



Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

2022-2023

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was very straightforward, with clear tasks and deadlines.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very helpful by giving feedback on the study plan and anything related.
academic preparation
With the courses I had at UU, I felt prepared in all my courses. Nevertheless, I found some courses extremely challenging (Economic Growth, Bank Management)
language preparation
Since spanish is my mother-tongue, it was not really needed. But the OLS test was a good way to test the level.
finances
With DUO and with an extra Erasmus grant, the financial part was solved.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I managed to get a spot in almost every course I wanted to take. I had to change only one that was fully booked. I found my courses extremely interesting but also requiring more effort. Since the semester is not divided in two periods (as in UU), it was a different experience but it was enjoyable. The only advice I would give is to pick your courses early on, and stick to the continuous evaluation, because at the end you will probably have all your final exams on the same week, which can be pretty stressful.
academic quality of education activities
I found the academic quality to be extremely high and very challenging.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are International Offices, and they usually reply fast with anything needed.
transfer of credits
Still waiting for all my grades to be published, so that they can transfer the grades list with all the credits.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Great welcome and orientation days, where I met so many exchange students from all around the world. The Buddy Programme also was a great way to meet people, and they showed us around the campus and gave us tips.
accommodation
Madrid is a very popular city, and housing is not easy. There are many scammers and it is more difficult to find housing for shorter periods of time. Nevertheless, it is possible to find affordable housing through different platforms (Badi, Idealista). If you want to be in the centre of the city, you might have to pay more but it is worth



it. From there you can take the train to Getafe (where the campus is) in 30 minutes.
leisure & culture
Spanish culture and way of living is very fun and easy to adapt. Madrid is a city where you can always find something to do. People are very open and friendly. From beautiful spots in the city (parks, cafes, streets) to great parties, you can literally find anything you want to do.
suggestions/tips
Try to get to know people as much as possible, enjoy from the tapas and enjoy your courses. Having a balance is key!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definetely. I have become very attached to Madrid, to the people and to the culture. I feel like I would like to live there again someday. The university was very good, in terms of organisation and academics. I really enjoyed the city, the university, the people and the whole experience as a whole.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Start looking for housing early on, enroll for your courses as soon as possible and engage in many activities. Go to class and try to understand the weekly content, as everything will be part of the final exam. Be open to new experiences and take a moment to enjoy the trip.



2021-2022

PREPARATION
exchange application process
During my second year everything was still online and I was very excited to do things, so I looked and saw that there were a lot of possibilities to study abroad. I was too late for the first deadline, but there were more than enough places left. The application process itself is not difficult but it takes some time to really prepare the documents you have to hand in.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The study advisors have helped me very well with different conversations and recommendations about which courses to follow in Madrid.
academic preparation
I did not have to prepare a lot of academic things before going. I made sure to pass all my courses in Utrecht.
language preparation
As it was very uncertain for me if the exchange programme was going to happen due to covid, I did not follow any language courses before leaving. This is something I do recommend.
finances
I had saved a lot of money for this exchange and with the Erasmus grant and some money from my parents I had no problems.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I studied economic courses and this was organised very well. As an Erasmus student we were able to join almost all English speaking classes and while signing up you had to look for yourself if there was no overlap between courses.
academic quality of education activities
University is different in Spain, it is more like a difficult kind of high school. With more classes and it is more focused on the theoretical parts.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Took some time before I got my LA signed, but the other communication was fine.
transfer of credits
Every subject was worth 6 credits and the university worked with semesters, so I followed five courses.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
This was online, because of the covid measures.
accommodation
I lived in the city centre of Madrid. There is also a possibility to live at the campus, however, I would not recommend this as the university is in Getafe and not in the city Madrid. Living in the centre was so much fun! Look at HelpHousing for good rooms in nice student houses.



leisure & culture

There were almost no restrictions in Madrid, so my friends and I really enjoyed live. From having delicious Spanish dinners, enjoying the sun in the park, drinks at our own roof terrace and going out multiple times a week. Madrid is the best city to live in!

suggestions/tips

Go to Madrid for an exchange! It is an amazing experience that you will never forget!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I have seen other Erasmus students that went to other universities in Madrid, and compared to those, Carls III is well organised, the education level is good and the campus is very beautiful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go on an exchange and enjoyyyy

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I didn't have much time to prepare. Due to covid it was at the latest moment i could go. I googled a lot and asked some friends from madrid where I could stay best. I signed up for buddy program which helped me contact someone at that university. She helped me a lot and so i could easily choose where to live and what to think off.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Quite well, They explain a lot and have an easy view and knowladge what you have to do. Next to that they have a clear website and show you step by step what to do.

academic preparation

Not much had no clue what to expect and just went into it blind. I only read some past reports and mainly focussed on what I liked.

language preparation

Already did bilingual education. My courses were in english and didn't have much time to learn spanish. So I just tried to use some duolingo but my advice is to maybe follow some lessons in the netherlands beforehand.

finances

Worked the few months before the exchange and saved up money. This helped a lot. For the rests you have the grant and the costs in spain are a bit cheaper then here in the netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was good. The study i chose was well represented and the level was high. You could see that most courses ahd a different background then I expected but in was quite okay to pick up.

academic quality of education activities

It was harder then I expected. Due to some report before i read i heard the university was quite easy. However this was not the case. I choose harder courses and thus had trouble finding my way to study.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



Was really good. they were open and had many tips were to go and were to stay if you wanted to study. Nice libraries and many study spots.

transfer of credits

Not really, hasn't happened yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Good, I signed up for the buddy program of UC3M. I had a nice buddy who showed me around town and helped me make contacts and was a good experience. Due to my arrival being late I missed the welcome of the university but didn't really mind it.

accommodation

Amazing, I used help housing and it was a really good easy service. Had amazing housemates and made my time in Madrid the best. Still miss the place. I can recommend Plaza Santa Ana 4

leisure & culture

The best ever! there were so many things to do. From clubs and going out to soccer matches you could play in. I enjoyed every minute.

suggestions/tips

Find a central place with some housemates. Try to join many Facebook and WhatsApp groups. These are the easiest way to make contacts.

CONCLUSIONS

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

GO!!!! prepare well but also enjoy the journey of being on your own and explore new things. Don't focus too much on studying and choose easy courses. The experience is worth it. It's all about the journey and not the destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not really, if there are any questions feel free to contact me. Just make sure to have fun, be yourself and don't be scared.

2019 -2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process starts with deciding which university you're planning on going. You have to do research on the courses you want to take and put them into the studyplan from Utrecht University. After you've done this, you have to go to the international office to let them sign the document. They will nominate you for the application to the university in the country where you want to go to. This will take a while but you will receive a message after. When you know which courses you are going to take, you have to let them sign by the exam commission.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University organised an information presentation for people that are interested in studying abroad. Besides the international office was always there to answer questions by e-mail or in person at Janskerkhof 2-3.



academic preparation
Academic preparation was not necessary in my case.
language preparation
I followed my courses in English. This went pretty well. But since I lived in Spain, and didn't do any Spanish course in my life, I recommend to do a beginner Spanish course in The Netherlands before going. I did a Spanish course in my university but it started really late and it is just too nice to have some basics before going. This makes practising way more easy.
finances
For my room in the center of madrid I paid 500 each month. This is a normal price but you have to take into account that a lot of agencies ask for a agency fee that is as high as one month rent. In terms of living expences it is similar to the Netherlands. Going to clubs costs you a lot since you have to pay entrance fee and the drinks are expensive as well. Going out for dinner is cheaper though. Take into account that you want to make the most out of your time so this costs a little bit more than back home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the beginning of the semester you have to sign up for your classes online. You can change your chosen courses during the first week. You have to sign up immediately after the system opens because otherwise you will miss out and the classes are already full. During the week a lot of people change their classes so it is possible that a couple of spots will be available after.
academic quality of education activities
I noticed that a lot of classes are compulsory in Madrid. A lot more than back home in Utrecht. The classes are not really hard, but not easy either. Maybe because the courses I followed were not in line with my study back home since a did a minor in Madrid. I had a lot of small exams as well that count for only 8% or so, this is different than back home where we only have 1 mid term and 1 final exam per course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Carlos III was easy to contact with via email. They have an international office too where you can go to with your problems.
transfer of credits
The ECTS credits for one course are less than in Utrecht. The big courses were 6 ECTS and the small courses were 3. Personally I had 5 courses which was fine.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first day the university had a welcome day for the international students. This was not really special, just an intro presentation. We also got some churros after. The introduction days were arranged by ESN. Personally I didn't go to this. Citylife Madrid also has a lot of welcome events. I would recommend to go to a pup crawl for meeting friends.
accommodation
I stayed in a 12 person flat in the centre of Madrid. This flat was from the company Helpmadrid. The flat as filled with international students and was close to almost everthing. Idealista is an alternative for finding a room. I wouldn't recommend Spotahome because they charge high fees.
leisure & culture



in my free time I spend a lot of time exploring the city and relaxing in the parks with my friends (retiro, templo de debod). I also signed up for a gym to go to in my free time. In Casa de Campo you can rent mountainbikes, this was really beautiful. Going for tapas in La Latina or thriftshopping in malasana I found really fun. You can also go to museums for free with your student card.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend to go to swimming pool Lago during the warm days, this is a really nice spot to swim. Embalse de San Juan is also a nice spot to swim, but this one is one hour by bus. Brunch in the park is held everyone Sunday during the summer months, this is a small techno/house festival and it was really fun.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would definitely recommend Madrid. The culture and the weather are really nice. It is also a big city with a lot to do and a lot of potential trips can be made. Also, a lot of internationals are here which is really fun.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went quite smoothly. There was not much I needed to do, most things went automatically through my university in Utrecht and the one I had in Madrid. Next to this, in my studies in Utrecht I was the only person wanting to go to Madrid, so I did not have to go through a selection process.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think there was a good support from Utrecht University. Everything was explained to me clearly. We had some meetings where I got all the information I needed, so I did not need any further counselling or support.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation since I knew I would be studying similar things to what I study in Utrecht. Also, I already study in English in the Netherlands so I did not need to prepare my English.

language preparation

I did not try to learn the Spanish language before going. I knew my studies were going to be in English and I already study in English in the Netherlands, so I did not need any preparations for this.

finances

I made sure to fulfill all the requirements for the Erasmus+ grant on time, so I received part of it before going on exchange. Next to this, I worked a lot in summer and saved up.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was in some ways quite similar and in other ways not at all. I was studying courses similar to what I do in the Netherlands, so content was not too different. There was a big difference in attendance requirements and also in assignments to do each week. I had to hand in small things every week, however they were quite easy so they did not take up much time. I was just not used to this, because in my university in Utrecht we never have to do that. Organisation wise, it is very similar to Utrecht. Everything you need you can



find online. The only issue is that not everything is in the same programme, so to sign up for courses, to see your course information, to see your schedule and exam dates, etc. is all on different websites. This can sometimes be a bit confusing.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality of education activities was quite good. It was similar to what I get in Utrecht, but maybe a bit easier. It also really depended on the course how much they demanded.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not use any counselling at my university in Madrid, because I did not need it. I did sign up for the buddy programme beforehand. My buddy I did not really need in the end, but it is nice to have someone to ask questions if necessary.

transfer of credits

I have not received my credits yet. I should receive them early in my second semester. My university in Madrid is going to send them, so I just have to wait for them.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university did not provide any welcome & orientation programme. There is an Erasmus community that organises more and many organisations outside of the university organise many activities for erasmus students. I did not participate in the welcome & orientation programme of Erasmus so I do not know how those activities were like.

accommodation

I did not like my accommodation very much. I was with mostly Spanish people that did not really speak good english. Since I do not speak Spanish either we could not communicate that much. I know most of the friends I made during my erasmus all really liked their roommates and spent a lot of time with them, especially in the beginning. They all had international roommates so everyone wanted to meet people and this helped a lot with their social lives. So, I would suggest looking carefully at a nice accommodation because this can really help with your erasmus experience.

leisure & culture

Madrid is a big city that has a lot to offer as far as leisure and culture. I discovered the city very slowly, saw all the nice highlights and areas throughout the four months I was there.

suggestions/tips

Make sure to go in open mind and expect it does not always have to be fun. Give it time while your there to find nice people and to discover the city.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the university is well-organised. I never had any issues, the university has a good website where everything is explained quite clearly. Next to this, most of my teachers were fine and the content taught was relevant. I would not say this is an amazing university, but I did not mind at all since I went on exchange rather for the experience and Madrid is a really nice city so I would definitely recommend it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure to look into a good accomodation, because I think if I had a nicer accomodation with more exchange students, I would have had a better experience from the beginning. Also, try to do a lot of social activities from the beginning to meet people, I think that helps a lot with the overall experience.



2018-2019

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The first step is writing a motivation letter in which you need to tell why you want to study at the specific university. After writing your letter you have to wait for Utrecht University to approve your application and see if you get your first choice. Your application is then sent to the university abroad and you have to wait for their approval. If this is both set and done you can start preparing for your stay.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The studyadvisors are always there to help and offered me a lot of help during the application process. It is very useful to talk with them about the courses you want to follow and why. Together you can find out if the courses don't overlap courses you already followed and if they are considered as first, second, or third year courses. Furthermore, other staff at Utrecht University are very friendly and think in solutions rather than problems.
academic preparation
The academic preparation consists mostly of forming your studyplan. Which consists of the courses you want to follow, pay specific attention to how they fit into your current program. Make sure they don't overlap with courses you already followed and consult your studyadvisor.
language preparation
The language preparation consists of making the OLS language test. After this test you can see your current level in English. Personally I took a basic Spanish course in Utrecht, just so I could get find my way in the supermarket etc.
finances
For the application process you need to fill in a realistic financial plan. How much do you think it's going to cost and how are you going to pay for this. Life in Madrid is overall more expensive than in Utrecht. This excludes all the extra activities you do as a Exchange student.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Applying for your courses is one of the most frustrating things you will encounter during your stay in Madrid. The application process for the courses is in different rounds, if you are in one of the later rounds you will see that some of the courses you want to follow are already full. Therefore, make sure you have a back-up plan for the courses you want to follow. Furthermore, you need to set together your own time-slots when picking courses. Make sure courses don't overlap. Write it down on paper first so you have clear overview.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the education activities is good. Some teachers speak English better than others, but always clear and easy to follow. The difference with Utrecht University is that courses are worth 6 ECTS and that the period starts in September and ends in December. In order to get you the same ECTS, you therefore need to follow 5 courses at the same time for a period of 4 months. The courses start slow but because of the extensive amount of time for the course the contents get more challenging towards the end.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The university sends regular emails to keep you up to date on what is happening on campus. Their exchange commission also responds to your emails really quickly and clearly and are always willing to help.

transfer of credits

The main difference with Utrecht University is that courses are worth 6ECTS. In order to get you the same ECTS you therefore need to follow 5 courses. Consult your studyadvisor to see if the courses you follow are first, second or third year courses according to the utrecht university program.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is an introduction day in Leganes where all Carlos III come together and get a welcoming speech. Here you also pick up your certificate of arrival. This is a great first way to meet people. The orientation programme is mostly done by ESN. I would highly advise to take part in the activities the first month. It is a great way to get to learn other international students and make friends.

accommodation

There is an opportunity to find accommodation on campus, but I would highly advice you not do so. Even though the university is in Getafe. Life is in Madrid. All the activities, clubs, events etc. are in Madrid. It is a bit more expensive than Getafe but definiatly worth it. Finding a room there is a lot easier than in Utrecht. With idealista.com it should be easy to find your place to stay.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of ESN activities with which you can explore the city with other international students. Don't rush all the cultural activities, you're there for half a year. Take your time and spread all the activities. Furthermore, the spanish culture is a lot more "tranquilo" than here in the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

Accomodate yourself in Madrid. Do your groceries in the big supermarkets like the Lidl, they are a lot less expensive than the carrefour express which you can find everywhere. Furthermore, the water from the tap is drinkable but doesn't taste that good in the beginning, but you will get used to this.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the educational services are very good. Carlos III pays special attention to international students and there is a huge international student network at the university. Furthermore, there is always something to do in madrid. The possibilities are endless.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The food at the cafeteria is pretty good and cheap.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I think the applicatino process whas not that hard. Of course you have to write a good motivation letter to prove your motivation and willingness to really live abroad. Once they let you know you have a spot at the abroad university, you have to fulfull some papers, it is not hard but still it takes some time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University



I think the counselling and support was pretty good, when I had questions they were answered within a reasonable time.

academic preparation

I did not really prepare for the Spanish university, my Dutch experience of university seemed enough.

language preparation

I already spoke Spanish before I went on this exchange, because I learned the language in another earlier exchange before my studies. Hence the language was not a problem for me.

finances

In advance I made a monthly estimation of my spendings, and to cover up I saved some money by working so I was able to spend more in Spain. The prices in Spain are a bit lower than in Holland, so that is nice for your exchange experience.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed subjects of the Economic faculty. I think the content of the subjects were good, only the organisational part could be improved a little. But I think that is more about the Spanish culture, everything goes a little bit slower and a little less structured.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality of my lectures and tutorials were a bit lower than the Dutch level I was used to. I think the main reason for this was because of the poor English of some of the Spanish teachers.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support was quite okay.

transfer of credits

Until now everything went alright with the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first days of my exchange some welcome activities were planned, this was nice to meet other students.

accommodation

I found my accommodation via a friend, in the center of Madrid which was really nice. I think finding accommodation in Madrid is not that hard.

leisure & culture

I really love the Spanish culture, the food and the weather. In general the food and drinks in restaurants is a little bit cheaper than in the Netherlands, which is really nice.

suggestions/tips

If you go on exchange, just enjoy your time and your cultural experience and try out everything you want, because this is the right time!

CONCLUSIONS



would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would definitely recommend Madrid to others, because it is a really nice city with nice weather and a nice environment. There are a lot of exchange students, so making new friends is not difficult at all.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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2017-2018

PREPARATION
exchange application process
we had to start the application process in osiris and choose the destination, later we had to fill in some forms. it was not a lot of work and easy to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The exchange officer was extremely helpful to answer any of the questions, and she replied really quick to emails or calls.
academic preparation
I made sure I took my level 3 courses in advance, because I did not know if my courses here would count as level 3 courses.
language preparation
I took a language course at Universidad Carlos III in august before starting at the university. it was a nice way to meet other students and get familiar with the language. you did have to pay for this separately.
finances
I made a budget plan in the beginning, but did not really stick to it. I took a student loan at duo and had a loan of 800 euros a month. my rent in madrid was 400 euros a month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took the courses, Human Resource management which I would recommend since it was quite easy. Auditing financial statements which was hard and challenging. organisational design which was sometimes not that well organised and operations management which was easy but with a great teacher.
academic quality of education activities
Overall the level is a little bit less than at University utrecht. Teachers come late sometimes to lectures.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They help you with questions, but if you email them you might have to wait a while for a response.
transfer of credits
all my credits got acknowledged, so I did not encounter any problems with this.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme

the student association organised a week full of activities to get to know your fellow students. however I did not participate in this since I made a lot of friends during my spanish course in August.

accommodation

I found an apartment through other students from utrecht university that had lived in madrid before. my rent was 400 euros a month

leisure & culture

In Madrid there are lots of things to do so you will never be bored. there are a lot of bars, clubs and restaurants

suggestions/tips

When you are at the crowded areas in madrid, be aware of pickpocketers. also I would advise everyone to live in the center not on campus. you would have to travel 45 minutes to the university, but it is much more fun since there is nothing to do in the city where the university is.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend it without a doubt. I had an amazing time in spain. however the university differs a lot in level from our university. I enjoyed my time at the university and felt that the teachers were really involved.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

even though it might seem scary, just do it! It is the experience of a life time! Also if you face difficulties at the start of your stay, don't give up it is normal that you have to get used to your new life for a while.