

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/ Humanities
level	Bachelor
name study programme	Geschiedenis/ History

destination city & country	Boston, United States
name university abroad	UMass Boston
start date	1/9/2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20/12/2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

My application process for studying abroad went pretty smooth. I had a hard time choosing the university that I wanted to go to, but I am very happy with my choice. Furthermore the process in the Netherlands went easy. Everything was well taken care off. However, contact with my host university was a bit difficult.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

I am very happy with the way Utrecht University helped me with my application process. I attended one of the workshops before the deadline about writing a motivation letter, which was very helpful! The international office also responded quickly when I had questions.

### academic preparation

There was no academic preparation necessary for studying at UMass Boston.

### language preparation

The was also no language preparation necessary.

### finances

Boston is very expensive. Housing and groceries are very expensive. In addition to that you want to do fun things or go away for a weekend or something which doesn't make it cheaper. I saved money before I left for Boston so I had more to spend. I also raised my student loan in the Netherlands before I left.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Because my study abroad is seen as a minor in my study programme I could choose any course I wanted in Boston. UMass offers a lot of different courses and I feel like you would never find these courses in Utrecht. I had to do 4 courses and I choose to only take courses within American studies. That way I had some overlap between the courses which made it easier, since it was all complete new information for me. Signing up for the courses was more difficult. You have to do this the first week you are there as well. However, the teachers/ international office do not really help you with this. They just tell you what to do, but you have to fix it yourself. The university does have a add/drop week, which was very useful. You could test a course you chose in the first week, and if you didn't like it you could just switch it with another one.

<b>academic quality of education activities</b>
Although all my courses contained all new information for me, I still found the academic level a lot lower than in Utrecht. It was very easy to follow and it was very, very easy to get good grades. Also, when you don't understand something or you're struggling with your planning, the teachers are very open to helping you.
<b>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</b>
The international office was open almost every day and you could go there when you needed help. However, I never really went there.
<b>transfer of credits</b>
This is not completed with me yet. However, UMass does not send your results through email to Utrecht, which makes it more work for you.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
<b>welcome &amp; orientation programme</b>
The welcome and orientation programme was nothing like I was expecting. The university did plan some things, but the majority of the programme was about serious stuff. Which was useful, but not as 'fun' as I had imagined a welcome week. There is also not really an activity this week to meet other international students, so you have to do that yourself. I was also assigned a 'buddy', but I never heard/ saw her.
<b>accommodation</b>
Accommodation is not taken care of by the university. For me this was a downside. However, through facebook I was able to find a room pretty quickly and very close to the university at the Harbor Point Apartments. The downside to that was that I was sharing a room with one other girl and I had to find my own replacement. Most of the other internationals lived a bit further away, but all close to the Red Line.
<b>leisure &amp; culture</b>
Boston has a lot to offer for leisure and culture. There are many museums and events happening every week. One of my favourite things was going to sports games. Boston is a sports city and Basketball, Baseball, Football and Ice Hockey games are happening almost every day. Some games are pretty expensive, but luckily you can also attend college games.
<b>suggestions/tips</b>
All sports games are very nice and look on facebook/ other social media to see which events are happening every week.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
<b>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</b>
I really enjoyed my time in Boston, but I would only recommend it if you are pretty independent. I feel like there are many things that are usually taken care of by a university or through an organisation for international students, but that you have to do yourself in Boston.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Rechtsgeleerdheid

destination city & country	Boston, United States
name university abroad	University of Massachusetts Boston
start date	25 / 08 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	My application process went very well. I submitted the required documents and received an email that I had been chosen to study at UMass Boston. After the UU selects you, you still have to wait for UMass Boston to select you which took a while. You need that application letter and other documents that UMB provides you for the application of your visa.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University has helped me if necessary, but this was barely the case. You can easily figure it out yourself. The pre-departure meeting was great because they went through the visa application process step by step and I met people that were going to Boston as well.
academic preparation	You will not need any academic preparation. The level of courses at UMass Boston is significantly lower than every course I have ever had in Utrecht. Language will not be a problem as well.
language preparation	Dutch people will, in general, not experience any language barriers. Besides that, UMass Boston is a university where many students don't have English as their first language, professors don't expect your English to be perfect.
finances	I knew that this would be expensive, but it turned out to be even more expensive than I thought it would be. At the beginning of the semester you have to pay semester costs that were in my case about \$750. Housing is very expensive; it is normal to pay around \$850 a month. Make sure you save enough money before coming here, since you cannot work in the U.S on your J-1 visa. Boston is one of the most expensive cities in the U.S.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Before I left, everyone got an email that we had to sign up for courses. The process of choosing courses was slightly chaotic. You have to choose courses in WISER. However, don't stress; the first week is an add/drop week. You can take courses for one week and decide if you would like to keep them or not. Sometimes, WISER will say that you cannot enter the course because you didn't follow the right courses, which makes sense because these will be your first at UMass Boston. In that case, just email the professor and ask for a permission code. If you explain that you're an international student, they will make an exception in most cases.
academic quality of education activities	



The level of courses I took was much lower than what I am used to in Utrecht. If you want more challenging courses, make sure to pick 300+ level courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
If you have any problems, just stop by the international office. They organize events as well, but I didn't go there. It is most convenient to just go by their office if you need something.
transfer of credits
Not yet done.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was not great since they didn't split the group in people that were only in Boston for the semester and people who would do a full study over here. It was nice to get to know some practical stuff. In this week, you also stop by health services. If you don't have all the shots you need, you have to take them in Boston, or they will put a hold on your account. I would highly recommend getting the shots you need at home or ask your doctor for a letter; it is super expensive to take them in Boston. Also don't forget to bring your proof of child immunization if you are a Dutch student.
accommodation
International students are not able to live on campus. You have to look for accommodation yourself. This is very expensive.
leisure & culture
Boston is great! It is a well-educated warm city to live in. It is easy to feel at home and people are very interested in your life. However, be aware that the university does not provide the regular USA-University-experience. UMass Boston is a commuter college and all kinds of people go there. A lot of them don't live in Boston and go to college just for getting credits. College life is not a thing. Boston as a city compensates for it. Great sport teams, not too big and a great history. The location is great too, I went to New York three times since it is only 4 hours by bus.
suggestions/tips
Save enough money before departure!

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would definitely recommend Boston, but I do want to say that UMass Boston itself isn't great. The level of courses is low, the chance to meet any Americans is very low since everyone takes off the second class ends. If you set your expectations to that, you will have a great time in Boston!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	Bachelor's
name study programme	Bestuurs- en organisatiewetenschap

destination city & country	Boston, United States
name university abroad	University of Massachusetts Boston
start date	7 / 9 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 1 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I spent a long time looking at different locations for my exchange. Finally, I decided on Boston as my first choice. Luckily, my first choice got accepted, but I would recommend everyone who is planning on going on an exchange to have at least 2 nice locations, so you're not too disappointed when you don't get accepted at your first choice.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

This was adequate. After they accepted you, there's not much more they can do for you. It's just up to the host university to accept you too, then you're sure you can go.

#### academic preparation

I didn't do much academic preparation. I just looked at what kind of courses I wanted to take. Also, the university had me choose a major before I went there.

#### language preparation

Since it's in America, I didn't really do any language preparation.

#### finances

Boston is an expensive city. I underestimated that a little bit, but it's really one of the most expensive cities in the US. So make sure you have enough money if you want to go there.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

The people of the Global Office at the university were really helpful. During the first week, you can still switch between courses and that's really easy. But if you have problems, you can always go to the people of the Global Office and they'll help you.

#### academic quality of education activities

The level of the courses I took was lower than what I was used too, but what I've heard from others is that there were some quite difficult courses too. It just depends on what subject you want to study I guess.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

As I said, when you have any problems, you can always go to the Global Office. It's better to not email them, but just go there directly. They can be a bit slow with responding to emails sometimes.

#### transfer of credits

This was pretty easy. You can just do that for free on internet and they'll send as many sealed envelopes to you as you want. However, since I was still in Boston when all the grades were in, I could just go to university and



they printed my transcript out for me.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, I didn't arrive on time to take part in the orientation programme.

accommodation

I found my room on Craigslist. It was in Harbor Point, which is very close to university (5min walk). Rooms in Boston are pretty expensive, it's pretty normal to pay around \$700-\$800 per month.

leisure & culture

Boston is a very nice city. It has many historical highlights. The best way to see them all is to do the Freedom Trail. That's a walkway throughout the whole city. Moreover, Boston is a great sports city. While I was there, the Red Sox (baseball) won the World Series. That was crazy.

suggestions/tips

Going out in Boston can be very expensive, so I would suggest that you predrink before going to a club. Our favorite bar was Coogan's. They have beer for \$1 and we couldn't find it cheaper anywhere else. If you want to go to sports matches, the Global Office can sometimes help you get cheap tickets.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely suggest Boston to others. It's a really nice city and what's also nice is that it's so easy to go anywhere from there. New York is only 4 hours by bus and so is the Canadian border.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Explore the area around Boston. Massachusetts is a really nice state and New Hampshire and Maine are also very beautiful, especially in Fall.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Humanities
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	English Language and Culture

Destination city & country	Boston, United States
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Massachusetts – Boston
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	18-01-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	16-06-2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Went well when it came to Utrecht University; I received an email that I had been chosen to go to UMass Boston as early as January/February. However, UMass Boston took a lot longer to officially accept me. I had to send my contact person in the Netherlands an email requesting UMass Boston to clarify whether I had been accepted. I finally officially received the email that told me I had been accepted in late November, 2017. Considering the fact that I was expected to start in January, 2018 and had to apply for visas and additional preparations in order to be accepted into the United States, this caused quite some stress.

Counselling/support at home university:

Home university was very good at helping me and preparing me for my study abroad. Unlike my host university they gave all information timely and I felt they were always there to answer questions when I had them. I typically had to wait no longer than one work day when expecting answers to emails.

Academic preparation:

Most universities in the USA (except for Ivy League universities) are not nearly on the same level as Dutch universities are, academically. Therefore, no academic preparation was needed.

Language preparation:



Since I study English back at home, I did not need any language preparation. I think Dutch students will, in general, get around easily speaking English in English-speaking countries.

Finances:

Most of the information was clear and I knew what was expected of me financially. However, when I applied to study at UMass back in December 2016, I had no idea I was expected to pay a sum of more than 800 dollars to the university for "semester costs." I found out about this after I was officially accepted into the university by UMass. Would have liked to know this sooner.

### **Study/placement abroad period**

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

All went very well. Was able to choose courses in my first week at the university—called "add/drop week" you can add and drop as many courses as you like; so you can attend courses in the first week, and then drop them when you don't think you'll like them after all.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of education at most non-Ivy League American universities is quite different from that at Dutch universities; for us Dutch students, it will feel as easy. You are expected to do a lot of work but the work you do is not generally difficult, compared to the things you're expected to do in Utrecht. I felt the quality of education was high; all of my professors had a PhD and classes were very interesting and knowledgeable. However, examinations are generally easy (maybe too easy).

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

You could always walk into the International Office if you felt unsure about something and needed support.

Transfer of credits:

Not yet completed.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

Very, very good. Could not have hoped for a warmer welcome at my host university, and got some lifelong friendships out of the group of international students there, whom they made sure got to know each other and whom they organized many activities for.

Accommodation:

Had to organize myself; university offered to help a bit, but ultimately did not help me much and I had to look for something myself.

Leisure/culture:

Amazing. If you want to experience American culture yet do not want to have that whole USA! USA! USA! kind of thing, then Boston is the place to be for you. It feels like a mix of European and American culture, as there is certainly a lot of Europe to be found in this old city just as well. An amazing place for Europeans to go to if you want to visit America, as it is very easy to feel at home in this city and yet still be far, far away from actual Europe.

Suggestions/tips:

Boston is a very expensive city (definitely one of the more expensive ones in America) so make sure you have enough money to get around. Also, if you can, save some money for travels! This is your chance to visit other American cities and states, experience the typical spring break in Cancun,



Mexico or go to Canada, which is really quite close to Boston as well.

**Conclusions**

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

Yes. The destination was perfect if you want to be far away from home yet still experience a bit of the same culture, because Boston is probably the most European city you'll find outside of Europe. It was clear that the host organization cared a lot about making you feel at home here. In general, it was very easy for me to get accustomed to living here; way easier than expected. I do not remember experiencing much of a culture shock at all. Also, after friends told me about the struggles they had with their host universities when trying to choose courses, etc. I was anxious this would happen for me as well. It didn't; after my first week at the university, everything had been straightened out perfectly and I did not need to worry about this kind of thing for the duration of my semester abroad.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

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