



# Universität Konstanz

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Application process was pretty easy.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange office of USE was of great help. They always kept me (and other exchange students) up-to-date about changes.
academic preparation
For my learning agreement I used the website of Universität Konstanz to find courses. However, the courses on the website were for the Summer semester instead of the Winter semester. I'm not sure if the courses for the winter semester were even on the website at that point, but it caused a lot of trouble for my learning agreement.
language preparation
My study E&bE is also in English, so English was no problem for studying abroad. The University of Konstanz also offers a German language course in September, and this was a great preparation for German courses in Konstanz (although I decided not to do any courses in German).
finances
On the internet (uu study abroad website), you can easily find the costs of living in Konstanz. On the website of Erasmus+, it's easy to find the amount of the grant (but remember: you won't get the full amount during your stay!). Please keep in mind that a lot of the internationals (all my friends here were from all over the world) are from outside Europe and saved a lot of money to visit cities like Budapest, Prague, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels and so on in October (The semester didn't start until the 19 <sup>th</sup> of October, and GoKonstanz was finished on the 30 <sup>th</sup> of September).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The University of Konstanz lets you do all the courses they offer, even if it's not in your own study field. So as long as UU accepts it, you can follow some pretty cool courses. I did 3 economics courses, 2 language courses (German and Spanish) and one course about German history. Not all of them were approved by USE, but I already accounted for that beforehand.
academic quality of education activities
Economics in Germany is very mathematical. I liked that, but this can be hard. The overall quality was good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very good. The people from the international office and GoKonstanz were of great help.
transfer of credits
The volunteers of the international office will help you with your transcript of records.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I participated in the GoKonstanz program offered by the international office of Universität Konstanz. Their help and support was amazing. They offer a language course in september and help you with all the German paperwork and other necessities (e.g. bank). They have plenty of volunteers, who are always happy to answer any questions. On the first day, you have to take a German language test and this determines in which class (level) you're going to participate. The classes are from 9:00-12:30 and in the afternoon they will help you with administrative stuff. In the weekends, they organise several excursions to get to know Konstanz and its surroundings. An alternative for GoKonstanz is OriPro; this program will help you with the administrative stuff in 4 days in October.
accommodation
I applied for a room in one of the Seezeit apartments. This was pretty easy to do from Utrecht. I was really happy with my accommodation. It's a shared (4 persons) apartment in WH am Seerhein. The location of the building was perfect, the apartment is clean, and a lot of other internationals live in this building as well. In principle they put two internationals in an apartment with two German students; However, this was for me not the case.
leisure & culture
Konstanz has a lot of great places to go to. In summer, the Bodensee is just a beautiful place to sit with friends, and in winter, you can visit several museums (using the vouchers every new resident of Konstanz gets) or just hang out in coffee places in the Altstadt. The clubs and pubs are pretty good. In the Altstadt, most bars close at 01:00, but the clubs in the industrial area stay open for a long time. I was here for the wintersemester, so I had the pleasure of seeing/participating Oktoberfest (both the small version in Konstanz and the Munich one) and carnival. But in the summer semester, you can still get to know a lot of the German culture, because of the various (Wein)festivals and just hanging around in the Altstadt
suggestions/tips
All the shops are closed on Sundays! You can go to a café to get a coffee, but that's it.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! I had an amazing time during my stay. The university offers interesting courses and is super transparent. The people from GoKonstanz and the international office are helpful and Konstanz is just a great place to live.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I would really recommend the GoKonstanz program, because they help you out a lot, and it's a great opportunity to find your first friends in Konstanz.