



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	San Marcos, Texas, United States of America
name university abroad	Texas State University
start date	16/08/2022
end date	09/12/2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I was sent information from Texas State around April. Preparation included filling in a lot of forms and sending in a list of the courses and back-up courses for approval. Try to do this as quickly as possible, as some courses can fill up very quickly. Further, there were a lot of things that were confusing, but thankfully the Texas State contact person responds reasonably quickly and clearly to questions sent by email. If needs be, you can also call them and they'll help you.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office helped me with a number of practical questions.

academic preparation

Very few of the courses that I took had official prerequisites, so I did very little academic preparation besides following my bachelor.

language preparation

My English was already at a sufficient level, so I did not do any extra preparations.

finances

The dorm, mid-level meal plan, and other fees cost about 6000 dollars for one semester. You will only be supplied a bed and desk in the dorm, so you will need to budget for this as well. There is a small Target within walking distance with most of what you need, although it's not the cheapest. If you live on-campus, you are required to purchase the meal plan, and likely won't eat off-campus too much. This depends a bit on which meal plan you purchase, of course. The outlets are very easily reached with the Texas State shuttle on Saturday, so save money for that as well, they're very nice.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took six courses during this programme, which felt reasonably equal to the courseload of Utrecht University. This is probably not the same for all courses though, so make sure to balance them. I took The Short Story, Adolescent Literature, Writing for Film, Filmmaker's History of Film, Beginning Acting, and Treble Choir. The choir was an extra course added later, and not part of the 15 credits meant for the exchange. All of these courses were very interesting, and the teachers were very accommodating. I highly recommend introducing



yourself to your teachers as an exchange student, as they'll be more understanding if something about the American system is confusing, and sometimes even volunteer extra help for you. Truly, ask your teachers anything and they will likely give it to you. The assignments were all very reasonable, often being easier than those at Utrecht University. You might have more assignments, but they're often easier to do.
academic quality of education activities
All of the teachers are highly qualified and enthusiastic. The school also organizes educational activities outside of the classroom, similarly to Utrecht, although I personally did not go to many of them.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Not needed, but there were a lot of options available.
transfer of credits
The actual transfer of the credits was not difficult nor did it take long, although the initial request to include the courses did take very long.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
A few days after arriving, there was an orientation for the exchange students. They provide a lot of useful information and help you connect with the other exchange students at this orientation. We were also offered a trip to Walmart by the international office, although this is also only a few days after arrival. As previously mentioned, there is nothing in the dorm when you arrive, so make sure you have what you need for the first few days. Even though the orientation includes getting a student ID, you'll want to get this sooner or you might get locked out of the dorm or not be able to go to the dining hall. You can get this at the LBJ student centre. Further, there are a lot of activities organised by students during the week before and the first week of school. Texans are very welcoming, and will gladly help you out with anything!
accommodation
Make sure you have housing before you go, as there is currently not enough housing available. We were offered two choices for a dorm, which were either Blanco Hall or Bobcat Village. Bobcat Village is more like an apartment, with your own room, but it is very far away from everything else on campus and if you don't have a car you will likely end up missing out on a lot. I stayed in Blanco Hall, where you share a room with one or two others, including one bathroom. Personally, I thought Blanco Hall was an ideal location. One of the dining halls is right across the street, which is especially convenient on the weekends. The rec center/gym is right next to the dining hall as well, including ShakeSmart. It's about a 10 to 15 minute walk away from the university library, which means that it's not too far from most classes either.
leisure & culture
As mentioned before, the people are incredibly friendly and helpful. They will gladly drive you anywhere you need to go or help you figure things out. There are plenty of student organisations to join, so keep your eye out for those. There's always some on campus promoting themselves, or there's the student organisation fair a few weeks in to the semester. There's also a complete list on the Texas State website. While you're there, make sure to visit San Antonio once and Austin a few times. There are some buses that can take you to either city. On Saturdays, you can take the Bobcat shuttle for free to go to the Outlets, which I can definitely recommend! San Marcos also has a lively theatre scene, with lots of cheap but good theatre within walking distance. Further, definitely check out some of the theatre performances by Texas State itself, especially the musical. This university is known worldwide for its theatre, and as a student, you can get in for pretty cheap.
suggestions/tips



Make sure to visit the river, at least one football game, find the secret hammocks. Ask people there as well where you should visit.

CONCLUSIONS

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

100% yes! It might be a bit difficult to travel a lot outside of the town, but there is plenty to do and see in San Marcos itself.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid to talk to people! People are very friendly and approachable.



	/
faculty/college	REBO
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Constitutional and Administrative Law (Staats en Bestuursrecht)

destination city & country	San Marcos, Texas, United States
name university abroad	Texas State University
start date	17 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The preparation started somewhere in april I think. I received an email from Texas State with all the steps to be taken. I am usually pretty well-organized, so I started early with everything. You had to fill in a lot of forms and you had to get approval for your courses in Texas by international office, which is kind of weird. I was sent from international office to the study advisor form law, but they sent me back. This was a little unclear. Further on some official documents needed to be sent. Honestly, the info from Texas State was not always really clear, I asked them a lot of questions via email, that really helped. Especially with housing, I would inform myself well! There is a lot of options.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling at Utrecht University is fine, I didn't use them a lot though.
academic preparation	
	My IELTS was waived, so I did not do any academic preparation. I did courses on another field, Political Science, but I could follow most of my courses just fine. I only missed some background information sometimes, but there was no way of knowing this.
language preparation	
	No preparation. Although I did take the Legal English for Academic Purposes in the past, but that was two years ago.
finances	



I saved about 2000 euros. Next to this I had an income of 1000 euro a month. This was enough for the four months. For travelling I would advise you to save a little more. Also, rent is kind of high, so I would take this into account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses were all really interesting. I took Roots on American Constitutionalism, American Political Discourse and International conflict & security. The first course was a little bit boring, but this was mostly because of the teacher, who gave lectures the whole four hours and he didn't explain the assignments very well. The second course was interesting because I learned a lot about American politics and presidents. However, the assignments did not make sense to me. They were a lot of work (we did this big project, which was supposed to be a research thing) and we didn't learn much from them. The last course was amazing though, the teacher was really good, I not only learned about the content, but also how to write and some other stuff.

academic quality of education activities

I didn't really attend extracurricular activities

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There were a lot of options. I didn't use it, but I think they were really helpful.

transfer of credits

Has not yet been processed at this time, it is taking quite long though.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week we had about three moments to meet the other exchange students. That was nice. Also, most information was provided, we got a lot of flyers and stuff.

accommodation

I lived at the local, which is a nice place to stay: a pool, a gym, study room and close to campus. The rooms were also fine. Only thing is it is not cheap. When I looked into it it seemed to be the only place that offered one semester leases. However, when I came in summer I saw that some other housing locations offered last minute things with discounts even. I would definitely just go there and maybe arrange my rent from a hostel/motel. You could get a cheap offer, although it might feel risky.

leisure & culture

I really loved all American people. Campus was nice to eat sometimes, and the town is small, so you can walk most stuff. You can also rent bikes really cheap (50 dollarscents per 15 minutes or something), so if you need to go a bit further this is a great option. San Marcos is also really close to Austin so you can go there in the weekends, or San Antonio.

suggestions/tips

As I just said, San Antonio and Austin are close. They are nice to visit. I would also highly recommend the Big Bend National Park. It's beautiful and next to the Mexican border.

CONCLUSIONS

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



Yes! It is small town America and a nice opportunity to visit Texas. It is a state you otherwise might not visit and the people are really great!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	U.S.E
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Economics & Business Economics

Destination city & country	San Marcos, Texas, USA
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Texas State
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15.08.2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15.01.2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Don't forget to take your I20 to the airport!!

Counselling/support at home university:

Academic preparation:

None, I just registered for my courses

Language preparation:

None, I already have an English taught bachelor

Finances:

Don't underestimate the US, it is quite expensive. Groceries are really expensive, it was not fun running errands.

I paid \$700 dollar for my accomodation

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Academic quality of education/placement activities:



Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Transfer of credits:
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
The Welcome was good organized. I landed in Austin with a fellow UU student and got picked up by a TxState volunteer. The first day we met the students who were already there and they took us to run some errands at Walmart, BestBuy etc
- Tailgate
Accommodation:
Leisure/culture:
Suggestions/tips:
Don't bring any clothes, the premium/tanger outlets are right around the corner and the clothes in America are quite cheap. I ended up sending a 20kg box home. If you want to send stuff home use myus, it ships your stuff to Florida first and gets bulked with other packages to make it fairly cheap.
- Start doing stuff early
- Check out the student complexes (Jacuzzi)
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Do you have any additional advice or comments?: