



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2015-2016

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be made available (anonymously) to UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> @
faculty/college	Faculty of Geosciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Joint International Programme in Sustainable Development

destination city & country	Leipzig, Germany
name university abroad	Universität Leipzig
start date	01 / 10 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 03 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process was rather simple because I had already spent a mobility period at Leipzig University during the previous semester. I had to complete the usual Erasmus documents and let the University secretary know that I would be staying for another semester.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I was dissatisfied with the support from Utrecht University, especially from the academic coordinator of our programme. Many things were unclear regarding our programme and I did not really feel supported by Utrecht University. Given that the Joint Programme is only a small part within the much larger master's programme in SD at Utrecht, me and my fellow students often felt neglected when it came to academic counselling.
academic preparation	There was no real academic preparation for the mobility period.
language preparation	Not necessary, all courses were held in English.



finances

The costs for living in Leipzig are much lower than in Utrecht, which makes it much easier.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Unfortunately, the course which I found the most interesting was not offered during this semester (Ecosystem and Biodiversity Governance), which was a pity. For me personally, the remaining course offer was a bit too limited and economics-oriented. I really enjoyed the Sustainability Assessment of Energiewende course though, the teachers did a great job, the classes were interactive, we got to work in groups and choose our own topic. I would definitely recommend this one. Moreover, the Material Flow Management Course was interesting and luckily designed for people with a non-engineering background. I didn't enjoy the Project Management course because there was no real link to sustainability issues and the classes were far from interactive. In contrast, the conflict management course was very well-organised, interactive and even entertaining, the teacher did a very good job. Sadly, the core course of our study programme during the third semester, worth 15 ECTS and called the Integration Module, was really not what I had expected. We didn't really have the chance to choose from a range of different topics to make sure that everyone can work on something he/she is interested in. The offer of topics was rather limited and in the end many of us had to invest a lot of time and energy into a group work on a topic that didn't suit our personal profile and interests. but we were not only dissatisfied with the content of the Integration Module but also with the organisation and guidance on behalf of the teachers. It was quite a frustrating and disencouraging experience, but since it was a compulsory module of our programme there was no way to get around it.

academic quality of education activities

This differed from course to course, for me the Energiewende and Material Flow Management courses had the highest quality because of the teaching staff and the relevance for my study programme.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

We did not really receive academic counselling at Leipzig University, but the administrative staff has always been friendly and helpful.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was not a problem, but I strongly disagree with the way Utrecht University translates the grades from the German system to the Dutch grading system. I used to have excellent grades during my semester at Utrecht University, but now with the grades from Leipzig transferred to the Dutch system, my grade average was impacted very negatively.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I didn't attend any welcome or orientation programme because I was already familiar with the university and city.

accommodation

I continued in my shared student flat in which I had already lived during the previous semester.

leisure & culture

Leipzig has a lot to offer in terms of leisure and cultural events, there is always something going on and plenty of places to discover. It's definitely a city that is worth a visit, especially during summer.



suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Leipzig as a city to spend an exchange semester. My personal experiences with the University were rather mixed though because of the course offer and the quality and relevance of the courses for my study programme.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Students from Utrecht University should be informed beforehand that they will be required to pay tuition fees at both Utrecht and Leipzig University if they want to spend a mobility period in Leipzig. Also students should keep in mind that the semester schedule in Germany differs from the one in the Netherlands.

Save this UU report for your own records and send it as attachment to verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!