



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Basel, Switzerland
name university abroad	Universität Basel
start date	21 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application for Unibasel was just a small application. The international office helped me out quite well so that made it easy for me. Looking for courses was quite hard, but the application itself was also not a big deal.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The UU international office is good reachable and sends out documents and reminders for a general Exchange once in a while. I've been in touch with them a few times before and during my stay and it was always helpful and quick.
academic preparation	I did random courses, so there was no real academic preparation, only that I had to figure out the system. They work with small courses next to each other. If you need 30 EC, you follow around 10 courses. It is comparable to the Dutch high school system. They also don't work with periods, but whole semesters.
language preparation	I applied for English courses. It is English on master's level mostly, but I got used to it really quickly.
finances	Basel, and Switzerland in general, is very expensive. I received a grand of 2000 Swiss francs, which is I think a little bit more than an Erasmus grand. This was nice, but you have to keep in mind that the prices (mostly going out to eat or for drinks) are quite high. I asked the people from ESN, my buddy, roommates and people in my classes for budget proof dinner/drinks tips, that's really helpful! The international office also tries to provide for some things, travelcard for 50% off traintickets, reimbursement for travelling by train/car to Basel (once) and a free German course for example.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I was quite confused by the system at first. After experiencing and talking to students I considered this system as very intense. For me it was impossible to do 30 EC, because I had to do them mostly at masters' level because I wanted to do English courses and 10 courses means mostly 20 hours of classes in total and then preparation at home. If you don't need 30 EC, I would recommend going for less. I did 19 EC and that was (including social life, exploring ed) already quite much.
academic quality of education activities	



I really liked the teachers because the once I had, were very passionate about the course. I also enjoyed the content of the courses very much. You do notice when it is a PASS/FAIL course (so you don't get a grade) that the effort students put in it is lower.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office of Unibasel is really helpful. They respond quickly and with the answers I needed. They sent me a link for a few housing possibilities for example. In the first week there is an introduction where they again tell you a lot of information, which is also a good way to see other Exchange students.

transfer of credits

Basel takes a long time to give out grades. I'm in no hurry to graduate so I did not ask them to grade me faster than the other students. Now I'm still waiting for some grades to then figure out the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Through the European Student Network (ESN) in Basel I got to meet a lot of internationals. ESN wasn't too active after the introduction week, so we organized a lot ourselves, but that is also very nice. So, make use of that introduction week and then just start texting people!

The bureaucratic side of moving to Basel is a bit complicated since Switzerland is not an EU country. You have to register at the foreigner's office, apply for exemption of compulsory health insurance and I opened a bank account since transferring rent for example costs an additional few euro's every time. I asked internationals and roommates for advice with these things.

accommodation

The international office from UniBasel sent me a link for Student dorm and the Unibasel site also mentions a student complex. I applied to both and got a nice room very near the centre of Basel.

leisure & culture

Basel is full off museums, theatre, opera, and beautiful surroundings. In the summer you can go outside and chill in the parks or next to the Rhine, and on cloudy days and lonely evenings (or whenever you feel like ;)) you can visit cultural things. Basel is known as the city of museums. Leisure activity enough!

suggestions/tips

As I said, the city is full of culture and things to do and to see. A lot of it is with student discount, so make use of that. Take the ferry for 2 franks between Klein Basel and Gross Basel, so nice! In café's are always flyers of what to do in Basel in that period, music, Basel Theater, museums, and so on.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I really enjoyed Basel as a city

If you like a city of museum and beautiful Rhein view, Basel is the place to be. Within a train ride distance are countless possibilities for citytrips and hikes.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Safe some money before you go and then surrender a little to the fact that things are more expensive. If you are on a very tight budget, Basel is maybe not the ideal place. I went in the spring semester, and I heard from a lot of students that that is the best semester to go. Basel people are not outgoing when it gets colder, so then it can be quite empty I heard. In late spring and summer you can go Rheinswimming as well, which is awesome.



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Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology (Bachelor, specialization: cognitive neurobiological psychology)

Destination city & country	Basel, Swizerland
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Universität Basel
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)	14/09/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/12/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

If I am completely honest, Basel was not my first choice but it was on my list. Nevertheless I loved it. The application went fine, especially at university Basel. I had to upload my documents and after about an hour I got an email that I was accepted!

Counselling/support at home university:

The support was good, all my questions were answered quite quickly.

Academic preparation:

I did not do anything special, in my specialisation the first semester of the third year consists of elective courses, which I could do abroad. Having some extra ECTS from being a mentor in the second year did help.

Language preparation:

My level of German was already sufficient since I grew up in Germany. I did find out Swiss German is very different and it took me a while to get better at understanding it, but all the classes where in high German and the locals were willing to switch to high German as well so it didn't cause any problems.

Finances:

In Switzerland there was no Erasmus grand, but there is a replacement scholarship from the Swiss government. You get it once you are at the university and fill out a form. That really helped, I barely had to use my savings.



Study/placement abroad period

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

To me this was a bit stressful, I am used to apply for the courses of the first semester before the end of June. In Basel the application period starts on the first of August and continues until the end of the fourth week of lectures. Still for seminars, which are subjects with workgroups, there are earlier deadlines which I found out about quite late. Nevertheless I found plenty of interesting subjects in different departments, ranging from biology and psychology to an Egyptology class! Don't forget to check the admission requirements. I had applied for a course with only a limited amount of spots for students from a different faculty, and I only found out it was full when I emailed the lecturer.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I felt like the quality was not really different from Utrecht University. Some courses were a bit easier, but because I had so many courses it still was a challenge.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The support was quite all right, I would have wished to get more support for picking my courses, but I was able to do that by myself in the end. The mobility office was very willing to answer my questions.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits went fine, I had all the courses approved by the .. while I was still in Basel and would have been able to switch. Thankfully that wasn't necessary. I got an official transcript of records by mail (first I forgot to change my address in ADAM to my Dutch address, don't forget to change it when you go back home!) and took it to the STIP. The credits were in Osiris within a few days. I believe my grades were adapted a bit, but not in a way that a pass would become a fail. The Swiss grading system is a bit different from the Dutch, 6 is the highest, 1 the lowest.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There was a welcome event from the mobility office where they provided us with practical information. The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) also had a welcome event which gave us more of a chance to socialize. It was great for getting to know the other international students, some long lasting friendships started there.

Accommodation:

If you want to get into one of the student homes (studentenheim) you really need to start early! I was quite late myself so I had to try my luck at the Unimarkt, a website where people offer rooms among other things. In the end I was very lucky, my dad knew someone who knew someone who lives in Basel really close to the university and had a spare room.

Leisure/culture:

Basel itself is a very nice city, the Rhine dividing it in two. While the weather is still nice, many people meet up at the bank of the Rhine and hang out there. If it's really nice you can actually swim in it. There are a lot of museums, I definitely recommend the Tinguely museum, with a lot of literally moving art! ESN Basel is quite active, organising things like a pub crawl, tickets to a ballet, cheap trips and a hike, among other things. There are a few clubs in Basel, for instance Verso which is in the basement of one of the university buildings (how amazing is that!). I went on some trips with a group of friends as well, the university gives you a discount on a card you can use to get a discount on train tickets. Switzerland is a beautiful country, I really recommend going on a hike in the south! A lot of tourists also go to Grindelwald, I went there just before the main skiing season and it was just magical in the snowy mountains. In the time I was in Basel there were two big events, the Herbst Messe and the Christmas market. The Herbst Messe is a big market in the autumn, quite expensive but nice to see. There are not only stands everywhere in the city, but also a big Ferris wheel, a little roller-coaster and some other attractions. The raclette is delicious. Just a few weeks later the Christmas market starts. It is a bit smaller, but still nice.



There is glühwein everywhere and the look of all the little stands helps you feel warm while it gets colder outside. In Basel the climate is still quite mild, a lot like in the Netherlands actually. In autumn the weather was nicer than in Utrecht, but there was not as much snow in the winter. Another similarity is the amount of bikes, there are plenty since there are not as many hills. You don't really need to bring a bottle of water while walking around in the city, there are a lot of fountains with drinking water so you will not get thirsty.

Suggestions/tips:

Don't let the paperwork scare you off. It will really be worth it in the end, enjoy every second and make the most of your stay.

Conclusions

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

Yes, it might not be the first place you think of but I think you would be pleasantly surprised to see how nice it is. A nice part about it not being that incredibly far away is, you can go back to visit others that stay for the whole year. I do recommend people to think twice if their German is not as good and they are still in their bachelor. There are plenty of English courses in the master, but in the bachelor they are quite scarce. Even if you don't go to Basel, I definitely want to recommend studying abroad, I have learned a lot and I feel like I have grown.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

If you need more information or would like some help, I would be happy to!