



## University of Sheffield

2018-2019

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process isn't that difficult, but you have to start early in order to be sure that you have all the required documents. There is a strict deadline and you will need more time for some of the documents. However, every information is set out on the website of the University of Utrecht, so this makes the application process easier.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The University of Utrecht/the International Office gave some presentations and meetings, I really recommend to go to this. It helps you to have a complete overview and you can ask all your questions. It's also very helpful to go to the International Office opening hours at Janskerkhof 2-3 if you have questions, since they are willing to help you and to think together about it.
academic preparation	
	I only prepared by completing the documents for the deadline and to choose my modules wisely. However, since I already had some courses at the University of Utrecht in English, I was already a kind of used to teaching in English.
language preparation	
	I didn't really work on my language skills before coming to Sheffield. The professors do expect that you can prepare your work and answer questions. However, not every international student speaks English that well, so it doesn't really matter as long as you can do the required work.
finances	
	You really have to make sure that you have saved some money before going to Sheffield. I lived at University accommodation in Endcliffe, but you have to pay €3600 for it in once. If you also want to make trips, go out and want to participate in other social activities, you should have money for it. You will also get an Erasmus Grant, but that's not enough to cover all of the costs, so be aware of this.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The website of the University of Sheffield has a good overview of the modules they offer. However, in the first lecture of one module I chose, they said I needed a basic knowledge of the module and it was easier if I had previous modules about the subject. Since I didn't had this, I had to change one of my modules. The system to change this is quite easy, but don't forget that you also have to change your learning agreement. Eventually I had three modules: public law in the UK and the EU, police and policing in a global context and international human rights law. Every week I had a lecture of each module, some were recorded and some not. The system for the seminars is different compared to the University of Utrecht, since you don't have a seminar each week. For one module I had a seminar each two weeks, for the other each 3 weeks and for the last module the seminars were quite random. You have an application for your mobile phone where you can find your timetable, so you just have to make sure you look at it.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality was good, but it's easier in Sheffield compared to the system of the University of Utrecht. For example, you only have to get a 40% good on your test in order to pass the module. The amount of readings is quite similar to what you are used at the University of Utrecht, but the seminars are less challenging.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the University of Sheffield was good. The law faculty has a building in which a reception is, you can always ask them your questions. There is also a general reception at Students Union.

transfer of credits

Since I haven't received my grades yet, I don't know how these grades will be transferred.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I studied in Sheffield in the second semester and there was an orientation week three to four days before the start of that semester. I really recommend to go to this orientation programme, because it's a good opportunity to meet other international students and to learn about Sheffield and its university. The orientation programme exist of information talks, dinners, a campus tour and many more things. During this orientation week you also have to register yourself and the modules you chose.

accommodation

They offer multiple options for living. You can live in a student accommodation and you can choose if you want to have a kitchen and/or bathroom in your room. I lived in Endcliffe (20-30 minutes' walk away from university) and I had a bathroom in my room and I shared the kitchen and living room with 5 other people. It did cost a lot, but it was worth it.

leisure & culture

Sheffield isn't a really big city, but it offers many possibilities. West Street is a really nice street between the university buildings and the city centre and this is a really nice street with pubs and restaurants. I would recommend to look at the organisations that offers day trips, but also to make trips by yourself/with friends. Trips can be expensive in the end, but now you're there it's worth it to see other cities as well.

suggestions/tips

Since Sheffield is quite in the middle of England and has a good train station, you can make many trips. You can easily book a train ticket online. I would recommend to go to cities such as Manchester, Liverpool, York and London. Peak District is really nice as well. For nights out, there are multiple clubs where people can go to every week. For example, on Tuesdays Code is popular, on Wednesdays Corporation and on Saturdays Poptarts. There are also many pubs on West Street and you can also go to Bar One (in Students Union).

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would absolutely recommend to study at the University of Sheffield. The city and the university offer a lot of possibilities: to travel around, to meet new people, to have an exciting time.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Travel as much as you can and keep meeting new people. Don't worry too much about your money or other things, you will only get the chance to study abroad once!



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process wasn't that hard. The International Office really informed students by offering a lot of meetings and presentations. There are a lot of forms you need to fill out. I had to make a list with everything that had to be done to make sure I didn't forget about anything. I recommend others to also make a list with the deadlines to not be surprised later on.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I went to the meetings provided by the International Office. This helped me putting my plan together. You need to be sure of the location and the amount of time you want to spent abroad. The university was very helpful towards students. Whenever you have a question just ask them. It was very easy to get in touch with the International Office. Even with filling out the forms you can ask for help of someone from the International Office.
academic preparation	I only prepared for the exchange by making a plan of action, a financial plan and fill out everything necessary asked by the receiving university. Filling forms out beforehand really helps to speed up the process of application. I took care of everything else once I arrived in Sheffield.
language preparation	I participated in a small Legal English course at the university in the Netherlands. I didn't really go all out with courses and such. It is necessary that your level of understanding english is above average due to the terms they use in the lectures and exams. It is also very helpful because some people/lecturers have an accent.
finances	I saved up some money, took a small loan and got help from my mom. Make sure you have enough money to provide for yourself. I wanted to make trips as well so I had to put this in my financial plan. I spent a little more than planned due to the fact that I didn't think about the UK currency compared to euros. I was in University accommodation. This was around 3500 euros total. The University wants you to pay this amount in one go. If you plan on going here, keep this in mind!

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took three law courses worth 10 ects each. I had one first year and two third year courses. The theory of the third year courses where quite deep. Especially, because most courses continue on material taught in the years before. This is not the case for every course. The amount of lectures and seminars can be compared to the amount at University of Utrecht. All the courses existed of a two hour lecture and an one or two hour seminar.
academic quality of education activities	The education provided is very good in my opinion. Some lecturers are better than others, but that is the case in all universities. The University of Sheffield is aiming to provide all the students with the help they need. They want us to succeed. Even with passing exams. In one of my courses the seminar attendance and preperation was graded as well. This course was quite difficult, therefore the grade for the attendance really helped me out.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Whenever I had questions about the courses I could email the lecturers/teachers. They were very friendly and helpful. Even after a lecture or seminar you got stick around and ask questions. Some lecturers also have office hours during the week where you could visit them and ask questions. For other questions you can go to the law department office or Student Union. Most of your business can be handled at the Student Union.
transfer of credits	



The University uses an online system to transfer the Transcript. Your credits will be available about one month after your departure. You can only use the specific system they use and you can look at the records once. This is the only way to transfer your credits. Only in very special circumstances will they send you the transcript by mail. I am still waiting for my transcript (16-2).

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

I couldn't go to the orientation programme. I cannot tell others how this goes. But I am very sure that it can be very helpful in order to make friends and establish multiple contacts beforehand. The welcome week wasn't much, just some presentations to introduce you to their system and ways. But this was a way to show students around the city and all the locations of the university. This welcome week is very chill. It is a good way to start up your time at a different university.

### accommodation

I was in University accommodation. I definitely recommend this. You'll always have people around that are going through the same as you. You can make friends for life in there. University accommodation is also easier than finding a private home yourself. Mostly people who have been in Sheffield for a while already use private accommodation. The accommodation was clean. I was in a self-catered ensuite room. I had my own bathroom and toilet. I shared the accommodation with five other girls. Because I was a little late I only had the option for one accommodation location with same gender. I did not mind this at all. They were all very friendly and I have become friends with all the girls.

### leisure & culture

Sheffield is a very vibrant city. Just explore the city further than city centre. For example, Peak District. When it comes to partying, there are a lot of pubs and clubs. The city offers lots of student discounts which can be very helpful. Sheffield is known for their silverware (as I have been told by others), try to explore this. Definitely make friends whom you can travel with. It is very easy to travel around the UK by train. If you are planning to use the train a lot, make sure you purchase a railcard. It costs about 45 pounds, but your train tickets will be significantly lower than normally.

### suggestions/tips

Try to be open, make a lot of friends and go on trips. The Student Union offers a lot of trips, but also activities on and around the university grounds. Use this opportunity to gain more experiences in life. Do everything you want or you will regret it! In Sheffield you can basically walk to anything. This is the easiest way to get somewhere. You could also use a bus but these get stuck in traffic and you have to pay for it by yourself. It is around 1.20 pounds for a single. When you want to go home after a night out, you could use an Uber. It is cheaper than in the Netherlands. And do not forget about the Railcard when you plan on using the train a lot.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I recommend the University of Sheffield to others. The city is very vibrant and full of students. The University is very helpful towards exchange students. The Student Union is very practical and helpful as well. They all make you feel at home. The University offers a lot of activities and trips, which will make your time abroad a lot more fun!

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

Make sure you are prepared before you leave. Plan everything ahead. Enjoy your stay. Make the most of it! Do not hesitate to ask questions when needed.



## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The application process went well, although there a quite a lot of documents you have to fill in and prepare beforehand. Make sure you complete and prepare these before the deadline.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need to contact the University often, but if you do have questions the International Office is always there to help you.

### academic preparation

When choosing the modules I carefully read all the information about them on the Sheffield website, which is quite helpful. I didn't really need much academic preparation.

### language preparation

Generally speaking a language test is not required and my academic English was alright, but I still took a short Legal English course just to understand legal terminology better.

### finances

To be able to go abroad I saved some money, used my DUO grant as well as the Erasmus grant and borrowed some money from my parents. This was enough to stay there and travel around.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took three law courses which I chose beforehand. Fortunately I didn't have to change them and even if you change your mind and decide to choose another one, it's possible during the first few weeks after arrival. There were lectures of each course every week but the seminars were only every two weeks, so a lot of self studying was necessary. The seminars are quite similar to the seminars in Utrecht, where you have to prepare questions and discuss them afterwards. For two of my courses I had to write essays and for the third one there was an exam and an essay.

### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was good, probably similar to Utrecht. There aren't many contact hours, but you do have to do a lot of self study in order to prepare for lectures and seminars. Writing essays and papers is considered quite important as well as giving your own view and opinion on something and discussing that afterwards.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the University of Sheffield was good, there is a main reception at the Students Union and there is always someone who can help you and answer questions from the School of Law.

### transfer of credits

I still haven't received my grades from the exams so I don't know how the transfer of credits will go.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

At the start of the year there is an orientation week, which is organised for mainly international students and an intro week for all (the other) students. The orientation week is a good opportunity to meet other students and there are many different activities you can join, such as day trips, dinners, campus and city tours. During the



intro week you have to register for your chosen modules and there is also an opportunity to change (one of) them.
<b>accommodation</b>
I lived in student accomodation in Encliffe with other international students, which was really fun. My building had ensuite rooms so I had a bedroom and my own bathroom. The communal area was quite nice and I shared the kitchen with 5 other flatmates. The building was mainly occupied by internationals but also a few locals.
<b>leisure &amp; culture</b>
Sheffield has many great pubs and bars, especially West Street is quite popular amongst students as it's where many people go out. The University of Sheffield has a lot of societies you can join, these can be study related societies, dancing, board games, sports societies, anything you could think of. If you're a Resident Life member you can join different sport and exercise classes for free. Citylife Sheffield and Give it a Go also organise many different (day)trips and activities. Sheffield is located close to the Peak District, which is a huge and beautiful national park. Although Sheffield is not really a tourist city, there are quite a lot of things you can do.
<b>suggestions/tips</b>
I would definitely suggest going to the Peak District, there are beautiful viewpoints and you can hike there as much as you like. It's an easy half an hour bus ride as well. Besides that, go travel around and explore other cities and places, like Manchester, Liverpool, York (is a must see!) and Leeds. You can visit all these by train and if you're planning on traveling around by train in general you should get a Railcard, which usually gives you around 30% off of the regular price. Also, PopTarts is a really fun night out and popular amongst Sheffield students. Tigerworks, The Cavendish, The Leadmill, Nottingham Pie House (best British pies!) are worth a visit as well. Every Thursday there is also a Karaoke night at Bar one.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recoment Sheffield as a destination for a semester abroad. Here you will be able to get the full student experience, as the city is a real student city with many social acivities, nights out, good food and beautiful places nearby.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go on exchange, travel as much as you can, get out of your comfort zone and don't hesitate to try new things or join different activities. You can meet so many people and make new friends from all over the world. It's a great opportunity and it's really worth it!

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The process was easy and clear. There was enough information on the web-page of the University. Although I was unable to attend the presentations, I had all the information I needed.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
If there were any questions, the International Office was always there to help.
academic preparation



I followed the Notary track in the Netherlands and was therefore able to pick any course at the receiving University. I choose some criminology courses and an arbitration course.
language preparation
I took an online language course, to improve my English.
finances
I had some savings and used the Erasmus+ grant.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme is a bit different than in the Netherlands. All the courses are thought during one semester. The teaching weeks are divided in seminars and lecturers. The timetable is easy accessible via the University app.
academic quality of education activities
The academic level is, compared to the study load in the Netherlands, less challenging. The seminars are interesting and the teachers have a sufficient level of knowledge. The seminars are interactive so you have to be prepared.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office manager is easy to access and gives great advice. If you are experiencing any troubles during the study, you can get in contact and she will help you out.
transfer of credits
There is a guiding table explain the differences in credits.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I took part in the orientation week, a week before freshers week. This is a great opportunity to make new friends, get to know the city and all of the university buildings. Every day was full of (sports) activities. There are mentors to guide you, so you won't get lost.
accommodation
I applied for University accommodation and was allocated in Endcliffe. Although it was quite expensive, it was clean and near to the city centre. I picked an en-suited room without catering. The room came with a big living room, where we could hang around and have fun. There were also lot of sport activities organised for students living in University accommodation.
leisure & culture



Sheffield is one of the highest populated cities in England. There are some art galleries and cinemas. If you feel more like a big night out, you can go on a pub crawl and end up in West street.

suggestions/tips

bought a railcard, which entitles you to a 35% railway discount. Always book your train tickets in advance, it will save you a lot of money.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

have had a great time in Sheffield. I felt that the University had put great effort in making international students feel at home. The study was interesting and gave me some insights in how law works on an international level. I really liked living on campus and hang around with other international students. If you are interested in British culture, Sheffield is a nice city to go to.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

During your stay, travel as much as possible and make use of the great give it a go trips the Students Union offers.

## 2017 -2018

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process didn't give me any problems at all. Both the sending institution (Utrecht University [UU]) and the receiving institution (University of Sheffield) replied very quickly to my questions and requests for signing certain documents. The University of Sheffield provided me with lots of information about the city itself, tips about (e.g.) finding accommodation. Overall, I would say that the exchange application process went pretty easy and it all was arranged in a short period of time. At the University of Sheffield, a certain English proficiency level is not required. However, what I liked is that they treat you as any other student so you don't get a special treatment. So if you know you're having trouble understanding and speaking English, I would recommend practicing by reading English academic articles, watching English television (with English subtitles) and look for listening and reading exercises online.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU provided me with enough counselling & support and were happy to answer any questions I had before, during and after my stay abroad. All the documents that needed to be signed were returned via e-mail within one day most of the times. In my experience it felt like Utrecht University really wanted me to have a good time while on exchange and did its best to ensure that they could support me wherever they could.

academic preparation

With regard to the academic preparations, I already was provided with a lot of exercise by Utrecht University. At the UU, I did courses like European Law, Comparative Criminal Law and International Organised Crime. So if you're thinking about going to Sheffield (or any University at which the courses are given in English), I would recommend that you choose some English courses at Utrecht already. For all my three courses I did at Sheffield,



I had to write essays for which 'proper referencing' was required. Obviously this is not different from what you are required to do if you write papers and essays at UU, but I would recommend that you already know how to use Google Scholar, online journal and literature databases and the library itself. At the University of Sheffield, they use different reference systems than you are used to at the UU. The School of Law requires you to use either Harvard or OSCOLA. Have a look at the guidelines for these! Tip: The University of Sheffield has a really useful database (StarPlus) which contains the collection of the library, as well as digital versions of articles, books and bookchapters you have to read for seminars and lectures. StarPlus can also be really helpful in finding readings for essays.

#### language preparation

As I mentioned above, it is important that you are prepared to read lots of English texts, listening to lectures by lecturers who are native English speakers and can sometimes speak pretty fast, while making notes like you do at your home university. They don't (and are not supposed to) treat you differently than their native English students. The more you practice, the easier it will get for you to speak, understand and write in English. So in order to prepare for my own stay abroad, one thing I did was watching British television and listening to British podcasts. As most of us are better used to American English, it can be really helpful to get used to British English by watching BBC television shows or the news. The reason for this is that British English has lots of different accents which are sometimes a lot harder to understand than the 'classy' accent of David Attenborough. There are also online tools available to practice your own British English pronunciation. The online Cambridge Dictionary is very helpful to learn the (different) definitions of words and proverbs. It also provides the American English and British English pronunciation to help you to sound a bit less Dutch and a bit more English when you talk to people.

#### finances

Most importantly, I highly recommend that you keep some savings for your stay in Sheffield. Renting a room in Sheffield costs between £400 and £500 on average dependent on where you live, of course. Supermarkets are a bit more expensive than, for example, the Albert Heijn, except for when you decide to live on junk food. I joined PureGym, costing £80 for three months which was the cheapest for that period of time and the facilities PureGym provides. Through the Students Union a lot of nice trips are organised which are good for you to join to get a better and more complete view of the UK and to get to know other (international) students but can be pretty expensive (trip to Scottish Highlands was £200). I also got an Erasmus Grant which I divided into four months as I did not get a job nor did I get a lot of money from my parents.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did did three courses (they call it modules at Sheffield): Environmental Law, Police and Policing in a Global Context and Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice. For all of these I had to do a lot of reading which I summarised each week for the exam at the end of the semester. Obviously you have to come prepared to seminars and lectures, but I would recommend that you try harder while studying abroad because it helps you to better understand both the English readings when the lecturer explains it during the lecture, and completing the readings before a lecture helps to better understand what a lecturer is saying at moments when you don't understand him or her that well. In general, in my experience English students are a bit more disciplined in some way than are Dutch students which makes it more necessary that you are as disciplined as well as them.

With regards to the semester in general, the spring semester has a three-week Easter Break which I used for working on essays and revising for the exam. The exam timetable is announced after the Easter Break but it will probably take place in the last three weeks of your exchange period. Overall, I thought it the difficulty of



<p>studying at Sheffield is a bit higher than at the UU. The exam took three hours and consisted of three big essay questions, which I wasn't used to at the UU.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>All the lecturers at the University of Sheffield are required have a PhD so the overall academic quality at Sheffield is pretty high. They provide you with lots of different insights to think about while answering your seminar questions, essays and exam questions. There is a high noticeable focus on academic research and the lecturers in my modules where actively explaining their own research. Seminar questions very oftenly contain the words 'critically discuss/assess' which really helped me to further develop my ability to look more critically to legal and criminological issues. Furthermore, multiple guest lectures were given in each module which gave me and other students a better view on how their knowledge was brought into practice by people with jobs across the legal system.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>At the University of Sheffield, there are a lot of possibilities to receive counselling and support. There are services provided for people with disabilities, but also language support classes to improve your language skills. The Student Experience office at the School of Law is very helpful if you have any questions about your exchange period, finding accomodation and anything that is unclear. They are very responsive to your e-mails and mostly provide you with an answer within one day (except for weekends and during Easter Break).</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p></p>

<p><b>STUDENT LIFE</b></p>	
<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>	<p>This was a very complete and helpful programme. It was really helpful to get to know the University's buildings and the different facilities offered by the University. During the orientation programme you get to know other international &amp; Erasmus students with whom you can bond and relate to very easily because almost everyone is in Sheffield for the first time in their lives. If you think it's a bit scary to live in another country for some time, I recommend you try to find some people you like right at the start during the orientation programme because it will get a lot more fun if you have friends (who are in the same situation as you are). The orientation programme also was a good possibility to get to know the city of Sheffield and hear about all kinds of fun things to do during your stay. Overall, I would recommend the orientation programme to everyone who decides to study at the University of Sheffield. Note: the University offers accomodation during the orientation programme, which was quite expensive. I already had a room at which I stayed.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>	<p>When you're choosing to study at the University of Sheffield, I would recommend you rent a room somewhere near West Street. During my stay in the 2018 spring semester, a new student accomodation was being built at West Street. This is very near to all of the University's buildings and lots of pubs and bars, the city centre, some supermarkets, Weston Park and tram stops for when it's raining or if you're just lazy and do not want to walk. I rented a room at The Pinnacles - a big student flat complex - on the other (east) side of the city centre. The University is on the west side of the city centre, so I took a nice morning walk of about 25 minutes every morning and walked back after a day at Uni. But if you don't fancy this or if you have a hard time waking up in the morning, I would recommend a place which is more nearby. As I mentioned above, I paid around £460 (£115 p/w) a month for my room which is just about average (£400-£500).</p>



Important to note: Some landlords require that you either have a 'UK based guarantor' (a relative or friend with a certain annual income level and who has been a resident in the UK for at least 5 years) to be able to pay the rent in monthly installments, or that you pay the whole amount of your stay in advance. At my flat, The Pinnacles, a EU guarantor is fine as well.

leisure & culture

There is a lot you can do in and around Sheffield. The Peak District National Park, for example, is pretty nearby. Sheffield also has a rich nightlife with all kinds of different pubs, clubs, (sports) bars and Bar One at the Sheffield Students Union which is very popular among Sheffield students. In the spring semester there are lots of different sports games because of the Varsity between University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University (the other University in Sheffield). You could also take day-trips to Manchester which is a very big and rich city (one hour train ride). Next to the University is the Sheffield Museum which is easy to visit between lectures to learn a bit more about Sheffield and its history.

suggestions/tips

The Common Room - watch sports, have a burger and a drink, play some pool or pingpong  
 The Beehive - quite the same as Common Room, popular place as well  
 West Street Live - very popular place on a night out, cheap drinks and only live music  
 Meadowhall - probably one of the biggest shopping malls you have ever been to  
 Walk at the Peak District and a Sunday Roast at Toby's (£7 for the best Yorkshire Sunday Roast you can get, all-you-can-eat)  
 Tiger Works - also very popular place on a night out  
 The Nursery Tavern - very popular place among students when the sun's shining  
 Leopold Square - cozy square with bars and restaurants to have a date or to take your parents when they come and visit  
 Wilko - cheap store to get all kinds of household items for less than when you buy them at Tesco  
 Yorkshire Pasty - have a quick, tasty and filling lunch. Typical Yorkshire lunch meal: get at Simmonite, Cambridge St.  
 Sunday Yorkshire Roast - nice often cheap Sunday lunch with friends, you can get one at the Botanist (Leopold Square) or at Toby's just out of town.  
 Football game at Sheffield Wednesday or Sheffield United  
 PureGym - 24/7 Gym to compensate those English Breakfasts, Muffins and pasties  
 Boots - cosmetics, toothpaste and everything you need for personal hygiene  
 Nando's - probably the best chicken you have ever had

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, I definitely would recommend a semester abroad at the University of Sheffield. It is a Top 100 University and has one of the best law schools in the UK. The facilities are very good, the library is very complete and helps you to get the best out of your modules. The lecturers are mostly very driven academics and all have years of experience in research and teaching. Sheffield is not an immensely big city like London or Manchester, but provides you with everything you need to live a city life and get a nice UK experience. Sheffield is one of the greenest cities of the UK which makes it a pleasant city to live in. Living in the UK for a while also really helped me in improving my language skills and in developing a sort of natural feeling with speaking English. I have had a very good time in Sheffield and have learned and gained a lot from it, at a social and a professional/academic level. It is perfect if you are worried about getting homesick and still want to have the experience of living abroad.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



If you are going to Sheffield by plane, fly to Manchester Airport: it is the closest to Sheffield by train and it is only a 55 minute flight from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

It takes some time, but they give you good information during the process. So you will find your way.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The communication is very good. They organize information lectures and you can always e-mail or call the international office if you need help.

academic preparation

If you studied at the University, that's enough.

language preparation

You don't need any language certification.

finances

The UK is a bit more expensive than the Netherlands. But you get the Erasmus grant and if you save some money. You can easily come around.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The website give you a good overview of all the available courses. Also the international office coordinator at Sheffield University was very helpful. She send me a list with all available modules.

academic quality of education activities

The quality is good. But it is not that much as at the University of Utrecht. I had a lot of time to prepare my seminars and exams.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They are very helpful.

transfer of credits

As my grades are not available yet and the credits are thus not yet transferred, I cannot say very much about this aspect.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They organize a orientation week for all the international students. It was a really great week. I met all of my friends that week, so I would highly recommend it to participate. They organize a lot of partys, but they also show you around at the University and in the city.

accommodation

You can choose to sign up for univeristy accomodation. You have different kind of appartments. I was a catered student in lived in Stephenson, which means that you don't have a proper kitchen where you can cook, but you eat at The Edge. My room was a bit dusty when I first entered, but after I cleaned it and bought some cosy things, it was okay during my stay. But I would not recommned you to stay in Stephenson but in Birchen



apartments. If you have a room in Birchen, you have your own bathroom and a livingroom/kitchen wich you share with 5 other persons. Most of the Erasmus students stayed at the University accommodation, so that's really nice to meet new people and make friends.
leisure & culture
I think Sheffield is not a really beautiful city. It's really industrial. But the Student Union is really good and organize a lot of stuff, so you won't get boring. Sheffiels has al lott of nice restaurants and pubs!
suggestions/tips

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. The University is really good. They organize a lot of trips, sport activities, movie nights, parties and a lot of other stuff. Sheffields is also in the middle of the country, so it's really easy to travel though the UK.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
the application progress for the university of Sheffield is easy, I had no problems at all. The international office in Utrecht and Sheffield are very friendly and helpful. most of the time the answered my questions within an hour. and you don't have to do any language test to apply for the university.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counsellig & support at the UU is amazing, everything went well. they are very friendly to answer all your questions. Even if you missed a deadline
academic preparation
Did nothing special.
language preparation
To improve my language a bit i did the legal English course at Babel. I would recommend this course it costs only 30 euro and you get 7,5 ECTS for the course. It gives a bit of an advantage during your stay in Sheffield
finances
Beware that accomadation in Sheffield can be a bit expensive, I paid 3000 euro for my room at Allen Court. This is around 600 euro's a month.

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



It is similar to Utrecht, almost the same courses but then with English law. I did law of obligations Law, Contract Law and IP Law. The level of courses are similar to the ones in Utrecht. Only less students and more personal attention from seminar teachers.
academic quality of education activities
similar to Utrecht University, only less seminars
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They both did a great job. I always felt free to ask questions.
transfer of credits
Had no problems

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme is just perfect. Within a day you will feel at home and have a dozens of new friends. In the first week there is an orientation programme for international students with lots of icebreaker events. The second week is called 'freshers week' this week is only partying and partying with your new friends. And in the third week the lectures start and everyone will have a 'freshers flu'
accommodation
Important thing to know is that there are 2 types of accomodations in Sheffield. -university accomodation -private accomodation  Remmember that there are more then enough student accomodations in Sheffield so don't worry. the first option is what most people do, the rent a room at the university accomodation, you will only see freshers and international students in these accomodations. they cost between 500 to 600 euro a months so that is quite expensive. but you have the choice between endcliff park ( if you enjoy long morning walks to the uni) or Allen Court if you want to stay in the city centre.  Second option is a private accomodation. the university can help you with one of those if you arrive in Sheffield. these are much cheaper or more luxiuous. but it will give you some uncertainty.
leisure & culture
The student Union is amazing, at the freshers fair there is the option to choice between hunderds of different societies. there is defenitly one for you. Sheffield is proximity to the peak district. So you can always go for a nice walk. Sheffield offers everything that all the other big cities over as well. lots of cinema's bars, shopping malls.  But the best thing in Sheffield is the Nightlife, it is simply amazing. there are many beautiful pubs, and good nightclubs. English nightlife is something were you have to get used to. People will be much more drunk, almost wear nothing when it is freezing outside, a bit like geordie shore. but nothing can beat the 2 pound for a pint of beer and the 80p vodka shots that you can get in every club.
suggestions/tips
Its hard to get in touch with locals, if you want to do this i recommend you to join a society in the first week.

## CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The uni of Sheffield is a very good and organised university, everything is so well organised. And Sheffield is an amazing city to study with a vibrant student life.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I have taught Dutch to English students who were studying Dutch. this is voluntary but it is a fun thing to do, and you can improve your teaching skills. This cost around 4 hours in a week of your time. but it was totally worth it.

PREPARATION
exchange/placement application process
The process was easy enough when you followed the manuals that are given to you. Both the home and host university were easy to keep in contact with.
counselling/support at home university
The home university was very helpful and provided me with all the information and signatures I needed.
academic preparation
Choosing the classes I was going to follow was a little tricky because the choices were somewhat limited and they changed because not all classes in the course manual were taught in 2017-2018.
language preparation
The English I needed in my own studies was enough to get by with in the UK. It took some getting used to, speaking a different language 24/7, but it certainly improved my English.
finances
The rent was very expensive, 3000 euros payed in full in advance. Luckily, I had money saved up. I didn't need to buy books but spend quite a lot on trips and outings.
STUDY/PLACEMENT ABROAD PERIOD
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Once I knew which courses I wanted to follow, I just took a list with me to Sheffield and during the registration week I registered for them. Two of my classes took place at the same time so I changed classes after the second week.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality was great. There were less contact hours but the level was higher.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation



There was a counsellor in the Law building. You could just knock on her door if you needed anything.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits has not happened yet because there are strikes in the UK. I don't even have all my grades back yet.
<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome/orientation programme
The orientation programme was great. There were a lot of activities to get to know the Students Union, the university and other students. I went to some parties, tried a few sports and joined a gospel choir. After Introduction week, it was time to move in our accommodation and then there was a registration week.
accommodation
The accommodation was expensive but really nice. I had my own bathroom and a big kitchen-Livingroom which I shared with 5 other students. My flatmates were Portuguese, Dutch, Australian and British.
leisure/culture
I loved living on campus. There were so many students from so many different countries. I was mostly surrounded by internationals. That's why I joined a hiking group that organised hikes through the Peak District every weekend and I joined a gospel choir. Sheffield was very central, so visiting other cities was easy and a lot of fun. I visited 12 cities and saw a lot of Christmas markets.
suggestions/tips
Sheffield has a 'give it a go' programme. You can give all sports and clubs a try and see if it suits you before you join. It's a great way to meet the locals.
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I most certainly would. The region is beautiful, the university is very good and the people were absolutely great. I loved hikes through the Peak District, Christmas carolling with the gospel choir and visiting cities with my friends and flatmates.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Make the most of the time you have.

2016-2017

**PREPARATION**



exchange application process
It takes a lot of time, but after a while you will find your in in the process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The communication with the University of Utrecht is really good. You can always call the international office and they willhelp you to solve your problems.
academic preparation
I studied the available courses with interest.
language preparation
nothing
finances
erasmus grant and my parents did save some money for me. The UK is more expensive then the Netherlands. everything is 1,5 times more expensive.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
a had a few problems with the website of the guest university. it takes a while to find out how everything works.
academic quality of education activities
the quality of education is good, but it is still a little bit easier than the courses at the University of Utrrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They will help you if you have a problem.
transfer of credits
my normal bank account in the Netherlands

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The University of Sheffield organized a introduction week for all the international students. They organized a lot of party's and other activity's.
accommodation
The campus was beautifull and the accomodations where fine. It was a good place to live.
leisure & culture
there are a lot of student unions in sheffieldl and they organize a lot of study trips to other city's and country's. there are also a lot of party's at the student union, and the night life in Sheffield is absolutely amazing. If you like to sport there a so many sport facilities that you can use.
suggestions/tips



## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I had an amazing time in sheffield. There are a lot of students in Sheffield. Because of this there is always something going on in Sheffield.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application for studying abroad was a bit stressful, since I did not get selected for the first three choices that I made. That is why I had to choose from the universities that were left over, but this was not disappointing at all, since there were so many lovely places left! For me it was a pretty easy choice to make by then: I really wanted to study in the United Kingdom so that is the main reason that I chose for Sheffield. I have never been to the Northern part of England before so I was never been in Sheffield, but it sounded lovely and the website of the University looked professional, clean and welcoming. On top of all this, I read that the University of Sheffield is said to be very good towards international students.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Personally, I am very pleased by the Utrecht University International Office. I did not have many friends at the moment who were in the same position as I was, having to arrange all the things regarding the studying abroad, so that meant that I had to sort everything out for myself. Luckily, the lovely people from the International Office were always there to help me out when I did not know what to do. I also loved how easily I could contact them: you can just drop by at the Office or e-mail/phone them and it is (even on busy days) never a very long wait. Even when I was already in Sheffield and I needed some advise about anything, it was so easy to phone them or send an e-mail and I would always get an honest and quick response. So really, do not let the amount of things that you have to arrange before going hold you back because it might feel like you have to find it all out on your own but you really do not. There are many people at Uni ready to help you out if there is something you do not understand.

academic preparation

To be fair, I did not do much academic preparation before I went to live in Sheffield. When I was at the point of leaving to the United Kingdom, I was not even sure what modules I was going to follow so there was not much to prepare for me.

language preparation

My English was okay before I left, I had pretty okay grades in high school. I was not great but I also never had any trouble understanding the English lectures at uni and I usually read English books. That is why I did not do much preparation for the language. I thought my English would be good enough to be able to handle it there and after this semester I figured that that is really true.

finances

Something that I underestimated was how much it would cost to stay abroad for a few months. I did not think it would differ so much with the costs that I had in my previous student years in Utrecht but there really were some differences that I overlooked. For example, the student housing in the United Kingdom tends to generally be way more expensive than in the Netherlands. For renting my room only, I had to spent more than (converted from pounds into euros) 150 euros extra each month. On top of that, I obviously could not go back to my parents' home every weekend so I needed groceries and all that for the weekends too instead of just the



weekdays. And besides those basic needs, I wanted to make the best out of my exchange and go travel in the United Kingdom, which obviously also costs a lot of money.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

For my exchange at the University of Sheffield, I went there in my mobility window (30 ECTS of free space in your study curriculum) which gave me great room to pick modules that I liked. As before mentioned, I was not completely sure which modules I was going to follow when arriving in Sheffield and when I arrived there I got to choose from different modules that I applied for before I came.

academic quality of education activities

The University of Sheffield is a highly ranked university (see the QS World University Rankings to see for yourself) and this made my expectations regarding the academic quality very high. While studying there, it was almost immediately obvious that the professors and teachers were very good at their jobs. They were very good at explaining things during the lectures and the seminars, and even more importantly, they were very approachable for students. If students did not understand anything or were getting stuck on their essays or anything, they could easily just pop by the teacher's office to talk to them and they were very helpful. This was for all three courses that I followed, but I know that this policy is a university broad one.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Also at the University of Sheffield they have good help for international students. The International Office can help you out when you need help (even though I preferred just contacting the International Office of the University of Utrecht) or when you need to get some (Erasmus) forms signed.

transfer of credits

As my grades are not available yet and the credits are thus not yet transferred, I cannot say very much about this aspect.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme at the University was period of three days filled with educational, informative and fun activities to learn more about the university itself and the highlights of the city centre of Sheffield and to get to know other international students.

accommodation

It was an option to find University accommodation. Many of my Erasmus friends in Sheffield did this and when I visited, I noticed that the rooms looked good (there was always a private bathroom) and the kitchens/living rooms were also nice. Personally, I found accommodation that was not from University. I too had my own bathroom and I shared the kitchen with only one roommate, which was really nice. My advise would be to either find University accommodation or to find private accommodation that is close to the University. Nobody really uses a bike there, so you do have to walk everyday or take the bus, so make sure you are not too far from University.

leisure & culture

Where Sheffield is said to be not a very beautiful city (and i kind of disagree on this one, just go take a look at the amazing Town hall!), it is a very fun place. If you're in the city centre, definitely pay a visit to the beautiful Town Hall, which is if you ask me the most beautiful building of the city. Next to it is a beautiful botanical garden with a museum and some lovely pop-up shops, do not forget to go there as well. There are also a lot of nice restaurants that are very budget friendly. Something I noticed during my time in Sheffield is that British



people love deals, so for example on Monday you can eat at some restaurants for 50% of the full price or you can get a pizza for only 5 pounds. This makes it possible for people that have to watch their budget a little to have a lot of fun nights out and dinners out of the house, which is really good for students. Also, there are a lot of amazing bars where you can get lovely cocktails (there are also a lot of 2-4-1 promotions at some bars, that is the British people again with their deals!). If you would like to see a list of good restaurants and bars, send me an e-mail and I'll write some down for you!

suggestions/tips

For shopping, I would not recommend going to the city centre of Sheffield, there are only a few shops there. It is better to go to Meadowhall, which is just out of the city. It is a very big mall with nice restaurants too that you can reach by tram from the city centre, this will only take you 20-25 minutes and it is definitely worth it if you want a fun day off. I would recommend avoiding the weekends, as it tends to get extremely busy then.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

The University of Sheffield is a great university for everybody that loves the United Kingdom and wants to discover the northern part of this amazing country. Apart from the very good location, the University is really good in my opinion. Not only is the welcome for international students really good, also the quality of the lectures and seminars is very high. A good thing about this is that even though you learn a lot in the seminars and the lectures, the exams at the end of the semester are not so difficult.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would definitely recommend going to study at the University of Sheffield for a while to other students. Studying abroad in general is a really good idea if you ask me and it is definitely not just for the people that have always been very adventurous or something. I am a very home bound person that never had been away from the house for over two weeks but this experience was so good and I have never regret it for a second. There is something really cool about feeling at home in a city that is so far from your actual home.

## preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application process is easy to follow. The site of the UU gives you enough information to make a well-informed decision about your destination. Also it indicates clearly which step you first have to do and when the deadline is. The UU site publishes student reports and university sheets and this will give you a good picture of every destination. I do recommend to start on time, because you have to send some information to the UU and they not always answer directly. Sheffield was not my first choice, but now I am really happy that I went there.

counselling/support at home university

The counselling and support at the UU is very good. The University has information lectures/events and sends emails about studying abroad. The UU really helps you with any problem you have before and during you stay abroad. It is possible to contact the International Office during office hours, by mail or by calling. They reply very quickly, so don't be afraid to ask for support.

academic preparation



I did not do any specific academic preparation and this was also not required.
language preparation
It was not required to do a language course, but I wanted to be sure that my average level of English was good enough. Also there is a difference between English speaking and English academic writing. I found it hard to write academic English, so it might be good to prepare yourself.
finances
If you apply for an exchange programme, you have to make a financial plan. This really helped me to see how much money I needed. The Erasmus grant and the OV compensation ensures you that you already have some money to start with, but this is not enough. The UK is an expensive country, so make sure you have some savings. I used some savings, the Erasmus grant, the OV compensation and the government grant (studiefinanciering) and this was enough to cover all my expenses. Also there was for me the advantage of a low exchange rate, because of the Brexit. However, I will not assume that this remains. I stayed on campus and this was much more expensive than a private accommodation. So if you want to save money, try private accommodation.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
In the beginning of September, I received an email about my provisional selection of module choices. At the end, I didn't do all the provisional modules, because it was not possible to follow some. During the first three weeks of each semester the University of Sheffield uses an add/drop system, where it is possible for you to add and drop modules that you have chosen previously as part of registration processes. This system was very easy to use and it made it possible for me to change my modules. I ended up with three modules: The Rehabilitation of Offenders, Internet Crime and The Foundations of International Law. All my modules were third year modules.
academic quality of education/placement activities
A school year is organised in two semesters instead of 4 periods. Therefore, you will follow 3 courses and you only have exams at the end of the semester. During the semester, it is possible to have coursework in the form of an essay. The academic quality is almost equal to those at the UU. The seminars for my courses were once every two weeks and it lasted only an hour. So I had a lot of free time, but you definitely need the free time to study. The seminars were with a small group of people (10-15 people) and there were question you had to prepare before the seminar. Often those questions contained discussion questions.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The International Office at the law faculty is very helpful. I received a lot of emails from them before my stay in Sheffield. Literally, everything was already in place before my arrival. They are also very friendly and responded quickly. Also the Student Advice Service in the Students Union can provide you with support and advice to help



you resolve your problems. If you have any IT problem, there is a service called CiCS. For every problem, the university of Sheffield has a service.

#### transfer of credits

I have not yet received my transcript of records, but I don't think this gives difficulties.

### student life

#### welcome/orientation programme

Before the start of the semester, it was possible to attend the orientation week. This week was specially organised for international students, so that we could meet some international people before the semester started. I didn't attend that week and I still regret it, because it was harder to learn new people in the introduction week, because everyone already knew each other. However, everyday of the introduction week they have parties, sport activities and more. I received a lot of emails from the University about the orientation and introduction programme, so I was well informed about all the possible activities around the University. In addition, the introduction week gives you the opportunity to fully register for your courses and other administration.

#### accommodation

The University of Sheffield has different options for housing. It is possible to live in a private accommodation or in a University house. The University cannot guarantee accommodation and they have a limited number of beds reserved for Erasmus programme students, but if you don't get a house the University will help you find one in the private sector. I ended up living in a University accommodation in Endcliffe Village. Endcliffe is a student village for first year students. Every student in first year lives in Endcliffe or Ranmoor. The house, I lived in, was a house with only (about 60 people) international/Erasmus students. The accommodation was catered, so I received every week money on a card to buy food. The food is a bit different than we are used to, but it is nice that you don't have to spend a lot of time to prepare a meal. Living in a university accommodation is really nice, because if for instance something is broken, they will fix it immediately and every week there is a cleaner. However, university housing is a lot more expensive than private housing.

#### leisure/culture

At the start of a new study year, the university has a lot of activities for free. There is also the opportunity to join a society, because a lot of societies offer a membership for one semester. There is literally for everyone something, because the university has more than 300 societies. Also there is the possibility to go on city trips with VIVA or Give It A Go. Those trips are not very expensive, which makes it very easy to get involved. In addition, the Students Union organises several parties during the week.

#### suggestions/tips



Join a sport society or another society. It will make it much easier to meet new people and to do activities apart from study. Also this will give you a good opportunity to meet English people, because a lot of events are organised for international students only and most of the times you live with internationals.

### conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend the University of Sheffield to others. I really enjoyed my stay and I have made friends for life. If you like to live in a student-city in England this will be the best option. Everything, is well organised for the students and they even have Varsity!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go on exchange! It is totally worth it.

### preparation

exchange/placement application process

The process of application was easy. You just had to upload the required documents and then, after a couple of weeks, you knew if you could go to the university you had applied for. The information meetings from the international office are also very useful because there you will hear a lot about the deadlines for application, other things you must keep in mind and, also very interesting, other students who have been on an exchange will tell you about their experiences abroad.

counselling/support at home university

The support from the UU was very good. If you had any questions you could go to the international office or just call them. The information meeting and pre-departure meeting were both very nice just to get some more information about going abroad and about everything you had to know before going abroad like the learning agreements and the Erasmus grant.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation before I went to Sheffield. But it might be useful to read something about the law system in the UK because that is completely different from the law system here in the Netherlands.

language preparation

I did not do preparation for the language because I did not think that it was necessary. In Sheffield it was sometimes a little bit difficult to understand the people because some of them have a very strong accent, but you will get used to it. I also needed to get used to legal English because that was very different from normal



English. But you will be reading, speaking and listening to it a lot so you will get used to that within a couple of weeks.

finances

It is pretty expensive to study abroad, but I saved some money before I went to Sheffield and I applied for the Erasmusgrant. On the website of the university of Sheffield there is also an indication about how much they think you will spent every month.

### study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

Before I went to Sheffield I had to choose my modules. I had to choose three modules out of a list with a lot of different modules. Then, a couple of weeks before the exchange I got an e-mail with the modules I had to follow. They were not all the same as my first choices for the modules, but the other modules were also very interesting. In the introduction-week in Sheffield, at the registration, it appeared that there was a problem with one of my modules because it did not have enough credits, so I had to drop that module and choose another one. I did the modules Law Relating to private companies, Advanced law of contract and Copyright and related rights.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education is good. I think you can compare it with the education in Utrecht. For each course you have lectures and seminars. Every week, there were lectures for the modules that I followed. The seminars were not every week, but only six of them for each module in the whole semester. For two of the modules I had a 100% exam and for the other one I had a 50% essay and a 50% exam. So you do not have a lot of exams, but you will get the chance to hand in a non-assessed coursework to find out if you really do understand what you are learning.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The support at the university of Sheffield was good. It was always possible to ask if you wanted to know something and they were really quick in answering questions.

transfer of credits

At this moment I do not have my transcript of records yet, so I do not know how this goes.

### student life

welcome/orientation programme

In the week before I had to be in Sheffield, the university of Sheffield had organised an orientation week. They had organised a lot of activities like city tours and university building tours that were very useful if you are new in a city. They also organised a lot of activities to get to know other students better like icebreaker games and there were of course some activities just for fun like movie nights and parties. It was really nice to go to this



week because then you have the chance to get to know the city, university and other people before you will be very busy with arrange everything for university.

accommodation

I lived in university accommodation. In the first days (orientation week) I had a different room than the room where I lived the rest of the semester. The rooms in Endcliffe (where I lived) were really nice. Everyone has his/her own room with bathroom and a shared kitchen/livingroom. We even had cleaners every two weeks. There was also a maintenance service and security. I lived in an apartment with 5 other international students and I really liked that. Everyone who lives in university accommodation is also allowed to follow the activities from residence life, like sportclasses for example. Most of the activities are for free and some are for a really small amount of money. From Endcliffe, it was 20 minutes walking to the university and around 35 minutes to walk to the city centre. But there are also busses of course.

leisure/culture

There is a lot to do in Sheffield. In the introduction week there are different fairs to look around if you want to join a society or a sportclub. But even if you do not want to join something there is still a lot to do. The student Union of Sheffield is always organizing a lot of parties and daytrips. For example, I have been to Chatsworth house, Alnwick Castle and Cambridge. Beside that, Sheffield is next to the Peak District where you can make really nice walks and there are also a lot of other cities in the UK that are nice to visit.

suggestions/tips

I think that it is really good to go to the orientation week because then you still have a lot of time to find out where everything is, how everything works and to meet new people. And the daytrips of the students union are also really nice.

One tip for the accommodation: There is furniture in the apartments/rooms, but you have to take care of your own bedding, pots/pans and all that kind of things. It can be easy to take some basic things with you from home. I did not do that and it was a little bit stressful to get/buy everything on the same day as you arrive.

**conclusions**

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend the University of Sheffield. There are so many things organised for the students, there is really something for everyone. I also think that the education and support are really good. I really can say that I had a great time Abroad!

do you have any additional advice or comments?



<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process was very clear and straightforward. I would recommend future students to start quite early with filling in the forms and sending them to your home university and to the receiving university, because it takes a bit of time to collect everything you need.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The International Office was really helpful. They organise events, walk-in-hours and Q&A sessions. They helped me with every question I had in person or through email. If you are having doubts, problems or questions, you should definitely go to the International Office because they will be able to help you with everything.
academic preparation	
	Since the UK has a common law system I would advise to read about the basics of common law in advance to understand your courses better. It is also useful to know a bit about the UK politics. Before I went on exchange I took the course Comparative Constitutional Law at the UU and the things I learned from that course turned out to be pretty useful for my understanding of the system in the UK.
language preparation	
	I did not do any language preparation, because I was confident enough about my English.
finances	
	First of all, the UK is really expensive so please keep that in mind when setting up your financial plan. I will give you an idea about my finances during my semester abroad: I went abroad in my third year, so I received monthly money from the government (studiefinanciering). Since the UK was a part of the EU during my semester abroad I was able to apply for an Erasmus grant, this was about €270 per month. It is also a good idea to ask for travel allowance (about €100 per month) instead of your free travel card. Before I went, I saved a couple of hundred euros to be sure I had enough money to travel around while I was in Sheffield and I loaned some money every month just in case. The most expensive thing in Sheffield for me was university accommodation (I will talk about this later), it was around €800 per month and you have to pay it all in once. Other things you have to take into account are your journey to and from Sheffield, trips you want to make with your new friends, books you have to buy, groceries and going out (not only the drinks are expensive but you have to buy tickets for almost everything). I will be honest: all my money is gone, but it was totally worth it. You are not going on exchange to save money, but to make new memories. The UK is expensive, but with a good financial plan you will be fine.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I took three courses at the University of Sheffield: Punishment and Penal Policy, Public Law in the UK and EU and World Trade Law. Each course was worth 20 Sheffield credits which is the same as 10 ECTS. You choose the courses prior to your arrival, but you can change them at the module enrolment event in Sheffield. Once you are able to choose, you will receive an email which describes the steps you need to take. The overall procedure is very clear. The timetables are a bit different from what you are used to: seminars take place every two weeks, not every week. You do, however, have lectures every week. The exams are at the end of the semester and most of them are 100%.
academic quality of education activities	
	The courses require a slightly different method of studying than you are used to at the UU, but there are differences. You have to read a lot of literature for every lecture and seminar. The literature does not come from only one book, but from a variety of books and journals. It takes some time to get used to finding all the different sources online and in the libraries, but you will get used to it. In the beginning I tried to read



everything, but after I while I figured out that you can be more selective when it comes to reading. The exams are also a bit different from you typical exam at the UU. The questions are more essay-like rather than problem questions.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the University of Sheffield is really good. Every teacher has weekly office hours and the receiving international office guides you through everything. Not only the academic staff is there for you, the University of Sheffield has the best Students' Union of the entire UK (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey) and they have so many helpdesks that there is even a help desk if you do not which help desk you should go to.

transfer of credits

My exam results are available at the 8th of July, so at this time I cannot tell you about the transfer because it is too soon. The grading system is different in the UK and I do not know how my grades will be transferred. I was not able to find some sort of table with the UK grades and the comparable Dutch grades, so I will just have to wait. It would be great if the UU Law department could make a table to make it clear in advance.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

There are three introduction days before the start of the second semester. If you plan on studying at the University of Sheffield, you should definitely go because it is a great way to get to know the city and the university and to make friends with all the other exchange students. If you plan on living in university accomodation you have to find a place to sleep for these couple of days, since your contract will not start untill the last day of the introduction. Since Sheffield does not have a lot of hostels (none in the city centre) and hotels are quite expensive, I would recommend staying at an Airbnb.

accommodation

The University of Sheffield has their own accommodation. I stayed at Allen Court, that is the campus in the city centre next to the university. Besides Allen Court the University also has Endcliffe and Ranmoor, both about a 25 minute walk away from the university. Allen Court has the best location, but it is smaller and less campus like than the other two. University accomodation is expensive (about €800 per month), but it is really really good. You have your own bedroom with a little bathroom and you share your kitchen and living room with your flatmates. There was a gym in my building, a laundry room, the reception was open 24/7 and there was security. Also, when you live in university accommodation you get discounts on various things, for instance the day trips from the Students' Union (Give it a go). When you want to apply for university accommodation, I would recommend doing it as soon as possible. Students from the EU are not guaranteed accommodation, but if you make sure you apply early everything will be fine. The other option is living in private housing. This is cheaper generally speaking. I chose for university accommodation, because I wanted to experience the campus life and I did not want the uncertainty of looking for your own place.

leisure & culture

Student life in Sheffield is amazing and Sheffield is known for this. There is so much to do: going out, various parties, sports, societies for pretty much everything, day trips and more travelling. When you are on exchange, you want to make the most of it and everybody around you has the same feeling. You can go on a lot of organised day trips (with either Viva of Give it a go) or you can go and explore the UK on your own. For instance, I went to Stonehenge, Bath, Cardiff, York, London, Liverpool, the Peak District and more. You should definitely go to the Peak District, a beautiful national park next to Sheffield. The University of Sheffield has the best Students' Union of the UK. It has help desks, shops, restaurants, bars, night clubs and so much more. There are parties in the Students' Union pretty much every night, from techno to retro pop and karaoke for instance. But Sheffield offers more than the Students' Union, you should also check out the city centre. There a lot of



good pubs and clubs there. Sheffield is also known for its music, for instance the Arctic Monkeys are from Sheffield. Sheffield offers so much and you should definitely make use of this!

suggestions/tips

Studying in Sheffield, and the UK in general, will be expensive, but it is totally worth it. You are only on exchange once so make the most of it!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this university to others. The guidance, teachers, academic quality and housing are all really good. But the thing that sets Sheffield apart from the rest is its student experience. The University of Sheffield ranks really high when it comes to this and they put in so much effort to make all the international and exchange students feel at home. Everything is so well organised and everybody is so friendly. During my semester abroad I fell in love with Sheffield and I definitely want to go back.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I said enough about Sheffield and its university by now. One last thing I want to emphasise is no matter where you go, a semester abroad is one of the best decisions you can make as a student.

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy. The website states very clearly what forms you should submit, e.g. a financial plan and a letter of motivation. Then, I just had to fill in some forms on Osiris and that was it. Sheffield was my first choice, so I was very happy when I heard that I could actually go there. What I really liked was that I could read other students' experiences at that particular University. This helped me in my choices majorly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling at the UU was good. There were multiple information nights at which students got the opportunity to ask questions. The international officers are very friendly and always prepared to help. Furthermore, the website is really clear so you can find out a lot of things yourself if you don't want to go to the international office.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation, except reading in a bit on the United Kingdom as a whole.

language preparation

The only language preparation I did was submitting the mandatory OLS test of the Erasmus programme. However, the results of this test do not influence your application to the university. They are just used by the European Union to measure your knowledge of the language of the receiving university.

finances

I felt like the Erasmus Grant and the OV-vergoeding were not enough by far to cover all my costs, but they did make a difference. The financial plan definitely helped me to get some insight in the costs that come along with an exchange. However, the pound had a really high value during my stay in the UK so I spent much more than intended. I think it is really smart to save up as much as possible before you go, because you are always going to spend more than you think! Not necessarily on academics but also on trips and fun activities, which you should



definitely do since you are there and it is the perfect opportunity to do so. What also helped was the fact that I still received my DUO study allowance during my exchange, which is also another 280 euros.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before my departure, I already had to submit the courses I wanted to follow to the UU. When I arrived at the University of Sheffield, we had to register at some point and say which modules we wanted to follow. It turned out that one module I had submitted before was not available in this semester, so I changed to another module. I ended up doing three modules: Punishment and Penal Policy (2<sup>nd</sup> year module) Public Law in the UK and the EU (1<sup>st</sup> year module) and Principles of Healthcare Law and Ethics (3<sup>rd</sup> year module). The application process at the University of Sheffield is really well guided and not complicated at all. We could still change our modules up until two weeks after arrival. This came in handy for a lot of students that did not like the modules they were following or who had some overlap in their courses. The International Officer at the University of Sheffield is really friendly and always prepared to help.

### academic quality of education activities

I really liked the modules I had chosen, even though the Public Law module was a bit boring because it was a first year module and I had already followed some public law modules at the UU. I had not expected the way of education to be very different from the UU but it was. Each module only had 1 or 2 lectures per week, and a seminar every other week. The reading was mostly very extensive. Also, the seminars were much more focused upon students giving their opinion and students critically reflection upon the subjects. I did not feel like the modules were harder than the ones I did at the UU, but just different. Also, the examinations often take place in the form of an essay. You really are required to give your opinion and argue for it, and you need to be up-to-date with the subject. In the few weeks before the final exams, I spent a lot of time in the library, which is open 24/7 and every day year round except for Christmas Day. However, before those last stressful weeks I did not do more than I would have done at home, and there was enough time to do a lot of nice trips and enjoy the student life fully.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at the University of Sheffield is absolutely amazing. There is the SSiD, a student help desk, and they can help you with any questions you have. Also, there are multiple helplines which you can call, even during the night. During exam time, there are all kinds of stress-relief courses and activities you can do. I think the support at the University of Sheffield was better than the support at the UU. I also felt like the teachers were really willing to help with any problems.

### transfer of credits

I have not received my transcript yet so I have not transferred anything yet, but I am sure it will be fine.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was very well organised. I received emails weeks before it started and they contained the programme and a lot of information. The orientation programme in the Spring Semester is not as extensive as the one in the Autumn Semester, but still very helpful. It lasted for three days, but those days really help you get used to the University and your fellow students. We had a lot of lectures which covered the University's ways of helping their students and which explained the application and registration progress. We even had a lecture about safety in Sheffield, given by a police officer. Also, there were a lot of students present who helped us and who could answer any questions. Furthermore, the orientation programme was really about getting to know your fellow Erasmus students. I met some of my good friends those days and so many more



people! I would really recommend talking to as many people as possible during those first few days. It was really fun.

accommodation

I chose to apply for University accommodation on campus. It is true that the campus accommodation is expensive, but I think it is totally worth it. I was one of the few students who was placed in a house with only British students. At first I was disappointed, because most Erasmus students on campus are put in houses together. However, my roommates were really nice and it turned out that some of the people I hung out with lived just one floor under me, so I spent a lot of time there. My room was quite big and I had my own bathroom which is really convenient. Also, the campus is located in a very good neighbourhood and has its own park, which is awesome in summer! What I also liked about living on campus was that there is a 24/7 accommodation helpdesk. They can help you if anything is not working or if you have any questions. Furthermore, there is a bar/restaurant on campus, and a lot of sports classes are given on campus, free for the students who live there! I think, in the end, it really depends on your roommates whether you have a good time at your accommodation, but there is a big chance if you apply for campus accommodation that you end up between other Erasmus students and you are sure to get a clean and good accommodation.

leisure & culture

The University of Sheffield has the best Student's Union of the UK. The Union is a really big building with a lot of restaurants, information desks, a nice coffee place, a supermarket and just places to hang out, just for students of the University of Sheffield. I think the Student's Union was great and really convenient! Sheffield is a city with a lot of students. As I said, the campus neighbourhood is nice. However, the city centre is not very pretty nor interesting. There are many shops, but do not expect a typical English city charm. There are some nice bars though, which we visited multiple times a week. Also, the Student's Union has its own bar and club, and they are definitely worth going to because there are so many students and some of the parties are really good! The nightlife in Sheffield took a while getting used to, but we ended up having a lot of fun there and it's really quite unique. Sheffield is surrounded by Peak District National Park, which is amazing! It is so beautiful, and very suitable for hiking, trips and there are many cute villages. Also, Manchester and Liverpool are quite close to Sheffield, as well as Leeds, Chester, York and so on. The Student's Union organises a lot of trips, which are relatively cheap. Near Sheffield there is a huge shopping mall called Meadowhall, which is also worth a visit.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend joining a society, no matter which one. It allows you to meet also British students, not only internationals. International students will probably be the ones you hang out with most of the time, but it is also cool to get involved in British culture! The societies are really open and friendly. Also, I did a Spanish Language course through the Student's Union, with the Give it a Go programme. This programme contains a LOT of activities and fun things to do, and you should definitely take part in it as much as possible. Also, I would advise you to talk to as many people as possible from day one, as you will meet a lot of cool people and hopefully make friends this way.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I definitely recommend going to the University of Sheffield. At first, I thought the city was a bit of a bummer, because of the rough atmosphere. However, the University itself is amazing and has so many facilities. There are a lot of international students in Sheffield, which makes you feel at home instantly. Also, Sheffield is very nicely located and has a lot of parks, so especially if you will be there in summer this is very convenient! I found that the people in Sheffield are very friendly overall and always willing to help. The nightlife and student life is different from the Netherlands but once you accept that, it is fun and you will have a great time. Compared to other cities in the UK, living in Sheffield is relatively cheap.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

While you are there, go on trips to discover the UK! The landscape is really beautiful and of course London, Edinburgh and cities like Cambridge are worth a visit. Last but not least: make sure you are open to meeting other people. Whether you enjoy your exchange depends mostly on the people you meet and the friends you make! The introduction period is there to help you get in touch with others, so use that. I made some really good friends, and I went on trips with them, chilled with them, studied with them etc. It will really make your exchange so much better if you put in an effort from day one to be social and enjoy meeting people from different cultural backgrounds. So go to any party you are invited to and just enjoy! It will be the experience of a lifetime.

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is very clear. Already in the beginning of the year, there are information evenings about studying abroad. They already tell you what you need to do for your application and what the deadlines are. If you follow everything strict, it is very easy to apply for an exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at the UU was really good. The people of the International Office are so kind and always want to help. I asked so many questions by email and by phone, but they never got bored of me and always answered quickly and clear.

academic preparation

I did not really do any academic preparation.

language preparation

I did not really do any language preparation. Since I had a gap year when I was 18, my English was fine already.

finances

I did save some money in the summer prior to my exchange. I would definitely recommend this to other students, since the UK is a very expensive country. Just the loan of the Dutch government and the erasmus grant is absolutely not enough!

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed three modules in Sheffield: Drugs, Crime and Control, Understanding Criminology and Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice. I had to choose the modules before I went to Sheffield. The website of the University of Sheffield is very clear and helpful, when I wanted to choose my modules, I just googled and found a list of undergraduate modules of the Faculty of Law. I decided to choose Criminology modules, since I've always been interested in criminology and I wanted to give it a try. Also because I thought 'normal' law modules would may be too difficult, due to the common law system. Also, I changed one module when I arrived in Sheffield. So if you're not 100% sure yet when you're still in the Netherlands, that is not a problem at all. I was very happy with my modules. If you are doubting, I could absolutely recommend the 'Drugs, Crime and Control' one. It is about different law systems about drugs in the world and it is very interesting. I absolutely loved the way of teaching in Sheffield. For example, in the drugs module, only 30 students chose to do this module. Therefore, you really get to know the teacher since he does all the education. It is very more individually than in Utrecht, which I really liked. I studied a lot when I was in Sheffield, but I liked it.



academic quality of education activities
The education was of very high academic quality. Each module had a lecture every week and a seminar every other week. This means you will not have a lot of contact hours. However, I spend a lot of time in the library since it was a lot of work. In the seminars we were with a small group of people and had to prepare some tasks on forehand. Most of the time it contained discussion questions. Therefore the preparation was not very hard, since you can always think of something to say in a discussion, even without preparation. I had to write an essay for each module, which contained 50% of the endmark. In the beginning I was really afraid I could not do it, since the assignment seemed very difficult. However, in the end I all finished them with a really good mark and learned sooo much of doing it! It is really hard to write a paper of 3000 words in academic English when you have never done that before, but you'll get better every day and it is a really good exercise.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everyone in the University of Sheffield is so nice. Wherever you are, they will always help you the best they can. The international office is very helpful, as well the staff of the library, as well the people in the coffee counter. Also, you can fix ANYTHING at the University. I even bought my tramcard at the University. They absolutely help you with everything, absolutely amazing.
transfer of credits
I did get my credits right on time via a online link. It al went very smooth.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
The University of Sheffield has an orientation week and introduction week/freshers week. Together they will last two weeks and it is absolutely AMAZING. In these weeks there is a party every night, and the orientation week team made such a good program for the days. There are information meetings, ice breaking hours, tours around the campus and university, bbq's, high tea's etc etc etc. You can buy tickets for every event, so you can decide for yourself to which events you want to go and to which not. In this weeks, I met all my friends I've been friends with the whole semester. I even think these two weeks were the best of my whole semester abroad. Very well organised as well, I would defenitely recommend to do this!
accommodation
Almost all the freshers (first year students) stay on campus at Endcliffe. I totally freaked out when I was preparing my semester abroad and found out that the campus was about 750 euro's a month. That is why I decided not to apply for a place on campus. I did apply for a place on campus during the orientation week, because this was only for the first week. I thought it would be good to have accomodation for this week, and my plan was to seek for other accommodation in this week. Although the University of Sheffield even hosted a 'House Hunting Event', I found out it was VEEERY difficult to find a house. The problem is that landlords do not want to give you a contract for 6 months. So they only give you 12 months, and then you have to make sure you will find someone else to go in to your room after 6 months. I thought this risk was too big, so I did not want to take 12 months contract. In summer I already signed up for all the 'Sheffield groups' on facebook, hoping I would find a room. However, I still did not have a room when I left the Netherlands. In the first days I found a room on Facebook in a house with another Dutch girl, 2 German girls and one Spanish guy. When I saw the house, I immedeatly felt in love because it was so beautiful. (the campus rooms are absolutely horrible to see) The only thing was that it was 650 euro's a month as well, still way too much. I searched for a bit more, but after a few days I decided to take this room, since I could not find anything else. The advantage was that it was such a nice room and that it was near the city centre. The campus is far far far away. However, since EVERY erasmus student lives on the campus, it was sometimes very hard to go to parties at the campus because it was about 45 minutes away. In conclusion, I don't really know what is the best to recommend. I loved to live near



the City Centre and in a beautiful house, but sometimes I was a bit too far away from my friends who all lived on the campus.
leisure & culture
Sheffield itself is not a really 'beautiful' city. However, it is absolutely vibrant and it always lives. The going out life is big, there are a lot of nice bars, pubs, restaurants and parks, and the surrounding Peak District (a beautiful National Park) is lovely. Also it's place in the country is amazing, since it is so in the middle. I did a lot of trips, for example to Whitby, Oxford, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester and London. The university had a program called 'give it a go', which organizes daytrips and weekend trips to other cities. I would definitely recommend to do this, it was always well organized and cheap to do. Furthermore, the University has about 350 societies (pokemon society, vegan society, dance society, golf society, cooking society, debating society, asian society, etc etc etc etc etc) and 150 sport societies, they have EVERYTHING you can think of. This is really amazing, since it gives you the opportunity to try a total different sport for example.
suggestions/tips
Drink a cocktail at Wodka Revolution! Find out all the amazing restaurants at Ecclesall Road! SIGN UP FOR ORIENTATION WEEK!!!! Join a society! Do a lot of day trips!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
YES! I was so happy with my choice to go to the University of Sheffield. The University is amazing, they organise everything you can think off. The city is a real student city, which makes it a lot of fun. There is always something fun going on. From here you can do loads of day trips and discover the whole country. Everything on the University is well organised. I think it is the best combination of studying and having fun. I really did study a lot and had fun doing it, but on the other hand I did so many day trips and went to a lot of parties. Everyone will make the best of his/her semester abroad when chosing Sheffield!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I think I've said everything I wanted.

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process was elaborate, but the information was very clear. I was very glad to have the reports of other students who previously went on exchange. This was very helpful to make an informed decision, even though all the reports were enthusiastic and recommended their own location. Sheffield was my first choice and I am very glad I got to go there.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very helpful! I got a bit stressed at some point because I lost the overview of what to do and when, but they were very helpful and always responded quickly.
academic preparation
I did not do any specific academic preparation and this was not needed.
language preparation
I knew my English was good enough so I did not do any language preparation. I had no problems whatsoever during my stay.
finances



I got the Erasmus grant, my study grant ('uitwonende beurs') and a public transportation compensation. In addition, I had money from my parents and the money I saved beforehand. This was sufficient.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The choices for international students were a bit limited in comparison to the English students, but that made sense, especially for law students. I had chosen three modules beforehand and was placed in all three. Within the first three weeks you were allowed to add and drop modules (if there was space available). I dropped and added one module because I realised the third year English Law module might be too complicated without any English law experience. This was very easy to do.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was high, although there are of course differences between the teachers. Overall, I really enjoyed the lectures and seminars and especially the discussions that were encouraged.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office and the Student Service were both very helpful and responded quickly. Everything was very well organised, and if you had any questions, they were always more than happy to help.

transfer of credits

I have no results yet, so no approval yet either, but I expect that it will work without major issues.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Because I arrived for the Spring semester, the introduction period was shorter than the one for the Fall semester. It was still very nice and I would definitely recommend going there! It was a nice combination of informative and fun activities. The only issue was that you couldn't access the university accomodation during this period because the students from the first semester were still staying there. There are fortunately more than enough hotels etc and they do inform you well in advance, so this was not a big issue for me.

accommodation

I applied for University accomodation, because this seemed easiest and most practical. It is not the cheapest, but it is well organised and the quality of housing is very decent. Be aware of the fact that applying doesn't guarantee a place, but there are a lot of private possibilities in case you need it. I lived in Endcliffe, a student village mainly for first years and international students. This was a 25min walk to the uni, which I got used to very quickly. Because of the hills (and the traffic), biking is not really an option, but I did not mind walking, and you could always take a bus if you wanted. I ended up living in an actual house, with 10 other Erasmus students and this was really awesome. We got lucky and got along really really well! A downside of the uni accomodation is that you have to provide cutlery and crockery for yourself but we had one housemate that extended his stay after the first semester and kept all the pots and pans, so we didn't have to buy them. If you do though, it is recommended to buy it together with your house/flatmates because this saves money and is way more convenient. Living in Endcliffe was really nice, it was very pretty (lots of trees and grass fields), close to a lot of shops and a lot of international students lived there, which made it a lot of fun as well.

leisure & culture

Sheffield is not the prettiest city in the UK, but it has everything you will need and more. The uni campus is really close to the city centre, and there are really nice pubs and shops everywhere. The Peak District is gorgeous and really close and the city itself has the most trees per person in the UK (or something like that - lots of trees anyway).



The Students Union is (one of) the best in the UK and organises everything you can think off. Lots of trips and activities with the Give it a Go programme (which is organised very well and reasonably priced), more societies than you can imagine, good parties and lots of really nice places to eat or have coffee. The SU really contributed to my stay in the best possible way!

suggestions/tips

Go to the introduction program, go on as many Give it a Go trips as you can, make the most of the SU, because it really deserves the Nr1 ranking, go to the Skool Disco in Corp (on the cheapest shoes you have because they will get dirty) and visit the Peak District!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

My stay at Sheffield was awesome and I would recommend everybody going there! I had so much fun, learned a lot and made friends for life. Everything is really well organised and people are so nice and helpful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

GO ON EXCHANGE!!! If you are not sure whether or not to go, or where, just GO. I had doubts myself but decided I'd rather regret something I did than something I didn't do and it was really one of the best decisions of my life. It doesn't really matter where you go, because international students are everywhere and they are one of the main reasons that made my exchange as good as it was. Sheffield was awesome and I really enjoyed it, especially because everything was organised so well and you had everything you need.

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

You have to make sure that you do not postpone all the steps of your application process until the last possible moment. You will receive a big amount of emails and taking care of all the administration will take some time. However, if you organise these things well and double check all the steps you have to take I am sure there will be no big difficulties.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support of the UU was great. The orientation and pre departure meetings were very helpful. Really do not hesitate to contact the international office or a study advisor when you have doubts about what you should do! They will probably be able to help you more than you think.

academic preparation

After I knew I was going to study law in the UK I intended to prepare myself for the differences in law systems between the Netherlands and the UK. The preparation I ultimately did was not more than reading some stuff on the internet. However, this did not cause any problems for me. It can be quite challenging the first few weeks but in practice the differences are not that shocking. The most important thing is that you ask the teachers for help in time when you have the feeling that you do not really understand how the system works.

language preparation

I did not do any real language preparation. If you have at least an average level of English for a Dutch student you will probably be more skilled than the average international student in the UK. However, speaking and writing in English on an academic level can be a lot more challenging than everyday talk. What helped me a lot is that I already did some English courses at the UU. Studying in a English speaking country is still different though. The teachers can have pretty strong accents and you can never just switch back to Dutch when you really struggle to explain what you mean. Overall, everybody will be able to manage and overcome their



difficulties. Nevertheless, if you have doubts about your level of English I would recommend to test this and perhaps try to improve because otherwise you might have the feeling that you cannot fully express yourself and show who you are.

finances

Studying in the UK is, compared to the Netherlands and other European countries, a lot more expensive. Please keep this in mind and think thoroughly about your financial plan. I was lucky that I got a lot of money from my Erasmus grant, study grant and OV-grant but this still not covers all the expenses. University housing in Sheffield is very expensive so you can save money by trying to find private housing (although I would definitely recommend University Housing more than private housing if you can afford it).

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

An advantage of the study programma for international students in Sheffield is that there are quite a lot of courses to choose from. However, please note that some courses have prerequisites or recommended introductory courses. A disadvantage is that the University does not work with timeslots that you know in advance, which makes it quite likely that classes of different courses overlap. The fact that it is really easy to drop and add courses in the first few weeks makes up for that a bit. I switched two of the three courses in the first week and ended up doing Public Law in the UK and EU, Property Law and World Trade Law. These courses were all quite doable.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality in Sheffield seemed quite comparable to Utrecht (which is a pretty positive thing if you ask me). I would say that in terms of the work you have to do that Sheffield is a little bit less intense than Utrecht, because you have less seminars and assessments.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at the University of Sheffield was really good. I heard from friends that some universities do not really offer much help but this was certainly not the case in Sheffield. They email you about the administration you have to take care of and they always answer your questions.

transfer of credits

At this moment I do not know my grades yet. It seems that the transfer of credits will go pretty smoothly, because I was emailed two weeks before my exams that I will receive a downloadable form with my grades, which I will be able to send to the UU.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Please try to go to the Orientation programme. For me this was no problem because it started after the exam week of the UU. The orientation programme is handy because it gives you the opportunity to register for the courses you chose and also to take care of some other administration. However, the most important thing about the introduction is that it gives you the opportunity to get to know the other international students before the classes start. This makes you feel a lot less alone in the beginning.

accommodation

The University of Sheffield offers housing which exists of blocks of apartments/flats in a few areas of the city. I ended up living in the Endcliffe village and this was awesome. Because all the other residents are students as well and international students were allocated to live together this really helped me to make friends. Although it was said in advance that you are not guaranteed a house and I got the confirmation only a few weeks before



my departure, I did not hear of anyone having been denied University housing. A disadvantage is that University Housing is a lot more expensive than private housing but if money is not a huge issue for you I would highly recommend University housing because it helps you a lot socially and it also gives you more certainty of a good quality house. Apart from Endcliffe, I also knew people who lived at Ranmoor and Allen Court. Although Allen Court is right in the city centre and Endcliffe a 20 minute walk away, I would personally recommend to list Endcliffe as your number 1 choice because it seemed more fun socially.

leisure & culture

Sheffield is not necessarily the most beautiful city you will ever see. However, it has a lot of nice parks and it is a great vibrant city. Therefore, I was really happy with my decision for Sheffield. Going out is really awesome there and I love the English culture (polite during the day but quite extreme at night). Because of its center position, it is also a very good destination if you want to explore the rest of the UK in your free time.

suggestions/tips

As I said before, I would advise to apply for University housing (if you can afford it) and to go to the orientation week. Sheffield is an excellent choice if the nightlife and the University are important factors for you. Of course I only know how it was in Sheffield, but I believe it might be the best option in the UK.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend Sheffield. It is socially as well as academically a very good destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The application process was described on the website of the UU. This is very helpful, because all the information you need for your application process is provided on the website (forms, deadlines etc.). I read the information carefully and used the university sheets and student reports to choose which university I wanted to go to. I would recommend to start your orientation and application in time, so you have enough time to sort everything out and so you will be able to upload all your documents in time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at the Utrecht University is very good. They organise events in which you get information about going on exchange, and before you go there is an event as well, in which you get a lot of information you will need during your exchange. Besides these events they are very helpful. If there are problems with your application process or if you have questions they are more than willingly to help, and they reply really fast if you ask them questions by email.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation before my exchange. However, the law system in the UK is different from the law system in the Netherlands. This wasn't a problem for me, but it might be helpful to follow a course in which you learn about these differences before you go on exchange

language preparation

I didn't do any specific language preparation for my exchange. Before the exchange I had to do a language test in order to get my Erasmus grant. This language test gave a good indication about whether or not I needed to



do an extra English course as preparation for my exchange. If you don't feel confident about your English, or just want to improve your English before you go I would advise to do a language course, but it is not necessary. I did just fine without one.

finances

I think it is really important to think about the financial aspect of your exchange. You need to make a financial plan as a part of your application process and this is very helpful. On the website of Utrecht University and the University of Sheffield you can find information about the financial aspects of your exchange. For example, they give an indication about the costs of living, accommodation, leisure etc. I would recommend to read this information carefully and to use it when you make your financial plan. In order to finance your exchange you can apply for an Erasmus+ grant, a public transport allowance and maybe a grant from DUO, although I don't know if this is still possible with the new system. On the website of Utrecht University you will find the information you need in order to apply for the Erasmus+ grant.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before you go on exchange you need to choose which courses you want to do. I went one semester, so I had to do three courses. The university of Sheffield sended me an email in which they gave information about the possible courses and how you could enroll in these courses. Once I arrived in Sheffield I had to enroll in the courses definitely. It appeared that one of the courses I chose beforehand was full, so I had to choose another course instead. Also, if you want to change your courses this is possible. The courses I did were Constitutional Law (advanced), Law and Political Philosophy, and Understanding Criminology. I really liked my courses and I would definitely recommend them.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality of the education activities was good. For each course I had lectures and seminars. I would recommend to go to the lectures, because they help you understand the specific subject of the week. The seminars are in smaller groups and you have to prepare some questions for each seminar. It depends on the course what you need to do. In some seminars I had to give a presentation, or do some group work, while in others I just had to prepare some questions. The examination of two of my courses consisted in a 100% exam in January and for my other course I had to submit two essays (30 and 70%). I had the opportunity to submit an exam question halfway through the semester for the two courses for which I only had the 100% exam. This gave a good indication about if I was on the right track and the feedback was very helpful in order to prepare for the exams.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling & support at the University of Sheffield is very well organised. There is a lot of information on their website, which can help you if you have any problems. Besides, there are a lot of places where you can go to if you need any help. During my introduction week I got all the information I needed about where I could go to if I had any questions or problems.

transfer of credits

I haven't received my transcript of records yet, so I'm not able to get into the details of this procedure.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The University of Sheffield organised an Orientation Week for international and exchange students. This was the perfect way to get to know other exchange students, but also to get to know the university. I could go to



information sessions, but also to sports sessions or guided tours. Every evening you could eat together and afterwards there was an activity like a quiz, party or a typical English evening.
accommodation
During my exchange I lived in university accommodation. It is also possible to live in private accommodation, but I wanted to live on the campus. University accommodation is pretty expensive, but also very convenient. I lived together with seven other international students. We shared the kitchen and livingroom and had our own bedroom and bathroom. The accommodation is of high standard. Your common room is cleaned every fortnight and if there are any problems maintenance will come as soon as possible. Moreover, because most of the international students live in university accommodation you get to know a lot of new people.
leisure & culture
The University offers a lot of possibilities. First of all there are a lot societies you can join. A lot of societies offer a one semester membership. There are also a lot of sports opportunities. At the beginning of my semester there was a sports and activities fair, so that was a good way to get to know all the different societies. The university organises a lot of day-trips as well, which I would recommend. Sheffield is located near the Peak District which is very beautiful, so you should definitely go there.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend to participate in the orientation week, because it is a great way to meet new people and to get to know the university and Sheffield. Also, I would recommend to go on as many trips as possible. The university offers a lot of the so-called 'give it a go' trips and they are very well organised. Joining a society is also a great way to meet new people and to get the most out of your stay!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend the University of Sheffield. I had a great time and made a lot of friends. The university offers a lot to exchange students like language classes, and a lot of day-trips. The education at the University of Sheffield is of good academic quality as well. Overall, it was an amazing experience for me!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
-