



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Sociology
level	X bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Sociology Bachelor

destination city & country	Binghamton, USA
name university abroad	Binghamton University
start date	? / 08 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	? / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I think the application process is quite easy. You have to fill out some forms and fix a VISA. When I had questions both universities (Utrecht and Binghamton) were very helpful, since they have a lot of experience with these issues.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Both universities were very helpful.
academic preparation	I did not have to prepare myself academically.
language preparation	Did not have to do this, since I lived in Australia before. Also, the University of Utrecht provides you with a language certificate. Note that you have to take an English test once you arrive at Binghamton University.
finances	Make sure that you have the amount of money that you need to own for a visa in your bank account (I believe this was 10.000 dollar) This bank statement is one of the first things you need to submit to the Binghamton University.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>I followed 3 courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to politics - Sociology of food - Leadership <p>When you apply for courses there are many things you have to keep in mind (Binghamton University will lead you through this process very easily), like amount of points, previous courses, etc. Note that there is more possible than they let on, so if there is a course you really want to follow, you can ask them and usually they fix it for you. The university is not very strict towards exchange students.</p>
academic quality of education activities	It is different, but easy to get used to. Also, it depends on the type of course how much homework you have, so keep this in mind while applying for courses (I took some easy ones ;))



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Did not use this, but I heard they are very helpful. There is a special department for foreign students where you can go with all questions etc.

transfer of credits

After you signed up for the courses, you have to send it towards the examencommissie and they tell you what you will receive in the NL for it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We arrived at 11pm and there was no one to welcome us and show our rooms. Eventually we found the people waiting for us at the accommodation common room. We got our room keys but there is nothing but a bed with a mattress. So make sure to bring a towel/bedding. The first day there is time to go to Walmart to buy your essentials. This was more than I expected (cutlery, vacuum cleaner, bedding, kettle etc) The first week there are only exchange students. You will receive a schedule for that week.

accommodation

See previous question

leisure & culture

I joined the waterpolo team. During the first weeks you can join all kinds of sport clubs/university clubs. Most of it is free and it is a fun way to meet American students!

suggestions/tips

Do not worry too much at forehand, things will fall in place once you are there.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I think this is a good university to experience the 'real American society'. I do have to say that there is not much to do in Binghamton, so it is mostly college experience. If you want more outside the university I suggest to go to a university in a bigger city. If you like to party, I think this is a great university!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculty of Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Information Sciences

destination city & country	Binghamton, United States of America
name university abroad	Binghamton University
start date	13 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The whole process might feel a bit tedious at some points, but looking back at it, it wasn't all too bad. Just make sure to start in time and get all the required documents in time, since it will take some time and effort to receive some documents. And if you don't understand something, just ask!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office always responded to my e-mails quickly.
academic preparation	Not much, since this was during my 3 rd year
language preparation	Not much, since a part of my degree is already in English
finances	I saved up money and kept my student loan going for the time I was abroad. Also don't forget to apply for the money you get instead of using your student public transport.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took the courses World Regional Geography, Supply Chain Management, Jewish New York and Consumer Behaviour. They were all pretty doable and interesting. If there are courses you want to take, but you're not sure if you can, just try to get into them anyway. I got into a course in the most selective school without really having the prerequisites.
academic quality of education activities	Overall, the level at Binghamton is lower compared to Utrecht, but the workload is higher. You get more smaller, weekly assignments and less big projects.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There is a lot of information online, and you can always write an e-mail to the International Office or hop by.
transfer of credits	I haven't done this yet.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	You'll arrive on campus a week before the regular students, so it's nice to have some activities to go to in order to get you familiar with the new school and meet new people. Again, it will feel tedious at moments, but it's not that bad. Just try to talk to as many people as possible, you're all in the same boat!
accommodation	
	I lived in College-in-the-woods, which I can highly recommend. I lived in a suite with 5 guys, and they became one of the best friends I made at Bing. The building "Cayuga" got renovated 2 years ago, and it is pretty easy to meet people that live on your floor. The dining hall is also pretty decent and it is close to most classes.
leisure & culture	
	While the City of Binghamton doesn't really have that much to offer, there are still enough things to do. There are a lot of clubs (seriously, a lot), but personally I spent a lot of time travelling. I went to Canada twice, to NYC twice and to several smaller towns and cities around Binghamton (I'd definitely recommend Ithica).
suggestions/tips	
	Most internationals are up for travelling, so try to get a group together. A great way to get around other than the busses is Zipcar. They have two locations on campus, and it's really convenient.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
	Definitely, the campus is a great place to do stuff and meet lots of new people! Binghamton is also pretty central, so there are enough opportunities for travelling.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
	Travel as much as you can. You can leave Friday afternoon and come back Sunday night and still have a blast! You should also try to travel before or after the semester. Also, try to talk to as many people as possible. Whenever they hear an accent, they usually are interested right away, and it's a good way to make friends.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Binghamton NY, USA
name university abroad	Binghamton University
start date	13 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application was fairly easy, the guidance from both university, Utrecht and Binghamton, was very helpful and you don't have to do everything at once, the process has several stages with enough time to prepare everything (like financial documents, but also getting a passport etc.)

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As mentioned above, the counselling and support was very helpful. Whenever I had a question I would send out an email and get an answer back in only a day or so.

academic preparation

I didn't do much academic preparation, the classes I took were in the same faculty so I didn't need to prepare basically.

language preparation

I already speak English fluently, I have several international friends and flatmates, so that wasn't a problem either.

finances

I am lucky that my family could pay for my study abroad, but besides that I worked and tried to save up as much as I can, since I was planning on travelling a lot in the US.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme is very flexible, you can choose classes in all faculties (colleges), as long as you have the needed knowledge (like classes, same as in Utrecht). Before you even leave to Binghamton, you have to make a study plan with all the classes you are planning to take, these classes have to be approved by Utrecht University. As soon as the classes are approved you can communicate the classes to the contact person in Binghamton who will sign you up for classes. I had the idea that international exchange students are priority, so most of the time there is no problem with signing you up for the classes you're interested in.

academic quality of education activities

The academic level in the US is a little bit lower than in the Netherlands, but there is more work during the semester. Although the classes are a little bit easier than what I was used to in the Netherlands, I had to do lots of reading and had to write several papers. I also had a class that had a pop quiz every once in a while, so preparing for classes is more important and they check more often if you're doing the work they ask you to do.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



I didn't have many problems (which is a good sign) during the semester, but whenever I had a question there is always someone to go to, and Sue from the International Office is always there if you have questions, no matter what the subject.

transfer of credits

As I am writing this report, I haven't received the transferred credits yet, but before my study abroad I checked with Utrecht University what the transfer would be. Most of the classes are 4 credits, which is 8 ECTS. Besides that I checked with the International Office in Binghamton is there are any frequent problems with transferring credits, which shouldn't be a problem according to Sue.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week there are some activities for the international students, which is very nice way to meet all the internationals and for me also a way to meet my friends I had during my semester (and still have!). When all the American students arrive, there are a lot of activities, like a hypnotist show, an outside movie showing, and a lot more activities organized on campus. Besides all the activities on campus, all the fraternities and sororities have open houses and parties in the first week (which is called syllie week, since you get all the syllabi in your classes)

accommodation

I lived on campus and I would totally recommend living on campus. Everything is close by and everything you need is on campus, plus there are a lot of clubs you can join who are all based on campus. For me, I thought it was nice to have dining hall for a semester, I love cooking but this way you have more time to socialize! Also, the most rooms on campus are doubles, so there are 2 people in 1 room. I didn't have a problem with that, although I wasn't best friends with my roommate, he was quiet and we never had problems. Living on campus is a good way to meet new people, I lived in College in the Woods and I basically knew everyone on my floor!

leisure & culture

Binghamton is a small city, there is not much to do but they have some fun activities around. For example, the Luma festival is a light festival (like Glow in Eindhoven, but smaller), which was a fun thing to go to. Besides that, there is a lot of beautiful nature around, good for hikes etc. (the Outdoors club, or Outdoors Pursuits club organize several hikes during the semester, would recommend!). Binghamton is situated in the middle of New York state, which is only 3 hours from NYC (good for weekends away), but also close to Canada, the finger lakes in upstate New York etc.

suggestions/tips

As I wrote above, NYC is obviously a must, but I would also recommend going to Canada and the other cities along the east coast (Boston, Washington DC etc.)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would totally recommend going to Binghamton. It is a classical American campus experience with lots of things to do and to go to fairly nearby.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Beta faculty
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Chemistry

Destination city & country	Binghamton, United States
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Binghamton 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)	09-01-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-06-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

In the beginning it took some time before I had a clear image of how to apply, but after I submitted the first application everything was very clear.

Counselling/support at home university:

The international office always answered my questions, and processes were clear

Academic preparation:

I did not do any academic preparation

Language preparation:

I did no language preparation

Finances:

I paid this semester from my savings

Study/placement abroad period

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

The international office in Binghamton was always very helpful. They only did not always respond in time, which is why I was still registered for a class I wanted to drop

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The way of teaching is very different from the way it is in Utrecht, you get a lot more small assignments during the semester, but I liked this way of teaching. Overall the level of difficulty was definitely lower than in Utrecht

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Everybody was always very helpful if you couldn't find something and also online you could find a lot of information



Transfer of credits:

Not yet done, but the university is supposed to send my grades directly to Utrecht University

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Because I started in the winter, there was very little orientation. We only had an orientation for the exchange students and was mostly about the academics. I kinda missed an orientation for all the other things there are to do at the university, which they do have if you go for the first semester.

Accommodation:

The rooms were small, but okay. It was nice to have a kitchen so you could make your own dinner

Leisure/culture:

There were a lot of activities on campus, but because there was no real introduction to them in the second semester. I had a hard time finding and joining them. The city of Binghamton is not very interesting and if you're not 21 there is not really much to do.

Suggestions/tips:

Try to find someone to travel with and go away in the weekends. NYC is just 4 hours away (which is very close for US standards). Try renting a car with a group, because you really can't get anywhere without

Conclusions

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

The campus and the people there were a lot of fun, I made a lot of great friends. But Binghamton itself is not very interesting. They do have a nature preserve, but in the winter it is not really accessible.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Go travelling! It's the best thing I did. There are a lot of Greyhounds you can take and maybe try to rent a car, which greatly enhances the area where you can get in a weekend. And driving in the US is easy, you can easily drive 500 km in a day, no problem



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:	English language and culture

Destination city & country	Binghamton, NY, United States
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Binghamton 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)	11/08/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/01/2016

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I knew from the first week in Utrecht that I wanted to go abroad for a semester to study. I went to a few information meetings and I started my application on time. I wanted to go somewhere in the United States but did not really have a strong preference. I ended up getting my third choice, and in retrospect it should've been my first choice because it was probably the best match for me. Make sure that all three choices would be places where you would want to go, because it's definitely possible that you don't get your first or even your second choice. No matter where you go, the experience will still be amazing!

Counselling/support at home university:

The support from the home university was good. The contact person for North America, Ingrid, was very helpful and quick to reply to questions.

Academic preparation:

I didn't do that much academic preparation. Before you go abroad, you can look on the exchange university's website to see which courses are interesting. Some higher level courses are not open to students who haven't done the introductory courses at the exchange university, so if there is a course you really want to take you might want to look at options to take a similar introductory course at Utrecht University.

Language preparation:

Since most of my courses in Utrecht are already in English, I didn't do any language preparation for my study abroad semester.

Finances:

Since I knew early on that I wanted to go abroad, I saved a lot of money for it. I saved half my money from summer jobs, and also loaned a large amount of money monthly from DUO. I also got



the OV-refund from DUO as well as some financial support from my parents. The financial planning you have to do for your application is a very helpful tool.

Study/placement abroad period

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

For the application process I already looked at courses I wanted to take at each of my three choices, but after getting accepted to my third choice I changed my mind about them. There are so many options at Binghamton University, and I ended up picking three courses that fit in well with my major, and a course that was very different but had always been a personal interest of mine. I took Children's Lit, Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, Language in Conflict, and Nutrition. They were all very interesting so I definitely recommend these classes! If you take Nutrition, definitely choose the class taught by Sarah, she's the best. The options are limitless, so definitely do something fun if you think your exam committee will approve it! There is also an add/drop week at Binghamton, which means that you have some time to see if you actually like the courses you picked and if you don't, you can drop the class and add a new one.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of education at Binghamton is great. It feels very different from Utrecht. I'd say the level at Binghamton is lower compared to Utrecht, but it's a more engaging academic setting.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Sue and Jie from the international office at Binghamton are AMAZING. They are so helpful and also up for a chat whenever. They really work hard to make the exchange students feel at home. In addition to them, Binghamton has a wide range of activities and facilities for international students because there are so many international students there. They also host a support group for international student who are struggling, they have a counselling center, etc... The support at Binghamton for all their students is fantastic.

Transfer of credits:

It's really easy to transfer your credits when you return to Utrecht. I picked up my transcript at Student Services and had to hand them in at my faculty's studiepunt. I filled in a form online about my classes, and a short time later I had my credits and grades. (Before you go abroad you have to fill in a form to ask permission for your classes as well! This wasn't mandatory, but it's nice to know that you will get credits for the classes you are taking before you're finished with them.)

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

We had two orientation programs: one for the exchange students, and another one for international students. The exchange students' orientation programme was nice. We went to a local diner, to a baseball game, etc. We were a small group so we quickly became friends in the first week. We had to arrive a week early to the university, so everything else was pretty dead though. The other orientation programs were fine, a lot of practical information that didn't apply to us since we were only staying one or two semesters. But there were still some fun activities planned, so we still had a good time.

Accommodation:

I lived in Susquehanna, in the Apartment Communities. I really loved it. It's a quiet community, so



there are no parties here etc. It's really nice because you can study at home. In the Apartment Communities you have your own room and a kitchen. It's really not far from campus AT ALL. It's a short walk. Susquehanna is perfect if you want your own room, a kitchen, privacy and quiet, you're still close to campus and to Hillside, the other apartment community where they do allow parties etc. Note: Housing at Binghamton is very expensive, but worth it. It's an amazing experience to live on campus. You make so many friends, going to the dining hall is fun, and it's nice to just roll out of bed ten minutes before class and still make it on time.

Leisure/culture:

There are so many activities and clubs at BU! At the beginning of the semester there is a big fair where you can see all the clubs that are on campus. If it's your thing, definitely join! There is something for everyone. Also make sure to keep your eye on the events calendar. I went to see Nev Schulman from Catfish speak in the events centre, and also went on an organized hike in the amazing nature (the State of New York is beautiful!!) and to a cider mill with a fellow Dutch exchange student. There are also some international organizations that organize trips. I went to Ithaca to see Cornell and the waterfalls with some other exchange students and it was great. Definitely take advantage of all the great things that people do for the international students at BU!

Suggestions/tips:

If you live in the Apartment Communities, still get a meal plan! Because officially you don't live on campus if you're in the Apartments (even though it's just on the edge of campus and really close to Hinman and Mountainview) you can get a Commuter Meal Plan. This means you don't have to pay the insanely expensive fees for the dining hall. You pay 340\$ for a semester, and 140\$ of that is a membership fee. You can spend 200\$ in the dining hall. If you finish those 200\$, you can add as much money as you want and you don't have to pay the 140\$ fees again. Dining hall food isn't as good as it is in an actual restaurant, but it's fine and it's easy if you don't have time to cook, and it's really *gezellig* to eat together with friends too.

Conclusions

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

Yes, Binghamton is great! It's relatively close to New York City (3h15m by Greyhound), and has a beautiful nature preserve on campus! There are so many options for interesting courses, great clubs, and the people at BU are the nicest. ;-)

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Enjoy your semester abroad!