



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

contact details	my e-mail address: rnhdejong@gmail.com instagram: reneedej0ng
faculty/college	social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	sociology

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	airplane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	27 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is a process that does take some time and you do have to your research. Also you have to make sure that you don't miss any deadlines. Reading student experiences like this one was very helpful for me to prepare.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University offers a lot of support. They send clear emails with all the deadlines and information. Also whenever I had to contact the international office of Utrecht University they responded very quickly.

academic preparation

As I had already done 2.5 years of the bachelor I did not feel like I needed extra academic preparation. During my Erasmus period I also didn't feel like I was missing out on academic experience.

language preparation

Before coming to Budapest I did not learn Hungarian. It is possible to study an Hungarian course here but I don't recommend it. Hungarian is an extremely difficult language to learn and with only speaking English you can manage here very well.

finances

I financed my stay with the Erasmus grant and student loan. Also you can receive money from the Dutch government for the public transport as you won't your studentOV.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I study sociology in Utrecht but in Budapest I also took some subjects which belong to other studies such as international relations and history. Some of my courses were similar to the ones I've had in UU, but others gave a lot of new information. During my stay here I had to take 7 courses as the amount of credits which you get here for a course is lower than in the Netherlands. For some of the courses you only had to give a presentation at the end of the semester and for others you had to take an exam.

academic quality of education activities



The academic quality is considerably lower than at UU. The teachers care less about what you do or if you even attend in class and therefore students are less motivated. For a few courses I had to invest time to get a good grade but for others you could do the bare minimum and still score the highest amount of points.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At ELTE they the international office sometimes takes quite some time to respond to emails. Therefore if you have to know something quickly it's better to stop by their office.

transfer of credits

My credits haven't been transferred yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ELTE provides an orientation week through their Erasmus student organisation ESN. I couldn't be there as I was still in the Netherlands, but I heard that a lot of people met friends through there so I would recommend it. Also the Erasmus student organisation 'Erasmus life Budapest' organises a lot of welcome activities which I did attend. These activities were great to get to know people and also the city.

accommodation

I got my accommodation through the organisation Erasmus Housing Budapest. I was very happy with the flat and it was on a great location. Also the other flats that I visited of the organisation all look great so I would definitely recommend it.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a great city with lots of beautiful architecture. It's one of the cities with the best nightlife which is open every night of the week. If you go here for the nightlife I would recommend finding an apartment in district 7 as it's mostly located there. Also Budapest has a great location for exploring cities in other countries such as Vienna, Zagreb and Bratislava. After months of being here I still feel like there's still a lot to explore here, so I can guarantee that you won't get bored here.

suggestions/tips

I mostly recommend signing up for the Erasmus Life Budapest organisation. It's a great way to meet new people from all over the world and they organise a lot of nice events and trips.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this destination if you want to enjoy being in another country. The city is very lively and enjoyable. If you'd want to do your Erasmus to gain a lot more knowledge for your studies I wouldn't recommend this University as the quality is definitely not as good as UU.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

don't try to learn Hungarian and do try to visit other countries while you're here. Travelling by flixbus or train from Budapest to many other places is very cheap.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

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

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Elte University
start date	03 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	Mijn application process ging vrij gemakkelijk. Als ik vragen had kon ik aankloppen bij het International office en hielpen zij mij verder. Af en toe was het wel zelf veel uitvogelen maar het hielp dat ik contact had opgenomen met een medestudent die ook naar Budapest zou gaan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Voor vragen waren zij goed beschikbaar
academic preparation	ik heb geen specifieke academic preparation gedaan.
language preparation	/
finances	Ik heb in de zomer veel gewerkt om zo een buffer op te bouwen.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	Het was voor mij even zoeken welke cursussen ik ging volgen. Elte had een lijst van vakken die voor internationals volbaar waren en heb hier mijn eerste vakken uitgekozen. Echter bleek dit eenmaal daar anders te verlopen. Veel cursussen overliepen of werden dat jaar niet meer aangeboden. De eerste week was daarom even een puzzel. Maar het fijne is dat je voor meerdere cursussen aan kan melden, en dan de eerste week de mogelijkheid krijgt om vakken te laten vallen. Wat betreft de cursussen zelf, soms was het zo dat de course title en de daadwerkelijke content niet overeenkwamen. Maar dit maakte het ook interessant, aangezien er veel ruimte is voor eigen inbreng en kennis.
academic quality of education activities	Het academic niveau is wat lager dan in Utrecht. Maar vooral wordt het onderwijs op een andere manier gegeven. Het is meer gericht op discussies en gesprekken voeren over de onderwerpen en minder gericht op tentamen stof leren. Dit vond ik erg interessant, omdat het een meer praktische vorm van lesgeven is en vraagt



om andere vaardigheden dan simpelweg theorie leren. De groepen zijn over het algemeen kleiner en een fijne omgeving voor het delen van perspectieven.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Als ik vragen had kon ik het international office mailen. Maar de meeste dingen waar ik tegen aan liep besprak ik gewoon met mede studenten. De uni is over het algemeen wat minder gestructureerd als hier in Utrecht. Maar dat maakt ook dat het flexibeler en coulanter is met bepaalde zaken.

transfer of credits

Dit moet ik nog ontvangen.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Erasmus life Budapest, een organisatie die veel activiteiten en feestjes organiseert. vooral de eerste week heb ik hier veel aan gehad om mensen te leren kennen.

accommodation

ik had een kamer via united erasmus. Huis was prima. communicatie met de organisatie niet.

leisure & culture

Budapest is een prachtige stad en heeft echt mijn hart gestolen! een perfecte combinatie van culturele dingen, prachtige gebouwen en een fijne uitgaan scene. Vooral voor de techno liefhebbers, een super stad!

suggestions/tips

Mocht je houden van wat meer alternatieve feesten en link georiënteerde sferen. Dan kan ik Aurora, Golya en lampas erg aanraden! Zijn community centers/bar waar regelmatig muziek/kunst/lecture evenementen worden georganiseerd. fantastisch!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, absoluut! Mocht je het interessant lijken om een andere manier van onderwijs te volgen, een stuk laagdrempeliger en meer inbreng voor eigen input! Het is minder 'hard studeren' dat wij in Utrecht gewend zijn, maar zeker een mooie ervaring. De stad is ontzettend fijn, iedereen die ik gesproken heb in verliefd geworden op de stad. Het is een grote stad maar voelt ergens ook knus. Het is erg overzichtelijk en je komt vaak mensen tegen.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

e-mail address	e.h.mud@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Education&Psychology
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University)
start date	01 / 09 / 2022(dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2023(dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I started by attending an online information event about studying abroad, provided by UU. There, the application process was explained very detailed. Furthermore, there is a lot of information on the website of the International Office. I had to give a top 3 of destinations where I wanted to go and then write a motivation letter for my number one choice. After a while, I received an email informing me to which university I was selected. Then I had to wait a while to be contacted by that university and give some personalia for their registration.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I am very content about the support from International Office at UU. They always respond very fast, within one or two working days. Also, they really try to help and navigate you through the whole process.

academic preparation

I did not have to do any academic preparation before I went on Erasmus.

language preparation

Since I only took English courses, which I speak very well, I did not need to do any further preparation. However, you need to have a B2 level (at least) in English to be able to do your Erasmus abroad. Also, in the first week of Erasmus, you need to complete a (online) language test to prove that you meet this criteria.

finances

I saved some money before I went abroad. Also, you receive the Erasmus grand, which also helps. Furthermore, Hungary is a very cheap country compared to The Netherlands so you don't have to worry too much about spending more than you're used to.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

When you're applying for Budapest, you have to choose for which faculty you want to follow your courses on (Education&Psychology or Social Sciences). I would recommend looking the courses up on their website. It is important to keep in mind that you cannot have too much overlap with the courses you've already followed here at UU. When you arrive in the first week, you have to officially register for the courses (how to do this will be explained in the orientation week by the university). I was part of the faculty of Psychology but because ELTE



offers to follow 10 ECTS outside your chosen faculty, I could also follow some courses on the faculty of Law (more in the direction of criminology). The registration process can be a little bit stressful because most of the courses have a maximum amount of students who are able to follow it. I would definitely recommend you to register as soon as possible. For me, I couldn't get into one course I really wanted. However, I was able to speak and email the teacher (you can find their email addresses on the ELTE website) and explained my situation. The teacher gave my permission to follow the course and so I was able to do the course after all. On another note, the ECTS per course are way less than you're used to in UU. Therefore, you have to follow more courses. However, since the work load is (in most cases) way less than in The Netherlands it is very well possible to do it. So do not be scared of the amount of courses you may have to follow. I, for example, followed six courses in total.

academic quality of education activities

The work load and the amount of preparation for seminars/lectures are less compared to UU. In this way, the education is not as intense as you're used to. However, since you're on Erasmus it's a good thing because than you have much time to explore the city and do fun things. I followed a lot of courses that only had lectures so I did not have to prepare that much before going to class. However, I did have some seminars for which I had to prepare some small assignments or write papers. In general, the quality is good but I think a little bit lower than UU. However, it really depends on the course and teacher you have. In general, most of the semester is really manageable, with a lot of free time. However, the last weeks in november/beginning of december are a bit busier (the same as in Utrecht when you have an exam period coming).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Honestly, the Internation Office of ELTE can sometimes be hard to reach since they take rather long replying to emails. However, in the orientation week you will be assigned to a coordinator to which you can speak/email/phone for questions related to your study. In my case, she replied really fast and was really trying to help me. It is more concerning official documents which need to be signed by the international office that take a lot time. So I would recommend sending you're documents as soon as you can (and do not be afraid to send an reminder email when it takes too long).

transfer of credits

After your exam period (in the 1st semester that's somewhere mid/end of December) you get your grades. ELTE works with a scale of 1 - 5 (five being "excellent"). To my understanding, UU will transfer this to a pass or fail. I got the grades back pretty fast and I can officially transfer it somewhere in the beginning of February officially to UU.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first was orientation week. The first two days were informative, where you get everything explained how the university works. Also, you get a quick tour of the buildings. Furthermore, you get to know all the other international students from your faculty so it is a great opportunity to get to know some people. We did a lot of 'get to know each other' games, which was pretty fun. The other three days were more of activities, such as a walking tour on the buda hills. These have a less informative and more social character.

accommodation

Before I went to Budapest I looked on Facebook and the websites United Erasmus Housing and Housing Anywhere. If you do not have a big budget, you can always sign up for the ELTE dormitories. However, in my opinion, the location is less ideal and you often have to share a room (so there's not so much privacy). I ended up renting a shared flat with United Erasmus Housing. The location was great and I got really close with my housemates. During the five months, there were some things that weren't always working properly (such as broken dishwasher) but since there is an organization involved (and not only a landlord) we could always send them a whatsapp or email when something like that happened. Sometimes they didn't repair something (like a



broken lamp) but in most cases they helped to fix the problem. I would really recommend to live in district V or VI, since that is the heart of the city. And since this is not the party area (which can be reached by foot or public transport) it is relatively safe and there is not much disturbance.

leisure & culture

Of course I may be biased now but Budapest is a beautiful city with lots of things to do. The city has a rich historical character, which can be explored through many free walking tours (with different themes). Obviously, there are a lot of tourist attractions to do, such as parliament building, buda castle, vissermans bastion, gellert hill and so on. There are many bars, restaurants, shops and clubs to visit. In my free time I enjoyed chilling in the park, walking around the city, drink (cheap!) cocktails in bars, study or meet people in study cafés, visit markets (on Sundays), walk around Margaret Island and so much more.

suggestions/tips

Some activities can only be done in summer (or with good/warm weather) such as supping, unlimited prosecco boat tour or sky bars. And especially one activity can only be done in the winter: ice skating! Many of these activities are being offered/organised by ELB (=Erasmus Life Budapest). So I would really recommend to join this group (they can be found on facebook, instagram).

Also, there is a lot organized for international students. With the most iconic being 'Morrisons Monday' in the Morrisons club. This is a great place to party and meet your fellow international students. Also, when it was the football world championship, they presented the games on big screens to watch with everyone. However, the biggest advantage is the cheap beer (only 0,60 cents!).

Because the uni work is much less than in Utrecht, you have a lot of free time. And because Budapest is relatively cheap and lies in the centre of Europe, it is really easy to travel! I would really encourage you to do this. You can go by flixbus, train, bus and so on. I did several trips: to Vienna, Krakow, Bratislava, Szentendre, Ljubljana and Berlin.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend going to Budapest for your Erasmus! It is a beautiful and relatively cheap city, which allows you to do as much fun stuff as you want in order to maximize your Erasmus experience. Also, they organize so many events and activities for all international students. The first few weeks of university can come across as a bit chaotic with the registration process, but ones that is settled, the education is good and interesting.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I am so grateful to have had this opportunity, I really enjoyed it and made some really great friends (which I've already met again after my arrival back in The Netherlands). So if you're still doubting to go: please go on Erasmus, it is an unique experience which you will thoroughly enjoy!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

faculty/college	Faculty of social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and development sociology

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	I travelled by train (grant)
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	07 / 02 / 2022
end date	01 / 07 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I did research in different optional destinations. I had contact with former students and read reports like this one of students who have been there to read their experiences. I was limited in Spain because I did not have the required Spanish level. I think in the end everywhere you will have an amazing time. But for me Budapest was super nice. The combination of learning more about a new country, culture with good party opportunities, museums and other things to visit.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Did not really use it.

academic preparation

Reading articles in English already during my bachelor helped me with studying abroad. Further I did no academic preparation.

language preparation

I did the Erasmus test. I did not need any further language preparation to English. Erasmus grant & loan

finances

Erasmus Grant & loan

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My major is in Cultural Anthropology and development sociology. Abroad I studied different courses in the field of Anthropology, economics, politics and International relations. The counting system is different to the Netherlands so I was required to follow more, exactly 7 courses. First you think this is a lot but in the end it was doable. Every course contains one lecture every week. The organization differs per course. Some courses are really well organized but others are not. Some teachers put all the powerpoints only for example and others do not so you do not really know what to read for next weeks.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was not really challenging. Some lectures were interesting but not really challenging. Also the exams were not so challenging.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They helped me. Despite I had some problems with my courses and the system they always helped me.
transfer of credits
This brought me some trouble. My grades where thrown out of the system so I required some help but the coordinator helped me

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Erasmus life Budapest is a super well organized organisation. They organize a lot of activities to get you in touch with other Erasmus students. I could not have it better. I met so many other students. They organize trips, parties, speeddating etc.
accommodation
I rented a flat with 4 other international students. Before my erasmus I looked in facebook groups for housing for international students where I came into contact with my former roommates. There are a lot of flats available so we looked for a fitable flat together. In comparison one of my friends lived in the dormitory. He lived really far outside of the centre. I was happy that I got the opportunity to live really central.
leisure & culture
I travelled a lot during my erasmus. Some daytrips to different cities in Hungary but also to foreign countries close to Hungary. I really liked to learn more about eastern Europe. Hungary knows an interesting history.
suggestions/tips
As an erasmus student you are in the international student bubble. I suggest to also look if you can find some contact with local students. I had some Hungarian friends. You learn more about the culture and localities.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, unless the university was not really challenging my academic knowledge as I hoped Budapest is a really special exchange destination. There are always things to do, you are never bored. Nice bars, clubs & museums. The university has a wide range of course offers so for everybody there is something interesting to follow. Besides, the faculty of social sciences is really easy to reach with the tram from the centre. Overall the public transport in Budapest is so well organized. You can reach everything really easy.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sociologie
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	train
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University



start date	30 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process takes time and effort and you have to make sure to not miss any deadlines. Overall, there was enough clear information everywhere so that the process was not very difficult.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	UU gives a lot of guidance during the preparation. The international office sent emails with all the necessary steps and information, and responded quickly and helped me with my questions (also during the exchange period).
academic preparation	I did not do any additional academic preparation. My exchange happened in the first semester of my third year, so I believed that I had enough preparation done in the past two years. During the exchange, I also did not feel like I should have prepared more beforehand.
language preparation	Since the courses were all in English and I was already at level C1, I did not do any language preparation.
finances	I worked at a restaurant and a teahouse the years before I did my semester abroad, and I worked at least two days a week during the year before I left. In the months prior to and during the summer holidays, I picked up extra shifts and worked about 3-4 times a week. I put part of my salary aside to make sure I had enough money saved for my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Psychology (Faculty Education and Psychology)
academic quality of education activities	The content of the courses was sometimes similar to what I had already learned at Utrecht University, but it was useful to rehearse these topics. The teaching methods were focused on learning from other students and talking about the subjects with each other, which I found very valuable and which gave new perspectives.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The international office was open a couple of hours almost every weekday, and you could just walk in to ask questions or to discuss things. This is also the best way to get help, because it can take a while before you get answers through email.
transfer of credits	The credits you gained by completing the courses differed from 2 to 6 ECTS. All my credits were transferred as they were at Eötvös Loránd, but the grades were transferred into a pass or fail.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	



The university organised a welcoming week with a couple of activities each day. For example, we did introductory games and took a walk through the hills of Budapest. It was a really good way to get to know the other Erasmus students, the faculty buildings, and the city, and we got a lot of useful information. Most of the people I was closest with, I met in this week.

accommodation

I looked for an accomodation on Facebook in a group for rooms in Budapest, and then found a room through a student housing organisation. It was rather easy to find a affordable shared flat with a good location.

leisure & culture

Budapest has a lot of cool bars, cafes, musea, movie theatres, and clubs. Every week, there was some event or festival going on, and besides that, the student organisations organise a lot of events and activities as well. The city itself and its surroundings are for walking and beautiful views. Budapest also has a rich history, which can be felt in the city or by visiting musea. I also follow sports classes from BEAC, the sports organisation of the university, which offers a really broad range of sports for a very affordable price.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to search on Facebook for events in Budapest, so won't miss any the many options you have in Budapest. The musea are very interesting and definitely worth visiting as well. Lastly, I would suggest to visit others cities in Hungary and the surrounding countries!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this destination and university. The city and its atmosphere are very lively and just the right size so that there is always enough to do and to discover, but that you will also feel at home very easily. There are a lot of international students, which makes it easy to find friends. The university has many passionate and friendly professors and the location is perfect.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not stress too much if things run a bit roughly. Eötvös Loránd sometimes took a lot of time to respond to my e-mails, so I had to ask for an extended Erasmus deadline two times, but this was no problem for UU. The first week at the university was a bit chaotic as well due to problems with the courses and with registering. But in the end, everything will be alright and you will be able to follow the courses that you wanted to attend and to get your documents complete.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

contact details	my e-mail address	a.vanklaveren@students.uu.nl
	my Facebook account	Auryn van Klaveren
faculty/college	Social sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Interdisciplinary social science	
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary	



how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University)
start date	30 / 8 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 1 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	It went pretty smoothly and if I had questions the responses where quick.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Same, quick with responding if I had questions and very helpfull.
academic preparation	There is nothing I did for this.
language preparation	No preparation. I think it helps to learn the basic Hungarian words, people will appreciate it if you can say 'hello' and 'thanks'. But the level of english they use in the classes is easy to follow.
finances	Life in Budapest is not expensive. But this also results in, for example, eating out a lot and thus in the end spending more money. But if you have/want to, you can certainly live cheaper in Budapest than in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	In the end I choose completely different courses than my plan was when I was still in the Netherlands. You have some time in the beginning to change the courses that you signed up for. This is a good way to change things if it is not what you where expecting (for example, one of my teachers changed the topic of the course in something totally different than I signed up for). Especially in the beginning there were a lot of classes that were cancelled. This led to a lot of confusion for me.
academic quality of education activities	It depends a lot on the courses you take. For one course I had to read and prepare every week. For others I only had to show up and give a presentation in the end. Most of the courses I had were very easy and I passed all my courses without doing much for it.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	They responds fast and are friendly.
transfer of credits	I am still in the process of doing this, but I think this will go smoothly as well.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
On the first day we had a kind of orientation day, in which they gave a little introduction and showed us the building. Especially the tour was helpful, because I was already lost in the building on the first day.
accommodation
I used the site erasmusu.com to find a room. You have to pay for this site, but it builds in an extra security. However, I don't think I would use this site again if I where in the same situation. There are a lot of facebook groups that offer rooms. I would recommend to find a room on time, just because you will find the best options. But if you start late with searching it is still easy to find a room (I think).
leisure & culture
Budapest is such a beautiful and nice city! I loved it all, the party's, the beautiful buildings and that it is a city with a lot of international students. The organisation ELB (you can find them on facebook, instagram etc.) is a nice way to meet people and organizes a lot of activities.
suggestions/tips
Use the 2 weeks at the beginning to see if the courses that you signed up for are what you expect them to be. And go to the introduction day so that you know the way in the different buildings!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I think it depends on what kind of erasmus experience you are looking for. For me, it was a time with a lot of fun and free time, but I did not learn a lot from the courses I followed. There is a big difference in courses you take. Just think about what you are looking for. I would definitely recommend going to Budapest, I had such a good time and I would have loved to stay there for a longer period.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If you are going to Budapest, enjoy!	

UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

faculty/college	Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Educational Sciences
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	30 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)



end date	28 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
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PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process overall went pretty good. Make sure you try to stay ahead from the deadlines, that is what is important. When you send the ELTE an email for information, they do not reply as fast as they do in Utrecht. That is why I do recommend to stay ahead for problems and try to make sure that you have the right information in time, so you don't have to feel stressed. Sometimes it feels like that they are not available, but eventually things will work out. So don't worry too much about it either.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	From the University of Utrecht you will get all the help you need. If you have problems with the ELTE, you can also immediately let the international office of Utrecht know and they will try to help you either way. They will respond quickly and they have the answers to most of your questions.
academic preparation	
	Make sure you check if your courses don't overlap with your courses in the Netherlands. Although I studied Educational Sciences in Utrecht, I had to follow courses from another study programme as well. So in the end I followed both Education courses and Psychology courses. It was fine, cause I also like Psychology, but make you check if you can follow courses you want to.
language preparation	
	I didn't have to do any language preparation, since I got a pretty high level of English. So I can't say much of that, but the English of the Hungarians is also fine, so if you speak decent English I think you should be fine.
finances	
	Budapest is not that expensive and cheaper than the Netherlands. You can eat in a restaurant cheaper than here and you will most likely pay less rent for your apartment/room. However don't underestimate the prices too much, since it is more expensive than most Eastern-European countries. If you are smart your journey can be pretty cheap, but make sure you use your head, cause it can also get expensive if you underestimate the prices.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The study programma works a bit different then to what you are used to in the Netherlands. You have to register for the courses when you arrive in Hungary, so not before that. This can be a bit chaotic, cause even though I already had a list, I still didn't know what courses I would follow in the long run. So make sure you get everything done smoothly and know which are courses that you are able to follow, so it won't be a thing with signing in and signing out. You can join courses pretty late sometimes, if they still have spots open, so don't worry you won't be able to follow any courses at all, cause that works pretty good. As I told earlier I follow both Education and Psychology courses in the end and i liked them both. You will follow much more courses than in the Netherlands. I followed 8 courses, and that sounds maybe like a lot, but I still finished 7 of them and I didn't think I was much busier than in the Netherlands.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality is lower than in the Netherlands. That goes for the content of courses, you will most likely find it easier than what you are used to. Also the teachers are often not so good as in here, they were not so strict and you could pretty much do what you want, without them trying to discipline you. They also do not have all the luxuries of the right equipment as we have here. For example I didn't have a desk and I have to put my laptop on some sort of little table that was attached to the seat. I also didn't have much courses where there



was a lot of interaction in the group. A lot of the courses were just about listening to the teacher rather than discuss things with classmates.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The mobility coordinator from the ELTE was available per email and I could also visit her in person. She always wanted to help, but it felt a bit difficult she was almost the only one that was able to help you. So problem was that if she got sick, then you are a bit on your own. Eventually worked out, so try to contact her when you have the chance if you need something done.

transfer of credits

They have a different grading system at the ELTE than in the Netherlands. You get points from 1-5, where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest. My grades were pretty high and I felt I didn't work so hard for them, so if you want to get good grades, I think you will be fine. Make sure you ask for the Transcript of Records soon, when you have all your grades, so you can make your erasmus application in order when you are back in The Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programma at ELTE is pretty decent. You will get all the information you need about how things work like deadlines, exams, public transport etc. I felt that I got the right information, so I knew what I had to do. There are also organizations that organize fun things to do, so if you want to make friends quickly I recommend you sign up for these things.

accommodation

If you want to get good accomodation, I recommend to use facebook pages, of people that are in the same situation as you. You have a good chance to find an apartment that fits your needs, and they are not that expensive as in the Netherlands.

leisure & culture

Budapest is a very big and lively city with a lot of things to do. The nightlife especially is incredible, so if you like that I can guarantee you will have a nice time. There are bars and clubs everywhere and the Hungarians party like 7 days in the week. I also recommend to visit the Balaton lake in the summer, it is a beautiful place to relax and to enjoy some hot weather. The spa's are also really good (which is very typical for Budapest, as there are a lot of them there).

suggestions/tips

I highly recommend to sign up for a student activity organization. They organize trips, parties & other fun activites, so it is a very easy way to make friends.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would recommend to go study in Budapest, if you are a fan of nightlife and a big city with lots of things to do. Since it is also not too expensive, it also is relatively nice for your wallet. If you are looking for a destination purely for educational purposes, than I think you won't find the ELTE the best place to go. However the combination of studying and enjoying my time there was really nice and that it was a very enjoyable chapter of my life. I learned a lot and I take all those beautiful experiences to my present life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice is to try to enojy as much as you can if you go to Budapest. Of course getting your grades is important, but try to realise you won't get so much experiences with that much freedom in your life. Use the exchange to travel, to party, to make a lot of international friends and I can guarantee you won't return home as



the same person. It was an extraordinary experience, that I will always cherish.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

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	Budapest, Hungary
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	23 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was made very clear to me during the information lecture of the International Office. You are supposed to write an essay about your first choice destination. Soon after the deadline of the UU I was selected for ELTE. I contacted the receiving university as soon as possible because it can take some while before you get a response back. The International Office of ELTE was very friendly and signed all my documents immediately.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office of Social Sciences has been a great support for me. They respond almost within 1 or 2 working days. I forgot to email my courses to the Exam Commission but the International Office helped me with this. They do not monitor everything that you need to arrange so it can be wise to check the website thoroughly and make a list so that you do not forget anything.

academic preparation

I did not have to do any academic preparation before I went on Erasmus.

language preparation

It is obliged to do a language assessment on the Erasmus+ website for your grant. This did not take me a lot of time.

finances

I saved some money for my Erasmus and I received my grant before I went to Budapest. Everything is somewhat cheaper than in the Netherlands so my costs were not that high. It is wise to have some money if you want to visit other countries in eastern Europe.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Before you apply, you have to choose between the faculty of Social Sciences and the faculty of Psychology & Education. It is wise to check the available courses of both faculties and base your decision on that. I have



chosen for the faculty of Social Sciences because the psychology courses seemed to be too much overlap with the courses I already followed at the UU. You need to check this carefully! During the introduction week in september, it is explained how you can register for courses. After that, you have a two week registration period so this is very different than how it works at the UU. However, at lot of courses have a maximum headcount so you need to be fast. If a course is full, you need to approach the teacher to ask for permission to follow the course. Because of all that, your courses can change and you need to communicate that to the Exam Commission because they need to approve your courses. A lot of course I changed by the time I arrived in Budapest so my Learning Agreement changed a lot. Also, the courses at ELTE have a most of the time 3, 4 or 5 ECTS so you need to take a lot of smaller courses. It is allowed to do 10 of the 30 ECTS on another faculty. I can highly recommend to do that.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education acitivities is lower and not that intensive as in Utrecht. All my courses had lectures, some of which were obliged and some were not. It really depends on the teacher how well they speak English. I did not had any working groups.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office at Eötvös Lóránd University replied fast on my emails. Sometimes I did not get any respons and after I had send a reminder they replied almost immediately. Be aware of this, I think they miss emails sometimes.

transfer of credits

ELTE has two semsters in a year, which means that I had courses until the beginning of December and after that my exam period started. You get a couple of exam dates for each course so it is somewhat more flexible than at the UU. The teachers were very fast with giving my results back.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programm of Social Sciences was only two days and not that special. However, I can recommend to go because they explain how you can register for courses and other useful information is given.

accommodation

I arranged my own appartment via the site of Erasmusu. There are a lot of facebook groups which offer appartments for Erasmus students. District V, VI, and VII are nice areas to stay and close to the university. The prices for a room in the city centre are friendly priced and somewhat cheaper as in Utrecht.

leisure & culture

Budapest is the capital of Hungary so the city is never boring. It has a rich history which can be discovered in daily life. My appartment was in the Jewish quarter and almost everything was within walking distance. You have restaurants, ruin bars, shops, and clubs everywhere. There are a lot of parties for international students and the prices of food and drinks are cheap compared to the Netherlands. It is also very cheap to do sports at ELTE in your free time.

suggestions/tips

When the weather is still good, there are a lot of outside ruin bars where you can have a drink. I really like the ambiance there. In the beginning, a free walking tour is a good way to explore the city. I also arranged some trips to Slovenia, Bratislava, lake Balaton, Croatia, and Berlin. Exploring eastern Europe is very easy out of Budapest and I can really recommend it.

CONCLUSIONS

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



I definitely recommend Budapest to others. The Erasmus community is really big so there are many international students. Not everything is that well arranged at ELTE compared to the UU but I was not surprised by that. It is still an eastern bloc country and old-fashioned compared to the Netherlands. Also, Hungarian is a very difficult language and not easy to learn. The university offers a language course to international students but I did not participate. In my opinion, the city is a great mixture of old historic buildings and new places.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Going on exchange, to Budapest or another destination, is a great way to make new friends and explore other countries. If you want to improve your English and do something totally different it is great for you.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

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	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Lóránd University
start date	3 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for the Eötvös Lóránd University was not that complex. Just be aware that you don't get a respond that quickly from the receiving University, so send your documents for application as soon as possible.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I have experienced good support from Utrecht University. They don't have anything lined up for you though, so you have to take care of all the administration yourself. Only when I had questions or certain problems I had contacted the International Office of Utrecht University

academic preparation

There wasn't any academic preparation required for my Erasmus period.

language preparation

You need to have a B2 level in English to be able to succeed your Erasmus period in a foreign country.

Finances

I was prepared for the costs I would have in Budapest, Hungary. Since Hungary isn't such an expensive country, I did not worry about it that much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme I did was Psychology and Education. Just be aware of the fact that the study Psychology is not included in the faculty Social Sciences as it is in Utrecht University. For some reason the Psychology courses were included in a totally different faculty, named Psychology and Education. Make sure to apply for this faculty if you would like to attend Psychology courses. I made this mistake, but luckily they could apply me for the other faculty on time. When I applied for this faculty, I had chosen the courses which seemed interesting to me and had put them on my learning agreement. When I arrived in Budapest, the procedure of choosing courses was totally different of what I expected. They had a new system since last year that you needed to apply for a course on a certain day as quickly as possible, otherwise when they became full you would not be capable of following that course. Per course there were approximately 30 places. In the end, I could not choose half of the courses I listed on my learning agreement. I had not enough ECTS to fulfill my Erasmus period. After a few weeks, I finally



arranged my courses with the International Office in Budapest. But since it took weeks to complete my list of courses, many of them had already started and so I was far behind. Also, I could not choose the courses I intended to choose and which I found interesting.

academic quality of education activities

I was behind on many courses, but since the academic quality wasn't that good, I could keep up with the rest quite quick. The lecture setting is quite different from Utrecht University. You have small classrooms with max 30 students per course. This makes it more personal and I kind of liked this setting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at Eötvös Lóránd University was alright. Sometimes I could get a response 2 minutes later and sometimes it took me weeks. So it wasn't that consistent in replying. Still, the head of the International Office was very willing to help me out and it succeeded in the end.

transfer of credits

In Hungary you have a semester system. This means that you have lectures and practicals for 3 months and after that you have the exam period, which takes 2 months in total. After I finished an exam, the transfer of the credits were quite fast.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I really loved the erasmus students association. I definitely recommend applying for these kinds of associations. They arrange different events like camps (highly recommend if you want to meet new people very quick!), boat parties, pub crawls and trips to different cities in Hungary. Since I am half Hungarian, I already knew Budapest quite well. Still, I gained much more knowledge about this city and these associations were a great chance to get more familiar with the city and to get to know new people.

accommodation

I highly recommend to like Facebook pages which are made for hiring student flats. Also, begin early with searching!!! The hiring prices are relatively cheap compared to Utrecht.

leisure & culture

I absolutely love the Hungarian culture. Of course I am biased since I am half Hungarian. But I could not find a better city to study abroad than Budapest, even if you don't have any relationship with this city. It is fairly cheap, the nightlife is amazing and the city is beautiful. It just breaths history, so a guidetour is highly recommended if you're interested in the history of this city. Budapest has many things to offer, like thermal baths, great shopping streets, many pubs, huge parks and beautiful nature. It is a big city which contains 3 million people. You can tell it is popular among foreign students, since you spot many a day. The Hungarian mentality is very different from the Dutch one. On the first look Hungarians may look a bit grumpy, but really, their hospitality is something I have never experienced before in an other culture. The Hungarian cuisine is very traditional and broad, so a lot of fun for foreigners to try. There are also many 'hipster' places, especially in the Jewish district, like restaurants, cafés, ruin pubs and more. If you like a city which is vibrant, contains a lot of history, is fairly cheap and has a lot to offer, I really recommend Budapest to you!

suggestions/tips

Do a guidetour when you arrive, there are even ones for free (at the St.Stephen Basilica square everyday at a certain time). Also, Budapest is surrounded by other amazing countries. A citytrip to Vienna (only 3 hours with the bus), Prague, Bratislava is very doable. I recommend to apply for erasmus student associations which you can find on Facebook. They arrange a lot of events and it is a great chance to meet new people. The Eötvös Lóránd University has also many different associations like an orchestra, sports, dance, language courses and more. Apply for these if you are interested in one of these hobbies.



CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I do! Budapest is a great student city and you can tell by the many foreign students you see in Budapest. People all over the world come to Budapest, because it has things to offer that some cities don't have. The city is historical and modern at the same time. It is nothing to compare with a Slavic country even though its location is in Eastern Europe (Hungary isn't a Slavic country). It has its very own unique culture. A mix of the Western and the Eastern influences. This makes Budapest, Hungary unique and one of a kind!

Every University has its pros and cons. Ofcourse the application proces for the courses wasn't that easy, but I am sure every other University has its problems which they need to work on. If you're very focused as an Erasmus student to do specific courses and you would like to broaden your academic knowledge, I don't recommend this University to you. It still is Eastern Europe and as we know the Dutch education is far ahead. Instead I would apply for an University in a more Western country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The Hungarian Goulash is nothing like you know it in the Netherlands. It is a traditional soup, not a stew. So try it! ;)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p><i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i></p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.b.vanegmond@students.uu.nl</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>	
faculty/college	Social science	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Erasmus	

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I did not experience any difficulties with the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International office social science is really nice, they are willing to help you with everything and respond fast. I did not have any big problems but I felt I could always ask them if needed.
academic preparation	The level of the university in Budapest was lower than the level in Utrecht. I did not do any academic preparation. One thing you could do if you are going to study social science, find out more about the political situation in Hungary. Teachers often refer to them (and will explain them) but it can help you.
language preparation	All my courses were in English, therefore I hadn't needed any language preparation. However, I am happy that I had some full English courses in the Netherlands. I was already used to writing papers in English and courses taught in English.
finances	Besides the Erasmus grant, I had saved some money. Budapest is quite cheap but of course you do more fun things and trips which you would not do in your home town so make sure you saved some money.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The organization of courses was not that good. The site had some problems so we were able to sign in at the day our courses were meant to start. This was quite chaotic. However, it was not a problem of the international office but of the ICT department. The teachers do not get Neptun (our osiris) too which sometimes was annoying. In the end, I did not fall behind schedule and the international office was willing to help us. All by all I could say that the organization skills were not so good but in the end there are no problems and people are willing to help you so sometimes you just have to think, it will be okay.
academic quality of education activities	
	The courses were interesting and a good addition to my courses in the Netherlands. The quality is lower than in the Netherlands but the teachers have different examples and different stories and they try to make connections to the current political situation in Hungary which makes it more interesting. For me it did not matter that the quality was a bit lower because my goal of Erasmus was not only studying. Besides, I got the feeling that the information and knowledge the teachers had was often interesting but the courses were not so well organized and because of that the quality also decreased.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Despite of the problems at the beginning with course registration, the international office was helpful. Teachers are too although I got the feeling they do not really get how things are organized for erasmus students.
transfer of credits	
	I got my credits but they are not transferred yet so it is hard to say something about that.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	In the beginning there was an introduction day which was quite short. Also the communication of the introduction week could have been better. All the introduction week activities were announced in the introduction week and it would have been nice to know them earlier. Here again, the activities are nice but the communication could be better. I also tried sports in the introduction week but they were not so nice in my point of view because a lot of the lessons were in Hungarian.
accommodation	
	There are a lot of student houses available and the best way to find one is via facebook groups. Make sure you get notifications of these groups because a lot of internationals are looking for a house. The best tip is make sure you live with other internationals because in that way you really get to know other cultures and speak English every day.
leisure & culture	
	There is a lot to do in Budapest and a nice thing about it is that everything is not that far from each other so you can walk a lot. Restaurants and pubs are everywhere and there are a lot of musea. The terror haza and the hospital in the rock are interesting musea about the second world war. For sporty people, there are a lot of nice gyms in the city and I definitely recommend the 4% gym. They have a student discount. Besides, Margarit Island is perfect for a run or to relax in the sun. Would you like to relax then I recommend the thermal baths but do not go during vacations because it is full of tourists then. And last but not least, go to janos hill, it is a perfect hill with really nice view.



suggestions/tips
Go on trips! It is very cheap with flibus and you are close to a lot of countries. It was for me the best way of spending money. I did some free walking tours in other cities and that was really nice too. Besides, I recommend lampas, it is a pub that is super cheap and they play live music very often.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! Budapest is a big city, it has a lot to offer and travelling is very easy from this place. My university may not have the best organization skills but in the end they will make sure everything will be okay. Besides, Budapest is very popular under internationals all over the world so you will meet a lot of different people. You will not get boring in this city and because of all the internationals there are a lot of events and parties you can join. Doesn't matter what kind of student you are, for everyone there is something in Budapest.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Dont'try to learn Hungarian because it is too difficult and try to follow the politics in Hungary because they are very interesting and different from the politics in the Netherlands.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

permission to publish contact details	my e-mail address	a.sharifi@students.uu.nl
	my Facebook account	Awesta Sharifi
faculty/college	Faculty of Education and Psychology	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Psychology and Behavioural Sciences	

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

You need to take a few steps to apply for the exchange period. You are asked to fill in a top 3 of preferred universities (or minimum of 2). Further, you are required to write a motivational letter for that specific university, a financial plan, study plan, language proficiency statement and your Curriculum Vitae.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had a lot of problems with registering for courses in Budapest, but when I needed help, I could contact the International Office in Utrecht and most of the time they tried to help me or suggested to seek help from the International Office in Budapest.

academic preparation

I did not prepare myself to be honest.

language preparation

I tried to engage more with the English language, by for example watching movies with English subtitles. Furthermore, I wanted to prepare myself for the Hungarian language, because I wanted to try to speak that language. When I arrived I took a crash course Hungarian Language, but it was harder than I expected, so that is why I decided not to learn to the Hungarian language, besides, this language is only spoken in Hungary, so I cannot use it in other countries, that is why I decided to focus more on the English language.

finances

You can fill out forms to get an Erasmus Grant, also you can ask for a public transportation reimbursement (OV vergoeding).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was organised very differently in comparison to the Utrecht University. Overall, it wasn't as good as in Utrecht, but the content of some courses turned out to be better than I expected---especially regarding the course



content. Some courses I found really interesting, and I decided that I wanted to go pursue these courses further in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities
As said before, the quality turned out better than expected. Although, I would recommend a few teachers to improve their English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Because I experienced some problems in the beginning, with registering for courses, I turned to the International Office a lot. They helped me a lot and really tried to fix this for me. At a certain point I did not expect it to turn out well anymore; to my surprise it turned out that the International Office had solved my problems.
transfer of credits
This is not transferred yet, I expect this to be forwarded at any moment.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	I really liked the welcome programme; it felt really welcoming. They told us things about the Hungarian culture and about the city. Also, they recommended to visit some places in the city. Further, you get information (about your study, stay or social programmes) you can really use and did not think of beforehand.
accommodation	I arranged the accomodation together with a friend who also went to Budapest. We rented an appartment through a family friend of hers. Before that I tried to find something myself, I tried to do this through some Facebook pages.
leisure & culture	The people (especially in shops) are less friendly than in Holland, which is something you just should get used to. However, it already helps to learn a few Hungarian words: if they notice that you are trying to make an effort to communicate with them, they are more friendly. Being unfriendly is a cultural thing, so do not take this personally!
suggestions/tips	Engage in social events/activities! There you will meet a lot of new people. You should not solely focus on the Erasmus students. Look further, because there are also fulltime international students who are really nice! Also, get out of the city, there are a lot of beautiful cities around Budapest itself that are definitely worth visiting!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	To be honest, the quality is less than in Utrecht, but you have different courses that you mind very interesting. If I would recommend to go to Budapest, I would really recommend it for the city itself, it is such a nice city, it is so beautiful. The international people are very nice and very open to you.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Not that I can think of, but I am willing to help if you have some questions or need some advice! (You can contact the International Office for my contact details)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: lotherder@msn.com</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>	
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Social Sciences	

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE)
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	Het kostte best veel tijd om al het papierwerk in orde te maken. Maar al dat geregeld ben je al snel weer vergeten als je in Budapest bent aangekomen, en er allemaal leuke dingen op je te wachten staan.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	De support vanuit de Universiteit Utrecht was erg goed. Het International Office reageerde vaak snel op mijn emails, en de informatiebijeenkomst was erg nuttig en enthousiasmerend.
academic preparation	Ik heb geen academische voorbereidingen gedaan. Dit was ook niet echt nodig, aangezien het niveau van het onderwijs in Budapest een stuk lager ligt dan het onderwijs in Nederland.
language preparation	Ik maakte me vooraf een beetje zorgen over mijn Engels. Ik ben namelijk niet zo goed in Engels, dus ik was bang dat ik dingen niet zou snappen, of dingen niet zou halen door mijn slechte Engels. Deze zorgen waren totaal ongegrond. Want er zijn heel veel mensen die nog veel slechter zijn in Engels dan jij. Nederlanders kunnen over het algemeen heel goed Engels, en soms nog beter dan de docenten. Dus maak je daar vooral geen zorgen over.
finances	Ik heb veel gewerkt voor in naar Budapest zou gaan. Dit spaarpotje kwam ook goed van pas, want je geeft altijd meer geld uit dan je verwacht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Het studieprogramma was nogal een dingetje. Vooraf had ik op de site gezocht naar vakken die mij interessant leken. Bij aankomst bleek dat een deel van die vakken niet meer bestond, toch niet in het Engels waren, of al vol zaten. Dit schopte mijn plan nogal in de war. Ik heb dus vakken gekozen die beschikbaar waren, en niet per se omdat ik ze zo interessant vond. Je moet zelf heel goed opletten bij het kiezen van de vakken, want sommige vakken worden op hetzelfde tijdstip gekozen. Dit moet je zelf uitzoeken, of het mogelijk is en hoe.

academic quality of education activities

Het niveau van het onderwijs op ELTE is lager dan in Utrecht. De Universiteit is nogal ongeorganiseerd. Maar het onderwijs is wel veel persoonlijker. Ik had kleine klassen, wat zorgde voor meer persoonlijke interactie.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

De ondersteuning vanuit ELTE was goed. Ik kreeg een mentor toegewezen, dit was een Hongaarse student, zij hielp me met kleine dingetje, zoals de weg vinden of inschrijvingen. Daarnaast was er een coordinator van de faculteit. Je kon hem mailen voor vragen over vakken etc. Hij reageerde vaak snel op mijn emails.

transfer of credits

Dit is nog niet afgerond, dus hier kan ik helaas nog niks over zeggen. Maar ik verwacht geen moeilijkheden, want het International Office in Budapest reageert vaak snel.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Het welkomsprogramma was een beetje onduidelijk, we hadden hier niet echt informatie over gekregen maar we hadden zelf op facebook gevonden dat er een openingsceremonie was van de hele universiteit. Hier zijn we heengegaan, en dat was heel leuk, met Hongaarse dans, een speech van de directeur van ELTE en andere sprekers. Verder was er nog een introductiedag van mijn eigen faculteit. Hier kregen we praktische info, leerden we alvast wat mensen kennen, en konden we vragen stellen. Ook ben ik met ESN meegegaan op een Welcome Weekend. Dit was erg gezellig, en heel goed om nieuwe vrienden te maken:) Zeker in het begin is het een aanrader om mee te gaan met activiteiten van ESN, zo leer je makkelijk en snel nieuwe mensen kennen.

accommodation

Via een Facebook groep heb ik een kamer gevonden. Achteraf had ik liever nog even doorgezocht, want ik betaalde veel te veel voor mijn huis, en ook was het huis nogal krakkemikkig, met een slecht bed, slechte wifi, en een kapotte douche. Mijn advies is dus om niet te snel een kamer aan te nemen, want vaak laten ze je veel te veel betalen, omdat ze weten dat Internationale studenten het huis toch wel nemen, omdat ze geen andere optie hebben. Ik zou het niet aanraden om naar Budapest te komen zonder dat je een kamer hebt. Een paar van mijn vrienden hebben dat gedaan, maar dat zorgde voor enorm veel stress. Uiteindelijk vind je natuurlijk wel iets, maar het is niet fijn om de eerste weken zo in onzekerheid te leven, want alles is al spannend genoeg.

leisure & culture

Vanuit ELTE zijn er verschillende sportgroepen waaraan je mee kan doen. Ik ben bij het Hongaarse handbalteam gegaan. Ik handbal al lang, en wilde dat graag in Budapest voortzetten. Gelukkig vond ik een handbalteam en werd ik geselecteerd voor het team om ook competitie te spelen. Dit vond ik echt super leuk! Zo leerde je ook een beetje lokale mensen kennen, want je zit toch wel een beetje in een Erasmus bubbel, met allemaal internationale vrienden om je heen. Ook vond ik het prettig dat de handbal mij een beetje structuur gaf in de week. Want je hebt opeens super veel vrije tijd. Daarnaast ging ik vaak met vrienden stappen, samen eten, tripjes maken of gewoon een avondje chillen!

suggestions/tips

Ga tripjes maken! Er zijn heel veel bestemming in Hongarije en rondom Hongarije die echt de moeite waard zijn om te bezoeken. Met de flibus kan je heel goedkoop overal naar toe. Geniet van je vrijheid, want de tijd vliegt voorbij!!! Voor je het weet zit je weer in je strakke regime in Nederland! En stress vooral niet te veel om school, want dat komt echt wel goed. Erasmus student hebben altijd



een streepje voor bij de docenten, dus die laten ze echt niet zakken. En als je vragen hebt over Budapest, het onderwijs of wat dan ook, mag je altijd contact met me opnemen:)

CONCLUSIONS

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

Ja, Budapest zou ik zeker aanraden als bestemming. Het is een prachtige stad, met een fantastisch uitgaansleven en mooie cultuur. Het leven is goedkoop en het is een centrale plek in Europa om andere steden te bezoeken! Als je op Erasmus gaat voor de kwaliteit van het onderwijs zou ik echter niet voor ELTE kiezen. De kwaliteit van het onderwijs is laag, en de universiteit is slecht georganiseerd.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Als je twijfelt om wel of niet op exchange te gaan, doe het!! Het is een fantastische ervaring die je nooit meer vergeet. Je leert ontzettend veel over jezelf, en kan even ontsnappen uit het drukke leventje in Nederland. Je moet op je eigen benen staan, en dat is super goed voor je zelfvertrouwen. Je hebt zoveel vrijheid als je op exchange bent. Een aanrader voor iedereen!!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	ELTE
start date	30 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was not that hard. You needed to write a motivational letter and financial plan and send you CV. After that they made a selection and I think it is not really hard to get a spot in Budapest (I think I was the only one who wanted to go there this semester).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office is great! They always respond very fast and really try to help.

academic preparation

I did not really prepare myself when talking about academic skills.

language preparation

They sent me an English test before the exchange which I have to make again afterwards. This is nice because you can see if you improved. I did not practice my English before leaving.

finances

Budapest is relatively cheap. Still I tried to save money because it would be at least five months without working. In the end it still costed a lot of money because of all the extra activities and travels.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose other courses than I planned, but it turned out fine. I followed courses on the Hungarian prison system (even got to visit one), problems in Hungarian society and post-socialism in Hungary. These topics were really nice because it helped me to get to know the country where I was studying better. All courses were especially organised for Erasmus students which was really nice.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that there was zero challenge in the courses I took. They were way too easy (in a sense that the education was such a low level and in a sense that they were so easy on us: no pressure at all).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The ELTE university did not really give good support. The Questura offices were closed on random days and moved from location to location.



transfer of credits

I haven't received the credits yet but it will probably be 25.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Budapest knows a great student life! There are tons of organisations like Erasmus Budapest, Erasmus Life Budapest, Erasmus Student Network which make it really easy to integrate into the life of Budapest and to find your Erasmus friends. Just follow them on Facebook and pay attention in the first weeks and you can join activities with them daily if you would want!

accommodation

I found my flat via Facebook. There are some groups (just like Kamer in Utrecht) which make that really easy. It was a bit scary because I had to transfer the owner of my flat 200 euro before even having a contract but that's just how it goes here. All the international student flats in Budapest are so similar (all Ikea stuff) and really great (even clean often).

leisure & culture

I did not really have a culture shock from Hungary, only from my roommates and friends. Everyone has such different ways of eating, partying, sleeping rhythms, everything! But it was great to get to know everything about Northern Finland for example, where they only icefish, hike and all have reindeers for example.

suggestions/tips

Buy a monthly student transport ticket, you can only use the semester one because it's a small paper thing. The number of your student card you put on there has to be shown like a real student card if they check, so online student cards like the one of UU doesn't count! Go to the Morrisons every Monday night and explore at least the Instant, Szimpla, Kuplung, Lampas, Corvin Club, Hello Baby Bar. Go on trips with the Erasmus organisations! And take the Flixbus to all surrounding countries (which are a lot!!)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend Budapest to anyone who wants to have a great Erasmus experience in Europe! It looks like Budapest is made for Erasmus students (everything is organised to well, at least the parties and activities) and you have the opportunity to travel to so many countries by only a few euro and the Flixbus!

do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	11-09-17
end date	02-02-18

PREPARATION

exchange application process

First it was very important to look at all the universities and their pro's and con's. For me, it was important to go somewhere where are minorities such as Roma, because I learned about them and find it very interesting. My finances were also important, so I made a top three with this in mind. My motivation letter was very important to me, because I really wanted to go to Budapest for my further studies about Roma. I spent a lot of attention to this letter and fortunately it worked out well. The application itself was not that difficult, because it was explained in the meetings very good.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As I said, you know what you have to do because of the clear powerpoints and presentations from STIP. If you needed a signature or help, you could send an email and the same day you got an answer.

academic preparation

I did not need special preparation, what I already did was enough.

language preparation

The universities subjects were given in English so no further preparation needed.

finances

It was good to make an financial overview, I could see if I needed to borrow more money from DUO etc. But I had some savings and I knew Budapest is not expensive so I did not have to worry about that.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had 7 courses, two about the EU, two about anthropology, one about Roma, one about child psychology and one about contemporary problems in Hungary. It was very interesting because I only could do the Roma and Hungarian subjects in Hungary. So it was very new and different.

The study programme was not that clear as in Utrecht, a lot of people had problems with signing up for subjects and the first weeks were chaos. You had to try to go to a person who can help you, but that was not simple. You were sent from one to another person. After puzzeling and try to go to the right person who can help you it was clear and everyone manage to sign up for their subjects of choice. It is different than you are used to, but you learn a lot of manage such things on your own.



academic quality of education activities
The quality differs a lot for every subject, and it depends on the teacher and his/her way of testing. But overall I learned a lot that I could not learn in Utrecht, because it is from another perspective, from another country and other subjects. The teachers were good in speaking English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The receiving university was very willing to help, but it was more chaotic and sometimes you did not know to who you have to go. So there was good will to help, but not always a clear way. In the end it always went well.
transfer of credits
For this subjects you get a little less credits than in Utrecht, six subjects gets 5 cts, and for one 2 cts. I think it is fair because it took a little less effort than the Utrecht University subjects, but I learned also a lot.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	We had an orientation day for the faculty, they helped us with practical matters such as login on the neptun system (same as blackboard), but they also organized some relaxing activities to get to know each other and the university, an Hungarian market and Hungarian language course. It was really fun to meet people there.
accommodation	I was in a flat with 11 other erasmus students. I got the landlord's information from the erasmus facebook page by Utrecht University, so that was useful.
leisure & culture	I spent a lot of time to explore the city as a real tourist in the beginning. We also explored the nightlife with all the flatmates. The culture is not that different as the Dutch, but there is more poverty so more beggars etc. Also the Hungarian people have more radical opinions on the area of refugees, Jews, Roma and other minorities. I think that is partly the case because they are not as rich as the Dutch people on average. The food was good, especially the Goulash. The buildings in Budapest are really impressive and beautiful, and the people seem a little sullen in the beginning, but if you try to get to know them better, they are very friendly and helpful.
suggestions/tips	Ask people who have been to Budapest how they got a room, and go to the city a week before school starts, so you can explore the city and culture in advance.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I highly recommend this destination, because it is really beautiful, many things to visit, experience and see. Also it is a great city for students to study because of the many study libraries and coffee houses. Also there are many pubs and clubs where you can meet and party with all your (erasmus) friends. Although I didn't expect this, the city was very clean and I felt safe. I also would recommend the university, the people were very willing to help and make you feel at home due to activities. Also the subjects are not that difficult as in The Netherlands, but it is not true that you don't learn the same. That is because you have to arrange things in English while it is not that clear and structured as at UU. Also you learn about subject who are not available at UU. So I learned a lot, in a way I could never have done at UU.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Science
destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University
start date	04 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a little bit more than I thought it was going to be, so if you don't want to stress you should start in time!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I had a lot of contact with the International Office FSW, they helped me a lot with preparing my documents. They have a walk-in hour which is really useful.

academic preparation

My classes in Budapest were going to be entirely in English, and since my English is already at quite a high level I didn't have to do any academic preparation.

language preparation

This was also the case with language preparation. I figured I would learn the necessary Hungarian when I would get there.

finances

I made a very useful financial plan, what you also have to submit with your other application forms. I had some money saved, got some support from my family and of course the Erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses that I followed in the end were a little bit different from the ones I chose before coming to Budapest. This is not worrisome because I believe it happens at almost every Erasmus destination. The definition of Social Science in Budapest is also quite different than in Utrecht. It was more internationally orientated, with classes about the EU or even political thinking.

academic quality of education activities

The education in Budapest is not as challenging as it is in Utrecht. Also, the workload is less. But exams and essays are quite the same level as back in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Great! The people at the international office in Budapest were really nice, they reply to your email really quickly and they always want to help.

transfer of credits



Still awaiting these, but I've heard the transfer can leave you with a little bit less credits than you hoped you would get.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I had a welcome week with a few different events. It was nice to get to know some people. My orientation day for my faculty was only on Thursday, so I had a few days before to get to know the city. Also, other organisations that have no connection to the university organize a lot of fun and cool activities where you can go in your first weeks.

accommodation

I found my flat on Facebook, as a lot of other people I know. I just saw 2 guys wanting a 6-person flat, they already had contact with the owner and just had to fill the flat. We had a small conversation on Facebook chat, decided it was fine and when we found 6 people we contacted the landlord. I had a buddy assigned from the university who could check the flat for us, and when she said it was fine we transferred the deposit and could move in on the requested date. It could sound sketchy but that's the way a lot of people do it in Budapest, and we found no trouble at all. (Btw, my flat turned out to be so much fun so don't be scared to go live with some random people you don't know!).

leisure & culture

There is so much to do in Budapest, 5 months won't even be enough. You'll find there is something for everyone. I personally went to a lot of baths, almost twice a month, while my roommates were crazy about escape rooms (they're about a 100 in Budapest). So you definitely won't be bored, even when you've seen all the touristic stuff. Besides that, the party culture in Budapest is also insane. The techno scene is really big there, but if you try your best you can find a suited party for every music genre.

suggestions/tips

There's too much that I could list right now, it all depends on your taste. I really liked the Christmas markets through the whole city in December, I also went ice skating in the park. When the weather was still good definitely check out some rooftop bars, for example 360 bar. I also went to a cheap concert in Akvarium, so if you check those events maybe you'll find some cool concert as well. Also going out for breakfast or dinner is really cheap, and Budapest has a lot of cool spots where you can eat or drink, for example Cirkusz for breakfast and Mazel Tov for dinner.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely. Budapest has a lot of universities, so the city is full with Erasmus student. They are a lot of parties and activities for Erasmus students, which is so nice because you can meet everyone almost every week. The city itself is so diverse, and also so beautiful. You will never get bored. The university doesn't really ask too much of you: which is perfect because then you have a lot of time to go explore. The city has a lot of tourists as well which is nice in the weekend, because the city gets really full. You can meet new people every single day basically, but because of the Erasmus network you also see a lot of the same people. Budapest is honestly one of the most fun and cool destinations for your Erasmus (and not to mention, it's also really cheap).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Definitely go on some trips if you have the money or the time. Close destinations are Prague, Vienna, Krakow, or even Slovenia or Croatia. It's the best to go with your Erasmus friends for an unforgettable time. It's very easy to go everywhere with FlixBus, or even rent a car or van if you are with more people. Also flying can be very cheap to some destinations (for example Berlin). If you have the resources, do it!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	ASW (Interdisciplinary Social Sciences)

destination city & country	Budapest, Hungary
name university abroad	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)
start date	06 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process at first sight seems like a complicated process with lots of paperwork. Luckily, the UU gives a good overview containing all phases and steps in the application process on their website. Especially the timeline and instructions document helped well in keeping track on the documents I still had to deliver. The only thing which was a bit unclear, was whether or not I had to deliver a language certificate on my English skills. (eventually it appeared this wasn't necessary). Furthermore, it was sometimes hard to find (back) what I was searching for at the UU website, since there is so much information displayed on the study abroad pages.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office (IO) helped me well with all my questions, both face-to-face as well as via mail. For example, I had a complicated question related to the Erasmus grant, and the lady at the IO desk took all time to answer my question. Also, my mentor supported me well in how best to set up my 'vakkenvuller' (scheme with courses/internships through my university career), because at first I was unsure if an Erasmus exchange would fit in my planning.

academic preparation

Academic preparation was not necessary, ELTE University didn't require any special admission requirements for the courses I wanted to follow. I could even register for Master courses, while being in my Bachelor's. Although later on it turned out this was only possible for a few Master courses and if the teacher agreed.

language preparation

Since I would study in English at ELTE, no specific language certifications were required. I only had to fill in the OLS language test in order to qualify for an Erasmus grant.

finances

Since Hungary is part of group 3 of Erasmus grants, a country with lower living costs, I only received €150 per month. Unfortunately, this was not sufficient. Since a couple of years, living costs in Hungary has risen and don't differ that much from living costs in The Netherlands anymore. Luckily, I've calculated before my arrival how much living costs would be, and received financial support from my parents and a student loan in order to be able to pay my rent, groceries, travels and university costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



At first I wanted to register for six courses from the Master 'Ethnic and Minority Policy'. Before my arrival I sent an email to the International Office at ELTE to ask if this would be possible. They told me it would be fine, but after my arrival I had many problems registering for those courses. The digital registration system used was several times not operative, didn't show which courses were Master's or Bachelor's and I couldn't find the courses I wanted. I ended up with a list of totally different courses than planned. Still, most of them contained master courses and I asked the teachers if it was alright if I joined the class. Most of the teachers agreed or didn't even ask if there were any bachelor students in their master's class. Unfortunately, one teacher showed me the door because I was a bachelor student, which was really frustrating because the International Office couldn't help me. There were only 2 courses which were eventually related to the topic I wanted to study: the Roma minority in Hungary. Other courses I followed were about the Middle East, sociological challenges in Hungarian society, education of minorities in European countries and a Hungarian language course for Erasmus students. After all, it was interesting to learn about a new topic such as the Middle East, and I was at least able to study the Roma and minorities in general in Central- and East European countries.

academic quality of education activities

The level of education at ELTE was low compared to the UU. It was easy to get good grades: at the end of the semester I had an 'excellent' for every course. Most classes were interesting and provided all the information I needed for the tests, presentations and essays, although sometimes it was unclear how to prepare for a test. Course manuals (if they already provided one) are not as elaborate as the ones at UU. Teachers being late was not exceptional, and one time a teacher simply didn't show up. Furthermore, I noticed that many teachers had troubles with the digital system as well. They didn't know how to open registration forms for tests and how to upload PowerPoints and even more problematic: grades.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

ELTE didn't offer much help for the problems I experienced. When I was send out of a Master's class, they simply said it was up to the teacher whether to allow bachelor students or not. I had to ask every teacher if I could stay, which made me insecure because most courses were already full and the registration period was soon to expire. Eventually, the registration period was extended and the international office offered a list containing bachelor courses which were still accesible. Almost none of them caught my interest, but luckily I was eventually accepted for mostly Master courses and only had to pick one more course from this list (this course was about the Middle East). Still, it was very frustrating to first hear following master courses is possible, just to experience after arrival that most teachers don't approve.

transfer of credits

By the time of writing this I haven't got my credits transferred yet, since my original transcript of records haven't arrived yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation week organised by the university was not that exciting. First we listened to a speech from the major of Budapest, after which there was the possibility to visit an overcrowded and unorganised information market. The first day they also organised small trips to the student office, were every student had to pick up their 'student id' (read: an A4 with an ELTE stamp, in Hungarian) . I joined one of these trips and had to wait 2,5 hours in an overcrowded office to finally receive my id (which I had to renew every 2 months but they didn't tell me).

accommodation

Since I didn't want to sleep in a dormitory, I decided to look for a shared flat close to my university. It's not difficult to find a well priced flat in Budapest. There are many landlords actively searching for renters on Facebook. I payed €300 for an 18m2 flat at Ferenc Körút, close to my university and tram 4 and 6. It was a good location and I lived together with other internationals (50/50 full-time workers/students). Still, before finding



this flat I signed up for a dormitory as well, just in case I couldn't find a flat myself. Luckily I found a flat myself in time, otherwise it turned out I would have been placed in a dormitory quite far away from the university.

leisure & culture

Budapest is great when it comes to these two things. The nightlife with its ruin bars, cheap cocktails, many internationals and sometimes even free concerts is just awesome. Going home during midnight is no problem, since tram 6 is operating day and night. The Hungarian culture is interesting with its folkore dance shows, very tasty cuisine and the many thermal baths. The city itselfs host an incredible amount of beautiful 19th century monumental buildings, statues and bridges and the view over the Danube river (Donau) during the night is just breath-taking. In the winter semester you are able to visit the many beautiful Christmas markets.

suggestions/tips

If you want to taste the real Hungarian culture I would recommend to visit other places in Hungary as well, like Miskolc, Pécs and Eger. Budapest is such an internationally focused city, I wouldn't say it's representative of Hungary in general, where most people don't speak English that well and are more focused on their own culture and values instead of having an international focus. Furthermore, learn a bit of Hungarian. It's difficult but it's also fun and it's much appreciated by locals outside of Budapest when you now a few words. If you know a bit of German, you'll manage too.

I would also recommend to travel outside of Hungary: it's a country surrounded by 7 other countries, so there's enough choice and by bus or train it's quite cheap!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would not recommend to study abroad at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Eotvos Lorand University. It's a chaos for Erasmus students for several reasons I've explained above. I was not able to register for any of the master courses I wanted. Since I am a bachelor student, I asked the university before the application if I was allowed to register for master courses as well and they gave permission. They even signed my learning agreement which included only master courses. When signing up for the courses via the university's online registration system, it turned out these courses didn't exist or would be given in another semester. So I tried to register for other master courses, which took some time since Neptun crashed the first days or some courses were already full. When I attended one of my first classes, I was simply asked to leave the class because the teacher didn't accept bachelor students. As you can see, communication at this university is a problem which bothers a lot of students (not only the Erasmus ones). Also, I needed to request a student ID, which you can ask for at one of the two student offices. But everytime I went to these offices, it was overcrowded by students and people were waiting for 2 or even 3 hours. I don't know about other faculties at ELTE, but the organisational structure at the Faculty of Social Sciences is a chaos. Furthermore, the level of education was much lower than at UU. It was easy to obtain excellent grades without doing your best. Finally, it was very difficult to obtain my transcript of records in time. I had to wait for one grade for 2 months before they could send me the original document. I think this faculty need some more time to get their organisation and administration straight before admitting foreign students. Thus, I would not recommend this (part of) Eotvos Lorand University. However, Hungary is a great destination for Erasmus students, so I would definitely recommend to study here, but just not at ELTE.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would recommend to inform yourself well before applying for ELTE university. If you can handle the stress of registrating for courses and obtaining all necessary documents in time (transcript of records, certificate of attendance) you can reconsider, and hopefully in the upcoming years effort will be made in the educational and administrative development of the Faculty of Social Sciences.