

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process at Utrecht University was easy and the website was very accessible. From the nomination to filling in the required documents and uploading them was clearly explained. However, Roma Tre's helpdesk is not as clear and structured. It takes a little while to send a 'ticket' through the helpdesk and to get a proper response. One should take this into account when applying for an exchange at Roma Tre. Moreover, Roma Tre uses different websites and online platforms for students regarding applying for their courses and the application for an exchange. It is necessary to check all these websites before completing your application, in order to not miss out on any important information. Nonetheless, the erasmus coordinators at Roma Tre respond quickly to emails and are very helpful in general, so one can always ask them for advice and information.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The International Exchange Office of the REBO faculty was very helpful in the application process. Whenever I would encounter a problem during this process, they always took this very seriously and tried their best to help me out.
academic preparation
After three years of studying at Utrecht University, I had the adequate level of knowledge to follow the courses at Roma Tre.
language preparation
My English was sufficient, and since I only chose courses in English, this was no boundary for me.
finances
The application for the Erasmus Grant was very clear and there were some spreadsheets and documents available at the website of UU to prepare and have an overview of your finances.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Global Legal Studies (study program), courses: International Human Rights Law, Introduction to Comparative Legal Systems and International Arbitration. International Human Rights Law focused on very actual topics and a broad spectrum of human rights in the international community. A lot of lectures were organized by guest speakers, who had or have important roles regarding international human rights and their protection. Introduction to Comparative Legal Systems was a course that mainly focused on countries from the western world and their juridical and political organization regarding several topics. The professor that taught this course, wrote a very informing book about these topics and had a lot of knowledge about the topics discussed during this course. International Arbitration was the hardest (although a very doable) course that I followed, but it offered an outstanding overview regarding the entire process of international arbitration. This course was taught by a professor who also works in one of the most famous arbitration institutions in the world, which makes her a perfect fit for teaching the students about IA. All courses consist of three lectures per week, each lecture takes about 2 hours. Due to several COVID-restrictions, some courses were held online, some in hybrid-mode and some entirely in physical presence. This caused some confusion among students, but this issue will probably not exist during next semester anymore.
academic quality of education activities

The courses require more attendance than at Utrecht University, however, the level of the courses is slightly lower than at UU. In the end you will spend equally or slightly less time preparing and studying for the lectures and exams than at UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Whenever a problem would appear, there are a lot of possibilities to have it resolved. However, it might take a little while before you have found the right person to resolve your problem.

transfer of credits

At the time of uploading this document, I have not yet received my transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

At the beginning of the semester, there are several presentations and Q&A's for incoming Erasmus students to guide you through your first acquaintances with Roma Tre. The instructions are quite clear. Next to that, they recommend you to join ESN (Erasmus Student Network), which really helps you to meet a lot of exchange students in a short amount of time. They organize several parties, meet-ups, trips, etc. and it contributes to helping you build your social life in Rome.

accommodation

I got to my apartment through Spotahome and ErasmusU. It was a shared apartment, with three other exchange students. There are many website available that offer accomodations, however, always make sure that it is a valid website to avoid being gaslighted. This unfortunately happens from time to time in Rome. My advice would be to try to find websites that are connected to Roma Tre or ESN.

leisure & culture

Rome offers plenty of possibilities to explore. The city has an enormous amount of cultural heritage, museums, artworks, architectural sights and many more interesting places worth visting. Moreover, the cities around Rome are definitely worth traveling to. A lot of cities are reachable using public transport. The Italian culture is in many aspects different than the Dutch culture, I really recommend reading travel blogs and tips from travel agencies about these differences. It is for example very useful to know that several stores in Italy don't accepts cards and only take cash. Another example would be the difference for tipping in restaurants. Make sure to read about cultural differences before visiting Rome.

suggestions/tips

Try to adapt to Italian lifestyle as much as possible (in this case the saying of 'do as the Romans do' really applies! They really know best!). Try to keep to their timetables for eating lunch and dinner and if Romans go for a siesta, I would recommend you'd do the same, since it will probably be very hot during that moment of the day. Read some travel blogs for more advices regarding Italian lifestyle and tips for tourists.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university and this destination. Rome is a wonderful city that never bores. There is always something to explore, a place to go to and the night life in Rome offers plenty of possibilities for students. Moreover, the university offers a lot of interesting and relevant courses (at least at the Law department) for exchange students coming from Utrecht University. The lectures and exams are very doable and there is plenty of time next to studying for discovering the city. However, they do require that you prepare for your lectures and pay attention during class.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start your application on time to avoid unnecessary issues; your Erasmus coordinator at Roma Tre is very helpful and approachable, do not hesitate to email them in case of unclarities; join ESN.

2021-2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For me the application process went fairly smoothly. I only had one issue where I had to reupload something in Osiris within 24 hours and I was supposed to get an email on this but I never received the email and therefore I suddenly got an email that I was excluded from the process. This was a little stressfull but thankfully I got a quick response from the international exchange office and everything worked out in the end. But I would advise you to check your osiris and email everyday after the applications.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at UU from the international exchange office was very good and helpful in my opinion. I always got quick responses and they have helped me really well with some issues I encountered.

academic preparation

For academic preparation I did not do much besides just finishing my bachelor and thesis at UU but this was not particularly for the reason that I was going to study abroad.

language preparation

For language preparation I took the course Italian 1 at UU. I had studied a bit of Italian before as well but this class was really useful to refreshen my memory and learn some more grammar and vocabulary. If you have time in your studyplan I really recommend taking this course because it is very good and it is nice to know some italian before moving to Italy! As well as that I did some duolingo and watched some netflix series in Italian.

finances

I saved some money the years before by working and ofcourse not spending as much during COVID. Therefore I had saved enough to finance my erasmus. Also my room in Rome was smaller than the one i booked before but also much cheaper than I expected. With my savings, the financial grant and student loans I had no issues with finances but expect to spend more money than you are maybe used to back home due to trips, going out and eating at restaurants more often!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

For me personally the study programme was well organized and clear. There are a few english courses that you can choose from for your erasmus programme and these are clear on the site. Things got a bit more confusing the week before when you got the option to also do other courses. Then I also found out that most of my courses would be online instead of in presence and therefore I switched one of my online courses to a non-online course. This went really smooth by just emailing the professors and changing my learning agreement. It is very common that people switch courses the first weeks so you can also attend some courses and then change them.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education acitivities is in my opinion lower than in Utrecht and it is very different than what I am used to. Education activities focus more on lectures than on seminars. They do not really expect interaction from the students. It depends on the course you take ofcourse. Also in my opinion the final exams

were much easier than the exams at UU. You might get an oral exam which I was also really not used to. I did really enjoy the freedom you received when you had to write an essay for a course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Personally I was not very content with the counselling & support from Roma Tre because they work with a website called the helpdesk where you have to open a ticket each time you have a question or need something. You receive the answer in your email but you can not answer directly again to ask a second question but have to open another ticket and due to this you can not have a flowing conversation with one person. Due to this I had a lot of trouble with receiving my proof of arrival because they wanted a flight ticket but I came by car and could not give this. I would advise you to directly email your erasmus coordinator or someone else from the international exchange office. My erasmus coordinator was very helpful.

transfer of credits

I still need my credits to be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The ESN organization from Roma Tre organized a very fun welcome week with lots of different activities. There was aperitivo, city tours and a welcome party. They also organized some daytrips the first weeks. I went to almost every activity in the first week and met a lot of nice people and made new friends. I would advise you to be as active as you can in the first weeks!

accommodation

First my accomodation process went really smooth and easier than Utrecht. There are lots of accomodations for international students on websites but I would advise to search something a few months before arriving. I booked a house at the website spotahome that looked really good. Eventually before arriving to Italy I had some issues with my landlord because there were double bookings. When I arrived I got a smaller room than I booked but I was really happy that I had a nice room and a nice house. I had some more issues with my landlord and spotahome as well because this room I was now in was not on their website. Long story short; spotahome is a trustworthy website and you will not be scammed but there can always be issues with double bookings because of the landlord.

leisure & culture

Rome is the most beautiful city of the world and there is so much to do and see! There are so many beautiful museums and monuments that even six months is not enough to see everything. If you like history and culture this is the perfect city for your erasmus. Even just walking around Rome is like walking in a museum and it is just so beautiful! Rome is also a very lively city and there are so many parties, concerts and other cultural events. Almost every day of the week me and my friends went to a party or for aperitivo or dinner together. In the summer months there is an outdoor cinema almost every day in three locations. I also went to two concerts in Rome which was amazing and I took a cooking class. If you like nature there are hiking places around Rome and very beautiful lakes to swim in and the beach is very nearby.

suggestions/tips

I have so many tips but I would mostly recommend to go to as many ESN events as possible, especially in the beginning and make many new friends. There are so many nice things to do and see in Rome but in the end the people around you make your experience!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I highly recommend this destination! In the end I think which university in Rome you choose does not really matter but I really liked the location of Roma Tre because the south of Rome is very beautiful and authentic. Personally I chose my erasmus destination knowing that the academic level would be lower so I had no issue with this. If you want to have a wonderful time, love culture and have the best erasmus experience than I think Rome is the perfect destination!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy and have fun because it will be over before you know it!