



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU

Report 2019 - 2020

faculty/college	Physics and Astronomy
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Physics and Astronomy

destination city & country	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	plane
name university abroad	University of Edinburgh
start date	9 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The exchange application process is quite straightforward. There are some forms you have to submit, but nothing extraordinary. We needed a GPA above 3.0 and there weren't any other application restrictions. There were 2 places for Utrecht students for Edinburgh, 3 applied and we all could go to Edinburgh.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The whole exchange was a bit uncertain because of the Brexit. Nobody knew what was going to happen, but in the end it all worked out. Utrecht was really helpful with this, and we could always ask questions and got useful answers.
academic preparation
I chose courses where I didn't need any academic preparation for, so I can't tell anything about academic preparation.
language preparation
For the last year, all my courses were already taught in English. So I didn't had any problems with language. Therefore I didn't had any language preparation.
finances
The UK is not a cheap country, and Edinburgh is even more expensive. The prices in pounds in Edinbugh are often similair to the prices in Euro in the Netherlands. I ended up spending more because of all the trips I did.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I chose Laser and Applications (4 th year bachelor, 5 ECT), Computational Astrophysics (4 th year bachelor, 5 ECT), Economic Principles (1 st year bachelor, 10 ECT) and Astrobiology (1 st year bachelor, 10 ECT).



Laser and Applications was a interesting and well organized course, there were a lot of laser example applications discused (as you could expect). I'm not sure if I liked that, but it was nice to be teached a bit more applied in contrast to Utrecht.

Computational Astrophysics was really intresting but bad organized and I don't think that my coding skills really improved after that course. It consisted of three parts with different teachers. Each part had four lectures and two tutorials. The lectures were pretty mathematical, but didn't have a good connection to the tutorials. The tutorials were way too short because of 'schedule issues'.

Economic Principles and Astrobiology were well organized, straightforward first year courses. There is nothing complicated, it just takes a lot of time. The is one hour tutorial per week, which didn't took much time. What I did was watching the recorded lectures (at two times speed) and that was mostly enough. Astrobiology was a bit like a summary of the physics, chemistry and biology I learned at high school, with some extra geology. Economic Principles felt like a summary of economics at high school, but I'm not sure, because I didn't took any economics at high school.

I had the idea that a 5 ECT course took the same time as a 10 ECT, but that could also be beause my 5 ECT courses were first year courses and my 10 ECT were fourth year courses. (Bachelors in the UK are four years.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was similair to Utrecht. I said in the previous secton that the content of two courses felt a bit like high school. But the pace was high and well thought, so at a good first year university level. Laser and Applications had a really high academic level, and the content of Computational Astrophysics itself too despite the bad organizing.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was one meeting with all the international physics students with the personal tutor, which was really helpful. Then we had to wait for hours to speak to the personal tutor privately, to discuss your courses. He was really nice and you could see him more if you wanted.

transfer of credits

I couldn't find anything about the credits before or afterhand, but I asked the IO of Utrecht and they say that the credits are presented as they are in Edinburgh, so they are not converted. They have a 0 - 100 %. I don't think this is a good way of transferring credits, because people in the Netherlands probably convert the grades one to one. This is not a good conversion, becaues you pass a course with 40% and everything above 70% is exceptionnaly high.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a welcome week where a lot of activities are organized. You are not assigned in a group or something like that, you have to find people yourself. In the beginning I was a bit worried about that, but everyone openminded and there also activities especially for internationals. There were wristbands you could buy so you could go to every event without paying anymore, but I would not reccomond those.

accommodation

Finding accomodation is hard and expensive. I think it is comparable to Amsterdam. University accomodation is not guaranteed by the university. And if you sign up you hear it like a week before the semester starts. However, I don't think it is that hard to get in uni accomodation because I met several people who couldn't find anything and ended up uni uni accomodation. But I would still recommend to find something else than uni accomodation.

leisure & culture



Edinburgh is a beautiful city with enough things going on. All the night clubs and bars have to close at three which is a bit sad, but there are enough things so you will find what you want. A cheap way to explore the country is with the IESS trips, but I didn't like them that much, because it is mostly sitting in the bus.

suggestions/tips

Explore the country with the Hillwalking Society or explore it by yourself, although the society is way cheaper. A good site for hikes is <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/>.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I really would recommend the University of Edinburgh. The academic level is high and everyone speaks English so you speak everyone. Edinburgh is a really international city and the University of Edinburgh even more. Edinburgh and Scotland are beautiful, so there is enough to explore.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid that it rains a lot there, all the clouds with rain are blown over Edinburgh to Glasgow. So it doesn't rain more in Edinburgh than in the Netherlands.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU

Report 2019 - 2020

faculty/college	Faculty of science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Physics

destination city & country	Edinburgh, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Edinburgh
start date	17 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Because of poor planning, I had to choose my preferred destinations, write my motivation letter and make a study plan all in one week. I managed to do it, but I would recommend to take more time for it. The UU Study abroad site was very clear on what and how to submit the required documents. I went to one of the Study Abroad meetings and that's where I already learnt beforehand about the application process and when the deadline would be.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was very pleased with how and how fast the International office replied to my emails and you could always also make a personal appointment or go to one of their walk-in hours. They also supplied me with extra information about the possible effects of Brexit on my study abroad.

academic preparation

I didn't do a lot of academic preparation. I just made sure the courses I wanted to take there would be on (or below :)) my level. I emailed with the international office of the University of Edinburgh (UoE) because I doubted if I met the prerequisites for a specific mathematics course and they were very helpful. I also made contact with the examination committee to get my UoE courses approved in my UU programme.

language preparation

I didn't do any language preparation.

finances

I did some research into if I needed a credit or debit card or could just use my Dutch bank card, and what would be best for converting euros into pounds. My big tip: get a Transferwise debit card. It's free to get one and you can put money on there in different currencies and convert money between those on the card itself with a very small fee. If you would use your Dutch bank card, you pay a fee every time you use it and you don't have to walk around with a lot of cash.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
I planned to do the courses: Astrophysics, Astrobiology and Group Theory. Because of a conflict in my timetable however, I couldn't take the Group Theory course anymore. I replaced this with the course Introduction to Music Theory. My personal tutor helped me to make these changes by contacting the secretary of the music course and by making all the administrative changes. In the first 1/2 week(s) you're allowed to go to any lecture you want and then at the end you have to have your definite decision in the system.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of all my courses was really good. Astrophysics and Astrobiology have lectures and tutorials the same way as at UU. The music course had video lectures you had to watch at home and tutorials where you got together in a smaller group with a TA who explained the material some more, gave you some assignments and who you could ask questions. The whole procedure for taking exams is a bit more strict than in Utrecht, but you get an email with information about that before the exam weeks so you can prepare and save yourself some stress.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There is an introduction day for all the international physics students where you meet your personal tutor and will probably also meet some people who take the same courses as you. I thought my tutor was very helpful, but this will probably depend on the person. I didn't have direct contact with the UoE international office when I was in Edinburgh.
transfer of credits
I still have to let the UU exam committee know I changed my courses in Edinburgh and give them my transcript of records.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome week in Edinburgh is really fun and they have a ton of activities, from trips to IKEA, city and history tours to pubquizes, music nights and parties. They also have a market with all the societies they have (they have a lot! please check out the site of Edinburgh University Students' Association https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/societies/), and all the sports clubs there are. Like I said there is also an introduction day for all the visiting physics students. There is also a buddies programme where you get placed in a group with other visiting students based on some questions about interests and such. Each group has two "leaders" which are higher-year students who study full time in Edinburgh. They also have an introduction event in the welcome week and they organise some events throughout the semester for all the groups and ofcourse you can do stuff with your own group.
accommodation
I got a room via someone who studies Physics here in Utrecht and went to Edinburgh the year before me. The university has student accomodations but on their website it said that they couldn't promise to have a room available for visiting students who only came for one semester. I also thought their website was very confusing so that's why I didn't bother to try to get a room via the university. When I was in Edinburgh though almost every visiting student I met, was staying in a university student accomodation. So apparently it is possible to get a room that way.
leisure & culture
I joined some societies and met most of my friends in the welcome week. The student association is really fun and really big, so they definitely have a society you would want to join. There is also a society for visiting students. They organise day and weekend trips amongst other things, so that's also a good way to make friends. Edinburgh and the university are very international, so I didn't feel out of place at all and it was very normal to



not be from the UK. I also thought the Scots/people living in Edinburgh were especially kind and helpful people. I really enjoyed the atmosphere and culture in Scotland.

suggestions/tips

Try to see more of Scotland than just Edinburgh.
 Definitely go do stuff in the welcome week.
 Just walk around the city when you can, because it's beautiful.
 All the museums are free and the National Museum is amazing!
 Go to a ceilidh, they are really fun.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definitely. Edinburgh is a really beautiful and pleasant city and the student culture is great.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Let your friends/family visit you; this will help when you start missing them.
 Your time abroad will go by really fast, but remember you don't have to do something every single day just because you are there.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report 18/19

contact details	t.g.w.deen@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Bètawetenschappen/Natural Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Natuur- en Sterrenkunde, Wiskunde

destination city & country	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Edinburgh
start date	17 / 09 / 2018
end date	21 / 12 / 2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process starts really early. At this point, you already have to choose the courses you want to take. You can change the courses until the first two weeks of the semester have passed, so you have enough time to ponder on your decisions. You have to fill in some forms as well. Sometimes, they are already asking for a signature from someone in Edinburgh, and you can easily mail them to receive it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Science International Office. They are really helpful. Also, in my case, the International Office was really helpful with finding accommodation, whereas the University of Edinburgh did not do anything to help Erasmus students who are coming for just one semester.

academic preparation

I did not have any specific academic preparation whatsoever.

language preparation

Since many courses in Utrecht are already taught in English or use an English textbook, the difference in education is minimal. Language preparation is not necessary.

finances

I made an outline of the predicted costs in advance, which was obligatory when applying for studying abroad. However, the UK is not a cheap country. I ended up spending more than I thought beforehand. The average rent in Edinburgh is expensive compared to the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose the following courses: Relativity, Nuclear & Particle Physics, Astrophysics, Introduction to Condensed Matter Physics and Statistical Consultancy. The first two courses are 10 ECTS physics courses, the third one is a 5 ECTS physics course and the last one is a 5 ECTS mathematics course. In the first week, my personal tutor asked me if I wanted to change anything; it's no problem if you want to. The courses themselves were well organised.



academic quality of education activities
I think the academic quality was similar to that in Utrecht. The courses
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I haven't made use of the counselling and support, but I know that it was available to me. I got loads of emails that told me I could go to certain people if I had any problems. Also, I had a personal tutor; I've only seen him once, but I know that I could go to him if I wanted to.
transfer of credits
I don't know anything about this yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is a welcome week organised by the EUSA (Edinburgh University Students' Association), which is very massive, but they plan lots of fun activities. You can get to know the societies here, explore the city with different tours or go to information events. The welcome week is meant for all new students, but in reality, I've met many international students here, opposed to native first years. The school of physics & astronomy also has a welcome event.
accommodation
University accommodation is not guaranteed if you are an Erasmus student coming for only one semester. The deadline of signing up for accommodation is quite early, but you'll only hear if you got the accommodation at the end of August. Chances are really small that you will get university accommodation, so you should really try to find private accommodation (don't wait until the end of August!). Accommodation is difficult to find, and often quite expensive. Helpful websites are https://www.gumtree.com/ and https://www.spareroom.co.uk/ .
leisure & culture
You should check out IS Tours, they organise tours throughout Scotland almost every weekend, and are really nice to explore Scotland with.
suggestions/tips
Just a little something about tourist attractions: don't visit Edinburgh Castle. It's a disappointment, haha. I could really recommend to take the train to Stirling and visit Stirling Castle there. Also, when you're in Edinburgh, try to visit Surgeons' Hall. It's a really nice museum. I thought it was really nice to visit some tourist attractions with other international students I met in Edinburgh.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! Edinburgh is a wonderful city and really nice to live in. I also loved the Scots mentality (they are really nice people). The university is also really good: I had the feeling that everything was well organised for visiting students.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try to enjoy your time abroad as much as you can, because it will be over in a whim!



ERASMUS+ TRAINEESHIP UU Report 2016-2017

faculty/college	Science
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Research project

destination city & country	Edinburgh, Scotland
name university abroad	University of Edinburgh
start date	03 /09 /2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01/03 /2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the Erasmus scholarship I had to prepare my papers, ask my supervisor to sign some forms, also for the university of Utrecht to accept my exchange for research purposes I had to fill out some forms put on blackboard and my supervisor abroad and my examiner here had to sign it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If you want information about the Erasmus scholarship or studying abroad you can go to the international office, for some general information or help you can also go to your study advisor, a representative of the examination commission or your own tutor.

academic preparation

Make sure you print out all the necessary forms, receive all the documents needed to start up your research once you're there. Furthermore, make sure you get all the vaccinations, paperwork and documents ready before you leave so you can start immediately with your research.

language preparation

You have to make an English language test once you arrive there or just before you go, if it's lower than B2 you're advised to do an online course which is made available through the same website you do the test on. (this is all part of the Erasmus+ scholarship procedure) my university didn't have any rules about language proficiency, but this may differ from course to course and university to university so make sure to check this.

finances

You can ask for the Erasmus+ scholarship, other scholarships your own study or the receiving university might give or you can search for other general research or topic specific scholarship. You can also ask for a transport compensation abroad for travelling cost you make.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The meetings and contact with my supervisor were very good organised and it was very interesting to work on my research. If you had any problems you can ask your fellow colleagues, your supervisor or other people you had to deal with during the execution of the study



academic quality of education activities
The quality of the meetings, other activities of the research and matter you had to do was good and of high standards.
counselling & support at receiving institution abroad
As I said the support through e-mail, asking questions ad meetings was satisfying.
transfer of credits
If I complete my report hand it in and do a presentation I will receive the full credits for my research project for my time abroad.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university of Edinburgh has a welcome week where you can explore the options of all the sports there are available and they have also some parties they give during that week. Depending on the accommodation you decide to stay in they might also have some information about activities in the city, but best is just to go out and explore yourself.
accommodation
In the student accommodation I lived in it was a blend of students all over the world and so it's recommended to look for something like that (if possible) because it will be a great time and you'll meet so many new people from all over the world. It will be a life changing experience.
leisure & culture
The restaurants, bar's and clubs in Edinburgh are amazing. The city is an experience on it's own with the old streets and shops blended with the new city. The amazing views and landscapes. It's abig city where there's something to do for everyone, but it has the cozy feeling of a town and all the people are very friendly and polite!
suggestions/tips
Make sure to start early with looking for scholarships and preparing all the necessary vaccins and papers. Ask former students about housing and look online for it, but always make sure to scan the website on malicious activities and call them to see if it's a legit organisation. If you can take over the room of one of the former students, than that's even better.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this institution/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I will recommend this destination for sure, it's a beautiful city with lots of students and you'll experience so much new stuff and it will definitely be an experience that will stick! The institution has many possibilities for research and the supervision is of high standard and you'll learn a lot while over there.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Make sure to plan your study/research time and free time accordingly so you make progress study wise, but also have time to experience the city/other places abroad and not only grow intellectually but also personally. Start early with finding a place abroad and will all the preparations (scholarships, vaccins, needed document to start your study abroad, room, etc.). If everything is certain and you've arranged everything than buy your ticket!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES

UU Report 2015-2016

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> svleeuwen@live.nl
faculty/college	Faculty of science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Physics and astronomy

destination city & country	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of Edinburgh
start date	11 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process is very straightforward in my opinion. Just make sure you have all the documents before the deadline and think about why you want to go to this university specifically. If you have doubts, contact the international office.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Support from the university of Utrecht was very good, the international office is open weekly and I've been there multiple times when I was unsure about the application process or deadlines.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation before I went to Edinburgh. It didn't even cross my mind that this would be necessary (it wasn't).

language preparation

I did not have to do any language preparation. My proficiency in English was good enough before I left and during my stay my English improved significantly.

Finances

I made a financial plan based on the information on the website of the university of Edinburgh. I spent way more than planned. Edinburgh is an expensive city when living costs and accommodation are concerned. Since you really want a room, you don't have the luxury of waiting for the cheapest option. On top of that you will be spending more money than normal, since it is an exchange and you want to have fun, go out for food and drinks etc. This spending was not a big problem for me, but it is something to consider before you apply.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Overall I am very positive about the courses I followed in Edinburgh. These were Astrophysics, Relativity nuclear and particle physics and Atheism in debate. The first two are fourth year physics courses. Even though this is my third year, I didn't have more difficulty than in Utrecht while following those courses. Since I wanted to study



something completely different on my exchange I picked up Atheism. Here I noticed that my understanding of English played a much bigger role than in the physics courses. I think that might be something to consider when applying for a course outside your original field of study.

academic quality of education activities

Astrophysics and Relativity nuclear and particle physics are well-taught and interesting courses that I really recommend. I would say you can follow them even as a third year. Both courses have good teachers and tutors. I would also recommend doing something outside of your field of study on an exchange. It was really refreshing to work on atheism for a while instead of mathematics or physics. I think it also made me appreciate doing physics more.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

My tutor was introduced to me in the first weeks, even though I only went to see him twice, he was very kind and had good advice. Also there were presentations especially for international students in the first weeks. There is also support for finding accommodation in Edinburgh, this does help, but you will still have to put in a lot of work yourself.

transfer of credits

Credits for the two physics courses were accepted as third year courses. I don't need the credits for the atheism course.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme is completely different from what I'm used to here in the Utrecht and the rest of the Netherlands. In my first year I had an introduction from my rowing society, physics society and from the UU itself complete with groups, games and tutors for those introductions. In this respect there is a lot less handholding going on in Edinburgh. If you apply for "freshers week" there will be no group or tutor for you, you only pay for the parties. Which is fine, but make sure you don't expect it to be the same as in the Netherlands. I think you're better off not buying the fresher's week and just go to all the other parties with internationals.

Apart from this I can really recommend joining a society. I joined the water polo society myself and we had some great times. During the welcome week you can go to the societies fair and check them out. I think they are a nice way of getting involved since they are less demanding than Dutch societies.

accommodation

Accommodation is very hard to come by in Edinburgh. As a full year exchange student you are guaranteed accommodation, but if you plan on staying for only one semester you are not. I had the luck of finding a place online two days before my flight to Edinburgh. However, friends of mine had to stay in a hostel for the first few weeks. To enlarge your chances of getting accommodation I would recommend signing up for the big student houses in the university owned accommodation and not the small ones since you are more likely to get into the former. If this doesn't work out I would recommend going two weeks early just to find accommodation and get to know people. If you have social connections and you are in the city to team up with other (international) students you are much more likely to find something than you are if you're at home behind your computer. If you are looking for accommodation online, I would recommend using gumtree or studentpad.

leisure & culture

I really loved discovering all the little restaurants and pubs Edinburgh has to offer. Outside Edinburgh you can make trips to the highlands or Glasgow.

suggestions/tips



Try to do as much of the little pubs and restaurants as you can. Don't go to the same places all the time: try to discover!

Some nights every pub and club is busy, other nights aren't as popular. However, there is always something going on. Ask an Edinburgh student what pub/club you should go to on this day specifically.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend Edinburgh to others since there is a really big community of international students, so making friends is very easy. Furthermore the city is really beautiful and has a lot to offer in terms of little pubs and restaurants that make you feel like you're the only one who knows them. The university is also very good, I greatly enjoyed all the classes I did in Edinburgh.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

- Take a course that is taught at New college or study in that library, it's a beautiful building.
- Don't be afraid if you don't know anyone in the city. "I am an exchange student" is a magical phrase that will help you to get to know a lot of people.