



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	REBO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Bestuurs-en Organisationswetenschap

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	I went by train.
name university abroad	Universita di Bologna
start date	22 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application from the side of the UU was pretty straight forward. I got the information from UNIBO pretty late and they have all kind of different desks and email addresses that were kind of confusing at first. However, in the end they were pretty laid back about the timing of the whole process so it was okay.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support from the UU was very well organised. Sometimes it took some time to reply to my emails but not too much. Also, the different counselling sessions were very useful.
academic preparation	I didn't need any preparation. .
language preparation	No language preparation was needed since all my courses were in English.
finances	In comparison to the Netherlands, Italy is not more expensive. I would say groceries are more expensive but eating out is cheaper.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There were quite a lot of English courses, but don't expect all the courses in the course catalogue to actually be offered. I had to change quite a lot of courses because they weren't offered. I would advise anyone to take masters courses and not bachelors courses. They are too easy and the classes are way too big for my liking.
academic quality of education activities	The courses were a lot easier than on the UU, although I felt it was very much dependent on the course how difficult it was. Also, testing was done differently for all of my courses. Sometimes by doing presentations, sometimes by written test and sometimes by oral exam. I fel



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was a bit confusing because they have different desks that all seem to do the same thing at first glance. It was sometimes a bit chaotic but usually I was able to sort everything out.

transfer of credits

My credits have not been transferred yet, so I cannot answer this question.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was not really a useful welcome programme. The ESN did organise some things, but nothing special. However, there was Covid-19, so maybe in a normal year this is organised in a better way. The university itself did not have a welcome week as far as I was aware.

accommodation

Make sure to arrange your accomodation before you come here! Bologna can be really expensive if you don't do this. I ended up overpaying a bit, but I did end up having a nice room right in the city centre so it was okay.

leisure & culture

Bologna is a really nice city with a nice city centre. There is a lot to see in terms of churches and old buildings. The ESN did organise quite a lot of trips and other things, so that was also nice.

suggestions/tips

- Sign up with the ESN
- Go see San Luca, it is a church on top of a mountain which is really nice.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend students to go study in Bologna. It is a really nice and beautiful old city. Also, the food is really good. However, if you are looking to be academically challenged than it is probably not the place for you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would advice to arrive a few days before the introduction week so you can get used to the city, the language and the place in general.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	20 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	25 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The administration of applying for exchange can be a very stressful process. I remember feeling very overwhelmed with the amount of forms, grants and applications I had to fill in already months before leaving to Italy and I just couldn't believe I was actually going to get to go. However, I was always able to reach out to my tutor and the exchange office for any questions, and if you just look at everything step by step it all makes sense in the end.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Like mentioned in the previous topic, my tutor and the exchange office have been a great help. While I didn't need their help while I was on exchange, they were always available.
academic preparation	The majority of the academic preparation I had to do was with regards to the administration of my curriculum. I spent a lot of time with my tutor discussing whether the courses I would take would fit into my curriculum and whether they were adequate substitutes for courses that I needed for my curriculum requirements. Other than that, most of the preparation I had to do was with regards to the language as I will explain in the next section.
language preparation	I decided to take my courses in Italian, and although this was quite a challenge at times, it was also very refreshing, and it improved my skills a lot. Before I came to UCU I already had an adequate level of Italian due to personal connections and a language course I had taken not long before, and in my third semester at UCU I took Italian level 2. After this preparation I acquired a C1 level.
finances	With the help of the Erasmus grant, as well as my existing DUO loans, I was able to get by very well, especially considering that the cost of life is significantly lower in Italy compared to the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took four courses that were worth a total of 30 credits. They were General Sociology, Criminal Sociology, Developmental Psychology, and Clinical Psychology. These fit well into my curriculum and both developmental psychology and general sociology were recognized as substitutes for their counterparts at UCU. All courses were very interesting and it was enlightening to experience such a different type of teaching.
academic quality of education activities	



As mentioned, the education is structured quite differently at University of Bologna compared to UCU; lecture halls were enormous and the lectures are very theory focused. Next to this, you are not expected to complete any assignments and the lectures are mostly just focused on preparing you properly for the final exam. Even though this kind of education gives the student a lot of autonomy, I would still prefer the UCU style of teaching, since it is much more engaging and I always complete a course feeling like I am now an expert in that field.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The student body is very supportive of each other, in the sense that every course has a group chat that is very lively and where anyone is open to help you with any question you might have, especially as a foreign exchange student, that did not quite master the language.

transfer of credits

Due to some misunderstandings, the credits have not been transferred yet, but this should be in progress as I write this report.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a lively exchange student organization active in many parts of Italy that organizes frequent events that always make you feel welcome, called Exchange Student Network (ESN). Even though there was no orientation program planned by the University, there were more than enough options to organize this yourself.

accommodation

Accommodation was not provided by the University, and even though it is definitely not easy to find housing yourself in Bologna, it is a dream compared to for example Utrecht and Amsterdam. Even so, through various facebook pages I managed to find a relatively nice room at a relatively good location for a lot less money than I pay at UCU.

leisure & culture

Bologna is one of the nicest student cities imaginable in my opinion. Anyone visiting Bologna will immediately be able to tell you that it has a unique atmosphere that makes you feel happy and at peace. Besides the aforementioned organization, ESN, there is a lot to do in Bologna and you will never feel bored because just sitting on a Piazza in the sun with an aperol spritz after class is all you need.

suggestions/tips

It is important to start with your search for housing on time, and if you choose to follow your courses in Italian it might be nice to make an effort at the beginning of the semester to introduce yourself to some people and make some contacts, otherwise it might be hard to connect with the group, because Italians can be a very tight knit community.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely, studying in Bologna was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life, and this is not just because of the appealing Italian way of living. It was wonderful to experience a different teaching style and see the expertise that these professors have in the courses that they teach.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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faculty/college	Economics, statistics
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Business Economics, Statistical Sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane, train
name university abroad	Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
start date	10 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was quite straightforward, but if you choose for a universitywide destination like me, you have to pay attention to make sure that you send your e-mails and documents to the right address.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Good, but the response time of the office was sometimes a bit long since they are not working every day. Especially the possibility to contact students who previously visited Bologna was helpful; don't hesitate to do that because it's fun for us to help you out!
academic preparation	None
language preparation	I started learning Italian three years before I went to Italy. I believe that every second you spend learning the language is 100% worth it, since it is very useful and gives you a lot of satisfaction if you can communicate with the people in their own language and if you understand signs etc. You get to know the people and country a lot better when you know the language at least a bit.
finances	The Erasmus grant was very helpful.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The organisation of the university is not as good as we are used to in the Netherlands, but you know this beforehand and you shouldn't worry about it too much; it will all work out fine. Don't get frustrated because of it, because a Dutch mindset will not help you and only make things worse. It's better to see the fun part of their way of life.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality differed a lot, depending on the subjects. Subjects like Behavioural Economics and Accounting and Financial Statements were popular amongst (Dutch) Erasmus students and were easy, whereas Statistics & Probability was very hard (this might also have to do with the fact that I am a Law student).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	



If you have any issues at the receiving university during your stay, please DO NOT send an email but go to the (international) office directly during their contact hours!! You will get much more done since they are much more helpful in real life, and they will take a very long time to respond to your emails.

transfer of credits

Not done yet because I finished late.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university welcome programme was not very spectacular/useful and only took place in October. I would definitely recommend visiting the welcome activities of the Erasmus associations (ESEG and/or ESN); in the first weeks they organise an activity nearly every day, and there are a lot of likeminded people who (just like you) want to make new friends in a new city and make the most of their stay abroad. I made very good friends there. The only thing you need to do is step out of your comfort zone and just go there with an open mind.

accommodation

I found a room through erasmusu.com. It is smart to ask students who previously went to Bologna (recently) if they know something.

leisure & culture

Bologna is the best student city of Italy and the atmosphere is truly amazing. If the weather is good, the squares are filled with hundreds of students who are hanging out, singing and playing music and drinking beer. The Erasmus associations are very active and organise a lot of trips. Bologna has a good location in Italy, from which you can easily visit a lot of different places in Italy (use Flixbus and the 15% promotion code for ESEG members). Italy has unique culture and is an amazing place to enjoy life, so use your time well and taste as much from la dolce vita as you can!

suggestions/tips

If you use an app like Omio and book in advance, you can get very cheap train tickets. For €50 I traveled from Bologna to Utrecht. Obviously it takes more time than the plane, but it's a lot better for the environment and you actually have a nice travel experience instead of just jumping in and out of the plane. Also, you can take all the luggage you want without paying more.
At legendary Pizza Casa you can get a full pizza Margherita for €2,50 and Galeria Cavour has the best gelato I've ever had (and I've had a lot), with homemade warm chocolate on the inside of your cone.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Bologna 100% to everyone who wants to go abroad and likes Italy! Basically everyone (also Erasmus students from other cities and Italians) agrees that Bologna is the best place to study abroad in Italy, because of the student vibe, amazing atmosphere, the very warm and friendly people, the amazing food, the great location etc. etc.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just choose Bologna, go with an open mind and you will not regret it!



faculty/college	Medicine
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Biomedical Sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	3 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy. You just have to keep in mind the deadlines. The process was well organized and for me it was clear what to do.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need a lot of support. If you have a question, just ask the International Office. They are very willing to help you and will respond fast to your question.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparations. Despite that my courses were at master level and not in my study field, it was not necessary to do any preparations.

language preparation

My courses were in English, not in Italian. Most of the bachelor courses are however in Italian. Because my courses were in English, I only did a bit of self-study before my departure to have a basic vocabulary in Italian. I would recommend to do this as well since the Italian people barely speak English.

finances

I had my own personal savings and applied for the Erasmus grant and the BMW grant (from my own faculty). I would recommend to make an overview of the expected costs and expenses (trips and leisure included) before your departure. The living costs are quite similar to the costs in Utrecht, but be aware of the extra costs you make during your spare time. These are probably higher than you expected.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I attended three courses of the Master Health Economics and Management and two language courses of the "Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (CLA)". This is the languageschool connected to the university which offers a lot of Italian language courses to international students at different levels. I attended the intensive (2 weeks) and extensive (10 weeks) language course. It is important to be aware of the deadlines to subscribe for a language course because there is a limit of students that can enroll. Attending a course is also a good opportunity to meet other international students.

academic quality of education activities

Since I had no background in Health Economics, I expected the master courses to be difficult. However, they seemed to be quite easy to follow. I think the courses in Bologna are more easy than the courses I attended in



Utrecht. The academic quality and the quality of teaching are however good and at the same level as in Utrecht. Most of the teachers have an office hour in which you can ask them questions about the content of the course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support in Bologna was quite bad. It is very chaotic and you have to find out everything by yourself. When you send an email to, for example the international office, it takes a long time before they respond (if they respond at all). So when you have a question you should go to the international office yourself. I think that is the best way to contact them. This is the same for some professors. In the end it will be fine but you have to put some effort into arranging things.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no welcome programme organized by the university. There was one welcome meeting for students studying at the economic faculty. This one was however in October and not in the beginning of the semester. When you want to meet other international students I would recommend to attend activities of ESN or ESEG (the international student organisations).

accommodation

I lived outside the walls of Bologna, but still close to the university and the center, around 10 min by bike. A lot of people want to live inside the walls, in the city center. The apartments in the center are however much more expensive than the ones outside the walls. It is quite difficult to find a room in Bologna so start to search for a room soon. You can join Facebookgroups or find accommodation via organisations.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Bologna! I signed up for a sportclass where I met a lot of Italian people. Unibo has a big choir and orchestra for which you can sign up. Besides this, Bologna offers a lot of nice food places. I ate a lot of aperitivo's at different places. This means that you buy a drink for 6/7 euro's in which an all you can eat buffet is included. A lot of students have dinner like this. My favorite gelateria is la vecchia stalla, close to piazza Santo Stefano (which is also a very beautiful place). Then there are a lot of culture things to do in the city. Just look up the agenda of Bologna and you will find a lot of concerts, exhibitions, etc. Every wednesday evening a lot of Italian people gather at Labas. Which is a nice place to meet a lot of other Italian and international students. When you are in Bologna, you should do the walk to San Luca. You will have a beautiful view of Bologna from the hills. My last tip is to go on trips to other cities (Ravenna, Cinque Terre, Florence, Rome, Ferrara, Verona)! These are all beautiful cities and easy to go to by train or Flixbus.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would really recommend to go to Bologna because it is a very beautiful city and a nice experience to study in Italy and learn Italian. However, don't expect too much from the support of the university since it is quite chaotic. Also the Italian lifestyle is quite relaxed (which can be an advantage or disadvantage).



faculty/college	Utrecht University School of Law
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Law

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	I went to my destination by airplane
name university abroad	University of Bologna
start date	3 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 1 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process took quite some time. It's just paperwork and you need signatures from both universities. Everything that you had to do was really clear in my opinion. My experience with the UU office is that they reply most of the times fast and when you have a problem they will definitely solve it for you!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office helped me a lot with questions and problems. You can email them, but you can also go to their office when they are open. I preferred the last option especially when they have to sign some documents.

academic preparation

I didn't do any extra academic preparation. I followed law courses and political sciences courses in Bologna, so I didn't follow courses that were totally different than those of my study in Netherlands.

language preparation

The courses were in English so I didn't need the Italian language. I actually wanted to follow an Italian language course for foreign students, but it was already full. Before I went to Italy I tried to study a bit by myself. Duolingo also helped a bit for the knowledge of basic words. When i arrived in Italy I managed to take Italian language lessons from ESEG.

finances

I got the Erasmus grant. That was 300 euros per month and I got some money from my parents. I also worked a lot in the summer vacation. Bologna is not cheap, especially the housing. My room was 580 euros per month (it was a beautifull big room though!) and ofcourse I did a lot of trips and fun things. There are a lot of small supermarkets in Italy, they are a bit more expensive than in Netherlands. That's why I went a lot of times to Lidl to get some cheaper groceries. Taxi's and public transport are a lot cheaper in Bologna, but I didn't use them a lot because I lived in the city center and it was really easy for me to walk everywhere.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I could pick any course I wanted in Bologna. There were more English courses then I expected, but you have to look carefully if they are in the first or second semester. At first it wasn't really clear when some courses started, because some dates were not online yet. I followed three courses: internet, law and society; criminology of the borders and comparative judicial systems (all in the first semester). You don't have to apply



for the courses. You just go there to the lessons. You can see online the schedule. Sometimes you have to apply for the tests. If you will do the test on the normal date then you don't have to apply. If you do it on a later date then you have to apply online and pick one of the available dates.

academic quality of education activities

The teachers were very well educated and enthusiastic. It happened a lot of times that teachers were late and a lot of things are quite unclear because every teacher does things in his own way. For example with the attendance. Some teachers did strict attendance, other teachers made you fill in your own attendance at the end of the course and another teacher didn't even do any attendance. This doesn't mean that it's all bad, because the teachers are very flexible with everything. So if you have a problem they can easily make exceptions for you.

The courses were a bit different than in Netherlands. I had some reading to do but no cases or exercises. It was also weird for me that the teacher talked the whole lesson. So you just listened for two hours. It is also more common to have oral exams in Bologna. I wasn't used to that in Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was always super crowded at the office so you have to be there before opening time. When I emailed them they always replied to me. Sometimes it took a bit longer, but they helped me well.

transfer of credits

The credits for the courses are clear and since this year if you pass a course Utrecht University will only say that you passed the course. They will not calculate what the grade would be in the Dutch system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I didn't go to the welcome programme, because I didn't know about it. Later that week I saw that there was a welcome day for international students. If you want to meet other international students in your first weeks then I recommend you to go to one of the events of ESEG or ESN. They also give free guided city tours specially for international students.

accommodation

It was very hard for me to find a room in Bologna. Apparently it's also quite common to live in a double room, but that was something I definitely didn't want. I searched a lot on facebook, uniplaces, erasmusu and housing anywhere.

leisure & culture

The city is very lively. The people are always standing/sitting outside with their drinks. Even in the winter months. There are also a lot of nice food places just to grab a pizza or kebab for cheap. Bologna is a real student city and you will see that a lot when you walk through the city. There are students from all over the world. You can also travel very easily to other Italian cities, because there is a very big trainstation in Bologna and the train is also cheaper than in Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

I guess this is what everyone will say.. just join ESN and ESEG after your arrival, because you will meet people that study something else and these associations organise a lot of trips to beautiful destinations. And also try to go to different bars and restaurants. Don't stick at one place, because Bologna has a lot of nice places.

CONCLUSIONS

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



Yes, I would recommend this university to others! The university offers a lot of courses in English and the university buildings are very old and beautiful. Bologna is also one of the most beautiful cities of Italy and the cuisine is delicious.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to search for a room as early as possible. I know people that came here without a room and first stayed in airbnb's the first two weeks. That's also possible but it brings a lot of stress.



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)

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

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)

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 disorganised 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	
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	
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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