.
academic quality of education activities
The University of Edinburgh is a University with a good reputation and high academic standard. The (honours) courses I followed were taught in the seminars by the professors themselves. Not just reproduction is expected, but also the personal development of criticizing the authors you are made to read.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There is a great support network at the university. The Visiting Student Office is reachable all week with questions concerning your exchange. You will receive a personal tutor who you can speak to for any problems and there are buddy programs set up for exchange students to feel more familiar with their new surroundings. As a law student, extra courses were also organised to help us prepare for the exam as exchange students.
transfer of credits
Credits are transferred, after the (UU) exam commission checks your courses. You can follow a full 60 ECTS in a



year. You cannot transfer your grades, all that you will receive is a pass or fail on your report.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcoming week before the first semester starts. Be sure to attend this week, as many events will be organised to get to know the city and student life.

accommodation

As a full year student you will be eligible for university accommodation. It is easier than to find a private accommodation. However be aware that your house will most likely be shared with first years student, who typically live their first year in university accommodation. University accommodation however can be quite cheap and some have great locations in the city centre.

leisure & culture

Edinburgh has much more to offer on culture than Utrecht. It is also the perfect starting point to discover more of Scotland, by visiting the highlands or either of the coasts. There is a vibrant night life, and well suited for students. There are also many lunch/dinner restaurants that carry special student deals.

suggestions/tips

The Student Association of the university has their own building (Called Teviot) accessible for all students that host a variety of events, dinners and parties. Be sure to visit the International Student Centre as well to meet people and attend events organised for international students.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university. The city of Edinburgh is an amazing place to live with many exciting sides to explore. There is a vibrant student life and a very large Erasmus student community. The city is very hospitable and the Scottish are a kind people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The University offers an amazing range of courses on some very obscure topics. If you are interested to learn outside your degree than Edinburgh has many opportunities.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for the University of Edinburgh went really smoothly. I applied through Utrecht University process in december and heard that I was selected to go to Edinburgh end of January. From then on, the University of Edinburgh 'took over' by sending me all the information needed to apply. You have to provide a lot of information, but it is all pretty straight forward.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was really happy with the counselling and support at Utrecht University, the international office responds promptly and adequately.

academic preparation

I decided not to take the Academic English for Legal Purposes course and that turned out to be fine for me. You will have to get used to writing legal essays in English etcetera, but I soon got the hang of that. I was not



required to do any other academic preparation.

language preparation

See question above.

finances

Living in Edinburgh is more expensive than living in the Netherlands, especially the rent. I got an Erasmus grant for 9 months, saved up money beforehand and was supported by my parents. I found a single room for 400 pounds, which turned out to be an average price.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The University of Edinburgh offers a lot of different courses. They are really quick with answering questions regarding picking out the courses you want to do. They usually publish the courses a few months before the semesters starts, so you can take your time to decide what it is you want to do. They offer full year courses as well and I would definitely recommend those, they allow you to really treat a subject in depth.

academic quality of education activities

The 'honours courses' (courses for third and fourth year students) are set up quite differently than they are in the Netherlands. You have one seminar a week and no lectures. In preparation for your seminar, you read a lot of texts. During the seminar you discuss this. This requires discipline and active participation, but it is very rewarding in the end because you are challenged to form an opinion about a certain subject instead of just answering questions. The exams are at the end of the year, so it's useful to keep good notes of things you do at the beginning (this will save you a lot of time and energy later!).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Everyone is appointed a personal tutor and this is great. Your personal tutor is always available to speak to, they know what's going on at the University and know who you can turn to best if you have a question about something specifically. Furthermore, the University of Edinburgh is really modern in their way of approaching mental health issues, liberation groups and other specific forms of counselling so you can really always find help even if it's not for an education-related problem.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits runs smoothly once you have received all your grades from the university, however keep in mind the University of Edinburgh takes time to grade all the exams.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Before the academic year starts, the university organises a welcome week for all students. During this week a lot of activities are organised throughout the city. It was a great way to meet people and I would definitely recommend everyone to participate. However, the student's association sells 'welcome packs' including passe-partouts for the Welcome Week. Don't bother to buy these, they're quite expensive while most of the activities during the Welcome Week are free anyway.

accommodation

I opted for private accommodation because I did not want to live in halls. This is a very personal choice, but I definitely do not regret this. I lived with two people from the UK who had already lived in the city for a few years and this really helped me settle. Also, it is nice to meet their friends and move out of the international erasmus bubble!



leisure & culture

Edinburgh is a great and vibrant city for students. A lot is going on culture wise, so it's truly never boring. Furthermore, you're outside of the city at the beach or in the hills in no time and that is simply amazing.

suggestions/tips

Just go, it won't disappoint you!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I loved every bit of my stay in Edinburgh and can't stress enough how great this city is. Student life is really vibrant and inclusive, the city is cool and the country is beautiful .

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really, I suggest you just go for it. Feel free to drop me a message if you have any questions.



2015-2016

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
I found that the application process was very well organised and clear. For me the most challenging part was writing my motivation letter, besides that the application process mostly consists of gathering information about your University of choice, the courses they provide and getting the necessary signatures from the International Students office of the UU	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The International Office of the UU is very helpful if you find yourself not exactly knowing what to do. Everytime I came across some obstacle or unclarity, a short phonecall to the International Office was enough to sort things out. For instance, if you want to know if it is possible to enroll for courses outside Law, they will be able to give you all the information you need. Be sure to take enough time to sort out the various documents and so on, as the International Office is not always open and can be busy dealing with the affairs of all other students (departing to as well as arriving from other states). In other words, avoid to do things at the last moment, and there should be no problems.	
academic preparation	
I did not really do any academic preparation for any of the courses I did abroad.	
language preparation	
I knew I was already quite proficient in English before leaving, so I did not really do any extra language preparation besides following a short Legal English module the year before. This was helpful, but definitely not necessary for my stay abroad I would say. However, if you're not really confident about your level of English, I can recommend it, as it can especially help you in your writing. (Which is also convenient for writing your Motivation Letter)	
finances	
I applied for the Erasmus Grant, received my Uitwonende Studiefinanciering and Zorgtoeslag and had a € 150 monthly loan on top of that. My parents paid for my accomodation abroad. You should know that the UK can be a quite expensive place to live. Edinburgh accomodation prices are generally higher than Utrecht, and depending on the exchange rate between the Pound and the Euro, cost of living in general is also a bit higher. (Although Brexit will probably make it cheaper)	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
During my stay in Edinburgh I chose to do not only Law courses, as I saw this as a good opportunity to do some courses that I maybe wouldn't have chosen easily. I did an introductory course on Criminology in the first semester (Which counts as a law related course), a full year course called International Law and the Individual and a semester 2 course called Law, Culture and Rights in a Transnational World. Furthermore, I did a full year course called Introduction to European Cinema, and a semester 2 course on Philosophy. Keep in mind that a lot of courses can change during the year, or may even be canceled. Some courses fill up really quick as well, so I would advise you not to wait too long with enrolling. The International office of Edinburgh University is very helpful, so in case you see a course that has your interest, you can always pass by and they can enroll you. They will also let you know if it is possible to enroll in the first place, for instance because there may be prerequisites or because the timetable of a course may clash with another that you are already taking.	
academic quality of education activities	



I would say the academic quality of the education at Edinburgh University is very high, and they expect a lot from students regarding class participation and preparation. The seminars of my law courses were generally 2 hours, and mostly consisted of discussing the subject matter of that week, with the teachers leading the discussion, but definitely expecting interaction with students, and also actively engaging them in discussions. Whereas in Utrecht the seminars are more centered around answering questions that everyone has to prepare beforehand, in Edinburgh the seminars are a lot more theory based, and you are expected to know what is being discussed and form an opinion on it. This also manifests itself in the examinations. For my International Law course, I had to write a 6000 word essay, so that goes to show you need to spend a lot of time getting a profound understanding of the subject matter. The final exam also consisted of basically writing 3 essays in 3 hours, given a choice between a select number of topics. This is definitely radically different from Utrecht, where exams in general are more practical and case oriented. Overall, the teachers I had were all very knowledgeable and passionate about the courses they gave, and very much appreciate it when you go out of your way to add something extra to the discussions, such as recent political developments or other news.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office of the University of Edinburgh is very helpful, and in general the people there are quick to help you with whatever problem you encounter. However, you should take into account that there are a lot of International Students arriving in September every year, and that waiting times of 1-2 hours are no exception in the first few weeks. So make sure you already know exactly what you need to get sorted out and save yourself from having to go through that multiple times. During the rest of the academic year, you can almost always go without having to wait and they will be there to help you immediately.

transfer of credits

So far, I haven't really heard anything from the UU about the transfer of my credits, so I cannot really give any information on that.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a welcome week for all new students, and there are lots of events for Erasmus and International students as well, both from within your area of study and in general.

accommodation

I lived in University accommodation during the year. University Accommodation in general is quite good, but definitely more expensive than in the Netherlands. Honestly, it is not too hard to find private accommodation in Edinburgh, and if you start looking in the beginning of September (possibly together with other students) you can probably find a really good room that has a better price value than the accommodation offered by Uni. Also, most people living in University Accommodation are freshers, so if you would like to live with people of your own age I would definitely recommend looking for private accommodation. Edinburgh has a lot of very nice and spacious flats and houses, even in and around the center, so this should not be too hard.

leisure & culture

Edinburgh is a beautiful and vibrant city and has so much to offer. The nightlife is incredible with a lot of exceptionally good house/techno clubs on Cowgate. Pubs are everywhere to be found, and a lot of them have cheaper rates for Students. Edinburgh has great parks and opportunities for beautiful walks and allround chilling when the sun is out (which admittedly is a rare occasion). The University really feels like a community, way more than Utrecht I would say. There are societies for everything, from Tango to Harry Potter, and I would definitely recommend joining one. I joined the EUKBC (Edinburgh University Kickboxing Club) in September and this was definitely a great way to stay fit and meet new people. Besides that, there are a lot of events organised for Erasmus students, and I would say the International community in Edinburgh is quite active and you will definitely meet a lot of new interesting people.



suggestions/tips

Definitely try to make the most of your time and explore Scotland. Rent a car and a cottage in the highlands with some friends and see some of the most stunning nature you will ever see. I did some day trips to places in the Highlands such as Loch Ness, but I would argue that the most fun you will have is by organising stuff yourself and really spending some more time there. Go to Isle of Skye and other beautiful places, make some trips to Glasgow and perhaps to England or Ireland. In Edinburgh, explore the city and try to see as much as you can. Go up Arthur's Seat at night with some beers and friends and watch the sunset. There are amazing museums, parties, second hand stores, etcetera. But most of all, try to meet as many new and interesting people as you can, because in the end, that really made my year so exceptional.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Edinburgh and the University to anyone. The level of education is high and you will definitely learn a lot. Besides that Edinburgh is an amazing city that has things to offer to everyone, regardless of what you're looking for. Living and studying there for a year was the best choice I ever made, and I think everyone I met there feels the same.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Utrecht University organises a few meetings to inform you about all the things you need to do for an exchange. This is quite helpful as there are a lot of forms and they all have deadlines. You have to hand in your cv, motivation letter, study plan and financial plan. This isn't only a formality; it's also quite helpful for yourself as it makes your own plan clear. (Although I did totally different courses than I initially choose for my study plan)

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the information evenings very helpful. Before and during my exchange the International Office was very helpful in answering all my questions and I always got a quick response.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I didn't do any language preparation. I already did some courses in English in Utrecht and I expected that would be sufficient.

finances

I got an Erasmus grant, DUO grant, 'OV-vergoeding' and I saved money myself. Be prepared that it's quite expensive in Edinburgh; my flat costed me 350pounds each month.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I applied for some courses on the website, but in the end of July the University emailed me another list of courses from which I should pick. Not all the courses I applied for initially were on that list, so I had to make a few changes. This wasn't too bad as I think I ended up with more interesting courses.

Because I went on a exchange within the law faculty I had to do 2/3rd of my courses in Law. So I took two full year/honours courses: International Law and the Individual and Law, Democracy and Citizenship. Both were 40credits/20ECTS each. Next to that I did 'Politics in a Changing World' in the faculty of Politics in the first semester, and 'International Development, Aid and Humanitarianism' in African Studies in the second semester. Both were 20credits/10ECTS each. During the year I wanted to apply for an extra course, but that's not as possible as it is in Utrecht; in Edinburgh I'd be able to follow the course but I wouldn't get any credits for it.

academic quality of education activities

Both Lawcourses were honours courses, and that means that you get a big reading list for every week. However, the professors didn't always expect that you'd read everything. They just want you to try to read as much as possible so you can follow/contribute to the discussions in the seminar.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The contacts with the University of Edinburgh are very good and clear. They respond quickly to your emails and always want to help you.

transfer of credits

Don't really know about that yet. Should be done in July.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome week is great. Make sure you're there and take good shoes as you're walking a lot. I arrived the Wednesday before the welcome week, and even then some events already started. Not only the University (EUSA) is organising events, also other things are organised. On Facebook I found a tour through Edinburgh for international students on the Saturday before the welcome week, which was great because at the start all international students are alone and are very eager to meet everyone. The rest of the year I was still in contact with a few I met on that tour. The things organised by the University are for both first year students as international students and vary from visiting the Parliament to going to IKEA to buy stuff for your flat.

accommodation

I initially signed up for and got university accommodation (which was guaranteed as I was going for a year). But in the meantime I was looking further. I am Christian and I thought it'd be interesting to live with some other local Christians, so I emailed a church to inquire whether they knew any students. In the end I got a flat with some Scottish girls, which I really liked because in this way I really got to know the Scottish culture and habits. (And I'd meet all the first years/internationals in my courses anyway).

The only difficult thing (and I don't know whether that applies for university accommodation) was that I had a struggle with the Council Tax. You get an exemption when you're a student, but as I had the flat from the 3rd of July and university started the 21st of September I had to make clear that I was a student in Utrecht before. That took some time as I first didn't had a clue what was going on and they weren't too friendly at the Council. Utrecht University provided a statement of enrolment so in the end everything was clear.

leisure & culture

At the start I mainly explored Edinburgh. Edinburgh is a great city, and there are a lot of things to do. You won't get bored. Later on I did more day trips to other parts of Scotland with the International Student Centre.

**suggestions/tips**

When you go a year; look for other people who're staying a year as well. In Freshers Week you meet loads of new people, but a lot of them only stay for one semester. In the first semester I had more contacts with international students, and in the second semester I had more contacts with the Scottish people who stayed as I couldn't be bothered to do the whole introduction thing again.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. It's a city with a friendly size; it's not as big as London but there's enough to do and it still has its own airport so you can go home/London/Dublin/etc. for weekends (internal flights are quite cheap).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take an umbrella and warm clothes. It's not true that it always rains, but you better be prepared..



2014 – 2015

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
I took my time to check out all the possible universities the UU has an exchange program with. I chose Edinburgh because the university has a very good reputation internationally and because I visited the city before and I knew that I would enjoy myself there. After I decided I wanted to go to Edinburgh I put a lot of effort in my motivational letter. It is a popular destination, so think carefully about why you want to go to Scotland and why to the University of Edinburgh specifically. I think the motivational letter is the most important requirement of your application. I did not have a letter of recommendation from a professor, so don't feel nervous if you don't have one either (although it might help). It may take some time before you hear something from the international office. I would advise you to consider carefully the university you put in as second place. This way you can live with either outcome. Also, if you only put in very popular destinations you might be disappointed. Check the more 'remote' places, I think in the end an exchange will be fun anywhere you go.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
You can call the international office for all kind of questions. In my experience, the staff is very friendly and willing to help. However, I did not have to call the office for big issues, mainly just questions about the Erasmus Grant.	
academic preparation	
I started reading more books in English after I heard I was accepted. I did not take any extra courses, and in my experience I did not have to.	
language preparation	
Before I moved to Edinburgh I already took many courses in English and I did not have any trouble speaking or understanding English. Just to get into the 'English mode' I did start reading more in English.	
finances	
I was lucky enough to receive financial support from my parents. That, next to a Duo loan, the Erasmus Grant, personal savings and a student job made sure I had enough for the year. During the second semester I applied for a student job in Edinburgh to make sure I could cover my expenses. The UK is just very, very expensive. I never had to put any thought in currency differences, however, with the Euro being very low compared to the Pound, I did now. Apps like TransferWise can make it easier to transfer money to a UK bank account. You can also change your bank account so that it doesn't cost money to use an ATM. They don't accept PIN everywhere as easily as here. Also, make sure you check all the Erasmus deadlines. You will have to provide a lot of documents to receive that grant, it might help to make a list of all these documents.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I could not take part in all the courses I chose initially, but it is very easy to change courses once you're in Edinburgh. Students switch a lot, so if a course is full in first instance, try again in the first two weeks of the semester. The honours courses have a limited amount of places, if you really want to follow a course, be quick to send your choices. The first and second year courses are pretty easy and not very demanding. The honours courses have the most interesting topics and more challenging.	
academic quality of education activities	
I really enjoyed my honours courses because the classes are smaller, the level is higher and most of the time the professor is more committed. I was really challenged in these courses. I was a bit disappointed in the first and	



second year courses because they consist mainly of lectures and only a few seminars.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The staff at the international office is very friendly and willing to help. If you have questions about your honours courses you still need to go to the department of law, though.
transfer of credits
I have had a lot of contact with the board of exams in order to transfer my Edinburgh courses to compulsory courses at the UU. Be careful to submit the forms on time because the course organiser in Utrecht also has to agree with the transfer.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
when you come in September the university will have a full program organised for visiting students. I met many people that week, even without joining the Freshers week. I was pretty excited and nervous when I just arrived, but you cannot really prepare for it either. The first few weeks of being new in a city are just overwhelming. Just enjoy it!
accommodation
In my experience student accommodation is awful and expensive. When you're lucky you'll get placed with other international students, however, you are not assured of that. The rooms and flats are very small and not very nice. The University Accommodation provides the basics (a bed, a desk and a closet), but you will have to buy new all kitchen equipment and bed covers etc. Also, you cannot end your contract, you'll have to find someone to replace you. After the first semester I moved to private accommodation and I would advise people to do that from the beginning. You can get a nice place for 300-400 pounds a month and since it is such a student town, there are many nice shared flats available. You can find private accommodation through Gumtree, Dutch society on Facebook, Erasmus students in Edinburgh Facebook and spareroom. Of course it is a risk not to accept University Accommodation, but I would take it.
leisure & culture
Just enjoy it! You can meet people in so many different ways and there are so many things to do. Go to every society in the beginning and then decide which ones you like. You'll have a lot of free time so you can basically just do everything you want!
suggestions/tips
Go hiking! The Highlands are beautiful and it's really nice to see more of Scotland. Travel around and you will really get to know the place.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! The city is amazing and you can really enjoy the UK student life. Everybody speaks English so you can easily integrate with Scottish students and international students alike .
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I think a period abroad will always be exciting, no matter where you go. It's not just about the place, it is also about the experience of meeting people from different backgrounds and saving yourself in a new situation. However, Edinburgh is definitely a good place to go to.



PREPARATION
exchange application process
I decided to go to Edinburgh partly because of the language. But I had heard that the city was very international as well and I had always wanted to go to the Highlands. Once I had chosen my destination I had to write a motivation letter about why I wanted to go to Scotland. First I got selected by the UU and later the University of Edinburgh accepted me as well.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I can recommend to go to the International Office, because it is a scary process with a lot of insecurities and the International Office can answer your questions.
academic preparation
It was good to have had two years of study already, but further preparations weren't necessary. Although it is good to take a look at the courses and ask in advance what you can and can't do. Some law courses really focused on the common law system, so these were courses were harder. But it wasn't impossible to keep up without academic preparation. I made a schedule in advance of courses I wanted to do, but in the end I couldn't do almost any of them. So it is good to have a plan B.
language preparation
I didn't have to take additional exams to get accepted.
finances
I applied for the Erasmusgrant and additional ov-vergoeding. But the UK is a really expensive country, so I also made a budget for additional costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I wanted to do a lot of law courses, but some courses are very difficult. I ended up doing two law courses: public law of the UK and Scotland and Business Entities. Public law was really interesting, because the Scottish position in the UK is a unique one. Business Entities was a partly about the entities and partly about company law. It was really interesting as well, but a bit more difficult, since it was a second year course. It was harder than I expected to get used to a new legal system. So I don't regret taking only two courses. I also took Arabic and Italian. Those courses lasted for a year. The Scottish students took those courses as extra credits, so it was an open group of students. It was no problem to do these courses as well.
academic quality of education activities
For the law courses the level was higher than in the Netherlands. Especially the exams were tough. For one course we had to write three essays in two hours. But it was also similar to the Dutch system: for the law courses I had to attend lectures and tutorials, similar to the "hoorcollege" and "werkgroep" in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people from the Visiting Student Office were very kind and helpful. I also met with my Personal Tutor in the first week, but after that she didn't respond to my e-mails anymore. Other people had the same problem. Luckily I could also go to the VSO.
transfer of credits
I took 55 ECTS this year. This is the same as 110 credits for Edinburgh. I didn't take 60 ECTS, as is normal for one academic year, because there weren't a lot of 5 ECTS courses and 65 would be too much. I was told that this wasn't a problem, as long as I passed my courses. You pass a course with 40%.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The first week is an amazing opportunity to explore the city during "Freshers Week". The student organisation EUSA organises tours around the city and campus, parties, museum visits, etc. It is also a good opportunity to find a society or sports club. There are a lot in Edinburgh so I would definitely recommend to join one!	
accommodation	
The University of Edinburgh offers accommodation for students who are staying for an academic year. I chose to stay there, because I didn't know other students yet. A lot of first year students choose this option and other international students as well. The older students and other international students choose to share flats with each other. Also a good option, but you have to do more research on the internet for this. I stayed close to Arthur's Seat: the hill that used to be a volcano. I was lucky with my accommodation because the students organised a lot of activities and I got to meet a lot of other people. So I would recommend to choose University accommodation. The disadvantage is that you can't choose the people with whom you want to live.	
leisure & culture	
Like I've already mentioned: clubs and societies are great! I decided to join the modern dance society and the Hillwalking Club. The Hillwalking Club organises a lot of trips during the year in the Highlands, so it is a great opportunity to see more of Scotland. There were a lot of international students as well for this reason. But be warned: the trips are very exhausting! The International Student Centre also organises a lot of trips to see Scotland. You can meet people to go with during their coffee evenings.	
suggestions/tips	
Join a society/club and see more of Scotland!	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, I would recommend this university, because of the international atmosphere. The people are very open and you can easily make friends. From an academic perspective I would also recommend the university, because the quality is very high.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	