



## Masaryk University, Brno

2023-2024

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process for the exchange was pretty easy, but it just takes some times to go through all the steps required. The more confusing part was figuring out which courses to take for the study plan, but these will change during you're actual application so do not worry if you are not completely sure about those.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The UU international office was very helpful and responded quickly. The waiting time for my erasmus grant and Green Travel Grant were longer.
academic preparation	I didn't really prepare anything academically
language preparation	No language preparation required. The UU will provide you with a statement of a sufficient level of english.
finances	Because Masaryk University offers cheap dorms and life generally is cheaper in Czech Republic you will not need a lot of extra money to be able to study there and travel around. You do require some extra money in the beginning for the travel costs and the things you don't bring but will need to buy (like bedding, pans, plate etc). But you can get bedding from the accomodation and shopping for the rest is cheap in the secondhand shops.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There is a wide range of courses to choose from depending on which faculty you will be matched with. I was matched with the faculty of social sciences and they had a wide range of courses with a focus on safety.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of education is okay, but I found courses to be easier compared to my courses at USG. I took some courses at a masters level and these are very doable. Courses on the masters level tend to be more interactive and in smaller settings which was really nice.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The universities international office was very lovely and willing to help. Many of my friends in Brno were very fond of the people of the international office because they did not have any problems with endless emails.
transfer of credits	I haven't experienced this yet, but everything so far has been great so I don't expect any difficulties.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The welcome and orientation programme was very nice! The university offers plenty of sessions to explain you all the systems and requirements and the Erasmus Student Network organized many social events during the introduction week. You will be able to meet a lot of people during this week so you will definitely find some



friends.
accommodation
Masaryk University offers different dorms. Make sure to be online at the moment that the sign in period starts because they are quite popular! A lot of international students stay in Vinarska which has rooms with two people and each room has there own small bathroom and kitchen. You will pay around 350-400 euro (converted) per month. I stayed in Tvrdeho which is a bit more basic and cheaper. Rooms contained two or three people and there were shared bathrooms, kitchens and common rooms with the the floor. This takes a little time to adjust, but you'll get used to it very quickly. I actually really enjoyed constantly meeting people in the hallway or shared rooms which makes it very easy to make friends, plan activities and never feel alone.
leisure & culture
Brno is a vibrant city with a lot of different bars, cafes and restaurants. There is lots of markets in the main square and street musicians. ESN also organizes a lot of different events every week and there are also parties organized by another company. So there will be plenty of things do with your erasmus friends. There is also a lot of cities nearby to explore! Cities like Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Krakow are within reach by Flixbus or RegioJet and smaller cities like Olomouc and Ostrava are fun for a day trip! Traveling is relatively cheap so you'll have a lot of fun things to do!
suggestions/tips
I would really recomened staying in a dorm. While it may seem like a scary thing to share your room with another person, I am very gratefull to have had the experience and it enabled me to be a a part of a big close friend group in the dorm. Additonaly, I would really recommend to travel around the big cities around Brno because it such a nice experience to be able to explore them cheaply.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Summing up all of the above: the university is very helpful and offers interesting and duable courses. Brno is a cozy city which is not too big so it will be easier to feel at home. Finally, the location of the city is great for traveling around.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
At the end of the day, you'll be able to have a great erasmus experience wherever you go!



2021-2022

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
It was very easy to apply for Masaryk University. You will receive a document with all the deadlines and things you need to arrange before going to Brno. The communication from the university was also very well. You have a contact person, who you can ask everything (courses, accommodation, covid rules etc..) and in my experience, she reacts very quick on emails. All in all, I have not experienced any problems with my application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The information I got from Utrecht University about the things I needed to arrange before my exchange was very clear. Furthermore, the REBO exchange office responded quick on my emails and they were willing to help. However, I did not have a good experience with regards to the application process for the Erasmus grant. I received my Erasmus grant very late (end of October), while I needed the money earlier because the first months are the most expensive.
academic preparation
No academic preparation was necessary before my exchange to Brno.
language preparation
No language preparation was necessary before my exchange to Brno. It is only obligated to do an English language test to receive the Erasmus grant.
finances
In comparison to the Netherlands, living in Czech Republic is cheaper. Especially accommodation, travelling and restaurants/pubs are cheaper. So I did not have any problems with financing my exchange.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Masaryk University offers a lot of interesting (English) courses. I had no problem with choosing courses that were connected to my bachelor programme. Furthermore, I was well informed about the enrollment process of the courses, which made this process really easy. Moreover, if you don't like the courses you are following or when some courses don't fit in your schedule, it is possible to switch courses in the first two weeks.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of my courses was really good and quite similar to the UU, but that might also be the case because I followed some Masterlevel courses. My courses were taught in small groups (around 15 people) and there was a lot of attention for current events and discussions. Most of my teachers spoke really good English. The university works in a lot of courses of the faculty of social studies with oral exams. I had never experienced this before but I kind of liked this method of examination and the exams were also not that hard to pass.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling & support of Masaryk University is really good. The teachers respond (most of the times) very quick on your emails and you have one contact person for all of the questions you have.
transfer of credits
My credits have not been transferred yet, so I cannot answer this question.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

When I arrived in Brno, my buddy was waiting for me to pick me up from the station and to bring me to my dorm. This buddy system is organised by the ESN. Even though I did not have much contact with my buddy, it can be really helpful to have a Czech buddy in case you have questions, when you need to go to a doctor or if you need to have a Czech bankaccount (for example, for the accomodation grant you receive from Masaryk University) or if you want to explore the city.

In the first week of the semester, an orientation week is organised by the ESN and the university. I would really recommend you to participate in this week because a lot of nice, social events are organised and you meet a lot of new people during this week.

### accommodation

The university offers accommodation for their own and foreign students. In Czech Republic it is really normal to have a double (or sometimes even triple) room. At first I wasn't looking forward to the idea of sharing my room with somebody, but it was okay and sometimes really nice! The rooms the university offers are not expensive, I paid about 160 euros per month for a double room. Furthermore, you will probably receive an accommodation grant of 120 euros (for the semester), which is a nice gift.

My first 3 weeks I stayed in Tvrdeho dormitory. After 3 weeks I moved to another dorm because there were almost no internationals in my dorm. That was the case because it was the first year that the university made this dorm available for internationals. I moved to Kounicova dormitory. This was really nice because there were a lot of internationals, many of my friends lived there and it was more modern (but still really outdated). I would really recommend you to stay in this dorm because it is close to the city center and many internationals live here. Otherwise, I would recommend you to stay in Vinarska dormitory.

### leisure & culture

Brno is a really nice city. It has a lot of restaurants and pubs and the city has a very relaxed atmosphere. I always liked walking around in the city and to visit Spilberk, the cathedral and the squares (which are in the summer really nice because everybody meets here!). The location of Brno is also great because it is only a short travel by train or bus to cities as Vienna (1,5 hours), Prague (3 hours), Bratislava (1,5 hours), Budapest (4 hours) or Krakow (5 hours). Travelling in Czech Republic is really cheap, which makes it affordable to travel a lot to cities within the country or the cities in neighbouring countries.

However, the people in Czech Republic differ from Dutch people. Over all, they are more introvert and quiet (especially the older people who most of the times do not speak English). I didn't mind this difference and I enjoyed experiencing a different culture.

### suggestions/tips

- Sign up for the ESN! They organise a lot of nice activities and it gives you the possible to meet new people in the beginning.
- Buy a Brno travelcard (12 euros per month) so you can easily take the tram to the city center, the lake or other places around the city.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend UU students to stay in Brno. I really liked that Brno is a small city because it made me feel home quick and you can explore a lot of places by walking. Furthermore, it is really a student city and that is visible by all the activities that are organised and, of course, the number of pubs and bars. Moreover, I really



enjoyed the courses that I followed at Masaryk University and how everything was organised. Lastly, I have never travelled as much as I did during my exchange. Brno really gives you the opportunity to see a lot of Europe and I really enjoyed all of my journeys.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would advise to arrive a few days before the introduction week so you can get used to the city, the language and if you live in a dorm, it is nice to have some time to buy kitchen essentials (they do not have anything in the dormitory) and decoration for your room.



2018-2019

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
It is usually said that the exchange application process is not too difficult to arrange (especially when the destination is in Europe). Yet, I found that during this period of time, I had to fill out quite a lot of forms that were oftentimes not signed in time or with a delay. Therefore, my advice would be to complete the exchange application process as early as possible, because if you leave it until the beginning of the summer, the chances that there will be delay will be greater.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Overall, the counselling & support at Utrecht University was good. I especially appreciated the information with regards to obtaining and fulfilling the steps of the Erasmus+ STUDIES grant. Moreover, whenever I had questions concerning studying abroad, the international office quickly responded in a very comprehensible way.
academic preparation
As far as I know, I have not undertaken any academic preparation before arriving in Brno. Therefore, I cannot answer this question.
language preparation
When it comes to language preparation, I only had to do an English test. It was not too difficult and if you are able to write your academic paper in English already, the chances that you complete your test successfully and get accepted by the receiving institution are great.
finances
In my case, finances were not really a problem. I had saved some money to pay for flights and the first two months of accomodation. Yet, as Czech Republic is so cheap in comparison with the Netherlands, after I settled, money was never a problem.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The contents of my study programme were very interesting and instructive. Besides following courses that were connected to my regular bachelor programme, I also attended classes that dealt with whole different subjects. The variety of courses at Masaryk University is extensive, and thus the search for these courses was relatively easy. When applying for a course of another departement, you were usually still allowed to attend the course after personally asking the coordinator or teacher for permission. Masaryk University therefore also provides you with the opportunity to extend your interest in different fields of study.
academic quality of education activities
The subjects that I followed were very interesting. Yet, the academic quality is usually beneath that of the courses I followed at the UU in the Netherlands. I therefore decided to also attend some Master degree classes. This occasionally challenged me, but afterwards I can only be happy that I did this as they taught me a lot.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I never really asked for counselling or support from my receiving university abroad. Yet, I had several nice teachers that were always eager to help me even when the question concerned another topic or course. Overall, Masaryk University is very open and supportive towards exchange students.
transfer of credits



The transfer of credits seemed initially difficult as Masaryk University worked with a whole different grading system. Yet, only recently transferring grades and credits from a host university to a home university have changed. Nowadays, you either get a pass or a non-pass, and thus the evaluation of your grades and credits became a lot easier.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The orientation week was very insightful. Besides the occasional party, we got to know the city and received information about how to settle in Czech Republic. The week was full of activities and we got plenty of time to meet new friends.

### accommodation

The accommodation, Vinarska A1/A2, is not for everyone. Before applying for this residence you should ask yourself whether you want to live with a complete stranger for 5 months. There is no privacy, and the furniture is mostly outdated. Yet, I honestly liked it. My roommate became a good friend of mine and we enjoyed having a drink at night in our room.

### leisure & culture

There is definitely a lot to do. Even though Brno is not a vibrant city culturally, the prices are very low, and thus one can engage in many activities. There are several football fields, gyms, and swimming baths for the athletic type. I mainly liked the fact that the Czech culture is so laid back, and therefore visited many restaurants and pubs.

### suggestions/tips

If you would go to Brno, realise that you are almost in the heart of Europe. Great cities like Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Krakow are only a few hours away. Even though Brno mainly shines when it comes to their "beer culture", students that wish not to party as much as I did, can always visit the mainly beautiful places surrounding the city.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely. As a Dutch student you will most likely not have to worry about money in the Czech Republic. This opens up a lot of opportunities and enables you to engage into many different adventures. Moreover, Brno is a very international city. Even though there are few to no tourists, due to Masaryk University, many of the young people in Brno are from different countries.

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

As a Dutch person, it was quite the cultural shock to see that people are very introvert in Brno. In public transport, for example, it was normal not to talk too much or too loud. Moreover, it was also not common to have a chat with someone who served you your drinks or helped you pay at the counter.



2017-2018

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process is very good guided by the University. The steps you have to take are clear. Only tip: don not forget to stop your travel compensation on the beginning of the month, I said the 10 and then I did not get it for the whole month.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	It was very nice that the international office had a walk-in-time for questions, because the paperwork was sometimes a little bit overwhelming.
academic preparation	
	All the English courses of Masaryk university (MU) were easy accessible on their website and they had clear videos explaining how it worked.
language preparation	
	I did not undertake any language preparation, because according to the test my English was sufficient.
finances	
	Brno is very cheap. MU provides students with cheap housing and there was even a grant available.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	ESN organised many activities for the students to get to know each other, that was really nice! And there was also a buddy system, so you could always ask questions to the Czech student. The courses had a clear programme and were (most of the time) very interesting.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality of the courses was very different between the courses, but overall not too difficult.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The point of contact of MU was very helpful and she answered very fast on email contact.
transfer of credits	
	My grades still have to be implemented.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The orientation programme was a whole week and you learned the city and new people in a fun way!
accommodation	
	The accommodation that was provided by the university was cheap and really nice, because you lived together all the other internationals!
leisure & culture	
	You have enough free time to do trips. Because the location of Brno and cheap transportation I really





recommend to go on many trips!

suggestions/tips

Become a member of ESN, it saves a lot of money!

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend MU! The city is not too big, but also not too small with a lot of students! Also, everything is very cheap and the location is central, nearby the big cities like Prague and Vienna. The housing is easy and the university is well organized to receive internationals.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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