



Vienna University of Economics and Business

2021-2022

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	For me the application process was a bit chaotic, since I originally got accepted into a university in Australia to do my exchange, but because of Corona that got cancelled, so I had to make a new top 3 of universities that I wanted to go to (of the ones that were still available). However, the rest of the application process ran quite smoothly and after I got accepted into the new university there was less stress in the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Although it was a bit stressful having to change my destination last minute, the support I got from the university was really good, in the sense that I got help choosing a new university and got fast replies when I needed something signed.
academic preparation	There was not a lot of academic preparation needed before my exchange, except for passing my courses in Utrecht and signing up for courses at the WU. You had to be extremely fast to sign up for classes in Vienna, since classes could fill up within seconds (literally seconds). So you had to make sure you had about 2 backup courses per course that you wanted to do. And because I am doing a minor, I also had to make sure that I had enough credits to pass my minor.
language preparation	I already had some German language skills before going to Vienna, but I really wanted to improve my German/Austrian during my stay in Vienna. This is why I signed up for a 2 week pre-semester German course, in which I was selected into a group of students with around the same level of German so we could have classes that were more tailored to our level (which was B2, so we had classes to get towards C1). For this I had to do a test beforehand to see what level I had. I also needed to make an English test for my Erasmus+ grant to see my level of English before my stay and compare it to my level of English after my stay (since all my classes would be in English, just like my classes here in Utrecht).
finances	I already saved a bit of money before my exchange (also since I was supposed to go to Australia, since that would have been a bit more expensive) and I made sure that my DUO loan was on the maximum to have enough money AND have a buffer if something happened. The housing in Vienna wasn't cheap (although I got one of the cheaper rooms), so most of my expenses would go to paying my rent (which was about 500 euros a month). However, travelling to Vienna is not that expensive and because I wanted to go by train, my ride to Vienna could be fully paid for by the Travel Green Grant. This helped me to save a bit of money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took 5 classes, next to my German language course and an Intercultural Learning course I was taking online at the UU. These 5 classes were: Econometrics II, International Business Applications, Introduction to Blockchain, Machine Learning and Global Supply Chain Management. The content of the courses was extremely interesting and I learned a lot from them. The only difference with the UU for me was that at the WU the courses each start and end on different dates and the duration of each course is different. This made choosing courses a bit difficult, since it had to fit into your schedule, and since you had a required attendance, you could not have any overlap with the different courses you were choosing. Next to this, because of Corona, classes were held online



for the month of December, which was a bit of a bummer, but there is nothing someone could have done about it.

academic quality of education activities

I would say the quality of education and the courses I took was pretty high.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not use counselling or support services a lot at my receiving university, but of the few interactions I had with them, I would say that it is decent and if you need help with something this university will take good care of you.

transfer of credits

For the transfer of credits the WU would send the required documents to the UU directly, making it easier for the student to get your credits on paper at the UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Because of corona, a lot of the activities were cancelled. However, the Erasmus Buddy Network could organise some events to get to know your fellow students, which was nice. Other than that, the university organised an online welcome day next to the on-campus registration, which wasn't great (since it wasn't that helpful and on campus would have been better), but it was at least something.

accommodation

I was living in a building from OEAD, which is mostly only for students. Most of the students living here were also exchange students at the WU, which helped a lot with getting to know new people that were doing the same thing. I lived in an appartement with one other girl and paid around 500 euros. I lived about 5 minutes away from campus, which was also really nice.

leisure & culture

One of my assignments during my course of Intercultural Learning at the UU was to write something about the cultural differences between Vienna and The Netherlands, so I will add that here into the document:

When I first started doing groceries it looked like all products were extremely similar to the Dutch ones. However, after a while you start to see the small differences. For example, the cheese and the bread (it's or heavy sourdough bread or this factory-made sandwich-bread, which is just not the same) are different here. I really miss some things about Dutch eating culture at this point, and I can't wait to get my lighter Dutch bread with a lot of cheese on it! I do however really like the delicacies here such as the "Kaisersmarren"! Additionally, because they don't have some things here that I was used to eat on a regular basis in the Netherlands, my eating habits also started to change a bit. I do eat the different bread kind and I put different toppings on it than cheese. Also, I feel like people eat dinner at a later time here, around 19:00 or 20:00, whereas in the Netherlands we are used to eat at 18:00. I slowly started to get into a rhythm of eating late as well now, which is interesting to realize (because I never really thought anything of it). Moreover, all shops in Vienna are closed on Sunday and you have to keep this in mind with buying groceries, since this is easy to forget. I'm getting used to it now, but I was struggling with this in the beginning. I (unconsciously) changed my "grocery-routine" into one where I do not have to buy groceries on Sunday and it will probably be weird for me to have all shops open on a Sunday when I come back to the Netherlands.

A lot of people are using public transport (students) here in Vienna and are not really using bikes etc. (although it is up and coming here and there are more and more bike lanes being built). However, the bike lanes are very (VERY) confusing. Sometimes a bike lane just ends, and you don't know what to do and where to go, also since they (the police) are really strict with bike rules and other traffic rules. To add to this, so many streets are one-way streets, which makes cycling or driving even more difficult in this city. Therefore, I



would say that the city is mostly focused on pedestrians and the use of the public transport. In that aspect I like the Dutch traffic system a bit more. However, the “U-Bahn” (the metro) and “Straßenbahn” (the tram) come every 5 minutes or so, so usually you don’t have to wait for long, which is nice. The organization is really well managed and for students its extremely cheap to buy a semester ticket, namely 75 euros. For exchange students who live in the Netherlands it is a lot more expensive to use public transport, so that’s a plus for Vienna!

Looking back at my experience in Austria so far, I have realized that my home culture is different in some aspects than my host culture, but also similar in other aspects. What was interesting to see is that the Austrian language is pretty different from German. At first you don’t really realize it, because your German is not that good to tell apart different accents etc., but after a while you start to see a lot of differences. For example, to greet someone, in German you would say “hallo” or “guten Tag/guten Morgen/guten Abend”, but here you say “Servus”. Or for example with asking for a bag, in Germany you would ask for a “Tüte”, but here you ask for a “Säckel”, which is totally different. It caused some confusion in the beginning with trying to figure out what someone is asking you at the grocery store haha. However, I feel like Austrians communicate in the same way as Dutch people, looking at manners and making agreements. They are (most of the time) punctual and right on time. However, it seems to me like their manners are a bit stricter in the way that they are more prudent and moderate in their behavior, whereas I (just as the people I’m around with in the Netherlands) are more open and straight to the point. For example, we just say that something bothers us, when we find something annoying, or if we have an extreme opinion, we voice ourselves. So, it is interesting to see that people here keep their opinions more reserved, and I feel like I have become a bit more reserved as well in my opinions (although unconsciously). But looking back I think I have definitely changed with being more reserved and keeping more to stricter rules.

Additionally, I want to add that the situation is totally different in the way of communication. You are expected to participate every time in class and come up with your own opinion (most of the time backed up by facts). If you do not participate, this results in a low grade for participation, which can count for 10 to 40% of your grade. Even in an online setting, this made me more pro-active during class, asking questions and participating in discussion about the readings. I realized that, even though I sometimes don’t like to be this active, it definitely helps with learning the new material, because you are engaging with it and learning different perspectives to look at problems (especially since I have a lot of classes with exchange students from all over the world, so it’s interesting to see what everyone comes up with and what their view is about certain issues). So I really developed an appreciation for the local culture in this aspect.

Looking at the different holidays we have here in Austria, I don’t see a lot of differences except for Austrians not celebrating Sinterklaas and making more of a big thing of Christmas. I really love Christmas, so I’m not complaining. There are like 8 Christmas markets throughout the city of Vienna, where you can drink glühwein and eat delicious snacks in addition to buying a lot of things like ornaments. There are a lot bigger than in the Netherlands and the vibe is just way better (more Christmassy instead of a Christmas market which feels more like a normal Sunday market with a lot of stands which not even sell Christmas stuff like ornaments). Writing this I care more about this than I thought, and I definitely appreciate this Christmas culture in Austria a lot more now. Looking back, I did not even realize that I missed Sinterklaas, since I was so focused on making it to every Christmas market in time for Lockdown (which was announced a few days after the markets opened). I therefore did not celebrate Sinterklaas here, but I did bring “Kruidnoten” during the beginning of my exchange for my friends to try and I also told them what this holiday is about. In return my friends (some are from America) told me about their Thanksgiving traditions, which we don’t celebrate in the Netherlands. In the end, even though the holidays may be different and on a different day, it is all about being with your family and having this ritual every year to see each other. In that sense, all the different holidays do not really differ, but I definitely changed from being a “Sinterklaas-person” to being a “Christmas-person” (even though I already liked Christmas a lot already).



To sum up, I have grown to appreciate the Dutch culture more in some ways, but also the Austrian culture. Both cultures have different things that I really like and enjoy and some habits I will definitely bring back with me to The Netherlands (like for example my work ethic in class and my love for Christmas)!

suggestions/tips

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CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definitely! You learn so much about yourself AND others, living in a city with different cultures and languages. It will not only help to improve yourself academically, but also personally, helping you to increase your cognitive skills and more!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2019-2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is very well to do. It is explained into detail in various documents and presentations. It starts already far in advance (ofcourse), this is something to be aware of and which makes it a little bit difficult because you have to plan/ set out a lot of things far in advance.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU staff is very helpful in preparing you for your application for and your depart to your exchange destination. Huub Klein Schiphorst helped me with my study plan and the International office provides all information needed for your preparation.

academic preparation

Well in advance I made my study plan and enrolled for my courses in order for my studies to not get delayed.

language preparation

The language in which I would be practicing my studies was english which is the same as my bachelor's, so this was not a big issue. I spoke German quite well, which was quite useful when I was in Vienna.

finances

I worked and saved for my exchange semester in Vienna. Life is equally expensive in Vienna as in Utrecht. However there were a lot of trips planned there. The Erasmus Grant helps in the financing of the exchange semester, but I would recommend to save for your trip.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

study programme (content and organisational issues)



The WU has a large variety in courses of which you can choose from, so for anyone there are courses which they would find interesting. Group work is a big part of every course. The organization of the courses was very well structured even when we had to switch to distance-learning.

academic quality of education activities

I would rate the academic quality of the WU Wien equal as that of the UU. Academic staff was very professional, just as the study material and the working environment.

transfer of credits

Not applicable yet, since my credits did not get transferred yet. The grading system is different however. Austria rates: 1-5, where 1 is best and 5 is worst and a 4 is needed to pass.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The host university WU was very supportive in helping to complete the semester successfully. They provided us with a lot of information and guidance. I have experienced no problems in my studies and in my personal life when the education switched to distance-learning.

support guidance of home university

My home university UU helped me sufficiently in bringing the semester to a successful end. They kept me up to date about the situation and gave guidance where needed.

online offer and quality of digital courses

Every course I was enrolled for switched to online and did so perfectly fine. In my opinion I did not lose a lot of education/ material which I would have learned if it did not switch to online. Of course the online courses were less interactive, but with MS Teams these consequences were reduced.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Lectures should be recorded/ presentation with voice over. And seminars should be done in MS Teams (or similar). As a student I would not 'go' on a digital exchange since I went on an exchange in the first place to meet new people, explore a new city etc. The only advantages are that you learn to work in an international and digital environment and you experience an other university (style).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes 100%. The University is very professional and offers a lot of courses and is well equipped with staff. The city is beautiful and a lot of events/trips are organized for exchange students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take part in the Orientation and Cultural Program, you will meet a lot of new people and you will go on fun trips/events and you will get to know the city well.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application procedure was really easy. You need to make a studyplan with the courses you want to follow. The study advisor has to check this plan, so it is convenient if you make this appointment a month before the deadline. In case that you have to change something, you still have enough time to make this adjustment. You



also have to fill in some personal information on Osiris, but this is really straightforward. When you are nominated, the University in Vienna is sending you an email with information about the courses and how to enroll. The only thing you have to take into account is that the deadline was in the Summer holiday and some courses are already full within 10 minutes.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office in Utrecht is responding fast on questions that you are sending by e-mail. Also the study advisor helps you to check if your courses are on the right level. The information sessions about exchange were really useful, because they explained in detail all the forms and signatures you need to get for example your Erasmus grant.

academic preparation

I looked very carefully at the courses and if I needed any requirements for the courses I wanted to follow and also if they were not overlapping. You get an email from the university in Vienna how to register for your courses and a day before the registration you get a reminding email. Before I registered, I watched a video that carefully explained how to register. It is very helpful if you know the coursecodes of the courses, because that is the only thing you need for the registration.

language preparation

I had German in highschool so I did not do any preparation. All the communication with the university of Vienna is in English and also all my courses were in English, just as my bachelor in Utrecht.

finances

The Erasmus grant was really helpful. Also the OV reimbursement was really nice to have, make sure that you apply for both of them on time. I had a loan from Duo, the financial support of my parents and the money I earned from my previous job, were the reasons I could finance my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There are a lot of courses you can choose from, so if you want, you can choose a very specific topic, however there are also more broad courses. With your WU-studentnumber, you can see which courses are available and read about the content of the courses. Everything is very straightforward. The only that was difficult is that some courses are not on the same time and same day every week. Sometimes this can be difficult for your schedule, however the professors are really understanding. Also, the courses are 6 ect or 12 ect. Personally I selected 3 courses of 6 ect and 1 course of 12 ect.

academic quality of education activities

The courses contain a lot more groupwork compared to Utrecht. For some courses you also have to do weekly presentations. The exams are more easy and overall is the level of the courses a little bit lower than in Utrecht. All my courses are regarded as level 3 courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office is really nice and quickly respond to your emails, moreover you are always welcome at their office and they try to find a solution as quickly as possible if there are any problems.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received all my grades back, so I cannot comment on this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



The WU is offering a welcoming day at the university to give a general presentation and a tour around the campus. There is also an orientation programme of 2 weeks in September. In this programme you are going to do a lot of sightseeing in the city, but also outside of Vienna. During these 2 weeks, there is also a German language course if you want to improve your German. During this programme, you see a lot of the city but it is also a great opportunity to make new friends.

accommodation

The OEAD is a really good organization for housing. I stayed in Gaspasse, which is very good located (next to the subway). Also you have your own bathroom, that was really an advantage. You can choose between a room with or without roommates. With roommates you are sharing a kitchen with 2 or 3 other people. The nice thing about Gaspasse is that a lot of students live there, so it is a really good place to meet friends.

leisure & culture

Vienna is a beautiful city with a lot of sightseeing. There are museums, but also nice palaces with beautiful gardens (especially in the summer). Everything is really easy to reach with the subway. At the end of november, there are Christmas markets, those are really nice and cosy.

suggestions/tips

You can get a semester card for the subway for only 78 euros, so get this as soon as possible. Make sure to search for your accomodation on time and also arrange all other administrative things, like the Erasmus grant, on time. Especially if you want a nice accomodation, it is important that you arrange this on time (immediatley after you receive your nomination letter).

Also, organize a lot of fun trips outside of Vienna. The city is in the middle of Europe so it is a really easy to see a lot of Europe.

You should go the the palaces in September and October after these months all the flowers in the gardens are gone.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Vienna is a really beautiful city to visit. Almost everywhere they speak good English, only sometimes at the supermarket or some restaurants you have to speak German. The WU is very organized and they are easy to reach. I selected very specific courses, because I was really interested in them and could not follow them in Utrecht. There are also a lot of students on exchange which makes it is really easy to make friends. So I would definitely recommend the WU in Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would definitely recommend to do the orientation & culture programme. I met most of my friends during this programme. The EBN is organizing a lot of events and trips, make sure to sign up early for these trips. Every Monday and Wednesday the EBN has student nights. Vienna is a city with a lot of history and you can find a lot of historic buildings so you should definitely check them out. Do not be afraid of doing things with internationals and plan fun trips with your new friends.

Volksgarten is a really nice place for clubbing.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was very convenient and easy. You should think about where you want to go to, and all the information about all the exchange programs can be found online. For me, it was really helpful to talk to



other people that have been to the locations that seemed interesting to me as well. Make your choice, talk to other people and then apply online.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was very good. Both before, and during my stay abroad my answers were always answered within 1 day. Questions about destinations and courses, but also personal questions were answered and the help was very good during the whole process.

academic preparation

Since I went to Vienna, the competition was not that hard. I just did what I always did, nothing special or more than usual.

language preparation

Everybody in Vienna speaks English very well, so no need to learn German very well. However, I followed an introduction course in German, because I think it's nice to speak a bit of the language of the country in which you are living for almost 6 months.

finances

I was used to living on my own for 4 years already. So for me, nothing changed really. Due to the Erasmus scholarship my costs for living were actually cheaper than in Utrecht, so that was very nice. Also the costs of living are very comparable with the Netherlands, the only thing that is a bit more expensive is doing groceries.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The WU is an economics university, so there is a broad range of topics from which you can choose. There is something for everyone, and also courses which are very interesting and not available in Utrecht. So course wise, it is a very good choice. Everything is well organized and structured, so very easy to use and work with.

academic quality of education activities

The education is a bit different than in Utrecht. In Vienna your classes are scheduled all together, so for example, you can have a course for 3 weeks, but with classes of 5 hours a day. This gives you the opportunity to work hard for a shorter time and travel around in between your classes/courses. There is also more groupwork and presentations at the WU. In the beginning this was very hard, but since I got used to it it was actually very nice! Presenting more and more makes you more comfortable with every presentation. I learned a lot from it. Furthermore, the exams were easier than back home, if you study and prepare everything well, you can pass everything with very nice grades!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Good! Again, quick responses, clear emails regarding all the information about your studies and your stay in Vienna as well. Everything is well organized and structured (as how the people in Vienna are).

transfer of credits

I don't have them yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a cultural programme of 2 weeks. We went to other cities, did a lot of cultural things in the city, from dance classes, tours, museums and a lot of other things. This is something that I will definitely recommend to do. You are meeting new people and you can explore your new home town with them! I met all my friends



during this introduction program, so don't even think about not doing it! The only thing is that it is 300 euros, but it is worth it!

accommodation

I lived in Gasgasse 2, it is a complex from OeAd which I can really recommend as well. If you are going there go to Gasgasse and NOT to Molkereistrasse! Make sure you apply on time to make sure that you have a spot in this accommodation. This building was new and very clean, and on top of that we all had our own bathroom. Gasgasse is further away from WU, but closer to the city and very close to district 7 (neubau) which is a very nice area to have lunch, drink coffee, shop, or just walk around.

leisure & culture

Great! There is always something to do in this city. The city is organizing a lot of events during the year, there are a lot of museums (I went to almost 10/15). And the city is just lovely and especially during Christmas it is very nice to live there. Furthermore, Vienna is a very central city, so if you want to travel around this is great! Budapest is just 3 hours away with the bus (for only 15 euros), Bratislava is nearby, Krakau, Ljubljana, Salzburg, Halstatt and many more cities (these are the places that I went to) and it's also very nice to go hiking, or to go to a ski area because everything is very close.

suggestions/tips

1. Join the introduction program --> it is the best way to get to know other people and the city.
2. Travel around!!
3. Go to Gasgasse!

CONCLUSIONS

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

The university is very nice, you feel comfortable and everything is very well organized. From a perfect introduction program to very nice classes. I took classes that were not available in Utrecht, and they were actually really nice and interesting. Vienna is a perfect city to live in, the public transportation is really perfect. Also, everything is very well organized for exchange students, in the gym there are special conditions, for your 5 months public transportation card they have special terms for exchange students, and it is just all very convenient! I can recommend everyone to go to Vienna because I really loved my time there!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2018-2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application proces was time consuming but straightforward. You need to hand-in a motivation letter, CV, Study Plan and a Financial Plan at the international office at Utrecht. However as soon as the international office in Utrecht nominates you, things are easy. The WU will always accept the nomination and you're good to go!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Oké, everything is described well at the student website. Furthermore I attended three infromation sessions regarding doing an exchange, writing a CV & motivation letter and final tips from my own faculty. I highly recommend visiting these infromation sessions as they are really inspirering to start preparations.

academic preparation

None as I did the same studies in Vienna as in Utrecht

language preparation

None as my bachelor was in English and so were most of the courses I followed

finances

I spent approximately €500 extra a month compared to living in a studenthouse in Utrecht



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study programme is explained well on the website of WU. Just as in Utrecht you have to be ready with your laptop as soon as the subscription to the courses start, otherwise you risk not getting your favourite courses. The subscription opened in the summer during my holliday which was a bit annoying. Luckily the airbnb had great wifi connection and I was able to get all the courses I wanted. I also chose one course in German, eventhough my level was only B2. I signed up for the course and then sent an email the the teacher explaining my situation. The teacher was totally okay with it and I received a good grade for the course:). If the teacher would not be okay with it, the international office at WU offers great counselling and they will hapily arrange a different course for you. Make sure you email the teacher as soon as you are subscribed to the course in WU@learn (WU's blackboard) and know his/her email adress (in early September).
academic quality of education activities
Education is different in Vienna compared to Utrecht. There is no formal split between lectures and tutorials. Furthermore you have to mandatory attend all the lessons. This makes it feel a little bit like highschool. Unfortunately proffessors do not provide much practice excersises. For the economics courses just learning theory was okay for me. However for math and econometric courses this is highly annoying and therefore I highly recommend not to take exact beta courses at WU. I did not take any finance or business courses. I have heard that the finance cources are okay and that the business cources are rather easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people at the international office at WU are very friendly and answers emails quickly!
transfer of credits
Not done yet so cannot comment

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The number one reason to choose WU as your exchange destination!!! The Orientation & Cultural programme plus the German Courses are amazing. I highly recommend signing up for both. During three weeks in September (or March) you will get German classes during the mornings and fun activities to do during the afternoons. You will improve your German a lot, see lots of the beautifull city of Vienna and meet a lot of new people with whom you can hang out during the nights.
accommodation
I stayed at Gassgasse with the OeAD exchange students housing provider. I had my own bathroom, a furnished bedroom and a fully equipped kitchen as the common room. The best thing about living there were my three housemates. I highly recommend searching for an accomodation with house mates. We became best pals and had an amazing time together! Roommates will keep you accompanied also during times that you might miss houme a little bit.
leisure & culture
Vienna is a beautifull city!! In Utrecht you can bike across the innercity in just fifteen minutes but in Vienna the innercity is gigantic and there are beautiful white buildings everywhere :). Going out is a little bit more expensive, but if you "pre-game" at home you can save money. I recommend Travelshack on Tuesdays, Volksgarten on Thursdays and PraterDome on Saturdays. Besides going out, there are also a lot of cool bars where you can have a cheap beer with friends. Even after living in Vienna for half a year I feel like I haven't even seen 10% of all the cool bars. There are also a lot of nice cheap restaurants which offer tastes from all over the



world. Of course there are the touristy schnitzel restaurants and kaffeehouses but especially around the 7th district cheap hipster restaurants, lunchrooms, coffee places, second hand stores etc have been popping up. So if you think Vienna is conservative, you are surely mistaken!

suggestions/tips

Go see and explore all the nice 'old' Vienna has to offer! But don't think Vienna is conservative/old-fashioned. Behind the beautiful, white marble facades, a new city has emerged. There is much more to do than in Utrecht or even Amsterdam (except for electronic dance music parties). However, the single most important thing that is going to determine whether you are going to have a great or a not-so-great exchange, depends on the friends you make. During the Orientation & Culture program you will meet a lot of new people. Personally I did not see many of them after the orientation was over. Make sure you have a nice fixed group of friends after that period to do fun activities with (diner parties, museums, kaffeehouses, ice-skating, football matches, bars, restaurants, going-out, card games, christmas markets or showing your home to each other on google street-view :).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would surely recommend the destination to others! Vienna is a beautiful city and learning German is fun! The Orientation program and the Erasmus Buddy Network makes it really easy to make new friends.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Most internationals you will meet in Vienna are from Europe, North- and South-America. It is really interesting to talk about cultural differences which will make sure that you never run out of topics to talk about. Check the student website for symptoms of culture shocks, because you will surely catch some. The site gives good tips about how to overcome them, don't worry about them too much. I highly recommend going on trips with the Erasmus Buddy Network! I went to Salzburg, Krawkow, Sell am See and the Oktoberfest (we went there with a party train, absolute the highlight of my trip:). Best to do the trips with your new friends but don't be scared to sign up for them without friends. The subscription for these trips is quite early on, so you might not know who you will hang out with during the trips. Don't let this stop you! Furthermore don't choose too challenging courses and really enjoy the experience! Such an exchange will only happen once in your life. Now I am doing a internship at a pension fund and everyone here has done an exchange as well. They all look back at it with fond memories. So make new friends and enjoy, you won't regret it.

2017-2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is rather easy. As long as you provide the documents in time, there should be no problem for getting into Vienna University of Economics. Usually 4 spots are enough for the people that name the Uni as their first choice. To make sure you get it, provide all the documents in time and write a sound motivation letter.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU was always available for questions and usually the exchange desk responded fast enough to emails. If not, just write a reminder email. Visit the information sessions, because you might get insider knowledge about Universities or the application process.



academic preparation

Make sure that the courses you are planning to take at WU are accepted by the board of examiners in time. My advice would be to create a list with the top 10 favourite courses that are in the course catalogue of the WU, make sure they don't overlap in terms of schedule (if they do, be aware of that so that you don't book both of those two courses, but only one of them) and then once you have done that, check whether all of the courses are going to be accepted as level three courses by the board of examiners. You can do this the following way: You simply hand in two or three applications, with always different courses, and then see what the response is. In the end you will have a list of courses that you know for sure are level three. In order to increase the probability that your courses are accepted as level three, send emails to the course coordinators at WU and ask whether the courses expect prior knowledge, or build on other courses, or on a scale from 1 to 3, how the coordinators themselves would assess the level of the course.

The last step is to apply for the courses at the WU. Really make sure to be ready at the exact time the website says the application opens. Also do not keep the tabs open for too long before you apply, otherwise the website might crash. Rank your selected courses by priority and open them all in separate tabs a few minutes before application opens. Then as soon as it opens (use an atomic clock), click on register AND THEN ALSO ON CONFIRM (!!!) (I forgot that and didn't get into my two favourite courses... You will immediately be told whether you got into the course or if it is already full (some fill up within seconds, sometimes there is only one or two spots for exchange students).

In order to not run into problems regarding graduating with a minor, try to take courses related to your minor in order to get as close to 15 minor related credits as possible (I had 12 minor related credits and that was enough).

Be aware that you only have to work for 20 ects, but receive 30 (the credits that show for the respective courses are always inflated by 50%). Thus if you find so many interesting courses, you can actually think about doing 36ects.

Also it is better to register for more courses than possible, because you can afterwards easily unregister, without any consequences. There is also a waiting list where you can apply for courses you didn't get into.

language preparation

It's in English, but there are German language courses and also courses offered in German. In Vienna it depends, but you will get along with trying to speak German or just English.

finances

Vienna has about the same prices as here, but living is cheaper.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You will receive a comprehensive info session which you should attend. Most courses are with mandatory attendance.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I took were very interesting and for almost all of them, participation and presentations were an important part. Also there are a lot of group works. The professors were about the same quality as in Utrecht and also the English level is comparable. The courses in general are maybe a bit easier, but that depends of course of the courses you pick and of the ects you take. The fact that 20 ects are worth 30 during your exchange reduced the workload either way.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Except for IT related issues, I thought that there is always a desk that is eager to help you.



transfer of credits

The transfer of credits should be no problem if you have backed all your courses up with the board of examiners before going on exchange.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I did the programme. It was fun, great to get to know people and see some parts of Austria/Vienna that you wouldn't see otherwise. You get a lot of insider knowledge and always have someone to ask small questions to (your coach)

accommodation

You will get great help for finding student accomodation in one of the student houses. If you want to experience the proper exchange student life you should go there. It costs about 460E. If you have somewhat high expectations for your accomodation and also want to have a quiet/private space sometimes, then you should look for accomodation yourself through websites. Prices in Vienna are good, there is more supply and it is easier to find something than in the Netherlands. I found a place for 470E in a good location through housinganywhere. If you don't find something you can still go with the student accomodation. just make sure you don't miss the deadline.

leisure & culture

There is so much to do in Vienna. A lot of variety with regard to everything. Great parties, even though most clubs suck, but you will find some that are your type and the erasmus parties are fun anyways, no matter where they are.

suggestions/tips

let vienna surprise you.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, see my explanations above. Also there is just so much to do, the city is really big but your are very flexible and mobile with public transport. The city is very pretty, has a lot of culture and history and you find a lot of good food (Austrian and foreign) for acceptable prices (try Schnitzelwirt for a huuuge Schnitzel with fries for less than 8E).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

you can always ask the student desk for email addresses if you have further questions.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is obviously the most important thing to do if you want to go on exchange. It might be time-consuming but is definitely something you should take your time for and do not underestimate. I am happy I started early with the preparations and it really helps if you make an overview for yourself with all the deadlines and all the documents that you have to hand in/ get signed.

counselling & support at Utrecht University



The exchange office of U.S.E. is very kind and friendly. They were able to answer all my questions and concerns regarding my exchange. They respond quick to all your e-mails, which is nice so you never have to wait long before you can hand in a document on Osiris or send it to the receiving institution.

academic preparation

I knew that I was going to follow only economic and business economics course at WU, these courses all build on the courses I already did here in Utrecht. With regard to academic preparation I was not worried at all.

language preparation

Since the bachelor program I do here in Utrecht is an English program, I did not prepare myself extra with regard to the language since I already spoke/write academic English for two years.

finances

I was able to finance my exchange through the Erasmus student grant, my regular DUO student grant and through financial support of my parents and money earned through previous jobs I had. This was for me enough. I would say that everything is just as expensive in Austria as it is in the Netherlands. Only some supermarket products, especially meat, chicken, vegetables and fruit, are slightly higher priced than here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I personally did 5 course each worth 6 ECTS, so a total of 30 ECTS. There are enough courses offered to choose from. I would say the university is more orientated on business than on economics, however they do offer enough economic and socioeconomics courses to choose from. What I also find interesting to mention is that they have some course on sustainability, and these courses I found particularly interesting.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that the difficulty of the courses is slightly lower than here in Utrecht. However, since you are on exchange this is quite nice, you also have enough time for other activities. Also, the difficulty really depends from course to course. I had one really easy course, 3 intermediate and one advanced course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The exchange office and support were great. They respond quickly and give you all the information that you need. I would say that the quality of counselling & support is of the same level as in Utrecht.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received all my grades back, so I cannot comment on this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I would definitely recommend the Culture & Orientation programme that WU offers. It is a great way to meet new people and get to know the city at the same time. It is a 3 weeks program and even includes trips to other cities in Austria.

accommodation

The OeAd housing accommodation is set up for exchange students. You can rent here a room with or without roommates and even includes weekly cleaning of your room. What is especially nice is that you are in a building with only exchange students, this way you make soon new friends with which you can easily hangout with since you live in the same building. I lived in Gassgasse, and can recommend this one since you have your own bedroom and bathroom, and you share your kitchen with 2 or 3 others.

leisure & culture



Vienna is definitely an amazing city to spend a semester in. The city is really big and offers lots of activities to do. There are lots of museums, cafes and bars to go to. Especially the time around Christmas is nice since Vienna is famous for their Christmas markets, which attracts tons of tourists every year.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest doing all the activities as soon as possible, if you postpone them to later on in the semester you might be too busy with school, while in the beginning of the semester you have more than enough time.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Vienna. It is a beautiful city, especially if you are interested in art and classical music. Vienna is also a good city to go to if you like coffee and cake because of the Viennese café culture. I would also recommend WU since it is a really good, well organized university. It is similar to Utrecht and located on a beautiful campus, full of architecture, that is well connected with the underground. I had an amazing semester abroad and definitely will come back to Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There was a lot of bureaucracy you have to go through in order to go onto an exchange, even though the amount is not that much the process gets dragged to unnecessary lengths due to slow response times of competent authorities.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The study advisor and international office was happy to help with any questions i had, however the board of examiners was slow to respond to anything and was not available on the contact hours where they should be available. The study advisor and international office could also not help me with questions i had for the board of examiners and approval of courses making the process extremely long and frustrating.

academic preparation

Choosing courses was not a problem, asking for approval was not either. However, the board of examiners took months to respond to any proposed courses and did not respond to any tries to contact them about it.

language preparation

None

finances

The process for applying for grants is long but self explanatory.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content was extremely interesting taking a different approach of teaching and requiring much more participation in classes and less pressure on performing well on exams.



academic quality of education activities

Quality of teaching was great, however the exams were generally easier than the ones in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Did not have any problems when trying to contact them.

transfer of credits

Even though grades work much different, transfer of credits is not a problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Smoothly organized and an amazing experience.

accommodation

Great location however the building itself sometimes had problems with the fire-alarm being too sensitive and giving a false alarm multiple times a week as well as malfunctioning elevators and too busy laundry rooms.

leisure & culture

The student organisation organizes amazing trips for students, international or native, and there are truly no words to describe the beauty of the city of Vienna.

suggestions/tips

Location of your accommodation influences the quality of life a lot due to travel times, make sure to pick a great location with good public transport connections!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the university was everything you expect a good quality university to be. And the destination, Vienna, is an amazing city with a rich, beautiful and unique atmosphere. Centrally located in Europe it also offers the ability to travel to almost anywhere. The whole experience was truly amazing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I doubted whether to do the Erasmus exchange because I did not directly see the added benefit over an already internationally oriented city as Utrecht. However, the whole experience of going on an exchange is unforgettable and definitely something everyone should do!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process went smoothly as most documents are provided online. Sometimes it was unclear what exactly should be submitted on specific dates.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling and support at Utrecht University went well since they responded to all my questions and troubles. Sometimes it took them very long to sign some documents.

academic preparation



The courses that I took at Utrecht University prepared me for all courses with a prerequisite. This way I did not need any extra academic preparation for the courses that I took in Vienna.

language preparation

All my courses in Vienna were taught in English and the language test from Erasmus informed me that I have a C2 level for English. This way I did not need any extra language preparation before starting the exchange semester.

finances

The Erasmus+ grant provided me with €270 euros every month. I further borrow money from the Dutch government and I received a public transportation compensation for studying abroad. My parents also supported me. This was all described in the financial statement that I prepared before the exchange semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

WU provided exchange students with a list of various different courses, without being attached to a specific study program. As a result I was able to choose a variety of interesting courses. One organizational issue is the registration process in which courses get filled up within several minutes. This way getting the courses that you want is very stressful and very hard.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is a little lower than in the Netherlands. Many courses cannot be considered level 3 courses at Utrecht University. So this way you need to find prerequisite courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at WU is very helpful regarding questions and problems. This way the counselling and support is very good.

transfer of credits

The university in Vienna worked with ECTS credits, which is also used at Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Before the start of the semester in October in Vienna, there is a three week long orientation program in which you explore the culture of Vienna and Austria. During these three weeks there is also a pre-semester German course in which you can learn or refresh your German language skills. The orientation program was very fun and interesting and I would recommend it to everyone. There are also two Welcome Days, one for those who want to follow the orientation program and one for those that don't. During these welcome days you get all the information you need before starting your exchange semester.

accommodation

While there are two ways of finding accommodation in Vienna, either via OEAD (student dorms) or arranging it yourself, I stayed at the student dorms. Here you'll live with mostly exchange students which is a lot of fun as you meet many different people from different nationalities.

leisure & culture

Vienna has a lot of culture and places to explore. The Erasmus Buddy Network (EBN) organizes many weekly parties and trips. This way you never have to get bored. Vienna is also really close to Prague, Budapest and Poland which makes going on trips there very easy. There are also enough cafes to explore and spend your afternoons in.



suggestions/tips

I would recommend taking part in the cultural orientation program. Here is when you meet many new people with whom you will stay close during the semester.

It's also important to start organizing everything related to accommodation, courses , and financing early. The earlier the better. This gives you less stress at the end.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would definitely recommend doing your exchange semester at WU in Vienna. The university is very well organized and provides many interesting English courses. There is also a wide variety of courses so as long as it fits in your schedule you have many options. The WU campus is also very new and modern, which makes it a great place to study.

In addition, Vienna as a city is a great place to live in as a student. The U-Bahn makes everything very accessible and makes exploring the city very easy. The city consists of many historical buildings and palaces while also having many hip student areas. During the day you can visit the Hofburg Palace, Schönbrunn or Rathaus. While these places are also nicely lit up at night, there are enough bars and parties to have a great night life as well. Many trips are organized by EBN.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Please start early planning everything out, especially regarding the course sthat you want to take as the registration system makes it hard to get into everything that you would like. It is also very important that you look at the requirements for graduating on time for your bachelor. This makes creating a good study plan beforehand crucial because you'll need some plan B courses.



2016-2017

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process was at first very difficult and inconvenient. However, when you start preparing all the required documents it becomes more easy. Almost every step of the process is described online and the presentation about studying abroad was very helpful as well.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Counselling and support was pretty good at Utrecht University. They replied to all my emails and I have had no troubles. However, keep in mind that it takes them quite some time to respond in some cases.
academic preparation	
	The courses I followed during my stay abroad did not require me to follow extra courses. All the prerequisite courses they required, were already in my program in Utrecht. Therefore, I did not had to do any academic preparation.
language preparation	
	As I did not participate in courses which required other language skills than English, I did not do anything for language preparation. If you are in an English bachelor, you may assume that your English is good enough to travel abroad.
finances	
	For my finances, I prepared a financial statement. This statement showed all my income (loan, stufi and my income from working) and I estimated all my expenses while living abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I did not follow any specific program and I was allowed to choose any course at the WU I wished to follow. I followed quite some interesting and exciting courses. The content of the courses offered at the WU was sufficient and good, however the level was not as hard as I expected it to be. The only disadvantage of the courses at the WU was the registration in my opinion. Their registration system opens at a certain time and day for everyone at the same time. Hence, if you were one minute late, the courses were filled up.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality is a little bit lower compared to the Netherlands, in my opinion. Not all of my courses are being regarded as level 3 courses back in the Netherlands for example.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The counselling and support at the WU was very good, the International Office always responds very quickly and is very willing to help you with any troubles.
transfer of credits	
	This is not yet applicable.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	



The Welcome Day organized by the WU was very helpful. There are two welcome days, which is very practical, as not everyone arrives in Vienna at the same moment. At this day, we got presentations and a folder, informing us all about the university, Vienna and everything we had to arrange.

I did not participate in the orientation program of the university, so I cannot recommend it myself. However, I have heard good stories about this program. In this programme, you are being showed around in Vienna and you learn a whole lot about Austria and its culture.

accommodation

In Vienna, there are two ways of finding yourself a place to stay. Either you apply for one of the student dorms, via Oead, or you arrange an accomodation for yourself. I did the latter, which was very easy to arrange. I found an accomodation via Housinganywhere.com and I lived with two other people, who were locals, which was a lot of fun.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Vienna, there is enough culture to see and explore. And with the international organisations, like EBN, there are a lot of parties organized. You will never be bored in this city, that is for sure. Also Vienna is really close to Eastern Europe and it is normally very cheap and easy to make a trip to Budapest, Krakow or Prague for example. And of course, Austria has a lot of skiing areas which is especially attractive during the winter season.

suggestions/tips

Start early with arranging everything, like accomodation, study plans and financing. That safes you a lot of time while being abroad.

Try to come early to Vienna, before the semester starts. It is easy to find your way around the city and the university beforehand. Lots of activities, like a welcome week for internationals, already start before the semester even begins.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this destination abroad to others. At first, the university is very good, the WU is recently renovated and everything is very new and works perfectly. This makes it a nice place to study and in addition, there are enough courses provided in English and these courses are pretty good and interesting.

Next to the university, Vienna is a very beautiful city. It has all the old cultural atmosphere, but it also has a lot of new, hip places. There is enough to do in Vienna during the day, like visiting the Hofburg or one of the many palaces build by Franz Joseph. By night, Vienna has enough places to go to as well, there are many clubs, parties and bars in Vienna. Also, the international organizations, will provided a lot of activities, trips and parties. So, you will never be bored.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start early with arranging everything, the earlier, the better. That safes a lot of time and stress. Also, be on time with registering for your courses in Vienna. As their register system opens at the same time for everyone, a lot of courses will be filled up very quickly (sometimes even within minutes).



2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The exchange application process was pretty straightforward. After the information session I made up my mind and finally decided on two different universities in Europe. I did not get into the university of my first choice, but I did get into my second choice, the WU.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support was pretty good at the UU. Since there were a few unclear things, they had sent me a mail that the students a year before me had gotten from the WU, which helped me in the beginning.
academic preparation
Due to the good and clear WU site, it was fairly easy to skim through the offered courses and make a plan regarding the courses I would want to follow at the WU
language preparation
Since there are many courses in English, and since my study in Utrecht is also taught in English, I did not have to prepare much for it. Furthermore, through high school I was already able to speak a bit of German which has eventually helped me most in day-to-day life.
finances
Austria, and especially Vienna is a country which is not too expensive but it is to my experience more expensive than it is in Utrecht. Both rent and groceries are a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. I think rent is in most cases around 400-550 euros for a decent room in a student dorm. Groceries are also a bit more expensive but there are also plenty of supermarkets which have more or less 'Dutch' prices (Hofer for example).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The WU offers a wide variety of courses in both English and German. Therefore there is I did not have any organisational issues with the WU. Everything was handled very well.
academic quality of education activities
The WU is a very good university with great teachers and professors from all over Europe. The levels of the courses are comparable to the courses in Utrecht, although it sometimes depends on whether you already have some previous knowledge on the subject or not.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Since I did not need much support or counselling I can not tell much about this matter. However, the questions I did have were answered very adequately.
transfer of credits
Most courses consist of 6 ECTS, which means that you have to take five courses in a semester. And since it is ECTS I expect the transfer of credits to go smoothly.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme, which is kicked off by the welcome on the first day, is a great way to start your exchange semester. You get to know a lot of people, and you start to get familiar with the city and Austria as well.



accommodation
I paid 470 euros per month for my room in a student dorm near the WU and 10-15 minutes away from the city centre.
leisure & culture
If it comes to culture, Vienna is one of the best places to go to in Europe. But also for going out, enjoying your free time in the sun, and so on, Vienna is the place to go to.
suggestions/tips
I don't have specific tips for now.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend going to Vienna and studying at the WU. Vienna itself is a very beautiful city with a high diversity of things to do in your free time. Furthermore, the WU has a good name in Europe and the level of education is also more than satisfactory. Overall, it has been a great semester abroad for me and while I was in Vienna I have never regretted taking the opportunity.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
For now I do not have any additional advice or comments.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The biggest challenge was to compose a fitting study plan. Especially if you want to sign up for courses, but the courses you want to follow appear to be full.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
This was fine, they answer all your questions and the study advisor is willing to plan a meeting to discuss your study plan.
academic preparation
Not applicable. The UU provided a good base to follow the courses.
language preparation
I had German in high school. I just followed courses in English, but it was nice to speak some German. It is not necessary since almost all Austrians speak English.
finances
Nothing special. Living expenditures are about as high as in Utrecht. You receive an Erasmus grant which is quite high.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
There is a lot of choice in the courses which you can follow. However, there are not many choices in Law courses, which might get complicated if you follow a law minor.



academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the curriculum and the lectures was pretty much the same as in Utrecht. Only the group assignments were not really academic, those were more practical assignments.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
It is great. They offer a very complete information packet. If you mail the international office, you got a mail back in one day.
transfer of credits
It is still happening. WU is sending them to UU international office.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Was a little bit disappointing. There was a formal introduction at the university, but no activities to get to know other exchange students.
accommodation	My accomodation was in the student building Donaubase. It was a mini-apartment (for 1 person) which was fine with nice facilities. The only problem was the organisation. They try to earn extra money in every possible way. I had to pay cleaning costs, but they never came to clean my room. Furthermore they were not helpful if I had some problems. I have heard a lot of exchange students about this. The living circumstances are fine, but the organisation is terrible.
leisure & culture	I had a lot of spare time to do some trips and to discover Vienna. The culture is pretty much the same as in the Netherlands. Only different I noticed, was that people in Vienna are more polite. It looks like they never break any rule.
suggestions/tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make some friends as soon as possible. - Use your time useful. You got a lot of spare time to do trips to other countries/cities. If you like to see a lot, start in the first month. I started too late, so did not visit all places I wanted. - Try to find a private room, not via the student housing organisations. They are after you're money all the time. I am still waiting for my deposit, which they refuse to pay.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes, the university is really good with good facilities. There is a lot to discover in Vienna and to discover some interesting places in Eastern Europe.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Try to sign up for courses directly when the application period starts. I was not able to follow all the courses I wanted since I was 15 minutes later.