



Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

2022-2023

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was fairly easy. The LMU websites are not very easy to navigate but it works out. After application and nomination at UU, you are required to fill in some forms for the LMU.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The LEG international exchange office is very flexible and helpful. They always respond very fast and clear.
academic preparation
I did not prepare academically, though I did partake in LMUs preparation language course. This course took place a month before the semester starts and I can highly recommend it. I met all my friends in this language course and it was a good preparation for my legal courses in German.
language preparation
See above, I would 100% recommend to participate in the intensive German language course (even if you take courses in English). It was a very fun way of meeting people and to settle in the city. It was a better introduction programme than the university itself facilitates. You can take courses between A1 and B2/C1. I already had a high German level so I did the B2 course, though it was a little bit too easy for me.
finances
If you get assigned Housing from the University, it is very doable. Prices are similar to the Netherlands. Public Transport is quite cheap, groceries and going out/food is similarly priced. If you do not get assigned student housing through the university, you have to find private housing. This can get really, really expensive. Unfortunately I paid 1000 euros per month, but I had a very nice room in the best part of the city. My other friends paid around 850-1000 euros too for their rooms. The university housing is reasonably priced (around 400 euros).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
It is quite hard to navigate the LMU class catalogue. There were not a lot of courses for law in English. I think it is possible to fill a whole semester with English courses, but you have to be lucky or take courses from other faculties. This is quite hard to plan out. I took about half of my courses in German and half of my courses in English. Erasmus students can't partake in tutorials, they mainly have access to lectures. Luckily, two of my courses were in small groups so there was more of a tutorial/seminar feel.
academic quality of education activities
The quality is quite high. Many professors have studied at prestigious universities such as Harvard, Yale or Cambridge. I personally found the education to be very unilateral: the professor speaks and students just nod and take notes. There is not much room for discussion, but this totally depends on the course and how big the course is.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The exchange coordinator of the Law faculty is incredibly nice. She always responds very fast and is helpful. It is hard to navigate the LMUs system sometimes, but they are always happy to help.
transfer of credits



I have not transferred my credits yet. I do not need the actual credits to graduate, which makes it a bit more flexible for me. I can recommend researching the possible courses thoroughly before you pick them if you do need them to graduate. I think it might be a possibility that not all of my courses will get accepted, because I took some courses that overlap with my Dutch courses. I mainly picked these because I could then learn the German (legal) language better.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome/orientation programme in my semester (2nd semester) is not very big or fun. I could therefore recommend doing the preparatory intensive language course that the LMU facilitates. You can get involved in the ESN too, they organize quite some activities.

accommodation

As described in the 'finances' part, accommodation can get quite expensive if you are not assigned student housing. The housing market in Munich is described as problematic, but I quickly found housing through housinganywhere.com in a very good area in a nice room. It was more expensive, but it was worth it in the end. It is also possible to find temporary housing and then try subrenting a room in one of the student housing dorms, that would be significantly cheaper. Some of my friends made this work too. Be prepared to be flexible, but it is definitely doable, except for the higher price levels.

leisure & culture

Munich is a lovely city, especially in summer. It is very green and it is lovely to hang out in the Englischer Garten. if you like the outdoors, the mountains are really close. I spent a lot of my weekends hiking, and in winter I went skiing a couple of times. The nightlife is also quite good, and there are nice museums in the city. A big pro is that Munich is very central in Europe, in only a couple of hours you are in Prague/Berlin/Vienna/Italy/Switzerland. This makes traveling a fun option in the weekends.

suggestions/tips

Once again, take part in the language course! The semester starts quite late (end of october or after easter) so it is a great way to fill up the month (september/march). I made all my good friends there, improved my German and had some time to settle into the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had a great time.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I picked three universities, Edinburgh, Munich and Vienna. Munich was my second choice, but I was really glad I got it, because I really wanted to practice my German.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The proces at the UU was good and questions where awnsered fairly quickly. Several meetings and presentations helped me pick the right universities for me.
academic preparation
I did not specifically take any law courses to prepare, but most of the courses I took in Munich I had already taken at the UU. I took courses that were very similar to courses at the UU. Because of this, I was able to examine the differences between both legal systems. I took a lot of mastercourses in Munich, but I was not a masterstudent myself yet. This made the courses a little harder, nut nothing too difficult.
language preparation
I wanted tot take all my courses in German because I had studied German language and culture at the UU. It is possible to take courses in English at the LMU, but there are not enough courses in English to fill one semester. I took four courses of the first year of bachelor German languages and cultures. In total I took 30 ECTS in German before I went to Munich. I wouldn't say that this is necessary if you consider your German sufficient. A minimum of B2 is required, which is the level you should have after sitting a VWO German exam. Because I lacked this, I took German at university instead.
finances
I was fortunate to get a scholarship form the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam (DIA), which the a research department on German Studies of the Universiteit van Amsterdam. This scholarship was approximately 2.300 euro, which helped me a lot. I also received a scholarship from Erasmus, which was about 1.400 euro in total. Rents in Munich can be really expenisve, about as expensive as in Paris. On average I paid 560 euro a month on rent, which is considerd low. The average price for a room is about 700 euro, especially for shorter periods of time. The lucky ones get a room from the university, which usually costs about 350 euro a month. Life in Munich is not vey expensive. I paid 200 euro for public transport for the entire semester, which is called the Semesterticket. Going out for dinner or drinks is not expensive. Beer in particular is cheap (3,90 for 0,5L). Grosseries are not expensive either, since you can go to Lidl or Aldi.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The site of this LMU is very unpractical, which makes it hard to find courses that occur in the right semester. The LMU however makes you take as many courses as you like in the first three weeks of the semester. After these three weeks they ask you to pick your final courses. This way of choosing your courses is very nice, because it allows you to really find you what courses suit you best. Because of this, I was able to change halve of my courses during the semester.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education is really high at LMU. LMU is considered the best German speaking university in the world ranks number 30 in the world's best Universities. The way lectures works is quite different. First of al there are no workgroups, where you can practice with the newly learned material. This makes studying for exams harder and more individual. The second biggest



difference is that there are no academic skills build. German law students rarely write papers or do research, which makes studying less fun in my opinion.

Most of the exams were oral, which made them a lot easier. If you didn't know the German word during an exam, you had the possibility of talking in English. Most teachers were also interested in the difference I had discovered between both jurisdictions, which made the orals more of a chat than an exam.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The LMU was very helpful most of the time. They can usually be reached all day, which makes it easy to get things done quickly if necessary. Also via e-mail the response was quick, it was easy to get documents signed.

transfer of credits

My credits are not transferred yet. Germany has a bit of an odd system when it comes to the credits for law students. The lowest credit you can get is a 1 and the best an 18. When you get a 4, you already passed your exam. They also give you a American scale, so that the marks can be easily transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme from the faculty isn't very big but you can visit a lot of different activities that are organised by Mensa. These activities include all sort of things, daytrips, going for dinner or parties. I only attended one of these parties, because I had a nice group of friends quite early on in my exchange. For questions about the courses or things at the university, the international office of the LMU is always available.

accommodation

I had quite a lot of difficulty finding accommodation. I tried WG-gesucht, which is a site for advertising rooms. Even though I spoke German, I barely had any luck finding a room. There are however quite a lot of other options that could help you find a room, but you have to apply for them a few months before you go to Munich. There is a very big Wohnheim called Maßmann. I lived there for a month and I had the best time. It's super cheap, about 250 euro a month, the location is great and roommates are super nice. It's a bit alternative, but I really liked because it was so different compared to my life in Utrecht.

Other options are Christian or Catholic houses. This might sound a bit weird at first, but in Germany it's a lot more common to live in a student flat that is owned by church. A famous one is the Rancolli college. The rents are relatively low and the location is great. Some studentenverbindungen also offer accommodation for international students.

leisure & culture

Munich is a great city for leisure, in summer and in winter. I went skiing quite a few times, since the Alps and the biggest mountain in Germany, the Zugspitze, are quite near Munich, only an hour by train.

Munich itself is really nice with great architecture and nice neighbourhoods. I liked going to Glockbachviertel, which is a neighbourhood that has tons of trendy cafes, bars and shops.

I went on a lot of trips to other places. If you book the trains in advance, you can get cheap tickets. Berlin and Vienna are only 4 hours away. Bayern's countryside has a lot of big lakes and castles, which are nice to visit.

Munich night life is quite different compared to Utrecht. It is more common to go to big clubs than to go to bars. These clubs however are not very expensive and have great music and entertainment.

suggestions/tips

Schellingsstraße is a great street to go for dinner. It has a lot of cheap places with different types of food. It's not common to go out during the week, but one club, 089, is open almost every single day.

Englischer Garten is also super to visit. We did a lot of (drinking) games on the fields, or went on walks during the pandemic.



CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would totally recommend Munich and the LMU. The city is great and very beautiful. If you like to improve the German language is also a great spot, since most of courses are taught in German.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Contact all possible Wohnheims in Munich, such as Massmann and the Roncalli college. These places have great people, places and prices. This also makes it a lot easier compared to visiting hospiteeravonden or other events to try and get a room.

2018-2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
After hearing from the IO that I was nominated for an exchange at the LMU, the application process of the LMU started. Here you have to hand in more papers and documents that you have to send via post. This does not take a lot of time if you have the documents already. During this application you can also apply for housing. I would recommend you doing this because housing is problematic in Munich.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The UU helped me a lot with the application for the LMU (this application comes after the nomination of the UU). I had to hand in a lot of papers and I got good help from the UU.
academic preparation
I did not prepare academically. I did refresh my German a little bit before moving.
language preparation
I have done my high school exams in German. Therefore I had a B2 level already. Before I went to Munich I did some self-study to refresh my German knowledge. The LMU also offers a German language course which you can do a month before the semester starts here. I would really recommend this course because you will spend a month talking, listening and reading German with other international students. It is therefore also an easy way to make friends.
finances
I got the Erasmus Study Grant, but this is not enough for living in Munich.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
At the beginning of your Erasmus there will be a Law Welcome Meeting where they will explain a lot about choosing subjects. You are able to check some subjects out in the first week. You can choose the subjects you like as long as you have enough points of course. As we are non-german students we can only go to Vorlesungen (lectures) and Ubungen (kind of like werkgroep but non-compulsary and it often goes further than we as erasmus students have to know). You can choose every subject you want. But keep in mind that everything is in German.
academic quality of education activities
I did 3 Schwerpunktbereich subject which equals to master subjects. Therefore, I had to put in some effort in order to keep up with the subjects. After a few lectures you will get used to the way the lectures are given and to the language. The Professors are, in my opinion, really good and they have a lot of knowledge.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The erasmus coordinator for Law is really helpful and friendly. You can always drop by and ask for help.
transfer of credits
On the law website of the LMU you can find a ECTS transfer scheme. Here you can see how many ECTS you get per SWS (german system)

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The LMU offers you the chance to participate in a summer german course. This course took place in september (I was there for the winter semester) It is a great chance to make new friends and to get ready to study fully in German. I would recommend it to everyone. Next to this course there was, like i said before, a welcome meeting for all the international Law Students.
accommodation
I was very lucky to get an cheap appartment via the LMU. Housing in Munich is really expensive and hard to find. If the LMU does not give you an appartment you should start looking very right away (I heard in July that i got accomodation)
leisure & culture
I went during the wintersemester, which was in my opinion a very good choice as I got to know the culture via Oktoberfest and the Weinachtsmarkten. The people in Munich are very friendly and I felt at home quite fast. There is not a big cultural difference, but sometimes you noticed a small difference in the small things. I had quite a lot of free time during the semester as you don't have to prepare seminars, but in the end i had to catch up and do a lot of work in order to pass my exams.
suggestions/tips
Participate in the summer german course and start looking for an appartment early if you don't get accomodation from the LMU (so apply for accomodation with the LMU!).

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Munich is a great place to live, study and to learn and improve your German. I've had a great time and made very good friends.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
You have to hand in a couple of forms, such as motivation letter and transcript of records. It's not so much work if you have all the deadlines in your agenda. I remember that my guest university required a lot more documents, which also required marks from the international office etc. It's usefull to make a check-list for yourself inclusive the deadlines, to prevent being dependant of someone (which signature you need) the last day before the deadline.
counselling & support at Utrecht University



I experienced this a very good. International Office was always reachable, and they replied my e-mails very quickly. Also I had the feeling that I could ask them everything. Besides that they brought me in to contact with another student who studied a semester in Munich. That was very helpful because she knew everything even more detailed.
academic preparation
I did no academic preparation because this was not necessary. The only thing I can say is that because I was not familiar with the German law system, it was a bit more hard working at the beginning. But I felt no disadvantage!
language preparation
A lot of the courses in Munich are in German, especially the courses in Law. They require therefore a level of B1-B2 German. I knew this in advance and so I wanted to be prepared. Before I went to Munich I followed German course at Babel Language Institut . This was helpful, but nevertheless not enough. That's why I participate in the German preparation course at the LMU in September. It's an entire month speaking German and besides that learning stuff about the university and the city. After this month I was able to understand most and make myself clear. Most important: you will meet a lot of friends during this class! And the semester only starts at the 15th of October, so it's a good way to spend your free time in September.
finances
Apart from the Erasmus scholarship I also applied for an scholarship at 'Duitsland-Deks', called: DIA-Stipendium. Fortunately I was very lucky and got selected for that scholarship. This helped me a lot and the result was that I didn't need to work in Munich. The rent can be pretty high (some of my friends paid 800 euros a month). But the rent of the university rooms/dorms is very low (around 280). Furthermore the expenses in Munich are in my opinion comparable to the costs here in Utrecht. I recommend applying for scholarships, other than Erasmus!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
When I was still in Utrecht it was sometimes hard to find information concerning the courses, because that information was for many courses not available. But on the other hand I was in good contact with my coordinator in Munich and she explained me a lot and gave me some content of the courses. This is how I could choose my courses, while not being in Munich. When I was in Munich it turned out that they had another system than in Utrecht. In the beginning of the semester every student is just trying out all the courses that seems interesting and after two weeks you decide which courses you definitely are going to take. I did the same and chose in the end other subjects then I filled in on my Learning Agreement.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good. Although not all my subjects were on master level I had sometimes the feeling that I knew already a bit more than my fellow students. Nevertheless I had still enough challenge due to the fact that everything was in German. The courses that I followed on master level were very interesting and also in smaller groups what I prefer because there was more discussion in class.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
This was also pretty good. As I already said I was already in contact with my coordinator before I went to Munich. She helped me with everything. During my stay this didn't change and she was open for all my questions.
transfer of credits
Already a few days after I passed all my exams my coordinator sent me my transcript of records. So this procedure went very fluent. The only thing difficult was that in Germany they don't have a bachelor/master



system in Law, which made it not so easy to proof my examcommittee that some courses are on master level. In the end not all my courses are counting, which is not a problem because I don't need the ECTS for my master degree, but still it is wise to know ahead which credits can be transferred and which not.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As I already named I participate in the language and preparation course German, which I highly recommend! Not only to learn the language, but also to get to know some people, because the semester starts later on. The people I got to know during my preparation course were my friends during the entire semester. This course made it also easier to understand the life at the LMU, and in general the life in Germany because they teach you a lot of cultural things.

accommodation

I was very lucky that I got a room through University because the rent is not so high. However this room was a studio in a very large student complex, a bit out of the centre. After two weeks I realised that I wanted to live more in the center and also with roommates. Through Facebook I found another apartment in the city centre with two German guys. This was one of the best choices during my stay! Not only I spoke German all the time, but also my roommates and I became good friends.

leisure & culture

In my free time I explored the city, by foot and by bike (!), but also hiked a lot in the area of Bayern, which is totally beautiful. Besides that I visited a lot of museums: Munich has tons of them. Very interesting is also that there is still a lot of history concerning the second world war. I didn't expect that when I came there, but at the university happened a lot, for example the opposition movement, Weisse Rose, which operated there.

suggestions/tips

Try to live with Germans! This is amazing. Not only for your language but also for your cultural experience. They know a lot of stuff in the city of course and also they know a lot of people. In this way you are not only surrounded with internationals (which can also be a lot of fun of course), but you get to know more German people.

CONCLUSIONS

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

In one word: YES. Everything is arranged very well and the quality of the subjects are very good. Besides that Munich is such an underestimated city with a lot of culture and has above that a beautiful countryside which is easy to reach by train or S-bahn. In the winter within one hour you are in Austria, which means: hiking and skiing!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process



I must say the application process seemed very difficult to me at the beginning. I didn't really understand the process and the forms and how in depth they needed to be filled in in the beginning, for example which courses you wanted to take. It wasn't totally clear to me that these could be changed later.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There was a lot of help available, you just have to ask. Sometimes persist a little, since not all offices are directly connected to each other.

academic preparation

I took an academic & language preparation course at the LMU in Munich. This course was a month long, which was good, since the semesters start very late in Germany. Here I learned a lot about the German academic culture and learned good academic German on my level.

language preparation

As written above, I followed a language course provided by the LMU. This course is very in depth, costs 400€, but is totally worth it. I had only studied German in high school, but was able to get my C1 certificate there which was worth 6 ECTS as well.

finances

I wish I had done more to save money for my trip. Rent is super expensive in Munich, except for when you get a room via the Uni. I got one via Studentenwerk München for 300€ p/m, so I got very lucky, but a lot of my friends had to pay 700€ p/m for a room.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There is quite a lot that Erasmus students can choose from, almost all in GERMAN. So you have to be at least decent at German or you won't understand the professor. Sadly, we're only allowed to visit the Vorlesungen (lectures) and not the Übungen (Tutorials/werkgroepen). This makes your stay a lot more relaxed, yes, but you don't have any interactive classes, which means it's hard to practice speaking German or meet any locals.

academic quality of education activities

Very high, Munich's LMU is ranked the best Uni in Germany, and you can totally tell. The lectures were very interesting and well presented.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was a very nice woman who takes care of the Erasmus Law Students, but I must say other than that we didn't get much guidance at all.

transfer of credits

Take a LONG time. Whilst writing this, I only have one result back. Also the Germans don't work with ECTS, so you have to be very careful and

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome ceremony of our language course was super nice, they showed the flags of all countries and you had to stand up when yours came on to the screen. This way you could immediately know where everyone was from and meet new people

accommodation

I lived in the Studentenwerk student flat near Josephsplatz, amazing location.



leisure & culture
Munich is a very relaxed city. If you are looking for the big city, then I would not suggest Munich. It does feel a lot like a huge village. Gemütlichkeit is their way of life.
suggestions/tips
Take the semester preparation language course! You meet so many people and learn a lot in a short period of time.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, Munich is lovely. However, if you want to go to a really big city that feels like that I wouldn't recommend Munich.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The LSF(website that shows the subjects) at the website of LMU was very hard to understand. I also was not told on beforehand that I would only be allowed to follow lectures(and no seminars). I therefore orientated my whole learning agreement on the idea that I was allowed to follow seminars and was kind of disappointed when I could not since the LMU does offer a lot of interesting seminars.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Office could have provided more help since it was the first year that the UU and the LMU had a contract. A lot of things were very unclear and I had to find out a lot of things myself. It would have been better if the IO at both the UU and LMU provided more guidance.
academic preparation
I took a language course in Amsterdam on my own initiative. Apart from that I did nothing else on academic preparation.
language preparation
The IUCM(International University Club Munich) provided a very intensive language course which helped me a lot with my German. I got to know a lot of people and went on some very nice excursions.
finances
I have no comment to make on this. I am very glad that I receive an Erasmus scholarship.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The LMU offers a low of interesting subjects, but as an Exchange student of the faculty of law, you are only allowed to follow lectures and not seminars. I found this very disappointing. When I was planning my exchange, I was very much looking forward to develop my academic German speaking skills. Because I was only allowed to follow lectures, I did not.
academic quality of education activities



I am very content with the lecturers. They provided very good and interesting lectures and explained the topics very well.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Frau Brigitte Haustein provided a lot of good support and counselling. A part from that I received no help or whatsoever from the LMU. There was even a point where I stood in front of the classroom where I was about to have an exam together with some other Erasmus students, only to find out 30 minutes later that the test was taking place in another room. Apparently there was an email forwarded about this to all the national students, but not to us. I went to the info point to ask in which classroom the exam was taking place since the teacher was not there, but they had not even been informed by the teacher about the change of classroom.

transfer of credits

Poorly. I still have not received my transcript of records yet due to teachers who are still on holidays and have not sent the results of my tests to the Erasmus coordinator at LMU yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Very well done. I got to know a lot of great people through the language course I participated in and the MESA(Erasmus student association) arranged a lot of entertaining activities, travels and parties.

accommodation

I got my housing through the IUCM. The student housing I lived in was very nice, cheap(for Munich standards) and well-located. The only downside was that I could only rent the room until Juli and had to find an Airbnb for the last month, which was very expensive.

leisure & culture

Munich has a lot of cultural activities with student discounts to offer. The area around Munich provides a lot of good day trips(MESA also organised these day trips).

suggestions/tips

Join a lot of MESA activities.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely. Munich is an amazing city and has a lot to offer on a cultural, academic and social level.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It would be great if the upcoming exchange students would be able to also follow seminars instead of only lectures. This would make the academic aspect of the exchange more challenging in a good sense.