



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO / Law
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Rechtgeleerdheid

destination city & country	Stellenbosch , South Africa
name university abroad	Stellenbosch University
start date	04 / 02 / 2023
end date	27 / 07 / 2023

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>It has been a while since I applied for the exchange program. I do not remember any difficulties except for the fact that it takes some time, so start early! Choose wisely what destination you put on your first preference because I think this definitely contributes to whether you are accepted or not! Also don't underestimate the value of your motivation letter!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>In my experience the support and counselling was not great to be honest. There is definitely a lot of information on the website, but this is all general information about your exchange. I had some difficulties with applying for Stellenbosch University because there was a lot of information and a lot of deadlines. On the e-mails I sent to the UU International Office I did not get a response except for an email in which they said that they were really busy and that I should let them know how it worked out. However, other people did receive good help, so it probably just depends on your question.</p>
academic preparation	<p>This is not necessary, I think. However, it may be important to say that the academic level of the SUN is not necessarily lower than you might be used to on UU. I met a lot of people that underestimated this and they found that out later when they were writing their exams. I think they expect you more to really learn the information by heart instead of only applying it. This probably also really depends on what you are studying, but just keep this in mind and maybe adjust your study methods!!</p>
language preparation	<p>If you can speak English, you are definitely fine! Everyone speaks English very well and most of the courses are taught in English (sometimes the lectures are in both English and Afrikaans, which can sometimes come in handy when you're Dutch and can understand both the languages).</p>
Finances	<p>Be aware that you also have to pay SUN somewhere around 500 euros before the start of your semester. Of this amount, I think around 2000 ZAR (around 100 euro) is your meal quota which means this money will be put on your student card and you can buy food and drinks with it in the Neelsie Student mall. Besides that; the rent in Stellenbosch can be quite high. Groceries are also not the cheapest. Just don't think that going to South Africa means everything will be really cheap; don't underestimate it!! However, going out for dinner is definitely cheaper than you are used to in the Netherlands which is a plus!!</p>



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

SUN offers GEP courses, which are courses specially for exchange students. I think you are allowed to submit for two of these courses max. My advice is to definitely do this! The courses are really different than normal courses since the subjects are different and more connected to the South African context. You will learn a lot more about the country that you will be living in, which is definitely of great value. I took Afrikaans (this is a real recommendation!!! Helga, the teacher, is really nice!) and Photography. A friend of mine took a course where you will be teaching in schools located in townships, which is also really interesting. The fact that you will be taking these courses with other exchange student is even more reason to submit for these courses, since these people will probably become your friends!

Moreover, you ofcourse have other courses. I found it really confusing and difficult to find the courses you can submit for, but the international office of SUN is really of great help, however they are also really busy with all of the other students so please start investigating everything early so you do not miss deadlines. You will find out your definitive courses once you've already arrived in Stellenbosch which can be stressfull, but it will be alright!

academic quality of education activities

The academic level of the GEP courses is definitely feasible and with being interested in the topics and with contributing during the lessons you will come a really long way. I think it woul be really hard to fail for these courses.

The 'normal' courses are different. The level here is definitely higher and there is more expected of the students. It really depends on the courses you take, but really: don't underestimate this!! A lot of the courses have multiple lectures a week, mandatory tutorials, weekly quizzes and multiple essays and exams. The rules can be quite strict: for some courses you are not allowed to write your exam if you miss more than 1 tutorial without good reason. For me personally, this was really different from what I was used to in Utrecht. It took some time adjusting to these obligations (especially since you want to explore your new surroundings and the people once you arrive instead of having to study and go to uni). Without realising I took some courses that were only for one term, which lead to me having a lot of work at the end of the term and a whole lot less at the end of the second term: be aware of this and plan wisely (I had a lot of work when the wheather was really good and when a lot of other people did not have that much work)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

You will get to know the people from the international office of the SUN once you start receiving emails from them. These are the few people that will help you, but you will experience that they are really working hard for all of the exchange students and they are of great help!

transfer of credits

I am still waiting for a grade, so I didn't do my transfer of credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Don't make the mistake of comparing the SUN welcome program to the UIT-week in Utrecht. The welcome program consists of informational lectures about everything you need to know. It is handy, but I have to admit that I did not attend all of these lectures. However, it is a way to get to see people from the uni for the first time and to explore the campus.

Accommodation



I stayed in the Beachhouse and I would definitely recommend this! It still is the nicest house I have entered in Stellenbosch. You will live with 14 roommates (all international students. in my case they were german, french, dutch and belgian) and it is a lot of fun. It is known as being a party house, which is true in some ways, but it ofcourse also really depends on the people you will be living with. The rooms are really nice and you have enough space! Also the security is really good and the landlords are really nice and helpful (Henk the handyman once jumped in his car during the evening when I was stuck in the toilet to save me!!) Apply in time for these rooms since they are popular! Also maybe good to know because it first put me off when I wanted to apply for a room: the website of the beachhouse indeed looks fishy and it is also weird you have to pay all the money in advance, but this is the normal way in which they operate, so don't worry! Oh, and there is a pool!!!!

leisure & culture

South Africa is amazing and you are for sure going to fall in love with it. Eventhough Stellenbosch is quite a small town, you don't have to worry that you will get bored: go hiking, go to the rugby matches, go do winetasting and on wednesdaynights (and Saturday/Sunday) go out!!! Uber is really cheap so also go to surrounding areas and visit Cape Town (ofcourse), go to the beach, climb the table mountain/the lions head, stroll through the neighbourhoods and visit the markets. There is so much to do!

suggestions/tips

Arrive early (or at least if you plan to visit during the second semester jan-june)! You will have a lot of time to do some of the touristic things with the people that also arrive early (and a lot of people do, so don't be scared that you will be alone). It gives you some time to adjust and explore the country before you have to start going to uni. I arrived quite late and I regret it....

CONCLUSIONS

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

yesyesyesyesyes!!!! South Africa is so special. Stellenbosch specifically is also really nice since it is a small student town and you will bump into a lot of people you know (heel gezellig!!!). This town is also not dangerous (to a certain level at least) and it is just really beautiful and there is so much to do. Explaining it is hard, you just have to experience it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The visa application can be really really stressfull. at least for me and a lot of other people i know it was. Start in time and reach out to people that did it before for help so you don't have to make your way to The Hague too often. I literally received my visa two days before my flight to SA. The people in the embassy are not worried about you and they don't care if you will have problems when you don't receive your visa in time: don't expect symapthy or kindness from them haha. Book a flexible fligth in case anything goes wrong. Oh also, the weather in SA is not always nice. in may and june especially expect rain and colder wheather, so plan your trips that require sunshine in the beginning of the semester when it is still summer (or the end if you go the other semester)

Also, loadshedding is a thing. I was not fully aware of this when i arrived. the power will be switched off during multiple timeslots a day sometimes for 4 hours straigth. Bring a powerbank. Good to know: the beachhouse installed generators at the end of my stay so you will still have internet, light and power even during loadshedding. This is the case for more accomodations, but definitely not for all of them. It can cause funny situations (pitch dark in the supermarket or in the lecturehall during your exams) but mostly it can be really annoying (especially when it gets dark early and you don't have lights).



faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Human Geography & Urban Planning

destination city & country	Stellenbosch, Zuid-Afrika
how did you travel to and from your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	University of Stellenbosch
start date	26 / 01 / 2020
end date	26 / 03 / 2020

PREPARATION

exchange application process

First we had to put in our 3 choices for destinations. I put Stellenbosch on 1 so I wrote a motivational letter for Stellenbosch. I got in and after that I had to complete my application for Stellenbosch University in order to be formally accepted by Stellenbosch aswell. This all took up a lot of time so don't underestimate it!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I did not need a lot of help from Utrecht University, but when I needed help I always got a quick response.

academic preparation

Nothing was required to be able to go to Stellenbosch. You just need to keep in mind that all classes are in English unless you take an Afrikaans class.

language preparation

Sufficient knowledge of the English language.

finances

My rent was relatively high, 500 euro's a month. However you can stay in different places for about 350 a month. Student life is very cheap, besides 500 euro's administrative fees combined with a meal quote and printing / wifi, life is very cheap and so going out for dinner will cost you about 8 euro's in most places. Drinks are also relatively cheap compared to Dutch standards. So perhaps calculate 1000 euro's a month, so you also have money for trips and activities.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

In the welcoming week we had a week full of informative lectures, activities and administration. To be honest it was quite boring at times, but we made the most of it by doing fun stuff ourselves. However it is important because you get shown around the university and the town and get to know other exchange students. The orientation was a bit hectic though, as many courses that we had on our approved list were in the same slot, and so you had to figure out by yourself what courses you were gonna do. The office was crowded so there was no chance in getting help.

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had free credits to fill up, so I did photography, Afrikaans language for Dutch and Belgian students and An overview of South African history. I enjoyed them all thoroughly, mainly the Afrikaans and History, as we learnt a lot about South African culture and history.



academic quality of education activities

The level is fine, however it is not the same as Utrecht, but ofcourse that is quite nice as it gives you time to do other stuff aswell.

transfer of credits

As I am still awaiting my grades, I haven't had a transfer of credits yet.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

Stellenbosch University was very supportive and kept us up to date every other day. Also with going home, they helped out with getting transport to the airport. However I am still waiting for money back from my student account and a deposit from my bike. All in all I was surprised about how smooth everything went, but don't expect everything to go smoothly in South Africa.

support guidance of home university

The university of Utrecht only emailed me once or twice when I was still in South Africa. So all in all I did not feel immense support. However now that I am returned there is some email correspondence coming from the uni regarding what to do after exchange etc in relation to COVID-19

online offer and quality of digital courses

Very good. I was surprised how quick the university picked it up. However there was also a course where the professor left us in the dark for a month. However it depends per person ofcourse how they handle the situation.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Besides my one course that went perfect after returning, I would have liked to have had a bit more guidance and live time with the other two courses I took.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definetly. Even though I only got to spend such a brief time, South Africa is amazing and I love every bit of it. Don't believe people when they say its only dangerous, because I among others felt very safe in Stellies. There is so much fun stuff to do, fun clubs, beautiful nature, great food, good weather and I cant wait to go back! The people are so nice and I wish it could have lasted longer! If you need accommodation, go to the Beach House. This is the best place with a pool and 14 other people living with you. It's a bit more expensive, but it makes the experience way better. They have a website.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you need accommodation, go to the Beach House. This is the best place with a pool and 14 other people living with you. It's a bit more expensive, but it makes the experience way better. They have a website. Be quick with a room. Otherwise try Jordaan house or Bosman house.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

destination city & country	Stellenbosch, South Africa
name university abroad	Stellenbosch University (SU)
start date	12 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
My application to study abroad was first through Utrecht University. I read a lot about different University's and the courses you could take. I wrote a motivation letter and made a study plan for the rest of my bachelor's including the courses I wanted to take abroad and the courses I wanted to take at UU. After Utrecht University contacted me that they put me forward to study at SU, the university contacted me directly to apply for studying at SU. Therefore I had to fill in 4 forms (proposal of the courses I wanted to take, declaration by me and the University, a form of language requirements and my transcripts).
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support I got from Utrecht University was good. The information needed is easy to find on the site mostly. If you have questions or need certain documents signed, the international office is fast and precise in helping you with what you need.
academic preparation
For me academic preparation wasn't necessary
language preparation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student has followed English courses as part of his/her secondary school training • The student has followed English courses as part of his/her tertiary education → these two requirements where sufficient for me to start studying at SU. I didn't need proof of this, but just filled in the form.
finances
Besides paying college money to Utrecht University, I had to pay a fee of around 500 euro to SU. They use this money to provide more places in their University for South African students.
STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
There are a lot of options for the courses you can take. They have GEP courses (only for international students), but you can also choose 'normal' courses at the different faculties. The GEP courses are easy to get into, all students come from different backgrounds (country/ field of study etc.). Therefore, everything you already know is nice, but not necessary to keep up in the course.
academic quality of education activities
Depending on the course I took, I've experienced the quality of the education to be quite different. Eg. I found the quality of a language course I took bad. The classes were simply giving answers to the 'homework' we made. The quality of another course I took, GSL (global service learning), I found the quality very good. Academic knowledge, personal reflections and practical experiences were combined in a very effective and academic way.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The international office of Stellenbosch University is very good. You can easily find the right person to answer your question. They are very kind and willing to help you out fast!
transfer of credits
It took a month or two after finishing my last exam before receiving my transcripts to transfer back my credits earned at SU. They use different system for grading, but it is easy to transfer to ECT's.
STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Unfortunately, I missed the orientation programme because I didn't have my visa yet. The stories I heard from other students sounded great though ;)
accommodation
I stayed in one of the student accommodations of the University (Academia). It is quite nice to meet other international students, because you have a whole house of three floors (8 students per floor) with internationals. The rooms are fine in space and facility's (shower, kitchen/ living room), though a bit soulless. There is always something going on around the houses, a braai (South African BBQ) or a birthday party common. After 11 the music has to be turned off outside, so if you are afraid of not being able to sleep: you should be fine 😊
leisure & culture
There is a lot to do in your leisure. Stellenbosch is quite a small student town. Therefore, there are a lot of fun bars/restaurants to go to, if you think you've seen everything you can always quite easily go to Cape Town. There is also a lot to see in the nature around Stellenbosch. There are a lot of nice hikes, watch a rugby game or you can go to the beach, there are a lot of different beaches (with good surf spots). If you don't like making plans yourself, there are a lot of different society's you can enrol in for free. From scuba diving to the 'wine'-society - there is something for everyone on the list. They organise a lot and I think it's a nice way to meet some new people (internationals as well as south Africans), and go on trips to explore the country for cheap. The international office of the University organises activities as well, almost every week (this is for international students only though). The culture of South Africa is quite different from the western country. Though the western cape could seem quite 'western'. There is a lot of inequality especially in Stellenbosch. A five-minute drive out of the centre of Stellenbosch you find 'Kayamandi', a township where most people live in self built shacks. The University has a lot of volunteering projects you can take part in. I think this is a good way to do something in return for the country, and experience more than just (your privileged) international student life. And most importantly the projects are a lot of fun!
suggestions/tips
Enrol in one of the societies and one of the volunteering projects!
CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. In my experience the courses I took at the University in combination with doing volunteer work, taught me a lot in a way I could have never learned in another country. South Africa is amazing, the nature, the people and their cultures. I can't really explain it, but I definitely recommend this experience to anyone!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Start your Visa application as soon as possible!!! It takes quite some time because you have to travel to The Hague to pick up forms and hand them in. If at the time of handing it in something is missing you have to make a new appointment (mostly a few weeks later). The whole process took me 3 months.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Law
level	x <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	

destination city & country	Stellenbosch, South Africa
name university abroad	Stellenbosch University
start date	15/07/18
end date	21/12/18

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process takes a lot of time and effort, so be prepared for that. Trust me, it will all be worth it in the end. The international office at the UU is very helpful. They will help you if you have any questions. It starts with handing in your CV and motivation letter. Take your time for writing down your personal motivation for the exchange semester of your life and especially why you want to go to South Africa and Stellenbosch. You can also do a lot of research on the courses you are able to follow at the SU, so write something about that in your letter!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There is a moment when all the students who are going to coming semester and students who have been in South Africa for an exchange semester come together and you will be get the opportunity to ask all sorts of questions. This was very helpful! Also, the international office will answer all your questions on handing in all the documents.

academic preparation

This is not necessary from my point of view.

language preparation

This is not necessary from my point of view.

finances

A lot of people think living in South Africa is not that expensive or cheap, but the prices on renting an accommodation, buying groceries etc. are quite the same as in Utrecht/The Netherlands. So, in short: do not underestimate the costs on your semester in South Africa. Especially if you are planning to go travelling afterwards.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did two courses at the Stellenbosch University. One master course in Trade Mark Law (15 ECTS), because I was interested in that field of study in my bachelors at the UU and I was curious about South African Law and their system. Secondly, I did the course on HIV in South Africa (6 ECTS). This course is specially created for international students. The academic level is therefore not that high.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the HIV course (IPSU course) is not that good, the topic is very interesting as HIV and AIDS are a big thing in South Africa and there is a lot of history on the perspectives to this sickness. You will get



to learn about the political, historical and the medical perspectives of this topic. You will write a big essay, give a presentation and make a written exam. The master course in Law was a lot more difficult, but that was to be expected as it was on master's level and not bachelors as the IPSU HIV course is.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good! You will get to know Bantu Louw personally and he is very nice and helpful.

transfer of credits

21 ECTS are transferred in OSIRIS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week of your semester is all on orientation. The first evening there is a braai (bbq) with all the new international students with African music, this was very nice! The rest of the week you will meet your new friends and start planning your own activities to explore Stellenbosch and the campus.

accommodation

I stayed at a private accommodation: Krige house. I lived with 6 other people. 3 Germans and 3 from Switzerland. The Krige house is from the same landlord as the beach house and pool house. Very popular houses so be on time with reservations on a spot at one of the houses. In general, there are a lot of parties at these houses, so you will have to be into that. Other big and popular houses are; the Bosman house, Jordaan and Post house. We never had a break in at the Krige house and the safety was okay! Krige street is a nice neighbourhood and we had a good working alarm system. If the alarm goes off, in a few minutes the safety guards will arrive to check on you and your roommates 😊.

leisure & culture

I can't imagine someone not falling in love with South Africa. It is such a beautiful country with so many nice locals. Everyone is very welcoming and loving to each other. Of course there is a lot of history on the apartheid and you will notice this while living in South Africa. I joined the diving society and got to learn how to dive, this was so amazing. My roommates joined the surfing society and went surfing every week.

suggestions/tips

Download the UBER app, you cannot walk the streets on your own in Stellenbosch. If you are in a group it is quite okay to walk a short distance, but never walk alone in the dark. There are do's and don'ts on your safety, but once you get to know them, you will feel very safe and comfortable in Stellenbosch and it will feel like home. Another tip: Plan as much travelling as possible! We did the garden route with a group of 8 people during recess. Such a beautiful trip, I made a lot of memories there. Also, we did Namibia and Botswana in a group of 4 girls. This was a once in a lifetime experience and I will recommend this to everyone.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely yes!! Stellenbosch University is very good organized, and you will get all the guidance and help you need. The lecturers are also interested in you as a person, compared to the contact you have at the UU with the lecturers this is so different. Also, Stellenbosch is more like a small town than a big city as Cape Town. I had a lot of friends who studied in Cape Town and their experience of studying abroad was very different. I loved the concept of studying in a smaller town with so many students. This was really the time of my life in Stellenbosch and I will go back directly!

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Start on time with arranging your study visa for South Africa. They are not nice and helpful there... Ask people who did it for tips on collecting all the mandatory documents, because you will make mistakes if you do not do your research on that.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Social sciences
Level:	Bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Stellenbosch, South Africa
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Stellenbosch University
Purpose of exchange	Study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	24/01/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	02/07/2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Firstly, it takes a lot of time to find out what you need to prepare for your application and to collect all the documents you need. Thereby, I really focussed on writing a good motivation letter: why you are the best candidate, what courses you would like to do and why, and why you specifically want to go to this university. I also handed in a recommendation letter, this is voluntary but maybe can make the difference. Make sure you know what you need to do for the application and plan it in advance! It is too much to do it on short notice.

Counselling/support at home university:

The International Office helped me out with some documents, they were really helpful!

Academic preparation:

You don't need academic preparation.

Language preparation:

Not necessary as well.

Finances:

Make a financial overview on forehand. At first I thought that South Africa is not that expensive. But in the end, with all the fees, housing, travelling, and everything was it quite an expensive semester. So make sure you saved enough money to do everything you want to do, because it



really is a disappointment if you are not able to do certain things because of the money. And believe me, you want to travel and see the country!

Study/placement abroad period

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

I did two courses here in Stellenbosch. HIV in South Africa (6ECTS) and LSCE (Learning Sustainability community Engagement, 18 ECTS). Especially LSCE was very interesting. In this course you get to learn South Africa from different perspectives. Every Friday morning you teaching a class in a township nearby Stellenbosch. These little children taught me the most during my stay in South Africa. It was such a special experience. This course changed just before I arrived, and our teacher made sure that we were one big family. There was a lot of room for discussions and talking about opinions, also there was a lot of focus on personal growth. I definitely recommend this course! Especially since it is so different than the courses back home.

I would not recommend the HIV course though. The topic is really interesting, but the lectures were not that good unfortunately.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I would say that the level of the courses at Stellenbosch University is lower than back home. That is nice, since you also want to have time left to see the country. But it definitely depends if you have mainstream or IPSU courses. You have to put more effort in mainstream courses.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

This was way different than we are used to in Utrecht. A lot of the information is unclear. I got accepted for courses that were not even given at the University in Stellenbosch but somewhere else in the country. How is that possible? I don't know.. So I had to change my whole study programme when I arrived, but in the end it turned out even better! But don't expect anything of support from the host university, you have to handle it yourself.

Transfer of credits:

Still in progress, so I don't know yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I would definitely recommend the orientation week. They give you a lot of practical information. Thereby, there is a welcoming dinner and party, you meet a lot of new people during this party, so make sure you will be there!

Accommodation:

I stayed in the Beach House, this made my stay here in Stellenbosch so much better! If you are into partying and having fun, then the Beach House is perfect for you. We stayed with 15 people in total (Dutchies, Belgium people, Germans, Swiss people, Norwegian) and we were one big family. We did everything together and I made friends for life in this house. Other big international houses in Stellenbosch are Bosman House or Jordaan House. If you are more into meeting local people, then I would recommend Pool House.

The safety in our house was quite okay! We only had one break in. But if you want more safety than that, I would recommend living on the campus, that is the safest place to stay, but not the nicest.



One tip: If you would like to stay in the Beach House (and probably also when you want to stay in Bosman House or Jordaan House) you have to apply as soon as possible! These houses are really popular.

Leisure/culture:

I fell in love with South Africa! The culture, people, nature, everything the country has to offer. You will still feel the complicated history South Africa is facing. But it is so interesting to experience a completely different country than the Netherlands. And the nature in this country is unbelievable. Try to see as much of the country as possible! I travelled through the Western Cape, did the Garden Route and travelled through Namibia. Friends of mine also did the Wild Coast and they loved it! Thereby, join some student societies!

Suggestions/tips:

Mind your safety! Don't walk alone in the dark, but take an Uber (Uber is really cheap in here and really safe!). Your phone might get stolen if you show it too much. But if you keep that in mind, you will be completely fine. The safety in Stellenbosch is better than in Cape Town. Stellenbosch and the rest of South Africa is beautiful, you will love it for sure!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

For sure! If I could, I would go back directly! The destination is extremely beautiful and staying in the Beach House made my stay so much more fun! I saw the most beautiful landscapes, got to know a new culture, met a lot of little children at the school I was teaching and they were the best, and made friends for life. If you have the chance, go to South Africa!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Arranging your visa for South Africa is the worst. It is all worth it in the end, so keep that in mind! But make sure you start early in arranging that. A lot of my friends (including me) had to go back to the embassy a couple of times, because they are so strict at the embassy and every time they change the reason. So make sure you start early.

Thereby, I arrived in summer so I only brought summer clothes.. that was not the smartest idea ever, since it can be quite cold in May and June. So make sure you take clothes with you for winter as well.

Try to get in one of the popular houses! It definitely will make your stay in South Africa so much better! A lot of things here, such as travelling, you will do mostly with your house.

Use your recess week to explore more of the country! We did the Garden Route, really nice! But also the Wild Coast is definitely worth it I heard. I am planning on doing that when I am coming back.

Try to travel in June when you finished your courses in Stellenbosch. Namibia is so amazingly beautiful! Hire some 4x4 cars with tents on top and just go! You will see amazing places, start dancing in the desert and even learn how to replace a tyre. I also heard a lot of really good stories about Botswana.

Enjoy! It is one of your most fun, relaxed, interesting, enjoyable semesters of your Bachelors! Enjoy as much as you can and your time in Stellies will be unforgettable!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Language and Culture Studies with International Relations

Destination city & country	Stellenbosch , South-Africa
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Stellenbosch University
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	12-01-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31-07-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I think the most important thing was the motivation letter. I really tried to portray myself as the best candidate for the position. Other than that, it was a lot of sorting out to do. Just make sure you know what to do and plan it in advance! Obtaining a visa was a hassle in particular.

Counselling/support at home university:

The international office was helpful.

Academic preparation:

Not necessary.

Language preparation:

Not necessary.

Finances:

I worked and saved up a lot of money. This enabled me to travel during my stay and afterwards. The fees, flight, visa costs and everything cost a lot of money. Make sure to save up a lot so you can enjoy yourself during your stay. You will want to travel everywhere!

Study/placement abroad period

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

I did the LSCE course and the HIV/Aids course. LSCE is changing now into something like 'internationalization and transformation', so it might be different now. For me, the course was very interesting. It was very different and I learned a lot from the theoretical part of the course. However, the students and I were critical about the practical part (teaching in the township) and there was not a lot of room for criticism. In the end, I am very glad I did the course and made good friends there. So I would definitely recommend it. Just don't expect it to be life changing.



The HIV course was interesting, especially because you got to work with an NGO. It was also easy.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The work load was definitely not as much as in Utrecht and the academic quality was similar or a bit lower. But challenging, nevertheless. It also really depends on your courses and whether you do mainstream or IPSU courses.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

There was not a lot of support from the host organisation. A lot was vague, students were confused a lot in the beginning. Don't expect them to be as fast etc as in Utrecht.

Transfer of credits:

Still in the process of doing so.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation week was nice. First some practical stuff, and then a welcome dinner and a day in Capetown. Especially the dinner (and dancing) was great. You meet a lot of people. Be there!

Accommodation:

I stayed in Berhzicht House. It was with 8 other people (french, german, south african, dutch). I made good friends there and liked the place a lot. But the safety was definitely an issue. We had multiple break ins and someone moved out. I would stay there again but if you value safety a lot, live on campus or in one of the international houses in the secured area. Although it is not completely safe anywhere.

Living on campus is quite massive. And you pay a lot for a really small room. But it is alright.

The big student houses like Beach House, Pool House and Bosman House can be great if you are into socializing and partying a lot. I am glad I did not go there because there would be a party multiple times a week and the people were quite shallow.

Leisure/culture:

South Africa is unbelievable. The nature, the people, the culture. Make sure to travel down the coast, to Cederberg, explore Capetown, travel to Namibia and Botswana afterwards. Also, join student societies! They are kind of free. I joined the surf society and surfed a lot - with and without the society. There are a lot of sport activities, cultural events and food festivals. Check out all the vineyards with friends. There is plenty of stuff to do.

Suggestions/tips:

Safety is an issue. It is alright, but be mindful. Don't go out alone in the dark, don't flash with your phone or cards.

Stellenbosch is a beautiful place, but also a bit like disneyland. It is very segregated. Make sure to find ways to escape the bubble. See south africa, do voluntary work, talk to other people.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

YES!! By far the most beautiful destination you could go to. You will do such cool things. Meet so many nice people (especially a lot of germans).

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



Universiteit Utrecht

Woodstock, District museum, high tea in Mount Nelson Hotel, Park Run at Route 44, surf at Strand. I would go back now!