



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**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

family name*	
first name*	
student number*	
permission to publish contact details** <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 type="checkbox"/> yes: @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Instagram: @maartjesuper or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Earth Sciences

destination city & country	Dublin, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Trinity College Dublin
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process is quite simple as long as you stick to the deadlines. The part of the process that takes up the most time, is probably deciding for yourself what your destination would be. This includes looking up the cities and universities at first (obviously), however don't forget to investigate which courses you can take in your semester or for example what the housing situation is for students from abroad. For me, Trinity College was my second choice and I wish I had done more research on the housing situation beforehand. I researched my first choice thoroughly, but of course you can be offered your second or third choice so don't forget to be prepared



for every option. As long as you get your transcript of records, your motivation letter and every other document you need in time, you will be fine. Let your friends or family read your motivation letter whenever you're unsure about anything.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of UU was always quick to respond to all my questions through email, never hesitate to ask them something (even if it's the tiniest of things).

academic preparation

Even though Trinity College has a good reputation (or seems hard to get in/accepted to), I did not need certain grades or more academic preparations at all to be accepted by them. As long as you have more than 60 ECTS, and Utrecht has accepted your request to go abroad, you're good to go.

language preparation

In secondary school, I got my Cambridge English certificate, so my level of English always has been good. I think every Dutch high school and University has a sufficient level of English to be able to understand everyone in Irish. Most lecturers at Trinity understand that your level of academic English might be less than your fellow Irish classmates, and in my experience, Dutch people usually have a higher level of English than any other non-English speaking Europeans.

finances

The Erasmus grant helps a lot, and you can also get a Travel Green grant if you choose to go to Ireland by train and boat for example. However, it is important to bear in mind the high cost of living in Ireland nowadays. Housing prices have gone through the roof the past years, private student accomodations could cost as much as 1200 euros per month for one room in a house that you share with 10 others. A host family is usually a cheaper option, where you live inside a family home and can use their kitchen etc. I lived with my landlord and an Irish student, in the suburbs of Dublin (it took me at least 1 hour to get to trinity) but still paid 2.5 times my rent in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

When I did my application, I chose certain courses that I could find on the Trinity College website and that I found interesting. However, there was no timetable available so I couldn't check if the timetables of the courses had any overlap. The timetable only became available in the beginning of September, resulting in me changing half of my courses because of non matching timetables. At Trinity they do not work with timeslots A, B, etc. just like Utrecht. There is only a certain website where you have to put the course codes individually to view your timetable. This takes a lot of (unnecessary) time. Once you've applied to the courses you want, it takes another week or two until you hear you're accepted into the course. In the meantime, teaching had already started so I joined my first lectures without knowing I could even do the course. All in all, Trinity's organisational talents aren't great, keep that in mind. As for the content of the courses, some are very different than the courses taught in Utrecht! I loved the course on Glaciers and glaciation, a subject that is barely touched in Utrecht. You need to take 50% of your courses in the Geo faculty, the other courses could be anything: for example I chose two courses in history and middle eastern studies.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that the academic quality is comparable to Utrecht. I took two 4th year courses (a Bachelor's at Trinity is 4 years instead of 3) that were taught in small groups, which helped me connect to my fellow students. Most of my teachers were well-known researchers as well in their field, and a few of them were American rather than Irish. Trinity focuses a lot on their international community and exchange students. The work load I experienced was less than in Utrecht, except for the last two weeks of term when there were exams. The work load is not spread out evenly over the semester, there is a huge focus on the exam week.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
My coordinator at Trinity was always quick with a helpful reply. Other services at Trinity such as the Academic registry take much longer to reply.
transfer of credits
I received my grades 5 weeks after I completed my final exam. At my UU diploma I will only get a fail or pass so grades do not matter. The transfer of my transcript of records is not done automatically, you have to contact certain people to have your results sent to the International office in Utrecht. Again, this takes more time.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The introduction for Erasmus students was a bit disappointing, with only 1 seminar about things you could easily find on the website and a small campus tour. For other activities, you have to sign up yourself. I was put in a 'mentor group' but we've only had one meeting, so that didn't allow for deeper connections with your fellow erasmus students.
accommodation
As I said before, accommodation is incredibly difficult to find nowadays in Dublin. There are really expensive student accommodations (for which you have to apply early, feb/march if you start in september for example) or you try and email as many people as you can on Facebook. There are multiple Facebook groups that are solely for Trinity students. I would highly recommend the trinity accommodation website (http://www.tcdsuaccommodation.org/), where you can sign up once you've received your student number. This is a website where landlords put up ads only for Trinity students. Some of them are specifically looking for Erasmus students, so be early to contact as many people on this website, and I would say that is your best chance of getting accommodation. Keep in mind that most of these rooms are inside a family's home and that you'll be sharing the kitchen and bathroom with your host family.
leisure & culture
Dublin is a busy city, there is always something to do. The Irish pubs are amazing and the sea and the Wicklow mountains are closeby. Most museums are free if you're a students and since the trinity campus is in the city center, everything is closeby. The DART takes you to towns at the seaside for a beach stroll. You can purchase a campus sports card and make use of the gym, pool and more sports activities. For more sports you could also join a society.
suggestions/tips
I recommend joining multiple societies at Trinity. There are over 100 societies so you'll always find one that meets your interest. For example, I joined the hiking society which organises a hike in the wicklow mountains every weekend! They also organise trips around Ireland, just like the international student society. When you're in Dublin: don't forget to visit the West coast of Ireland, Galway, Donegal, Connemara, Kerry, for some gorgeous nature.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend Dublin and Trinity College, even though it is an expensive city and the organisation at Trinity is not the best. The campus is extraordinary and the Irish people are the best so I can only recommend it.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

NOTE: Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your ***personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students. **Contact details will only be included if and where permission has been given.**