



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: nielsterlinden@gmail.com my weblog my Facebook account other (social) media <b>or</b>
faculty/college	Natural Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Physics

destination city & country	London, UK
how did you travel to your destination?	Eurostar train
name university abroad	Imperial College London
start date	06 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I wasn't expecting to do an exchange until quite late in the year. Therefore I had to choose from the list of destinations that still had an open spot. I chose Imperial College London (ICL). After getting confirmation that the spot was indeed still available I just went through the application process like everyone else.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Whenever I had a question I could always contact the Science International Office. I often did that via email or just swinging by the office in the Minnaert building. I especially had a lot of contact with Tessa Schutte who



really helped me out a lot and I am still really grateful for all her help both before and during the exchange.

academic preparation

I was going to ICL on a faculty-specific exchange, i.e., I would do more physics courses. As the laws of physics are the same everywhere, most physics modules are taught similarly across different countries. Therefore I didn't feel the need specifically prepare for any of the chosen modules (courses). In hindsight, I believe this was justified.

language preparation

I went to an English-speaking country. While at secondary school, I had already obtained my C2 diploma in English. Furthermore, most of the modules I attended while at UU were already taught in English. For these reasons, I did not really feel the need for language preparation. In hindsight, I believe this was justified. That doesn't mean my English didn't greatly improve in London.

finances

I will come to no one's surprise that London is an expensive city. ICL itself estimates costs of living to be around EUR 1700 monthly. This meant that even when getting the maximum loan from DUO I was still about EUR 700 short. Luckily I received 2 grants: Erasmus (EUR 1750 total) and USC Scholarship Foundation (EUR 2500 total). Also, as I went to the UK, not an EU country, I wasn't able to work as I didn't get the visa required to be able to work in the UK.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In the end, I took 4 modules: Nuclear and Particle Physics, Lasers, Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, and Plasma Physics. When going to London I was planning on taking some other modules, see study plan, but on arrival, these turned out to be either full or clashed with other modules in the scheduling. It was easy to switch to different modules.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was very good, as to be expected from a world-class uni. Especially the teachers themselves. All the teachers were, almost, native speakers who were excellent speakers and educators as well as renowned physicists in their respective disciplines. The level of the modules themselves I would say is comparable to the level taught at UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not really need that much help with anything while in London. However, with the few administrative questions that did arise, I was helped adequately.

transfer of credits

ICL also uses ECTS so the 'translation' of credits was 1-to-1. All modules I took at Imperial were supplementary to my diploma at UU, i.e. I already had enough modules at UU to graduate. From the 4 modules I took, 3 will be added to my UU diploma as extra credit while one, Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, won't be accepted as it, rightfully, was found to be too similar to a module I already did at UU, Adv QM.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
As I arrived halfway through the year, there was no welcome or orientation programme. This was no problem for me as I quickly met other students whom I could go to with questions about how it all worked. Furthermore, I met a student from ICL who was on an exchange at UU prior to my departure to London. We stayed in touch throughout the exchange asking each other questions about each other's home uni, this was of massive help.
accommodation
I had to find private accommodation as the student's halls are only for students that are going for a full year. It was quite a hassle to find something. Eventually, I found something through 'spare room', the English equivalent to 'kamernet'. My accommodation was decent. I paid about EUR 1000 a month in rent, which is market conform in London and stayed within a 25-minute walk from ICL, which is about as close as you can get without paying much more.
leisure & culture
I think I was really lucky during my stay in London. In short, I had 3 groups of friends. Firstly, my British flatmate and his friends from secondary school who also lived in London. Secondly, the ICL hockey team I joined. Lastly, a group of other Erasmus students. Furthermore, It goes without saying that London is one of the most vibrant places on earth, both socially and culturally. No matter what kind of person you are, you will always be able to find like-minded individuals in that city.
suggestions/tips
Join one of the societies at ICL. I joined the hockey society but any society is a good choice. Preferably choose a society with a lot of British people as this will allow to you see London beyond the uni and touristy places.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely, I loved my time in London. The biggest reasons for recommending London would be the following. Firstly, It's London, need I say more? It's one of the biggest and most beautiful places in the world. Secondly, Because the UK is an English-speaking country it is relatively easy to become friends with local Englishmen. Something This is notoriously difficult in other non-English countries as the locals would almost always prefer to speak their local language, which you don't or barely speak, amongst themselves. Thirdly, ICL is one of the, if not the, best uni's that UU has a partnership with. It's just so much fun and so interesting to be taught and surrounded by the smartest people on the planet. Lastly, It's the best opportunity to really improve your English to a native-speaker level and get the highly sought-after, albeit a bit much, 'proper English accent'.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The UK is currently going through Brexit. This means laws and rulings are all quite vague and subject to change. So if you're planning on going to the UK, London included, please beware that it is going to be more difficult than EU destinations. The best advice would be to not hesitate to contact the International Office. Also, I would highly recommend contacting a student that already went there, such as myself, for advice on how to make it happen. Students thinking about going to ICL can always call/text me at +31 6 38323943, I would be more than happy to help. Also, if there is going to be a meeting for students going to London feel free to invite me if you feel that would be beneficial.