



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Science & innovationmanagement

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Alma Mater studiorum Università di Bologna
start date	29 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I went in the second semester, therefore I did not receive that many emails about what to do after my applience. That was a bit stressfull, since for the UU application deadline I had to do so much and then suddenly nothing anymore. Do not stress, you will hear something. Email if you want reassurance.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Was enough, sometimes difficult that they did not have more information about the receiving university, but afterwards I understand.
academic preparation	I did not do anything special before departure to prepare myself for the academic courses here in Italy. This also was not necessary.
language preparation	Would recommend to put effort in language classes. Italian classes are offered in Bologna, but only from level A2, which I was not prepared for.
finances	The daily life in Bologna is much cheaper than in the Netherlands. However, rooms are more expensive. I had saved some money before I went here. Be sure to have more money then you spend in Utrecht, because you do not want to say no to trips/activities with new friends because you do not want to spend money. You are only going on Erasmus once.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There was no clear start date of the subjects or information about if there is an introduction period, so I arrived 2 weeks before my classes started (which I did not know). When I contacted the receiving University beforehand, they could not help me either.
academic quality of education activities	The lessons differed a lot between the subjects: some of them were challenging and interactive, others were



just the teacher speaking to a group, whereby no questions could be asked. However most of my experiences with lessons were positive. Challenging, excursions and group exercises.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not receive much support from the receiving university, however I did not ask for much. Online contact was very slow.

transfer of credits

According to Utrecht University, the amount of credits I earned here will be transferred back to University Utrecht. It differs how many credits for each subject, most of them are 6 or 9 credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

From the university there was no welcome or orientation programme, from the Erasmus organisation there was. However this did not help you with information about your university classes.

accommodation

For the university rooms you had to be very early. There was the possibility to 'exchange' your room in the Netherlands with someone in Bologna. I found my room through social media.

leisure & culture

There are two erasmus organisations active in Bologna, which supplies lots of opportunities to meet new people and experience day trips or activities which are harder to organise by yourself in a strange country. It is easy to find your way in Bologna: public transport is very cheap with the special card for erasmus students, but people are also very friendly to help.

suggestions/tips

Living in the centre can be very expensive, sometimes living out of the centre can be even closer to your daily activities and study area. Do not be afraid of walking 25 minutes, this is normal for everybody. Watch out for scams, try not to sign contracts before you arrive here. Eventhough it seems scary to not have a room yet, there are plenty of people who start searching here.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes. After the difference in culture and the tempo in daily life, you get used to the nice and open environment. Very accepting culture. Pluspoint is definitely the active Erasmus society. Bologna is very central in the Northern part of Italy with good public transport connections, which makes it an ideal city to explore other cities around.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: v.e.deboer@students.uu.nl my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: 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	Social sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology	

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Universita di Bologna
start date	06 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The main thing of the application process was filling in forms. As long as you know which forms to fill in before what deadline you're totally fine!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	If you had any questions about what to do you could always write your contact person. So that was super helpful.
academic preparation	For me there weren't a lot of academic preparations, because I would just follow courses like I would do at UU
language preparation	Because I was planning on following my courses in Italian, I kept practising and trying to improve my Italian. Also through little things in my daily life, like listening to Italian music or talking in Italian with my colleagues at the pizzeria I worked.
finances	Before hand I didn't do something special in relation to my financial situation, but saving a bit more might have come in handy. During the period abroad I used my Erasmus grant and I also used DUO a bit more than normally. This was mainly because I wanted to take trips within Italy. If you don't go to crazy with travelling and stay mainly in your city it will already cost you less ofcourse.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>The organisation and the way of studying is very different in Bologna. It is way more individual and they expect you more to find things out yourself. It also way more focussed on theory here. Choosing your courses is sort of a puzzle. A lot of time they will overlap and you can't follow all of your classes. Teachers know this, so leaving early or being late because you had another class most of the time isn't an issue.</p> <p>While we have detailed syllabusses here, they don't really do that here in Italy. You have some basic information about the course, but a lot is for you to find out yourself. Sometimes this went well othertimes less wel, but at the end I always figured it out.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>I heard the level of the English courses sometimes were lower than the level of the courses at the UU. With my Italian courses this wasn't a problem. Maybe it also had to do with my level of Italian which made the course more difficult, but I think in general the level of the courses wer'e quite equal. The courses are just more focussed on theory, so you get a lot of information and at the end you learn all of this and all the books of the course. There is not really a think like the "workgroups" / seminars that we have. It is really just lectures. What I noticed that this caused that here I really just learn a lot of theory, while at UU I also learn how to connect this theory with the other theory and to really apply it.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>You really have to remind yourself that you're in Italy. The system is less fast and organised. So if you go somewhere to ask for help there is a big chance they send you somewhere else etc. It will take a bit of time to get used to this and it absolutely doesn't help to get angry or something like that. You just keep trying and at the end you will get where you need to be. Just make sure that you plan a bit more time for something that in The Netherlands might take just 10 minutes.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>The grades here in Italy go from 0-30 where you pass if you get an 18. The attitude towards what grade you're going for is very different here in Italy than it is in The Netherlands. Where a lot of times we're already happy if we pass a course, Italians always try to go for a 30. This is also because it is way more possible to get a 30. A lot of people I know got a 30. But in The Netherlands I think I never heard someone getting a 10 .</p> <p>How the grades get transferred to the dutch 0-10 system is something I 'don't know yet, because that still has to be done to mine.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>The only sort of welcome programme I had was to go to the international desk and do a check-in. Here I got a little information about how to subscribe for the courses and that was kind of it. I would have loved more information about how everything worked in general.</p> <p>There was an introduction week with the two student associations for international students, but this was not part of the university and more for fun and to get to know the city and people</p>
accommodation	<p>I found my room through a student from the UU who stayed in Bologna the first semester. I was very luckily because it is, like in Utrecht, quite hard to find accomodation. I lived in a single room with two flatmates (french doing erasmus for 1 year and an Italian girl). Also in this area I was luckily, because in Italy it is very normal to have a shared room.</p>
leisure & culture	



Bologna is a real student city, not too big (for Italy), but there is always something to do. Next to the city itself that has a lot to offer there is also two student associations for international students, who organise (cheap) trips or fun activities to do within Bologna. This also helps a lot with meeting people.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

For me this semester was a big challenge. Mainly because I took quite a lot of courses and also in Italian, which i'm not fluent in. Looking back maybe one course less wouldn't have been a bad idea. Now I was really busy with university, following classes (because especially in the beginning you have more contact hours than at the UU) and after studying for exams. If you keep in mind to challenge yourself, but not too much, then it will be alright. The experience in general was really nice and I learned a lot, especially because the system here in Italy is so different. Being in a classroom where everyone is from another culture than you and working within a system you don't know is sometimes hard, but at the end you learn about yourself and how you can handle those situations. Bologna itself is a city with a great ambiance. It is very pretty and has a lot of fun places to offer. It really has the Italian vibes and food you want when you come to Italy for 6 months.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Alma Mater Studiorum Bologna
start date	12 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application was fairly easy and clearly instructed. I had to write a letter of motivation and attach my cv, but in my experience it was not a very strict selection process. The application has to be completed at least a year before departure, so it can be difficult to plan so far ahead.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support for the application was done well, however once I was accepted into the university in Bologna, the home university was not able to provide much information about the details. I had many questions regarding classes, start dates, etc. that could not be answered by my home university and also not by the receiving institution until I got there. This was, however, more the responsibility of the receiving institution than Utrecht University.

academic preparation

I did no specific academic preparation, as I was taking classes outside of my regular course. I did do a basic language course to improve my Italian.

language preparation



I took Italian 1 as an extra course which gave me a nice basis, but I would have preferred to also do Italian 2. Although I could get by in the beginning when ordering a coffee etc., I recommend applying very early for a language course at Unibo. I applied a few weeks before departure and the classes were already full by then, so I could not take a language course for credits.

finances

I applied for the Erasmus grant. I also had some of my own personal savings and increased my student loans a bit during my stay abroad, as it gets quite expensive if you are taking trips or going to parties. Rent was more than I expected to pay, but other living expenses were similar or lower to what I pay in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Figuring out the study programme was very difficult as a lot of courses overlapped in time schedules and the online course catalog can be difficult to navigate. It was also nearly impossible to get any sort of guidance from the international office on which courses I was able to choose from. The best thing was to try out as many classes as possible in the first weeks and ask the professors if they think the class is suitable for you.

academic quality of education activities

Most of my teachers were passionate about their subject and very willing to help me. The classes were interesting but not too demanding, in my opinion. I have heard many students who said their teachers did not speak English well, so I think I got lucky in that respect. Overall, I think the courses were not super challenging but the teachers still made me enjoy the classes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not experience much if any counselling or support from the receiving university. You were mainly left to figure things out on your own and responding to e-mails can take a long time. The lines at the international office were also massive when I first arrived, so this made me reluctant to go back. The best option is to contact professors directly if you have any questions.

transfer of credits

I have not received my official transcript yet, however I have received all of my grades. I do not expect any issues with the transfer.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme was cancelled due to bad weather conditions so I never experienced it. This made me miss out on some vital information which gave me some difficulties later on. I highly recommend going to the welcome programme and if you are unable, ask somebody else if they can provide the information you missed out on.

accommodation

Finding accommodation was difficult, as in any student city. I was mostly helped by SAIS, which contacts independent landlords for you if your Italian is not great yet. I ended up paying almost double what I anticipated, but I had a studio to myself and lived inside the city walls. I highly recommend living in or near the city walls if you are planning to enjoy the nightlife/benefits of the city, as the bus journey to the suburbs is not ideal.

leisure & culture



The leisure and culture in the city is amazing. There are lots of fun cultural activities like museums, parks or films, but there are also a lot of parties and trips planned for Erasmus students. I recommend taking trips to other cities and also exploring the hills surrounding Bologna.

suggestions/tips

Definitely join ESN or Erasmusland (I prefer Erasmusland) to make friends quickly and join any fun activities. Allow yourself time to find accomodation, preferably before classes start. I would recommend getting to Bologna as soon as you can, as it might take quite a while to get everything in order.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the destination because I think it is something a lot of people look for in their exchange period: A chance to experience a different culture and enjoy student life. I would not, however, recommend it for somebody who is MAINLY going abroad for academic/professional purposes, as I think the quality of education at my home university than at the university of Bologna. However, I do recommend the city and the experience as a whole and I definitely took some interesting classes!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Learn some Italian, as a lot of Italians speak hardly any English. In order to join the university courses, you must apply early - as soon as you can. If not, there are plenty of other opportunities to take class for not much money. Also, like I mentioned, get to Bologna as soon as possible so you have time to figure out accommodation and class schedule without missing too many classes. If you are planning to enjoy the social life in the city, I very highly recommend to find a place near the centre.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Law
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Utrecht Law College

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

According to me, the application process is not that difficult. Just make sure you do everything within the given period. If you have questions, you can send an email to the International Office. What's more, you can always ask students who have been on exchange before if you have any doubts about your application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need so much support, but if I had any questions, the International Office always wanted to help. You can always send an email or call them. The predeparture meeting was also very helpful to get some more information and to meet students who have been on exchange to the same destination.

academic preparation

The university of Bologna was extremely unclear as to what courses I could do during the semester. In Bologna, there's a different system. Before signing up for courses, you need to attend some classes. What's more, the offer in courses will be announced during your semester, instead of before the start of the semester. Because of that, an academic preparation was not possible.

language preparation



Before my Erasmus period in Bologna, I followed two language courses at Babel in Utrecht and I would recommend to do this before you go on exchange, since communicating with the Italians is more easy when you have a basis level in Italian. After my arrival, I followed a free intensive language course offered by Unibo of two weeks at CLA. Because I wanted to improve my language skills, I followed an extensive Italian course at CLA as well. I would recommend to do this as well. Make sure you sign up within the given period, because there aren't enough spots for all the Erasmus students.

finances

The financial plan we had to prepare for the application process gives you a good overview of the costs and expenses during your exchange. Furthermore, make sure you do all the necessary things to get the Erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Bologna, as mentioned before, was incredibly disorganized, which made it difficult for me as a student from a very well-organized university. But, to be honest, I learned a lot from this disorganized system. The course table is very unclear. When you have a look at the course catalogue of the University of Bologna, make sure to check the language of the courses and the place of the courses, because Unibo has locations in other cities too.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education activities really depends on your faculty and also between courses of the same faculty there are big level differences. You can always contact professors to make sure the course suits you.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was no counselling and very little support. But all the professors have an open office hour every week and they are very helpful if you come to them.

transfer of credits

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STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is no orientation programme organised by the University, except for one welcoming meeting. However, there are a couple of Erasmus organisations, such as ESN and Erasmusland, that organise a lot of activities during your exchange period. This is a good way to get to know new people, the city and other cities.

accommodation

Finding a room in Bologna is really difficult. Especially when you don't want to share your room with someone else. That's why you should start looking for an accommodation very soon. I advise to search for a room in Bologna before your arrival online and if you can't find a room online, I advise to arrive before the start of your exchange period to search for a room. There are organisations that can help you to find a room. Also have a look at the different Facebook pages. Try to find a room within the city walls. What's more, the best way to improve your Italian skills is to live with Italians.

leisure & culture

If you find culture important and interesting, Bologna is the right city. You won't get bored here. There are a lot of museums and also the city itself is one big open-air museum. By buying the cards of ESN and Erasmusland you can participate in various activities for free or with a discount. What's more, you can enter clubs with a



discount or for free. When it comes to sports there are a few options. If you want to go to the gym, you can sign up for the University gym. What's more, a lot of students go jogging or do bootcamp in the Gardini Margherita. Around the city there are many hills where you can go for a nice hike. Also ESN offers sport courses, such as yoga and salsa. Even if you don't do sports you exercise enough, since you walk a lot in the city center.

suggestions/tips

A lot of people, especially students, use a bike. I didn't buy a bike, because my room was located inside the city walls, but if your room is located outside the walls or if you want to go to the hills, I would recommend to buy a bike, for example on one of the Facebook pages. Furthermore, I recommend to participate in activities organised by the different Erasmus organisations to get to know new people and the city itself.

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you want to have a semester abroad in a lively studentcity with a lot of history and culture, I would definitely recommend a semester at the University of Bologna. But, keep in mind that the university is not well organised.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Law
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	02 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	According to me, the application process is not that difficult. Just make sure you do everything within the given period.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office workers were of great help and always responded to my e-mails as soon as possible. The predeparture meeting also came in very handy in order to know what to think of before going on exchange.
academic preparation	I didn't really do any academic preparation since I already finished my Bachelor before going on exchange.
language preparation	Eventhough I did all my courses in Bologna in English, before going to Italy I signed up for an Italian language course. Whilst living in Italy it is nice to at least know the basics of the language, since many Italians barely speak English.
finances	



Take the overview of expenses and savings etc. that you have to make at the time of your application seriously. It gives you a good idea of the money you will spend during your exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

When you are looking at the course catalogue of the University of Bologna, make sure to check the language the courses are taught in! Some of my friends didn't pay attention to this, which led to some disappointments when they arrived and noticed that the course would be only in Italian. You should also make sure that the lessons of the courses you are interested in really take place in Bologna. The Uni of Bologna also has campuses in Forlì, Rimini and Ravenna, so check the location before!

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses that I followed was quite similar as in Utrecht, or maybe sometimes a little less intense. The biggest difference however is the fact that most exams are oral exams. This is the same for the courses taught in Italian, so be aware of that!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the beginning of your stay abroad you will have one general meeting during which someone from the International Office will explain how you can register for courses and exams and how the grading system works etc. This is very useful. At this meeting you will receive your university card. You also receive a booklet with all of this information. Furthermore it comes to you if you need counselling. My experiences with the International Office of the Law department were very good.

transfer of credits

I didn't have any trouble with the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Except for the information meeting, the University of Bologna doesn't have any kind of welcome programme (at least, not in the second semester). However, associations for Erasmus students like ESN and Erasmusland do have some social welcome programs. I went to many of their events. It is a nice way to meet new people. This is probably where you'll meet most of your friends!

accommodation

Start looking for an accommodation very soon. I found a place before going but in the end I ended up going to Bologna without a room because there were some troubles about the contract. It is best to look for a room at the many Facebook groups or on Subito.it. Try to find a room within the city walls so that you're close to the university and all the social and cultural things going on in the city!

leisure & culture

Bologna = culture. You won't get bored here! The city is basically one big open-air museum. In the summer months the 'Cinema sotto le stelle' is one of my favourite events. With your studentcard you have a discount/free entry for most of the museums in the city. By buying the cards of ESN and Erasmusland you can enter clubs with a discount/without paying. When it comes to sports there are a few options. You can sign up for the University gym, however to me this wasn't very appealing. Furthermore a lot of students go jogging or do bootcamp in the Gardini Margherita or you can go to the swimmingpool. Around the city there are many hills where you can go for a nice hike.

suggestions/tips



Bologna is one of the few towns in Italy where you see a lot of people (especially students) by bike. In case your room is located outside the city walls, try to buy a bike from another student via one of the Facebook pages. I got myself a bike even though I lived right in the city centre, and I didn't use it very often. If you live a little further away from the city centre a bike is the ideal way of transport though!

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you want to have a semester abroad in a lively student city with a lot of history and culture, I would definitely recommend a semester at the University of Bologna!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you would really like to improve your Italian language skills, sign up for the free CLA language course that the University offers. Make sure you do this within the given period though, because there aren't enough spots to enroll all the Erasmus students!!!! Furthermore, for me the best way to improve was living together with Italian flatmates. I recommend this to everybody!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	University College Utrecht

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process in Holland was very easy and organized, however in Italy it was less organized making it quite stressful. This is of course different for other countries, but in Italy scanning and printing was impossible, so getting signatures could only be done when I had already left on exchange.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I didn't need so much support, but if I sent an email or called I was almost immediately helped by the international desk.
academic preparation	
	The university of Bologna was extremely unclear as to what courses I could be doing in my semester. I had almost no academic preparation as I could only decide my courses after the semester had already begun.
language preparation	
	I got a free language course as an Erasmus student which was great. I would have liked to do a language course of a higher level, but it was great to 'get back into' speaking Italian the first weeks with other Erasmus students, regardless of the level of the course.
finances	



My parents helped me and the Erasmus grant was difficult to organize, because the starting and finishing dates of the semester in Bologna were only clear once courses had started. So my Erasmus grant is still not completely organized, as I need to prove what dates I was still studying.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Bologna, as mentioned before, was incredibly disorganized, which made it difficult for me as a student from a very well-organized university. The content of the courses was interesting but not of an extremely high level. For me this was great as I did courses in Italian. What made them difficult was not the content but the different language.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses was very different to my university here in Holland. The quality in Italy was lower, so for me it wasn't a problem but an exchange student from Italy in Holland would have difficulty I think

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

No counselling and very little support

transfer of credits

I'm not sure of this yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

None

accommodation

I organized this myself through internet. Through subito.it and bakeca.it I eventually found a lovely room.

leisure & culture

I immediately bought a bike to get me around town easily. I did all the touristy things in a weekend in which I went to find accommodation, so when I arrived for my study period I didn't need to do the touristy things anymore. That was nice, because it made it feel more at home

suggestions/tips

My all time favourite bar is camera a sud. The absolute best atmosphere, great small dishes and lovely wines and a really relaxed, chill feeling.

CONCLUSIONS

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

If you don't mind feeling disorganized, then definitely. The uni stressed me out, but I'm completely in love with the city and the vibe and the food and the language.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

In Bologna, don't try to have everything planned out before you arrive there. My friends found their apartments (that were awesome) very last-minute.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	REBO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Rechtsgeleerdheid, Law

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	11 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The procedure for application was very clear. You just have to arrange things, like signatures from your university, in time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The people from Utrecht University are very helpful and always respond very quickly.
academic preparation	
	I don't think you need a specific academic preparation.
language preparation	
	My mother is Italian so I already spoke Italian before leaving for Bologna.
finances	
	The rent in Bologna is expensive. You have to count on at least 450 euros per month for a single room. Going out is also quite expensive. But going out for drinks and dinner is very cheap.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The course table is very unclear. There is not one big overview. You just have to type in search terms and hope that you will find a nice course.
academic quality of education activities
You have to read a lot to prepare for you exams. Sometimes three books just for one exam.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
All the professors have an open office hour every week and they are very helpful if you come to them.
transfer of credits
All the credits are transferred by a system called AlmaEsami. The problem is that a grade will not be registered by your teacher in AlmaEsami if you don't pass an exam. You have ask your teacher if he can still register it, because otherwise there is no proof that you followed the course and this can lead to not getting your Erasmus Grant (you have to have attended a minimum amount of classes to receive your Grant).

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is not a orientation programme organised by the University. Only one welcoming meeting. However, there are three Erasmus organisations (ESN, Erasmuslife Bologna and Erasmusland) that all organise a lot of nice activities when you arrive. I strongly advise to do a lot of activities because it is the best way to get to know people and to get to know the city.
accommodation
Finding a room in Bologna is really difficult. Especially when you don't want to share your room with someone else. I advise to go look for a room in Bologna at the end of August, if you can't find one online. In the beginning of September, almost all rooms are taken. If you arrive in Bologna in time, there are organisations that can help you find housing: La Bussola and SAIS.
leisure & culture
Bologna is an amazing city. There are always people hanging out on the streets and there are always things to do. The city is not that big, so I think you can discover it by yourself quite easily.
suggestions/tips
Go on trips organised by the Erasmus Organisations.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, but if you don't want to do courses in Italian, your options for courses are quite limited. I think you will enjoy your stay more if you try to learn Italian well. But besides the language, the University is great. The courses are given by very experienced professors. The city is wonderful, I would advise anyone to go there. The student life is very lively. There are always nice parties to go to and all the bars and restaurants are always full. In the summer you can buy beers on the street and sit on the piazza's. There are over 3000 Erasmus students per year so you never have to feel alone. The Erasmus organisations organise lots of activities and parties every week so you also never have to feel bored.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



The system of exams in Italy was very different from the one in my country. In Holland you have to prepare the subjects about which the teacher spoke in the classes. But in Italy, the classes are just a small part of all the thing you have to prepare. So don't think that you don't have to study a subject because the professor has never mentioned it. Don't be afraid to ask your teacher or other students how an exam works and what you have to prepare.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	03 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

My exchange application process went really difficult and with a lot of backbreaking. But when I finally got accepted to go to Bologna, everything went more or less ok.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

My application procedure and acceptance to Bologna came with a lot of difficulties. Because of my first preference of exchange university I was placed under the 'university-wide office'. After I got rejected for my first preference, I wanted to go to Bologna, but to go to Bologna I had to transfer to the exchange office of my own faculty, where I ran into some other problems. The exchange office of my own faculty told me that I could only go to Bologna if I was interested in studying Media there (because that was the only bilateral agreement where they had an open spot). I couldn't imagine that I couldn't pick freely from courses offered by the University of Bologna, so I directly approached the international office at Bologna, who indeed confirmed that if the UU gave me permission to go to Bologna I could choose every course that I wanted. After getting back in touch with the UU about this they send me back to the university-wide office again, which gave me the feeling of being dragged from pillar to post because I had to explain the story about the free selection of courses again. In the end I got accepted and was able to follow the courses that I wanted, but I have so say that I was surprised



about the communication between Utrecht and Bologna which was, in my opinion, not very well. I think there are some indifferences and confusions between the two parties which need to be solved to keep students from having to take matters into their own hands.

When my acceptance was finally arranged though, the international office was really helpful and I had the feeling that I could always ask my contact person things about the Erasmus exchange.

academic preparation

Academically I was well prepared to study in Bologna. The academic level in Bologna lies in my opinion lower than the level in Utrecht. Therefore I think that every exchange student from Utrecht will manage to study there easily.

language preparation

I already knew some Italian, so that wasn't a problem at all. But the University also offers a lot of courses taught in English.

finances

My parents supported me in a certain way and the rest of the money that I needed I received from a loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied at the faculty of Political Science, because I couldn't follow history related courses in English (and I was too uncertain about my Italian to follow courses in Italian).

academic quality of education activities

The courses I followed were part of a Masters program, but in my opinion not much harder than an average bachelor course at the Utrecht University. I found it refreshing doing courses from another faculty. With my historical background I could easily follow everything and sometimes I even thought it gave me an advantage.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The receiving university likes to handle all the things in person, but has very little opening hours, which made it possible to arrange things directly, but sometimes only after hours of waiting. Small questions and issues could easily be solved through e-mail.

transfer of credits

I still have to receive my transcript of records, but for the rest everything went fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There were a lot of programs organized by different Erasmus associations, which was really nice. I immediately felt welcomed in the city.

accommodation

Accommodation was very difficult to find, but finally I found something via via. The costs were higher than expected though, but manageable.

leisure & culture

There were a lot of trips organized to different cities and areas in Italy and also it was possible to travel by yourself in the weekends. The city itself also offered a lot of culture and activities, which made it a really pleasant city to live.



suggestions/tips

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CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Bologna to other students. It is a real pleasant city to live and it has a rich historical culture. Also, as the city is pretty central in Italy, it makes it really easy to travel through the rest of Italy. The University has a lot of exchange students and I would even say that Bologna and Utrecht are pretty similar cities. Both are full of (international) students, central in the country and both with a pleasant vibe.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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