

# Università degli Studi Roma Tre

**2022-2023**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process all occurred rather smoothly and I don't have any complaints about it. Personally, I find the 'study abroad' section of the UU website to be both very clear and extensive.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support from the International Exchange Office in particular was quite helpful. I had a phone call with one of the coordinators in advance of my departure to discuss some administrative questions, and this was very helpful.
academic preparation
To be fair, I didn't really (have to) academically prepare for my exchange semester.
language preparation
As many other students did, I downloaded DuoLingo and started learning some basic Italian. I also started watching some Italian movies with English/Dutch subtitles.
finances
Again referring to the UU website on staying abroad, the information about the Erasmus grant was all very clear, although I did start my application process somewhat late, which was of course my own fault. I then also received the first payment later than most of the fellow students at my destination (Rome). I therefore strongly recommend to start application processes like these as soon as possible. You will have to do them in any case, so there is no reason to postpone it, and you will only help yourself by doing so.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content and variety of the available courses were very good in my opinion. However organisation-wise, I would say there is some room for improvement. First of all, almost all exchange students had to switch courses in the first few weeks, because the schedule was only published after the first week, which resulted in overlapping agendas. For me, this was not a problem in the end, as I am very happy with the courses I ended up picking, but it was a bit chaotic to begin with.
academic quality of education activities
I am content with the academic quality of the education. My lectures were interesting and most of the times (not always) I was happy with the quality of the teachers, which is of course subjective. However, the way of teaching law is quite different in Italy than I know it to be in the Netherlands; whereas I had always learned to study the law and case law and then having to apply it to fictional cases on exams, the way of examining here was more repetitive so to say; one could say a bit more like exams in high school. Nevertheless the quality of the classes was still very decent.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
As far as relevant for me, the support was fine. The Erasmus coordinator at my host university was very kind and always replied promptly.
transfer of credits

Smooth process, nothing to complain.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, I only arrived the Sunday before the normal class weeks started, and therefore I missed out on the orientation programme, that already happened earlier.

### accommodation

I was very happy with my accommodations. For the first month, I lived in an apartment somewhat less central but closer to the Uni, and the three months after, I lived very central (near Piazza della Repubblica), and a bit farther from campus, although it only took me 30 minutes in total to get there with the metro.

### leisure & culture

Food and coffee were amazing; it's Italy so no explanation needed there. As regards leisure: more than enough to do everyday, especially through the ESN organisations, which made sure you could go to parties every night if you wanted to.

### suggestions/tips

1. Start looking for accommodation as soon as you decide to study abroad. I started looking quite late and ended up paying way too much money. You will relieve yourself of a lot of stress when you have your housing situation fixed well in advance of your departure. Once in Rome, I even heard stories of students who didn't even have a room to stay in when they arrived and had to fix all that on the spot, which of course resulted in a lot of stress and chaos, even though in the end it all worked out for them.
2. Start all the application processes as soon as possible: you will only regret it if you postpone. Besides, the same goes for every step in the application process: you will have to do it one way or the other in any case, so the sooner you get it off your plate, the less it will feel like a burden on top of the other things in your agenda.
3. As regards starting up your social life in your destination city, I would definitely recommend attending the introductory weeks. During these weeks, there are lots of activities specifically designed for exchange students to meet each other and make friends at an early stage. Remember: almost everyone going on exchange doesn't know many other students yet, and many don't even know anyone. So just like you, everyone at these introduction events is looking to meet new people and have fun, which makes me strongly recommend going to these events.
4. I'm pretty sure that in all destination cities, there are active international student associations (in Rome, there were multiple; at least one per university). Everyone I met was a member of these associations, because they really have a lot to offer. Besides the earlier mentioned introduction weeks, these associations organise events of every thinkable nature throughout the entire year. From surfing weekends to football tournaments, wine tasting festivals and theme party's, these associations are really there to improve the quality of your semester(s) abroad. And a not unimportant detail is that at almost party they organize (these are mostly in well-visited clubs/bars), you will receive discounts on drinks and entry fees, while the membership of the association itself usually only costs around 10 euros, so you'll get more than your worth out of it.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, very much. If you like Italy, you will love Rome. Also, this particular University is a very good one and a perfect place to meet nice people. For my other recommendations, please see above.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

N/A

## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The exchange process was not so difficult. Just read everything really well and the application speaks for itself. However, the helpdesk at Roma Tre was quite unclear and more difficult.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

In my opinion the counselling and support at Utrecht University was good. In the beginning, I had some problems with my guest university as they did not reply to my e-mails, but the UU helped me out.

### academic preparation

I did not prepare anything in particular.

### language preparation

I did not prepare anything in particular. However not everyone speaks English in Rome, you will be fine without knowledge of the Italian language.

### finances

I spent my whole summer working so I could save up some money. However, this was not too much. Furthermore, I had a full student loan at DUO and my parents were able to help me out. I also received the public transport compensation from DUO and the Erasmus grant.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

There are several English taught courses you can choose from. However, it is only known what courses are offered a few weeks before the first day classes. Because I had chosen different courses prior, I had to change my course. Also, a lot of courses are taught at the same time, so it took some time to create a schedule with all courses at different times.

### academic quality of education activities

The education system is very different. Everything was very theoretical and this took some getting used to. Also, most of the exams are oral. I would say the academic quality of education activities is lower than in the Netherlands and your attendance and behaviour during the classes is important for your final grade.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Roma Tre University has several Erasmus coordinators but I did not have any contact with them apart from asking them to sign some documents. The response time to your e-mail is different all the time. Sometimes it takes just 15 minutes but I have also had to wait for over a week.

### transfer of credits

I have not done this yet, so I have no information about that.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

Nothing from the university itself. The ESN-section from the Roma Tre university also did not really organise something really big, but ESN-sections from different universities in Rome did organise a lot (you are also able to attend those).

### accommodation

I started looking for accommodation around May via Spot a Home and payed around €500,-. If you start looking for a room in time, it's not really difficult. Be aware of people trying to scam you via e.g. Facebook.

leisure & culture

Rome is a really big, beautiful city. There is always something to do. You can visit a lot of museums, but also ESN organises a lot of trips/parties etc. where you can also meet a lot of people.

suggestions/tips

Be aware that Italy is very unorganised and chaotic! And keep in mind that Rome is a really big city - it would take up to 1h to visit my friends who lived near the centre when I lived near the university (south). I suggest searching for a room close to a metro station. Also, living in the centre is really nice but as the city is so touristic it is also nice to get to know some other parts of Rome and escape the rush by living somewhere else. Roma Tre is located in Ostiense and near metro B.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes!! I have grown so much as a person and it is truly a experience I will never forget. The University might be a little bit unclear sometimes, but that is just the way things are in Italy. Don't worry about it too much and enjoy every day!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any question about studying abroad in general or about Roma Tre in particular, feel free to contact me. The UU exchange office can provide you with my email adres.

## 2021-2022

<b>PREPARATION</b>
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.

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

## 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 stressful 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 activities 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!