



University of Victoria, B.C.

2022-2023

PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
There were no major concerns or a lot of work. The application is clear, and if you need assistance, you may always ask for it.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
The drop inn hours at Janskerkhof 2-3 were very useful!
Academic preparation
I take the course Intercultural learning, and watched some YouTube clips. In the first week, I asked my professors if there was anything further, I needed to prepare. (I was going to a land with a common law system, and I had some classes where Indigenous Law was an important aspect). For the most courses, it was not necessary to get extra material to read.
Language preparation
Nothing. I must admit that I struggled a little with English writing first (not that I was horrible, but you had to be directly on a academic level) The professors were helpful and gentle with the writing. My English knowledge (words and skills) have grown significantly during my stay.
Finances (living costs)
It is okay. It is a lot of money; however, it is worth it!

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
<p>The study was not very difficult. However, due to Canada’s diverse legal structure, certain courses were more than difficult than others. Although the level was okay, solid systematic planning is required. You must prepare more for the classes. But of you do your work, you have enough time to do nice stuff.</p> <p>If you struggle to much there is “Centre of Academic Learning who are offering (free) sessions on planning, writing the right way of sources and can help you to make a nice planning!</p> <p>European countries are viewed stricter in their educational organisation. The professors and University were very friendly and were willing to help if I had some questions or if I needed assistance.</p>
Academic quality of education activities
<p>Nice!</p> <p>Variation of lectures, discussion groups, in class exercises and sometimes guest speakers (really cool!)</p>
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
<p>Nice!</p> <p>During the Spring Semester, there were only three other exchange Law students (two from Hong kong and one from Thailand). As a result there was no “big” orientation to the study itself. They did, however, invite us to a lunch and told us everything about the University and Victoria BC,</p> <p>If there are more exchange students in Law, they should usually throw a larger event.</p> <p>There were also some University wide activities.</p> <p>The contact per e-mail with the University was excellent! You were always welcome to e-mail (and you got a quick a response back). Each professor offered the so-called office hours. Those were a kind of drop in meetings. If you had any questions or if there was need for more explanation about a specific topic, you were</p>



always welcome to come.
Transfer of credits
I do not know yet. However, I have still contact with UVic and they are willing to help if necessary.

STUDENT LIFE

Welcome/Orientation programme

Yes, like I said in the part about support.

On Campus, I had another welcoming program from the Residence service. They conducted a welcome weekend on campus (for students who were living on campus) with various activities. During those events, I met some amazing friend all around the world!

Some student associations also held some welcome activities.

I know that the first semester has more welcome activities!

Accommodation

I had a room on campus. For me, it was extremely beneficial and worthwhile; because a lot of close friends were living on Campus. The campus is secure (campus security is available 24 hours a day and seven days was week). There were a lot of activities to do on campus: an example is Cinecentre (a cinema with student discount) There were various types of lodging available. It was, however, a little pricey.

Tip: the deadlines for application was early, so checkout the website

Leisure & culture

Enough!

Hiking, skiing, clubs, and pubs are all options to visit.

Nature and wildlife were amazing around the city and on campus. An example for wildlife were the deer's that I saw during colleges out of the window. Victoria BC is the perfect mix between a big city (enough to do: shops, nightlife, culture, beaches and parks) and a village. Bigger cities (For instance Vancouver (Canada) and Seattle are nearby and worth to visit. You can take the ferry or an (water)airplane to those cities.

Victoria is on an Island, so make sure to visit some beaches and discover the Island in total.

If you go in the winter, please make sure to go to Butchart Gardens. They have a sort of light festival with thousands of Christmas light and Christmas Carol music. It is pricy, but beautiful. In the summer and Spring, Butchart Gardens has a sort of fairy tale vibe with a lot of flowers.

Go to Fisherman's wharf (10 minutes walking from Downtown). Fisherman's wharf is a beautiful place with coloured houses who are floating on the ocean.

The Indigenous Culture in Victoria (and at the University) are still present (for example a lot of totem poles around Campus and in Downtown). So, make sure to visit Thunderbirds Park or visit the biggest totem pole from North-America in Beacon Hill Park.

Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Attend certain sport events. The Vikes men's. basketball team won the Canada West Championships in my year. The vibe in the arena on campus was every time fantastic, so do not miss a game. Victoria BC have the victorian Royals (ice hockey) who are worth visiting as well.



There are some whalewatching opportunities in Victoria. It is pricey, but a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Check the student association. In Victoria there is a “general one” with much activities in the SUB (Student Union Building) and there was a law association as well. They offered several time free pizza-lunches or pastries with coffee and tea. There was a possibility to buy merchandise, and parties. .

Follow an Indigenous course!

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

Totally!

It was the right decision for me. For me it was the right decision.

Victoria BC is a beautiful city with a lovely park (Beacon Hill). The city has a laid-back attitude. There is enough to do in the surrounding area and in the city itself. The inhabitants are friendly and eager to assist. There are some larger cities nearby.

The University is nice. It has a bit the ‘American high school movie’ vibe to it, but more amicable. The campus is surrounded by a lot of trees and a beach is only ten minute walk away.

The professors are very friendly and willing to help. Courses are interesting and useful.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go for it and enjoy!

And make sure that you may meet a lot of exchange students around the world!

Make a Polarsteps account (general tip). It is for me now a beautiful way to look back and for friends and family at home is it nice to get updated for your trip.



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PREPARATION
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
The first thing everyone will say is that you need to start the process as early as possible. I can only affirm this. You have to take initiative and be proactive. The application process is not difficult, but I found it to be a bit chaotic. There are many different sites and links and sometimes it might not be clear what you have to do. In general, you first have to apply at the UU, this includes filling in a study plan and writing a motivation letter. The study plan is indicative and does not have to be that concrete or precise. It's just so you can give an indication of what courses you want to take.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international exchange office and the study advisors are both very helpful in answering questions and giving advice. Don't feel hesitant to ask them questions if something is unclear.
Academic preparation
For my exchange I did not have to prepare myself academically.
Language preparation
If you have a basic level of English it should be good. It's always helpful to brush up on your English by reading English stuff but all in all there were no problems. In Victoria the people talk quite understandable.
Finances (living costs)
Canada is quite expensive. I paid 950 Canadian dollar per month which comes down to some 650-750 euro's. Things as groceries cost probably some 15 percent more then in the Netherlands. You also have to pay tax when you buy things and in restaurants you are expected to pay tips.

Study period abroad /About the host university
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
Law
Academic quality of education activities
The quality was pretty high I would argue. Law in Canada is a graduate study, meaning that the people who study Law have already obtained a undergraduate degree and are in general more serious about the study than at UU. It of course depends on the courses you take but I found the level quite high. There were not any seminars or working groups for my classes so you will have to do a lot of home study.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
There was a introduction ay. Besides that we did not get that much counselling. If you want to though, you can contact the coordinator, for me it as Fran Blake, and she is very helpful in answering questions. I think they should have given more counselling in advance, because we did not get any advice in which courses are suitable for exchange students.
Transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE
Welcome/Orientation programme
There were a couple of welcome programs and also there were club interest assemblies. We did things as going to the beach, meeting other students playing games. I would recommend going to these things. You meet new people and you learn about the student life.
Accommodation
I stayed at the Ocean Island Inn hostel for ten days before I found a nice place with 3 Canadian roommates. I searched a lot on Facebook which was a bit stressful but if you are used to fining a place in Utrecht, this is



<p>easier. I lived in a detached house which is somewhat normal because there is way more space than Utrecht. My place was in Gordon Head which is a student area close to the university. Living close to the university is better than living downtown. They said it was very difficult to get a place on campus, but I think if you spam the university enough, they could get you a place on campus anyways. Anyway, I think living off campus is more fun.</p>
Leisure & culture
<p>Victoria is a student city so there is a student culture. Most students go out in the weekend and there are a couple nice clubs/pubs. People are pretty relax and it is easy to get soaked up in the social student life. I think that we have more of a alcohol culture in the Netherlands. Weed on the other hand is more popular since it is legal there. I was also in the UVic tennis team, with whom I became very close with. I also played in two football teams along with my roommate. Canadian students are usually quite sportive. There is a lot of mountain biking and hiking. From Victoria you can make a lot of trips. There is beautiful nature outside a city so renting a car and driving to the nature I would recommend.</p>
Suggestions/tips (need to knows)
<p>Surfing in Tofino, hiking to Mystic beach,</p>

CONCLUSIONS
<p>Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)</p>
<p>Yes, the nature in Canada is breath taking, the people are friendly an relax and the university life is awesome</p>
<p>Do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process went easy. Motivation letter and application on Osiris. You can find all the information online on the UU website and there are videos that further explain the whole process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	This was good. The international exchange office is always reachable, either by email or phone.
academic preparation	
	I didn't do any academic preparation
language preparation	
	This was not necessary for UVic.
finances	
	Canada is a very expansive country. Rent is higher and so are daily costs. Before leaving I made an outline of what I was expecting to pay for rent, daily costs, and trips. After doing this I raised my DUO loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I followed 2 law courses. <i>Conflict of laws</i> and <i>law and religion</i> . Law & religion I found very interesting. There is a lot of room for discussion and questions and everyone's opinion. Conflict of laws however I wouldn't recommend. It refers a lot to other courses that exchange students didn't take.
academic quality of education activities	
	the academic quality is comparable to the UU. Try to keep up and do your readings, then it is definitely doable.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Your contact person Fran Blake is very helpful and very nice. She helps you with everything and responds very quick to my emails. Her door was always open for other questions
transfer of credits	
	I didn't need the ECTS since I already completed a minor at UU. So, 2 courses were enough for me

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	I started in September and the last week of August the University organized an international welcome week. However, the school of law has a separate orientation program. Make sure to email Fran Blake about the other orientation program of the other faculties. Most of the students attend this program and it is much more fun and you meet many more people.
accommodation	
	Finding a room cost some time, but everyone I know found one eventually. Mostly via the Facebook group. Housing on campus is possible, but I wouldn't recommend this perse. If you have a good location I would recommend finding a house with roommates.
leisure & culture	
	The island has a lot to offer, I did multiple road trips around Vancouver Island. Some just for 1 day and some for a weekend. I also went to Vancouver and to Hawaii in the reading break. Make sure you save up some money



because it was 100% worth it!
suggestions/tips
Go to Tofino to surf! Winter or summer doesn't matter, you can do it all year round.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend going to UVic for an exchange. The nature is beautiful and the people are very friendly. If your main reason for choosing a city is partying or nightlife, don't come here, since this is not very big in Victoria.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Bring enough winter and summer cloths. Since it can get below 0 degrees but in summer time it can also be very warm!

2021 – 2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process for applying for the exchange is easy. You fill everything in in OSIRIS and afterwards you will be directed a spot or not in February/March. After I got assigned a spot at UVic, because of covid, I had to apply for a VISA. (I hope that won't be the case anymore when you will start your exchange in Victoria) Because I had to apply for a VISA, things got difficult and I needed to fill out a form online through the website of the Canadian Government. I heard about this 5 weeks before I would leave for my exchange, whilst the approval could take 6 to 8 weeks. It was very bad that nobody gave notice to me about this VISA. That way my preparation got way more stressful. Luckily I got approval for my VISA 12 hours before my flight.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I had good contact with Utrecht University and they supported me when I needed them. Again, because of covid there were new requirements to enter Canada which was also new for UU so they could not always help me.
academic preparation
I didn't do any academic preparation and could easily pick up the Law system of British Colombia during my courses, since some legislation in Canada is organized per province.
language preparation
Preparation for language wasn't applicable for me. My English was fine before I left and got better during the exchange :).
finances
Since I was working 3 years during my bachelor's, I saved up some money. Rent in Victoria is around 800\$-1300\$, which was almost the same amount in Euros that I would pay for my room in Utrecht. Furthermore, life is pretty expensive in Canada, like groceries and especially healthy food. Eating out is pretty much the same price as cooking at home. If you want a more precise clarification about how much I saved up, don't hesitate to contact me via my email or instagram!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
When at UVic, I did three courses; International Law, Labour Law and Intellectual Property. I really



<p>liked these courses because of their professors. I had classes (lectures) with 20 people twice a week per course. I felt like it was difficult that there were no assignments to do or to prepare, since I was used to that in Utrecht. But actually that was all fine. You do need to keep up with the materials and listen well to the professors, otherwise it might be difficult to pass the course. The courses are the same level of difficulty as in Utrecht.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The academic quality of the education was very good. The professors were very personal since you have classes with 20 other students which makes it easy to ask questions.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>The counselling and support at UVic was very good. In the beginning of the semester, I chose 4 courses and after the first week of classes I wasn't really sure about my choices. You can still change courses in the first weeks at UVic. So I went talking to the abroad counsellor at UVic at the Law Faculty and she helped me very well with finding different courses that would fit me. You just have to ask and they are ready to help you!</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>For each course at UVic I got 10 NL/UU credits.</p>

<p>STUDENT LIFE</p>	
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>	<p>There was an orientation programme the week before classes would start. There were some activities every day to get to know the campus, the university, and the city of Victoria. This was actually very nice and this way you meet a lot of other students. This is only in the first semester (September - December).</p>
<p>accommodation</p>	<p>I applied for campus before the deadline in June I believe, but there wasn't enough capacity to accommodate all students who wanted to live on campus. First year students have priority. So 2 weeks before I would leave I still did not have a room so I started looking on Places4Students where people with homes and spare rooms can offer you a room. The university tried to encourage people to accommodate students in Victoria since it was a busy year that year after a covid year. I eventually found a woman on that website who would offer me a room in her house. It was very comfortable and I even had my own bathroom. I would recommend starting to look for something off campus in time! Also try Facebook groups where people will post a lot of rooms for rent. Almost all exchange students I met, were living off campus.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>	<p>Since I had 6 classes during the week, I still had some leisure time left. This was lovely since I got the time to explore the city and the surroundings of Victoria. I went to Tofino for a long weekend, went fishing in Maple Bay, went to Vancouver and made a small trip to Hawaii. There is time and you are close to a lot of beautiful nature so please go out and try to see as much as possible! There are enough other students who will want to join. Furthermore it's whale season in July, August and September so I definitely would recommend to go on a boat to see those!</p> <p>There is definitely a culture as well, the First Nations are big in Victoria and you can find lots of souvenirs made by the First Nations!</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>	<p>I don't really have tips, except for the fact that if you love traveling and want to see a lot, it is nice if you have saved up some money and actually can go everywhere and don't have to worry about money.</p>



CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university to others! It wasn't my first choice to go, but afterwards it felt like the perfect place. There is a lot of beautiful nature and therefore lots of things to do and see! It is so different and it is amazing to completely experience that culture.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No advice or comments :). If you want to know more about my experience, don't hesitate to contact me via my mail or Instagram! I contacted some people as well before I left, and it is really nice to be somewhat prepared and know about things.



2019 – 2020

PREPARATION
exchange application process
I did not prepare anything for the application process. The application was quite smooth and clear, it was always clear what the next step was.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
See above.
academic preparation
I didn't do any preparation before the start of the semester. In hindsight it would have been helpful to research the general law system in Canada, since its quite different from our own.
language preparation
I didnt do any language prep because I felt like my English was sufficient enough.
finances
Since Victoria is definitely more expensive than I'm used to and I knew I wanted to explore and travel, I did save up for the exchange.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
welcome & orientation programme
Because I went in the second semester (spring semester) there was no extensive orientation programme sadly. There was just a general information meeting. If you can, I would definitely advise you to go in the first semester (September-December).
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I didn't need the ECT points and therefore chose 2 courses, conflict of laws and international public law. Both were very interesting. They do focus on Canadian law a lot so that makes it more challenging but also more interesting. Both courses were organised well and the professors were quite knowledgeable. In public international law we had a lot of interesting speakers that we videocalled with, which was a nice break from the regular lectures. Overall I would say that the level and quality is similar to the Netherlands, if not higher.
academic quality of education activities
See above.
transfer of credits
Because of Covid-19 and the shut down of universities in both the Netherlands and Canada, the transfer understandably took more time and communication than usual. Besides that both universities were quite helpful and informative so it worked itself out in the end.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES
support guidance of host university
The University of Victoria and in particular my contact person from the faculty of law was extremely helpful. They asked us how we were doing, extended our stay in residences and kept us informed. They also gave us many options in terms of altered grading systems (whether you wanted 'pass' 'covid pass' or the actual grade). Because of the chaos with all the cancelled flights, I had to book mine on the same time of my exam. My contact person from Law was very caring and supportive however and made sure that I could make my exam later on after I got settled back home.
support guidance of home university



The University of Utrecht was always helpful and tried to help me from their side as much as possible. I am therefore very grateful that both universities helped me through finishing my courses during all the chaos of the epidemic.
online offer and quality of digital courses
My courses were near its end so both my professors decided to cancel all remaining classes. I did find this disappointing and because of the resources I wasn't able to access, I had to drop out of one of my courses in the last week because I couldn't complete my final assessment (paper).
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
Honestly? I wouldn't recommend doing it. A big part of exchange is experiencing the culture/environment of a university/country first hand, I don't think a digital exchange can replace that. I would think about pushing your planning around so there is a possibility you can go on an actual exchange somewhere in the future.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
Like I explained before there was no real welcome programme for this semester.	
accommodation	
I would definitely recommend to apply for a spot in residence. I was in a cluster and had my own room with a shared living space/bathroom, which I can definitely recommend! Its close to your uni building and you're also close to all the activities on campus, like your classes, library and the pub Felicitas.	
leisure & culture	
There are lots of comities on campus that organise great (outdoor) activities/trips but definitely go explore the island and the city centre, its really beautiful. There are so many hikes you can do and I would definitely recommend going whale watching! On campus there are lots of food facilities and a really nice gym. You can also easily take a boat trip (which has amazing views btw) to Vancouver. The nightlife is not as extensive as you are probably used to, because the bars and pubs close quite early. It is however still fun and if you start your night at karaoke night at Felicitas, its less expensive. They are also more strict in terms of alcohol use, so be aware of that when you buy/consume any.	
suggestions/tips	
If you want to go anywhere during spring break: (called reading break lol) explore Hawaii if you can! Most beautiful place I've ever been to. And don't get me started on the poke bowls and fresh fish there...	

CONCLUSIONS	
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I would definitely recommend going on exchange at the University of Victoria. It is an amazing city on a beautiful Island that has lots to offer. I am disappointed that I couldn't finish my semester and had to leave like in all the chaos but I am nonetheless happy about the time that I did got to spend there.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Go on as many trips as you can, Canada and in particular Vancouver Island has amazing nature and cities that you can enjoy!	



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	<p>The application process went easily.</p> <p>After you have decided where to go, and you have picked your destination you have to draw up a study plan. This need to be signed by the study advisor.</p> <p>The second step is the application at UU.</p> <p>You can find the steps on the site of Utrecht University/ study abroad/ orientation.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	<p>The support at Utrecht University is good. The International Office will help you with the process.</p>
academic preparation	
	<p>These is not an obligatory academic preparation.</p> <p>I recommend to read about the common law system. This is necessary for understanding the Canadian system.</p>
language preparation	
	<p>You can follow courses to improve your language depend on the destination where you go.</p>
finances	
	<p>Before you go, you need to make a balance of your expected expenses. Living abroad is expensive!</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	<p>The Study programme at Uvic was clear. The organization of the faculty was great.</p>
academic quality of education activities	
	<p>The quality is the same at UU. The study pressure is high.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	<p>The support was also great. I had contact with Lorinda. She is the dean of the exchange students.</p>
transfer of credits	
	<p>You will get 10 ECTS at UU per course that you will follow at Uvic (University of Victoria)</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	<p>The Faculty of Law have a special program for the first year law students. This is a programme of 2 weeks. Within the 2 weeks there were 2 special meetings for transfer and exchange students.</p> <p>It's a warm welcome!</p>
accommodation	



I stayed off campus at a basement. It was a 25 minutes' walk to the University. With the bus it took 5 minutes.

leisure & culture

I had enough free time to explore the nature and culture of British Columbia. However, I have taken three courses. The courses were at two days of the week.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely!!! UVic is a great university with a beautiful environment. British Columbia is also very nice to visit!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You can contact me if you have further questions.



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was very easy. The only thing I really had to do was making a motivation letter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling & support was good. I asked some questions were I got the answers to.
academic preparation	
	I didn't do anything for academic preparations. However, it was quite a shock for me when I arrived in Canada and found out that they have a common law system. It would have been smarter and easier to know a little bit about their system before going to the classes.
language preparation	
	I was planning to follow some kind of legal English course, but I couldn't find one that I liked. So, in the end I didn't do any language preparations. I think the first few classes were hard to follow, but once you speak English to everyone every day, it's not so hard anymore.
finances	
	I found Canada really expensive. The daily expenses are more than in the Netherlands (especially vegetables and fruit). I also spend a lot of money on travelling, because there are some great possibilities around Victoria to go to. This was also really pricey, but so worth it. It is great if you can visit everything you want and don't have to worry about money. I opened a bank account in Canada at the CIBC. It was a bit expensive to transfer money to this account (so transfer a big amount of money at once), but it was free to take out money of the ATM, which isn't with a creditcard.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I only followed 3 courses in Victoria. I had a four-day weekend, which gave me enough time to make fun trips during the semester. Most of the courses that I followed were Canadian Law. I choose the courses Family Law, The Individual Employment Relationship and Refugee Law. I heard that Canadian Law is hard to follow, but I disagree. Everyone there likes to help, so we just asked some people how the Canadian Law works. I really liked the courses and the professors.
academic quality of education activities	
	All of the classes in Victoria were lectures. I didn't need to prepare any assignments for the classes, just needed to read. I thought that the academic quality was higher than in Utrecht. The students were mostly good prepared and were very serious. Halfway the semester I needed to write two big papers of around 3000 words. At the end of the term I had a written exam for each course. The test form can vary per course. I thought the end of the term exams weren't too hard.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The counselling & support was great. I went to the office they have in the law building a couple times. They all answered my questions immediately.
transfer of credits	
	I received 10 ECTS for each course that I passed. So, for three courses of 1,5 unit I received 30 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
We had a big welcome & orientation program of two weeks. This was only for the first-year law students and the exchange and transfer students. For example: we had a BBQ at school and played games in a game café. We didn't have any kind of orientation with other exchange students of other faculties, which I found a bit sad. I think the average age of the law students is 26, because they have done an undergraduate before law school. I found that a bit disappointing, because they weren't looking for any friends and were very focused on studying. It would have been more fun to have an orientation program with other exchange students from other faculties to make friends.
accommodation
I lived in Gordon Head nearby campus in a so-called basement. It wasn't completely underground, but there lived a family above us. I would certainly recommend living off campus. The university is very strict now in having house parties on campus, so it doesn't happen a lot anymore. Furthermore, living on campus is a bit expensive. All the people that I spoke to and lived off campus had almost everything they need in their apartment. The people on campus needed to buy blankets and stuff, which is a waste if you're only living there for a few months.
leisure & culture
I would recommend going to some intramurals if you like sport. During the first or second week, you can sign up for intramurals. These are like small tournaments in different kinds of sports. You don't have to be good to participate. I did 7x7 indoor soccer with some other internationals. It was really fun for the Tuesday evening. I also enjoyed partying and travelling.
suggestions/tips
I would certainly advise to travel a lot. There are so many nice places to see around Victoria. Some places on Vancouver Island itself, Banff (in the Rocky Mountains), Vancouver, Seattle, other places on the west coast of the US and Hawaii. Also, participate in the introduction weeks of the Law faculty, but also try to meet people from other faculties.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would certainly recommend Victoria as a destination for your exchange. The Canadian people are very nice and the nature is absolutely beautiful. I loved the deer's in my garden every time I woke up 😊 I don't know for certain if I would go back to study law again. I really did enjoy the courses, but just not the other students. I was really excited about the thought of getting to know people, which was an important factor for me. In the end, I did meet some amazing people and had a really good time, but that was due to the fact I knew some other Dutch girls that studied business. They introduced me to other exchange students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The process application was not difficult. I only wrote a motivation letter. The contact with the UVIC Law faculty was very good. The faculty is not big, just one woman is responsible for the exchange students. She was very nice and responded very quick to all my e-mails. All exchange students receive a UVIC LAW Incoming Exchange Guidebook (15 pages) which is very helpful for your preparation.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The support I got from Utrecht University before, during and after my exchange was very good. They guided me towards the whole process. And you're always able to call/ e-mail them.
academic preparation	
	It is not really necessary to prepare yourself. If your English is okay, you'll manage yourself fine through the lectures and readings. The first few lectures are maybe a little bit fast, but you'll get used to it after a period of time (if you're doing your required readings). Before sending your proposed course schedule to UVIC, the contactperson sends a list of courses which are experience hard by exchange students. This list will help you by deciding which courses you want to follow.
language preparation	
	I didn't do any language preparations. The beginning was sometimes a little bit hard. But I did my readings and went to all of my classes. I recommend everyone to do this. Otherwise you can struggle with the lectures because the course level is high.
finances	
	I recommend students to save some money because Canada is quite expensive. Groceries, liquor (in stores and bars), rent and trips are more expensive than what we're used to. There are amazing places to see, but the distances are far. The internal flights are expensive, so save some money. You definitely want to see a lot Canada/ perhaps also want to visit the USA. You need a creditcard to book all of these trips/ flights/ airbnb's. So I would recommend students to bring a credit card with you. I also opened a bank account at CIBC which was free and it costs me about 40 minutes to get an account. I payed my rent with this bank account (with an app I could easily transfer money to my landlord) and did all of my daily expenses with this bank account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	During the application we got a list of courses which exchange students couldn't take. They were exclusive to Uvic students/ very challenging/ or a background in a particular Canadian Law course was needed. Because of the small classes the lectures were given in, to some courses priority was given to uvic students. Because of this there wasn't much variety of choice, and for popular courses there is a chance that you're on a waiting list. I went to UVic the first semester. There was only one International Course offered, which was Public International Law. Unfortunately UU students can't bring this course in because we already completed this course. I followed the following courses: Family Law, The Individual Employment Relationship and Refugee Law. I can highly recommend this courses. The teachers were very nice and the courses were interesting. Although all of these courses are Canadian Law (common law), I could keep up because I did my readings. I got 30 ects for 3 courses. I would recommend students to do 3 courses and not more.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality at UVic is very high. Because Canadian Law students already completed a undergrad before going to law school the students are very serious and well prepared in lectures. The students participate in the lectures which leads to a lot of class discussions. The classes are given in the form of lectures. For me the preparation for the final exams was therefore a little bit difficult. We didn't learned how to work with case questions. But the lectures were very interesting. The professors are very passionate about their course and made me very motivated to study well. The academic level is high, so if you choose to study in Canafa be prepared that you'll spend time in the library. I passed all of my courses, but besides studying I also spend a lot



of my time doing fun things with friends/ trips.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at Uvic was very good. I was always able to say hi/ asked for advic at the office in the faculty buiding. They were very accessibe and knew you personally which was comfortable.
transfer of credits
The transferring of creadits was very easy. The UVic office sends your transcript of records to you and the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I went on my exchange in the first semester. The first day of the semester the faculty organised a welcome programme for all first year and exchange students. At UVic Law there are only a few exchange students each semester. So most of my friends studied at other faculties (a lot of them were business students).

accommodation

First I had contact with UVic for a possibility for on-campus accomodation. UVic told me that the chance for staying on campus in the first semester is very low for Law students. For first years there's a guarantee for a place on campus. Since Law students are not seen as undergrads other students get priority. During my exchange I stayed in a really nice apartment not far from the University. I would recommend students to start looking for houses early. It is not easy to find something. I posted a message in a Facebook group called 'UVIC-Off Campus Group' and got several responses and tips! Afterwards I was really glad that I lived off-campus.

leisure & culture

Victoria itself is beautiful! Downtown is very cozy and it is not that big. Vicoria felt like home from the beginning. In downtown a lot of buildings are historical, the legislative building is beautiful and there are a lot of great places to eat/ nice bars. The nature in Victoria is beautiful and there are a lot of nice hikes which you can do during the week or in the weekends. I loved Goldstream, Mount Doug and Sooke Potholes Reginional Park. There is also much to see in the surrounding of Victoria. I would recommend everyone to go to Tofino. You need to rent a car for Tofino, but it's definitely worth the trip. You can surf in Tofino and the nature in Tofino is beautiful. If you love nature and beautiful hikes Canada is the place to be. I also went to the main land. On the main land you'll find the Rocky Mountains (Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise and Lake Moraine). I would recommend everyone to go to the Rocky Mountains! The nature, the mountains and lakes are wonderful. But Seattle and Vancouver are also very close to Vicotria. For the weekend you can easily go to those cities with the ferry. If you're in one of those cities go to a big Ice hockey, basketball or American Football game. The games are huge and a fantastic experience.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest students to open a Canadian bank account, it's very convenient. Besides that, try to enjoy every moment of your time there. Going this far from home is such a special experience. Explore the Island, the nature and some places on the main land. I can also suggest students to go to Hawaii. I went to Hawaii with some friends after the finals. A lot of students go to Hawaiii during reading break and spring break. Hawaii is beautiful with beautiful beaches and again beautiful hikes.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend UVic and Victoria to everyone. I enjoyed every moment of my time there. The Canadians are nice and hospitable. I made a lot of international friends, but besides that I also made a lot of Canadian friends. Thereby I fully experienced how Canadian students live . Keep in mind that there are only a few exchange students every semester at UVic Law. Your fellow students are older than what we're used to, because they already have their undergrad. Thereby, most of my friends were students from other faculties. The surrounding is beautiful and Victoria is an accessible city, because it's not too big. I would recommend students to go in their first semester. Only in the first semester UVic law organizes a welcome program and the



weather in Victoria is good in September and stayed good till mid November. The months after November the weather is getting worse (a lot of rain).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



2018 – 2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process was not very hard. Just make sure your motivation letters are good. I did hear that once you're chosen to go to UVic by Utrecht University, you're most likely to be admitted by UVic.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support at Utrecht University was great. I could always email with questions and they have guided me well towards my semester abroad.
academic preparation
I went on exchange after 3 years and one semester at Utrecht University, in which I finished most of my courses and wrote my bachelor thesis. At UVic, I only had to complete one course successfully, so that was great.
language preparation
I took the course LEAP in Utrecht, which was a great preparation for the legal English we spoke in Victoria. But you learn the most by just going to an English speaking country and make international friends.
finances
Canada is expensive, so you should be prepared and have saved enough money. Studying in Victoria is a truly amazing experience especially with all the travel opportunities you have. It is great if you don't have to worry about your expenses and if you can just enjoy yourself. But, if you're running out of money, eat at El Furniture Warehouse in Victoria for 5,95 \$ (each dish) and order water (free). That's one more great thing about Canada: you can ask for a glass of water everywhere! 😊

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
At first I registered for 4 courses. Once I started the semester, I chose to take 3 courses, which was great. It gave me enough time to do a lot of fun things, but I also had to study hard. The courses I took are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Trade Law - International Human Rights - Legal Ethics and Professionalism I learned a lot during these lessons and since the majority was international law, I can also bring this knowledge to the Netherlands.
academic quality of education activities
I hear from many people who have studied abroad that they had a great time, that they have been partying a lot and that studying was very easy. Although my time in Canada was great, I spent a lot of time in the library and the academic quality was certainly not lower than it is in Utrecht. Law is a graduate degree in Canada and the classes were lectures by the way. Studying in Victoria is great, but don't think it is going to be easy! Taking 3 courses is enough.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at UVic was great. They were very responsive on e-mail and we could always stop by the office in the law building.
transfer of credits
For each of the courses I passed, I received 10 ECTS in Utrecht, which makes a total of 30.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had actually no orientation programme and our welcome was a 30 minute talk with the dean and two other people working for the law faculty at the start of the semester. This was a disappointment for sure and we



found out that only the exchange students for the law faculty didn't have an orientation programme. The law faculty is isolated from the rest of the campus and so are the law students. The law students have an average age of 27 years old and are very committed to studying, so there were not a lot of parties during our semester. Having heard the stories from the Dutch exchange students that went in the first semester, I would recommend going to UVic in the first semester.
accommodation
During my exchange semester I stayed in an AirBnB. On the one hand I would definitely recommend this, but I think you'll have more of a 'student life' when living on campus. All of our international friends lived on campus and they had more activities organised for them.
leisure & culture
The people in Canada are the most friendly persons you'll ever meet and the country is so beautiful. Travel to Tofino, the Canadian Rockies, and many more places. Go out in Victoria and Vancouver. Maybe even visit Hawaii, San Francisco and Los Angeles if you have the opportunity!
suggestions/tips
Just enjoy and make the best of your time!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would definitely recommend this university and destination to others! I had the best time, met the most amazing people and was able to see a lot of the country and many other beautiful places. Just be aware that the first semester provides you with a fun introduction and that you'll have to meet other international students from different faculties based on your own initiative. Also, consider living on campus in a cluster building.
do you have any additional advice or comments? No.



PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	Both the UU and UVic will guide you well during your application process. You don't have to get a visa, only an Electronic Travel Authorization. At UVic Law, there is a person responsible for guiding you through the application process and providing assistance for during your exchange period. You can always e-mail her with questions or issues. She always answered quickly and helped me with any issues I had.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	As mentioned above, the International Office of UU guides you at every step of the way and is always available for questions. They make the whole process very easy.
academic preparation	
	I had not real academic preparation before going there. I think the only thing you can prepare is your level of (legal) English before you leave for Canada. If you take courses in Canadian national law, it might be a good idea to start getting familiar with their legal system.
language preparation	
	My (legal) English was already sufficient before I went on exchange, partly because I wrote my Bachelor's thesis in English just before I went there. Maybe if you have doubts about this, there are Legal English workshops offered by JSVU.
finances	
	Daily expenses are at a similar level as in Utrecht. Groceries might be a little bit more expensive, rent as well. Definitely a good idea to put some money aside before you leave for Victoria. For me this was necessary because I had to pay my rent for the whole semester up front. Also a good idea to set up a Canadian bank account. It will cost you no money, and then you can take out dollars for free and your debit card will be accepted at more places than your Dutch one. I opened an account at CIBC, you can e-mail me if you have questions about this. And it is absolutely necessary that you get a credit card, VISA or Mastercard.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Greatly depends on which courses you take. The individual teachers are mostly responsible for the content and organisational aspects of the courses. I had some very well organized and good professors, for Trade Law, Human Rights and Legal Ethics. I would recommend all those courses to anyone. Generally, the international law courses are of a level that you can generally keep up and do well without putting more effort in them than at UU, if you are comfortable with your English. I did not follow Canadian law courses, but I can imagine they will be a bit harder because of your unfamiliarity with the legal system. Generally the professors keep you up to date on the content and organisational issues through your UVic mail, and you can find your schedule and assignments on similar webprograms as Blackboard and Osiris.
academic quality of education activities	
	You might be a bit overwhelmed of the quality of the classes in your first weeks, because the students are generally very well prepared and participate in class at a high level. This is also because Law in Canada is more comparable to a Master's in The Netherlands, because you have to get an undergrad before you can start with Law. The average age in class is between 25-27 in class with the upper year classes. But don't be scared: if you keep up your readings and pay attention in class, you should be able to pass your courses. The level of the exams and essays was absolutely doable, all of the UU students in my semester passed all their courses. It is important that you don't take too many courses. 3 is well enough, 4 will be a lot of work.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	As I mentioned before, the contact person for exchange students will help you a lot during your first weeks. Sometimes you might have to be proactive with issues you face.



transfer of credits
Has not been done yet, but I foresee no issues. Contact person sends the transcript to UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

If you go in Spring semester, there is no real welcome/orientation programme. This is a pity, because I heard you have some very fun welcoming weeks if you go in September. My advice for Spring: e-mail the contact person early on to ask for welcome/orientation events at UVic or at UVic Law. There are orientation events for exchange/international students and for people living on campus, but Law does not mention those to you because they have their own orientation meeting, but this is merely for organizational issues. So really try to attend some orientation events. Meeting new people in the first weeks will make your experience much better.

accommodation

I got the advice to find housing outside of campus. I would actually advice people to try to get accommodation on campus, and then mostly in cluster or private dorms. Clusters are like student houses. Nice, pretty small apartment buildings with 4 students living there and a shared bathroom and kitchen. It's a great way to get to know other students and there are some fun things to do on campus. There is a campus pub, with things like karaoke night, and a movie theatre, a gym and food places. In weekends there are always some parties at some clusters. There is also a big library, so you can study in silence if there are people in your cluster for example. The downside of living in a dorm is that you are on the food programme. You pay a fairly high rent and then you get some free meals and discount at some food/coffee places. You can't cook for yourself, but if you make friends with people at cluster you can always cook and eat with them. You have private dorms and shared dorms, then you have to share your room. So I would definitely go for cluster/private dorms. A downside of living at campus is that you will have your whole life at uni and pretty far away from downtown. But you will be living among students, which outweighs this for me. Definitely for Law exchange students, because I did not really connect with the people at Law, because they are generally very serious with their studies and some years older. After a few weeks I got to know some other exchange students who all lived at campus and I had a lot of fun with them on campus.

leisure & culture

I would recommend joining some clubs at UVic. You have clubs for everything, like squash, snow (for skiing/snowboarding trips), photo, etc. Try to ask for them with your contact person, because again Law will not tell you about them by themselves. I went on the skiing trip in February, which was super nice, I definitely recommend it to everyone. I met most of my friends there. Extremely nice skiing area, not too expensive, and I think always a lot of fun people.

Outside of UVic, definitely explore the island and BC. The island has awesome nature, close to Victoria and further away. Absolutely go to Tofino! Other nice places are East Sooke, Campbell River (and surrounding nature), Goldstream park, Ucluelet (close to Tofino), San Josef Bay (all the way up north) and Buttle Lake (in Strathcona). Try to go to the Rocky Mountains (Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper), it's insane. The skiing trip is also on the outskirts of the Rockies. Vancouver is also very cool, you can go there a couple of times in the weekend because it's fairly closeby.

suggestions/tips

Try to meet a lot of people during your first weeks. Attend all social events, try out some clubs and just ask other students for help. Everyone is extremely friendly and will try to make you feel welcome. Once you got some friends, go out and explore the city and island. Try to plan some trips early on, so that you don't miss out on anything and not have to rush things at the end of the semester. Then you will have an awesome time. Just go.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. The uni is well organized and will give good guidance. If you like nature, this destination is one of the best you can find. You can surf, ski and hike on the island, I don't know any other place where this is all



possible on fairly small island. I had a great time, mostly after finding some friends amongst the other exchange students at UVic. You will feel at home soon enough, but mostly the nature will make you feel in paradise as well.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Read many student experiences, also of other destinations. They will tell you the real story of the exchange experience. But also realize that they are all individual experiences. You might be a very different person than that student and so your experience might be very different. If you have any other questions, feel free to e-mail me (you can ask for contact information at the International Exchange Office).



2017-2018

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process is very simple. The contact with the university is excellent. After you have been selected by your home university, you will receive a mail and an official letter in your mailbox. They tell you what to do for the remaining application process in an overview document.
counselling/support at home university
The International Office answers all your questions you have about the application process and your exchange destination. Do not hesitate to ask anything that is unclear to you.
academic preparation
No need for academic preparation. If you follow your law study in Utrecht with not much problems, you won't need any preparations. Although, it will depend on which courses you want to follow. Some courses require more knowledge/skills than others. The University of Victoria has a clear overview of all the courses which might be too hard for exchange students and courses which are recommended for exchange students.
language preparation
I have followed a Babel course to improve my English. During the first weeks, you may have some difficulty with the English language. As compared to studying law at the University of Utrecht, you have to engage the formal 'law' language. But after a couple of weeks you will see improvement and have minor problems with the English language.
finances
Canada is an expensive country to live in. Your biggest expenses will go to rent, food and your plane tickets. If you want to explore the area, be prepared to spend more money. I spent approximately 6000 euros.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
At the University of Victoria, there are enough courses you can follow as an exchange student. Keep in mind that this mostly will be courses about BC law. They do not have a wide range of international courses, but the law of British Columbia is very interesting as well. As an exchange student, you are not required to follow the normal load of five courses; most exchange students will have three or four courses. Myself, I followed the courses Family Law, the Individual Employment Relationship and Patent Law. The first two I can recommend, especially Employment Law.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of the education is very high. The University of Victoria is seen as a high ranked university in Canada. Mostly it will be comparable to Utrecht University, but for some courses this can be a bit higher.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The support at the host institution is very good. You will not just be a number; they pay attention to each and every student individually. A couple of weeks after the semester started, they asked all exchange students



whether we enjoyed our courses and endured difficulties with the workload. You can ask them any kind of questions, and they will help you out.

transfer of credits

The University of Victoria will send you a mail, including a transcript with your grades. This will also be sent to the International Office. Also, you can check your grades online on the website.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

There are several welcome and orientation programs: an university-wide welcome program, an International Students Welcome and a mandatory orientation program law school for second/third/transfer and exchange students. I recommend to go to as much welcoming programs as you can. It's great and helpful to meet other students who are studying at the University of Victoria.

accommodation

Finding accommodation in Victoria is a bit difficult. The supply and demand for student accommodations is not in balance. I recommend to start as soon as you can with finding accommodation. As an exchange student, you can apply for on campus housing, but there is a first years guarantee. Since a law student is seen as a graduate student, there is only a small chance that you can stay on campus. I started searching for accommodation in March, and found something in early August. Recommendations: AirBnB, places4students.com and craigslist.

leisure/culture

Victoria itself is a beautiful city and it has a lot of culture. In downtown, you can even spot a Dutch bell tower given by former queen Juliana. It is hard feeling bored when walking through the city. I recommend to visit Fisherman's Wharf, the Legislative Assembly (which you can enter for free), and to do a whale watching tour to spot all the wild life Victoria has to offer. When renting a car or a RV, you make a wonderful road trip over Vancouver Island, all the way to the well-known place Tofino. Visit Stamp River Provincial Park to see multiple wild black bears at the other side of the river catching salmon. Also, several clubs of the university organize trips to the main land of BC, such as ski-trips and trips to the Rocky Mountains.

suggestions/tips

Open a Canadian banking debit account for chequing (savings also possible). Otherwise, you have to pay an extra fee for every time you pay with your own Dutch card. Make sure you also posses a credit card.

conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend this destination to others. Victoria is the place for students who want a high quality of education and want to explore incredible nature. Canadian people will be the most friendly people you will ever meet. This is a once in a lifetime experience you don't want to miss.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not hesitate to ask questions. Don't feel overwhelmed in the first couple weeks of school; it will get better after a couple of weeks. Make sure you leave time to see all the beautiful things Canada has to offer.



preparation
exchange/placement application process
The exchange and placement process was easy. I just needed to fill in the required forms and hand those in. After that I waited for a reply from Utrecht.
counselling/support at home university
The support at my home university was good. All of my questions were answered quickly by mail.
academic preparation
I didn't do much for academic preparation, I figured I would "discover" the academic system there by the time I'd get there.
language preparation
I already had experience studying abroad so I didn't really need any language preparation.
finances
I saved up money by working at an electronics store.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I had selected a couple of courses during the application procedure, unfortunately only a few of these courses were available to me in the end. When I arrived there I was enrolled in three courses, one of those courses ended being too difficult and wasn't that interesting. I therefore switched the latter course for another one which was really interesting.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of education was really high. The professors had a lot of expertise in their respective fields and mostly taught with a lot of passion. One thing I found difficult was the lack of assignments, so it was difficult to understand how a legal concept would be applied in practice.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
The support at the host institution was really good, the communication went really smooth. All my mails were answered within 24 hours, mostly even within a couple of hours. The staff was extremely helpful.
transfer of credits
The transfer of the credits went really smooth as well, I didn't need to do anything. UVic sent my results to the UU and the UU registered the courses and gave me the credits.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
The orientation programme was okay, it was a good opportunity to meet fellow students (especially Canadian



law students). However there weren't many activities with other exchange students, which made it difficult to meet exchange students studying at other faculties. The Law faculty only had 9 exchange students, while other faculties like business had more than 160 exchange students. On hindsight I would definitely recommend to try to attend as much introduction activities from other faculties as well (this is a good way to make friends).

accommodation

Finding accommodation wasn't too difficult for me, I found a nice room using Airbnb. There is a shortage of student housing in Victoria though, so if you do not want to pay extremely high prices you shouldn't wait too long to start looking for a room.

leisure/culture

I loved the nature in Canada, it was so easy to go out for a hike during the weekends. There are a whole lot of awesome hikes within 30 mins drive of Victoria. Going out for drinks was pretty nice as well, they have got a lot of nice local beers and a lot of nice bars. Going clubbing is a different story though, there is not much choice and most places are quite expensive and mostly "suck". Besides everything closes at 2 am. Most bars will already shut their doors at 12am.

suggestions/tips

Definitely go exploring the island's incredible nature! Rent a car for a day with a couple friends and drive around and go hiking near the pacific coast (botanical beach is amazing!!). The Canoe Brewpub is quite a nice place to go out for drinks, in the weekends they've got some pretty live music.

conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend this destination to others. Especially for people who are into the outdoors. The summer is just amazing, it is mostly sunny, dry and not too warm, thus perfect weather for outdoor activities. If you are into partying and not so much outdoor stuff then I think you'd probably be happier at another place.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I'd recommend to arrive already early in the summer, so you can for example go to the Rockies and enjoy the Island. Besides I'd recommend to stay longer in North-America after the semester ends, there is so much to do over there. We did a road trip through the US after the exchange, that was simply amazing!



preparation
exchange/placement application process
The application process was not very complicated. The hardest part was writing a convincing motivation letter. The website of Utrecht University gives you lots of information and refers to helpful links of the University of Victoria.
counselling/support at home university
The coordinators of the international office are very helpful and supportive. They have answered all my questions through email.
academic preparation
I did not do any academic preparation before I went to UVic. UVic does not have any specific requirements to get accepted.
language preparation
I did not attend a legal English course but of course it would be helpful to do so.
finances
I would recommend saving up some money. Victoria is quite expensive and you will probably want to explore a lot of the country.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
The study programme of the Law Faculty at UVic is quite different. They have two semesters a year and one semester takes twelve weeks. Most courses have midterms after six weeks, this could be a written exam, moot court or a paper. There are no seminars or working groups, they only have lectures. Every course has two lectures a week, one lecture takes one hour and twenty minutes.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of education is high. The students are very eager to learn and motivated. In the beginning, it was quite hard to understand the Canadian Law. You will get into it after a few weeks.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Cheryl Lawrence is the associate dean of the Law Faculty. She is very helpful. She will guide you all the way and will answer all your question.
transfer of credits
UVic made sure that UU got my credits. At the beginning of the semester you have to send your course summaries to the UU and they will take care of the rest.
student life



welcome/orientation programme

The orientation programme at UVic Law was great. They organized two weeks full of fun and lots of parties. The students are very welcoming.

accommodation

I started looking for a place to stay about 4 months before I left. I found a student's house on Airbnb and had a great host. I lived in Gordon Head, what took me about 15 minutes to get to UVic. Living downtown would be very nice, but it takes about a half an hour to get to UVic.

leisure/culture

Victoria is a very nice and quiet city. If you do not like big cities, then this is the place to go. They have great restaurants and bars with live music (I would recommend the Canoe Pub). You are surrounded by beautiful nature and beaches. Me and my friends have rented a car a few times and to drive up the island to visit great places like Tofino and the Botanical Beach. You should also visit Sooke Potholes and Goldstream.

suggestions/tips

Canada has a very interesting history, so make sure to visit the Royal BC Museum.

conclusions

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

For sure!! Going to Canada is not really a culture shock. Victoria is a very safe city and the people are genuine and friendly.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend to go as soon as possible ;)