



## University of Zagreb

**2023-2024**

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process at first was relatively simple, you just had to write a motivation letter. But once I got into the university, it was a bit harder. There were so many documents, combined with applying for the Erasmus grant, that it was sometimes a bit hectic and chaotic. The guest university and home university also both wanted different documents. But, once all that is done, you don't have to worry about it anymore for 4 months.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Luckily, during the application period, the people from the exchange office helped me a lot. They responded very kindly and very quickly to any question I had, which made the process a lot easier.
academic preparation
I don't recall needing to have any academic preparation, other than the usual procedures such as a minimum of credits.
language preparation
You need a certificate of language that you're able to speak B2, but the exchange office can give you that.
finances
I received the erasmus grant, which is around 250 euros per month. Important to note is that you receive about two-third at the beginning, and the rest of it at the end of your stay. Besides that, I got the compensation for the public transportation in the Netherlands, which is 120 euros per month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
You can choose bachelors courses which are 5 ects, and master courses for 7 ects. I needed 30 ects, so I choose 3 master courses and 2 bachelors courses. One problem was that when I had to make my learning agreement, the courses I could choose from were still from the previous semester, so I had to make some changes once I arrived because some courses were deleted from the program
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is a bit different and in general lower than the education I receive at the UU. The exams looked more like high school exams, in terms of that you don't really need to understand the topics, but overall you have to memorize more. The lectures and seminars differed per professor, some were very interesting and other were a bit hard to follow.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support of the university was very good. I could always email the student mobility coordinator or drop by her office, she would help very quickly and was very nice.
transfer of credits
There were no problems with the transfer, but it's good to keep in mind that the grades don't get transferred, only the credits.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme was okay. We had two kinds of welcome programmes, one was organized by the university and the other one by ESN. The one from the university was good enough, we had a tour of the city and some lectures. The ESN welcome week was very nice, with all kinds of different activities. The downside was that the welcome week from ESN started 3 weeks later, when most people already found some friends. Nevertheless it was fun.

### accommodation

I stayed at a private accomodation, but I heard good stories about the dorms. You can choose from 3 kinds, they differ from how big they are and how much they cost. And some dorms are more party dorms than others.

### leisure & culture

You can do many trips from Zagreb. I went to Zadar, Krk, Rijeka, Split, Ljubljana and Belgrade. The flxbusses are good and often very cheap. You can also rent a car very easily, which is very fun if you're with a group. You can hike the mountain Sljeme, park Maksimir is very beautiful and there are some good museums. There are good clubs and parties in Zagreb. Every Monday there's an ESN party in one of the cafes. Keep in mind that it's still allowed to smoke in the cafes and clubs.

### suggestions/tips

The coffee is cheap compared to the Netherlands (2,40 for a cappuccino), and these are my recommendations for drinking coffee/studying/eating: Quahwa, Cogito coffee, Filteraj, the boogie club, Melt, Figa garden, Drugi program Burek: since 1967.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend it! I had never been to eastern Europe and it was a great experience. I learned so much about the culture, saw beautiful places and met beautiful people. I stayed with a Croatian girl, which was great because she showed me a lot of local places. What I did underestimate is the fact that they still have a different lifestyle when it comes to smoking inside, the city has a lot of cars, and in most places you can pay by card but I recommend always carrying some cash. Also, if you are choosing a place based on academic value, I wouldn't recommend Zagreb, as I mentioned before. But it's a beautiful city, I felt very safe and it's a great place for exploring other countries, also Greece, Italy and Hungary.

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

Maybe a cliché, but: go to the seaside! It's about 2/3 hours and it's totally worth it. I really recommend renting a car and driving to Belgrade, you can stop at Novi Sad and other places and you're way more flexible. And another cliché: Don't give up with all the documents, it's only at the very beginning and at the end, and it's all worth it;).

**2022-2023**

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
The exchange application process was well organized. Within every step, in my opinion, the student was informed properly. The people that were responsible for this process were always friendly and well guided. They also responded fast if there were some inconveniences.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The support was good. The coordinators gave the students a lot of helpful guidelines. The only thing that could be better was the expectation management. In a meeting for students that wanted to go abroad was told that almost every student was going to one of their top-three destination in the past years. Finally, I went to my sixth choice because all my previously chosen destinations were 'given away'. The corona pandemic had to do with that, because this was the first year that students could travel again, but I think it is better to not create expectations by students.	
academic preparation	
Does not apply.	
language preparation	
I did a language test that showed that I possess level B2. It was free of charge.	
finances	
Does not apply. The only thing I did was looking at the costs estimation in Croatia on the website of the University of Zagreb and they were in line.	

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
It was very easy for students to apply for courses at the University of Zagreb. The coordinator was helpful and you always responded quick.	
academic quality of education activities	
The academic quality were good. The lectures were given by professionals and they made the learning materials clear. Also, the level of difficulty is lower than in the Netherlands so it is good to follow. The exams were, in combination with the quality of the lectures and the level of difficulty, good to do.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The counselling & support at the University of Zagreb were good. The people were very helpful and they informed you well.	
transfer of credits	
The transfer of credits was published quick. They also gave you a good estimation when they expected to gave it to you.	

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
There was a welcoming week from the faculty and university, in which you already meet your new professors and classmates. This was helpful and nice.	



accommodation
I lived in a private accommodation with 5 other Internationals. While I paid more than people that lived in a dormitory from the University of Zagreb, I preferred a private residence more.
leisure & culture
All the nice things from the city were in the Centrum, because Zagreb is not that big. However, this was in my opinion nice. There are a lot of museums and places to go out for drinks or coffee. There are also a lot of cheap and good restaurants.
suggestions/tips
Zagreb is very centralized in East-Europe. I travelled a lot to other cities in and around Croatia. It was cheap to travel but you can see a lot of other countries. I would recommend that.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would recommend it. Zagreb is a small city but still very nice. The locals prefer to stay on themselves but are very helpful if you need them.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Be aware that it is allowed to smoke inside, even in restaurants.



2021-2022

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
Applying for university was very easy. The UU website states what you have to do and when the deadline is.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
I had some practical questions about the application process and practical preparations. You can always contact Hetty Faber with questions or email / call / visit the international exchange office.	
academic preparation	
I didn't prepare anything and I don't think it's necessary. I was in my third year of my bachelor when I went on exchange and I already understood from the experiences of other people that the academic level of the courses in Croatia is lower than in the Netherlands	
language preparation	
From Erasmus you have to take an English test (the result doesn't count for anything), so that was my only preparation. In Croatia, most people (especially at the university) speak good English, so you'll be fine. Speaking English is also very easy there. The first few days you may have to get used to it, but after that it's automatic.	
finances	
I lived in the cheapest dorm and only paid €67 per month, so I could cover that and more things with my Erasmus grant (€240). You also receive compensation because you don't use your transportation card (for me this was €104 per month). Croatia is quite cheap compared to the Netherlands, so with your scholarship and possibly DUO or some savings you will be fine. You can also eat (morning, lunch, dinner) at a so-called 'menza', which is a school canteen where you can eat very cheap because you get discount with your Croatian student card. An average evening meal with drinks and dessert costs around €2. It really is a kind of school canteen idea, so don't expect a star restaurant quality, but I certainly thought it was perfectly fine to eat for the price and it's easier and cheaper than cooking yourself.	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I studied the following courses: Electoral Systems, TV Newsroom, Political Science Fiction, Media and Diversity and Economic Criminal Law (this course I followed at the law faculty). There are 'tutorial' courses and those are only given to Erasmus students and are therefore the level is relatively easier than the 'regular' courses, which you follow with Croatian students. In a 'regular' course you often have 1.5 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of seminar in succession. I personally found keeping your attention for 3 hours straight pretty long. Luckily I only had one course where this was, the other courses were tutorials. I found all courses interesting. TV Newsroom is a journalism course where you shoot and edit documentaries with a group. This was a very practical course, so that was nice. Another thing that you could take into account is that compared to the Netherlands there is much less interactivity during class, so in some courses you mainly listen to the teacher or to a presentation. What I really liked about the system is that you can try all the courses you want in the first three weeks and after that you make your final choice and change your learning agreement if necessary.	
academic quality of education activities	
The academic level is in my opinion much lower than in the Netherlands. It's not that you don't have to do anything, but what you have to do is easier in terms of content than in the Netherlands. The tutorials are generally easier than the 'regular' courses. What you need to do to pass differs per course. In one course, I only	



had to write a paper, in the other course I had to present twice, hand in a small paper every week and take two exams. This sounds like a lot, but in the end it will all work out. I barely studied and passed all the courses with either a 4 (=very good) or a 5 (=excellent).

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I was pleasantly surprised about the counseling and support from the University of Zagreb. You will receive all practical information by e-mail. You can always pass by the international office or email the contact person of the faculty. I always got a quick response back.

#### transfer of credits

Went pretty easily as well. Once you get there, everything will become clear by itself. Because you study within Europe, all the courses you take are in ECTS and are converted to level 3 in the Netherlands.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

A welcome day was organized by the faculty and the University of Zagreb organized a welcome week, including a city tour through Zagreb. Fortunately, the Erasmus (ESN) in Zagreb is very active! The first few weeks there was an event almost every evening ('speed dating', pub crawl, karting etc.) and in the weekends they organize many trips to for example Plitvice Lakes, Budapest, Ljubljana etc. I experienced this as a huge plus, because in this way you can easily get in touch with a lot of people in the first few days of your exchange. I didn't know anyone when I went to Zagreb and in the first days I met a lot of people who later became good friends of mine.

#### accommodation

You can choose to sign up to live in one of the dorms. You will then share a room with another (probably Erasmus) student. Prices range from €67-110 based on which dorm you are in. I signed up for the dorms and was eventually placed at the smallest dorm 'Student dormitory "Dr. Ante Starčević'. This was not my first choice and this dorm is pretty small to share with 2 people (around 12m<sup>2</sup> for 2 people), but you get used to it after a while. I would rather have stayed in one of the larger dorms and I recommend that you sign up early for the dorms, but I don't regret it because yes, it is small and you have little privacy, but I paid only €67 a month and was hardly ever in my room because I was either at the university, chilling with friends or at the club and on weekends I was often away on a trip and you save so much money compared to a 'normal' room with a private host (the average price of a private accommodation room is around €350). What I also considered as a plus about the dorms is that most of Erasmus students live there, so you also meet a lot of people there and you often have someone to travel with after a night out.

#### leisure & culture

As I said earlier, especially in the first few weeks, ESN organized a lot of activities and weekend trips. Zagreb is a city that is quite centrally located so you can easily and cheaply travel by bus or even by plane to other cities and countries. We even flew to Milan and Bratislava. I would definitely recommend that you not only stay in Zagreb (it is a nice, but relatively small city), but also make trips to other cities such as Budapest, Ljubljana (and Lake Bled!) and also the Croatian coast (Split, Rovinj, Zadar, Dubrovnik) is highly recommended. In Zagreb itself you can go out well and in my Erasmus there were fixed days where people went to certain clubs. One thing I would've liked to know beforehand is that it is normal in Zagreb/Croatia to smoke inside a club :(

#### suggestions/tips

Eat at the menza, it's cheap and saves you a lot of money. In Zagreb you have the national theater and sometimes performances (opera, dance, a play) are held there and that is very nice to see. Zagreb also has a lot of museums you can go to and when the weather was nice we often went to Jarun Lake to play beach volleyball. But the best tip is to go on many trips to other cities and countries. There is not often a moment where you can travel to so many great places for relatively so little money, so take advantage of this!



## CONCLUSIONS

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

100%! I really had the best 5 months of my life in Zagreb. When I had to make my choice for an exchange destination, I wanted my destination to have 4 things: not too expensive, a central location so that you can easily travel, not super high academic level (I didn't just want to study but also enjoy it) and nice weather. Zagreb fulfills all these things and that makes it such a great place for your Erasmus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Cliché but true: enjoy every moment of your Erasmus because it's going to be one of the best times of your life and it will be over before you know it.

## 2019-2020

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## PREPARATION

exchange application process

During the first semester of the masters' program Policy and Governance I asked whether it was possible to apply for an Erasmus exchange as a masters student. I was very happy to hear that it was possible. I applied to go on exchange in november 2018 and after a while I got the good news that I got the opportunity to study in Zagreb for five months. Zagreb was one of the destinations where I wanted to go because it was a capital city within Europe. I wanted to stay within Europe because there is so much left to explore on our own continent.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I received all the help and information I needed from the counselling & support officers of Utrecht University. Everyone that I sought contact with reacted very quickly and I was provided with all the information that I needed for the application process and for my time abroad.

academic preparation

I knew beforehand which courses I was going to take at the Faculty of Political Science and what the academic requirements were needed for those courses. I did not look for particular academic preparation before going abroad. I think that studying in the Netherlands academically prepares you well enough to study abroad.

language preparation

I have been studying English since I was 10 years old. Starting at a young age really helps you to learn a language. Some of my bachelor courses were given in English and I wrote both my bachelor and master thesis in English. This helped me to prepare to study abroad in English and to live with people from different countries for five months.

finances

I received an Erasmus grant which helped me finance my time abroad. Besides the grant I could use the money I saved over the last years and financial help from my parents to pay for my expenses. The prices in Croatia are on average lower than in the Netherlands. I spend most of the money on traveling, on providing for myself, on education and on going out.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



In Zagreb I followed four courses: Theories of Nationalism, Religion and Politics in the Middle East, Democracy and Economic Development and Pop Politics. I really enjoyed taking these courses and I have learned a lot about topics that I did not study before. The topics of these four courses were diverse and offered me the opportunity to discuss different topics related to politics with fellow students. It was very interesting to hear the viewpoints of students from different countries with different backgrounds. Most courses were well organized. We received our grades quickly and knew what to expect at exams.

#### academic quality of education activities

The professors were all clearly experts in their fields. I must admit that some professors were more conservative than the professors that thought me in Tilburg or Utrecht. I had to get used to that in the beginning. We were provided with good reading materials. The exams covered the topics that we spoke about during the lectures. I do think that the exams were easier to pass compared to the exams I had to make at Utrecht University and Tilburg University. We had to study quite a lot of information but it was doable for sure.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Whenever I had a question I could contact Toni. Toni helped me a lot and I am grateful for his help and support. It was easy to approach the professors as well whenever I had a question. I am very satisfied with the counselling and support I received.

#### transfer of credits

At this moment I do not yet know how my grades will be transferred to the Dutch grade system.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

I arrived in Zagreb on the first day of the welcome week that was organized by ESN Zagreb. I visited most of the activities that were organized during that week. It was a great way of getting to know the other Erasmus students and the city. On Saturday we visited the Plitvice lakes, a beautiful place which I would recommend everyone to visit one day! The faculty organized a welcome day during which we received information about the faculty and the courses that were available to us.

#### accommodation

I stayed at one of the dorms in Zagreb. My dorm is called Ante Starcevic and is one of the oldest and smallest dorms. I had to pay only 500 kunas rent a month which is about 77 euros. I had to get used to the relatively small rooms. After decorating the room it started to feel more like home. I had the most amazing roommates and I loved living with them. I shared my room with a girl from Spain and we shared our bathroom with a girl from France and a girl from Italy as well. I hope that we will stay friends for the rest of our lives and that I will see them again soon. The other dorms in Zagreb are a bit more expensive, have more facilities and the rooms are a bit bigger.

#### leisure & culture

I visited a lot of places during my free time. We went to many of the different museums that Zagreb offers. I went to see a ballet show at the beautiful national theater. I would recommend people to walk around the city and see all of the beautiful buildings, go to the park for a walk and to go to the Sava river and Jarun lake. I went out for dinner quite often and for drinks with friends. On Friday I usually went to the swimming pool to swim for a while. In december Zagreb is turned into one big christmas market. I loved spending time with the people I love on the christmas market. Besides exploring Zagreb I explored Croatia and its neighbouring countries. Going on Erasmus exchange gives you the opportunity to travel a lot and see many countries. I loved being able to travel this much!

#### suggestions/tips





Take advantage of the opportunities to travel and explore places! I would recommend students who go on exchange to become a member of ESN, ESN organizes many fun activities and trips. Meet as many people as you can, believe me they are awesome. Get to know all of the different sides of the country that you stay in. Of course the food and the drinks, but also the culture, the language and the history.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend going to Zagreb because it is a wonderful city. It is a capital and therefore offers you a lot when it comes to culture, food, leisure and fun. But Zagreb is also small enough to make you feel safe and for you to get to know the whole city. Zagreb is located very well which gives you the opportunity to travel to other places. The people are very nice and welcoming. The courses I took were very interesting. The professors introduced me to new topics and new ways of looking at topics.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I liked staying at the dorm, it made it easier to meet people and gave me the opportunity to live with three wonderful girls each with different backgrounds. It is also possible to rent an apartment or a room in Zagreb. Make sure you start looking for a room early enough before all the spots are taken! And check whether the landlord is not asking you to pay too much just because you are a foreign student.

## 2018-2019

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process from University Utrecht went smoothly, no remarks or whatsoever.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had a lot of questions and problems when preparing, so I had to visit the International Office quite often. They were always really open and happy to help. They were always eager to help me with providing some information or helping me take care of some practical issues. So, the counselling and support at UU was great.

academic preparation

I went from studying law to studying political sciences, and after contacting Zagreb University I learned that for most courses I would need no background in this field, so I did not really prepare for the courses until I got there. In the end, these preparations were not necessary indeed.

language preparation

No specific preparations, I studied in English so I just took a short online course 'Brush up your English'

finances

Erasmus fund and own savings were sufficient. Zagreb is relatively cheap, so you will not need a huge amount of money.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There were not many courses provided, but the courses provided were overall well-organized. Its bureaucracy at the university was sometimes a bit problematic, but with some guidance from the university mixed with some of my own patience, this was not unbearable.



academic quality of education activities
The educational level of the bachelor Erasmus courses provided is a bit lower than what I was used to in Utrecht. You can compare the level of a master course to the level required for a second year's bachelor course in Utrecht. Tutorial courses were relatively easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very good counselling! Contact with the host university was easy and fast, everybody was always open to help out. All information needed was well provided. Guidance was offered whenever something new arised.
transfer of credits
Different scale of grading, so it took some time at my home university to transfer it but overall it was not a big problem.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was organized by the student association ESN. It was a busy programme with many activiteits we could sign up for. The programme was useful for meeting new people and meeting the city. Great programme in general, lots of different activities too!
accommodation
Student dorms are really cheap compared to the Netherlands, and the quality of the rooms is very good. You are surrounded by many other students at the dorm, a lot of acitivites are organized at the dorms and everything you need is within reach.
leisure & culture
Zagreb is the capital city of Croatia, so Zagreb itself offers a lot of sights to see and many places to go. There are many options if you want to grab a (cheap) bite, and likewise, many options for a night out. The city is very lively, so you will not get bored. The people are really open too. Due to Zagreb's geographical location, travelling is easy to all the parts of Croatia. Not just Croatia, but also neighbouring countries are easy to reach from Zagreb. So day-trips or just a few days of travelling are really easily organized.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! Zagreb is an undiscovered city in Eastern Europe while there is a lot to do. The people are really open, the food is great, culture is very warming and the prices of living are not that much. Zagreb is great for a cultural experience, but also for fun.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Do not get discouraged by all the bureaucracy, it is worth it in the end!

PREPARATION
exchange application process



The exchange application process is quite a lot of work, but I don't think it differs from other universities. There are a lot of files you have to hand in, but it's not that much work for each of them.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support of Utrecht University is very good. They are knowledgeable about the whole process, even though it sometimes takes a lot of time for them to respond to e-mails. Apart from that, don't shy away from asking questions, because it's better to ask more questions than to make an unnecessary mistake.

#### academic preparation

Not needed. The courses are mostly on political science, so it's good to be interested in this topic, but you don't need any prior knowledge to attend the courses.

#### language preparation

I didn't know any Croatian and you don't really need it. Most of the people speak good English and all the education is of course in English.

#### finances

If you plan to live in a dormitory, you save a lot of money. The costs for living there are usually lower than in the Netherlands, but at the same time, you will probably make a lot of trips and do fun things, so save up some money for that.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

Most of the courses are about Political science. The course Religion and Politics in the Middle-East is one I very much recommend. Furthermore, they have some journalism courses, which were not very appealing to me. All the courses of the faculty are in the same building and in smaller groups (30-60).

#### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of most of the courses was lower than in Utrecht. Some of them are very repetitive and only about knowing some factual stuff, in opposition to what we do here, where understanding is not as important. Also the master courses I followed sometimes were not of a great level.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office of the faculty is in the building and you can always go there to ask questions. Next to that, the international coordinator responds to his emails very quickly and clearly.

#### transfer of credits

They work with ECTS, so that's easy.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

I wasn't there during the welcome program unfortunately. ESN Zagreb organizes a lot in this week, so I guess it's a very good week to meet a lot of people.

#### accommodation

I decided to live in the dormitory. This is very cheap (€67,- per month), but there is a reason for this. You will have a shared room with one roommate and it's very small (I guess around 10 m<sup>2</sup>, maybe even less). I had a great roommate, so for me it was fine, but you can always decide to leave after a month and find other accommodation. Private accommodation is a bit more expensive (somewhere between 200 and 350 per month).



### leisure & culture

Zagreb is a very nice city, especially to live. There are not that many touristic attractions, so exploring the city as a tourist in your first weeks is done quickly, but Zagreb has a lot of great restaurants, bars, clubs and coffee bars. It also has some nice parks and the mountain Sljeme next to Zagreb offers the opportunity to hike and in the winter to go skiing.

Next to that, Zagreb is a great place to make trips to other cities and countries. Be sure to do that and of course also explore Croatia itself (Split, Zadar, Rijeka, Krka, Plitvice and so on)

### suggestions/tips

Definitely go to Budapest, great city! Also, for some good cheap restaurants, definitely try Nokturno, Curry Bowl and (a bit more expensive) Submarine.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. It's not that challenging when it comes to academic courses, but it's a great place to meet a lot of nice people from different nationalities and make loads of trips. Also, living in Zagreb is great, because the city is bigger than Utrecht and you can really feel it in the amount of bars, restaurants and nice places in the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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## PREPARATION

exchange application process

For me the exchange application process was not so hard. Yes, you have to do a lot of paperwork, but the University gives a clear overview of the things you have to hand in. If you just keep in touch with the admission office and check the UU website, everything will be okay.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counsel and support of the University was good. There was always someone from the admission office available to answer questions.

academic preparation

Academic preparation is not needed. If you study public governance in the Netherlands, you should be able to do this. Even with another background, like for example Law it is still possible to follow.

language preparation

It is nice if you can speak English ;).

finances

Everything is cheap in Croatia. A coffee or a beer is around 2 euros. For my rent I paid 100 euro each month, and I was staying in the most expensive dorm. Also public traffic is cheap, around 15 euros for a monthly tramticket. Only the plane tickets might be a bit more expensive.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
I studied at the political faculty and followed 5 courses to get my 30 ECTS. A course is regularly one seminar and one lecture in a week, which together is 3 hours. There also tutorials, which take even less time.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is not really high. The studyload was big, but the tests were not so difficult. Most professors are okay, and they are kind of easy on erasmus students. There is not a lot of structure in the classes and every professor has his own way of doing things.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support was really good. There was always a possibility to go to the admission office for questions and they were eager to help. However, you have to do a lot of paperwork in Croatia and the system is really bureaucratic. Be prepared for that. They help you in it, but it can be frustrating sometimes ;). But just be patient.
transfer of credits
I don't know yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
In the first week there is an extensive programme for students with all kinds of activities. The organization that organises all this is ESN Zagreb and they really try to give you a good time. Also after the welcome week, they organise many activities and trips. So it is definitely worth it to participate in this programme.
accommodation
I stayed in one of the three dorms 'Stjepan Radic'. This is the most expensive and largest one. There are two other dorms. What I have heard is that the dorm that is in the middle if you look at the price, is the best. But the rooms are smaller there. In Stjepan Radic you share a bathroom and kitchen with 4 people. In The second dorm, you share a bathroom with 2 people, but a small kitchen with the whole floor (a lot of people).
leisure & culture
Zagreb is a nice and cosy city. It is not really big, but it is fun. There are many bars and clubs and a lot of places to go. Croatian people really love to drink coffee and to go to a café and just sit and talk there for at least 3 hours.
suggestions/tips
Just be patient with the paperwork and enjoy your time in Zagreb! There are many things to do and to see.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would definitely recommend this destination. The University is not perfect and the academic quality is not amazing. But it is okay, and around Zagreb there are many things to do. From Zagreb it is easy to visit other cities and countries around for a small price. By bus it is cheap to go to for example Boedapest, Ljubjana, Italy, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia and so on.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Have fun!



## 2017 - 2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process of preparing my exchange was smooth. For Zagreb you do not have to prepare more paperwork than for any other normal exchange destination. If you start in time, you will manage to do it all without stress.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I had a lot of contact with international office and my own faculty and they always emailed me back very quickly and extensively.
academic preparation
I did not have to do any academic preparation.
language preparation
I did not do any preparation regarding the spoken language. The faculty has enough courses in English. A B2 level of English is enough.
finances
I received about €200 Erasmus Grand for four months. I also received a compensation for not using my public transportation card. I received some money from my parents and had some savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I studied at the faculty of political science and completed the following courses. Media in the City, Television news in multimedia environment, the politics of human rights, sectoral public policies and euro-atlantic integration. I never had media courses before but that was not a problem. The second course was more practical and time-consuming but a lot of fun. The remaining political courses were all very interesting and well organized. Everything was explained in the syllabus.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education is lower than in the Netherlands.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good. They hired a new contact person for international students so in the beginning we had to improvise a bit but they were always happy to help.
transfer of credits
My grades are not transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had one introduction week organized by ESN before the University started. This was a really good way to get to know the other Erasmus students and the city. Later we had one introduction meeting at the faculty. In the first two weeks, we were still able to switch courses so I went to lots of lectures to choose the most interesting ones and the ones that did not interfere with each other.



accommodation
My first month I stayed in a student dorm for €66. I got the cheapest one which was really small for two persons. I decided to move after a month to an apartment with four other students. I paid €187 without utilities. The apartment was not located in the centre but was close to my faculty.
leisure & culture
Croatians all speak English very well and are happy to help you. I still have contact with some Croatians in my class. And of course, Croatia is a very interesting country with its recent history and its quest to find their own identity.
suggestions/tips
I really took advantage of the fact that I could visit all of the lectures before making my definitive decision regarding my courses. This enabled me to chose the courses I really liked and suited me best.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
For sure. Zagreb is an interesting city. It is beautiful and big enough to be fun for a whole semester but also small enough to spontaneous meet other Erasmus students in the city. The academic level does not require you to study super hard but studying in Zagreb is still interesting since I learned a lot of new things. Zagreb is also a really good place to travel from. To the coast ánd to neighbour countries. Lastly, I felt really safe while staying in Zagreb and did not spend too much money since living there is cheaper than living in the Netherlands.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy your Erasmus! It flies by too fast.

## 2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
In the beginning, the exchange application process was stressfull. I really wanted to go to the university of zagreb and I had no clue how many people submitted. The international office of REBO was really helpful!
counselling & support at Utrecht University
As I said before, the international office of REBO was really helpful and clear.
academic preparation
I didn't do any academic preparations.
language preparation
I didn't do any language preparations.
finances
Life in Zagreb was cheaper than I budgetted, so that was positive.



## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before we went to Zagreb, we needed to fill in our Learning Agreement. When we arrived we heard that some courses were removed. I needed to be flexible but it was hard to find courses that in sum were 22,5 ects, which I need for my erasmus fund. Eventually I found them but it was not clear when we were supposed to start. 3 out of 5 courses didn't start on the date we were supposed to start so I waited a lot at my faculty for nothing. 3 weeks after the official start of the academic year, my courses were officially started as well.

### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was very diverse within the faculty in Zagreb. Some courses were really easy but others were harder than/as hard as in the Netherlands.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support was very diverse as well. Especially in the beginning it was hard, because not everybody spoke english and it was stressfull for them to help all the students. When I went home, the people were really helpful. And of course, there was a lot of bureaucracy.

### transfer of credits

They work with an index (a book with the grades) and this is really old fashioned. When you receive a grade, you need to make an appointment with your teacher to write it in the index to make it valid. This takes a lot of time. I didn't transfer my credits to the Dutch system yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

Our faculty organised a presentation in which they introduced the courses and some teachers. That was all they organised. Luckily, the ESN of Zagreb is really active. In the first week they organized a lot of activities and I was able to meet new people. That was really fun.

### accommodation

I loved the students dorm I lived in! I needed to share a room, but the room was really nice with a bathroom. The whole building was new and a lot of exchange students lived there. Besides that, it had a gym and a really cheap student cafeteria. This all for only €90 a month!

### leisure & culture

ESN organised a lot of activities, like visiting ice hockey games, a visit to the parliament and trips to Budapest and a nature park in Croatia. Besides that, I was able to make a lot of weekend trips because life was really cheap in Zagreb. So I have seen a lot of Eastern Europe.

### suggestions/tips

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## CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! I had the time of my life. ESN is really active so there is enough to do and you can easily meet the 500 exchange students (which is not too much and not too little). Besides that, everything in Croatia is really cheap. With all the 'extra' money, I was able to travel a lot within Eastern Europe and to go out a lot (half a liter of beer or a coffee is only €1,10). And to conclude, Croatian people are really nice and speak English and Croatia is a beautiful country!





do you have any additional advice or comments?

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## 2013-2014

preparation
exchange/placement application process
Started a little late so had to rush some things and was some stress, but after all went smooth, contact with Zagreb was good and very helpful.
counselling/support at home university
International Office was always ready to help and helped us a great deal
academic preparation
Not so much, did some literature research for the courses
language preparation
None, English was told to be sufficient
finances
Erasmus Grant, DUO transportation fee are easy to request, just do it in time
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
Political Science -> took 2 master courses and 2 bachelor courses. Well organised and interesting.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Academic quality was lower then in the Netherlands, master courses can be compared to second year bachelor courses in NL.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Perfect, always there to help
transfer of credits
Have still yet to find out
student life
welcome/orientation programme



One week of University, after Erasmus organization took over. Interesting and sufficient.
accommodation
Private renting with 4 other students. About 200 euro per month, which is a normal price here for nice appartments in the city.
leisure/culture
Culture is very open, Croatians are very nice people and especially the young people speak perfect English and are very willing to interact with international students.
suggestions/tips
Mingle with Croatians, they are very open and warm people and will often invite you into their houses to meet their families!
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes, Zagreb is a beautiful city in an interesting country. The university level is ok, it will be a little easier than Utrecht. Furthermore, Croatia is a beautiful country and the coast line is incredible. Also noteworthy to say is that there are almost none to no signs of criminality and everybody is easy going.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Start early with your application!

## 2013-2014

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
I actually had some problems in the application proces. The communication between the different institutions was bad, and there was an overall confusion about the requirements
counselling/support at home university
The counselling at my home university was good. The study advisor of my home university helped me alot
academic preparation
The level of education in Zagreb was no problem. I was fully prepared for the levelof education.
language preparation



All the courses were in English. In the beginning I had some trouble adjusting, but after the first few weeks everything went smooth.

finances

In Croatia everything is, compared to the Netherlands, quite cheap. I had more than enough money to come around, I even had some left over for trips.

### study/placement abroad period

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

The courses I took were very interesting, and compatible with the rest of my Bachelor programme. It was well organised.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education was good, but not as high as on my home university. I decided to do some Master level courses, which were more difficult and more interesting.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The international office is open everyday from 9 to 5, unlike the one in Utrecht. They will help you with everything and are very friendly.

transfer of credits

They maintain the ECTS system, so I didn't encounter any problems here.

### student life

welcome/orientation programme

The welcome program was good, and gave us a chance to meet everyone. The group of Erasmus students is quite small, so this gave us a chance to really know everyone

accommodation

I did not live in the student dormitory so I have no idea. The private accommodation I rented was good and compared to Utrecht cheap. It is quite easy to find a room outside the student dormitory.

leisure/culture

The group of Erasmus was like a big family and the atmosphere was really good. The student life is vivid and there is more than enough to do.

suggestions/tips

No suggestion or tips.

### conclusions



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

Yes, definitely. I had a very good time here, and the country is beautiful. The Croatian people are welcoming and the university is good.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

no.