



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 | Geowetenschappen |
| level | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD |
| name study programme | Sociale geografie en planologie |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| destination city & country | Manchester, United Kingdom |
| name university abroad | University of Manchester |
| start date | 21 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy) |
| end date | 31 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy) |

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

| PREPARATION | |
|---|--|
| exchange application process | I could find all the information to apply for an exchange semester online. Nevertheless, it sometimes was hard to find the documents I needed. I especially found it hard to get the right signatures. The University of Manchester was not that fast in replying. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | I could always send an e-mail to the international office. They often replied within a few hours and it was useful for me. |
| academic preparation | There were no additional requirements for the courses I wanted to take part in. I just needed to pass my courses at Utrecht University in order to go abroad. |
| language preparation | I expected my knowledge of English to be sufficient. Therefore, I did not attend any language courses beforehand. |
| finances | |



I chose a destination within Europe, so I could apply for an Erasmus scholarship. I also knew about the overreiskostenvergoeding. Finding out what the accommodation costs abroad would be was not that hard. I could easily find what the costs of living in a hall were. Finding out what the living expenses would be was a little harder, I just made a assumption. I tried to save money in advance and I had a job to earn some more.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Eventually, I took part in four courses. Most of the courses I initially wanted to take part in back home, turned out to be masters level courses. A second-year course, UK Planning, would take place in the second semester instead of the first. Therefore, I basically had to choose completely different courses. I did, but the timetables clashed, so I had to change courses again. I took part in International Planning & Framework, Environmental Impact Assessment, Cities & Climate Change and Pollution. I was satisfied with them. In the first week, I could not see my personal timetable at all, so I had to send e-mails to the teachers when and where the lectures would take place.

academic quality of education activities

I considered the quality of the lectures and seminars high. During the seminars of Environmental Impact Assessment, we were working together in groups. We discussed the issues mentioned in the lectures and it worked well for me. We did a fieldtrip in Manchester with the Cities & Climate Change course, which was also meaningful.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

My Erasmus coordinator was very welcoming. We could always send him a mail or come by at his office. He told us it was the first time in years to receive Erasmus students at their department. He had to find out how to enroll us in classes himself, but managed to do so.

transfer of credits

I do not have any experience with the transfer of credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Welcome Week was an event for freshers and international students. I did not take part in most of the events, since I was searching for accommodation. The events were mainly about finding your way on campus and to join societies. You could watch movies and go to parties.

accommodation

The University of Manchester does not guarantee a room for Erasmus exchange students who will be in Manchester for only one semester. Letting agents rather let their properties for the full year too. When I arrived in Manchester, I thought it would be like in the Netherlands. In reality, it was very hard to find accommodation. I stayed in a hostel for three weeks trying to find accommodation. We would have viewings every single day. My friend even had viewings in 20 different properties. I would recommend to search for accommodation before arrival.

leisure & culture

Manchester is a great city when it comes to culture. Entrance is free in every museum. There is a vivid music scene, you can watch live bands on a regular basis. You can also join one of the sports societies. There is an aquatics centre and the gym is not that expensive. Manchester is not really a city for sight seeing, but it is a great starting point. You can visit Liverpool (one hour away), plan a trip to the Lake District or the Peak District.



Edinburgh and London are reachable by train, you will be there within a few hours.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university to others. Manchester is the perfect city for students. There are three universities in Manchester, so there are many students around. They live in certain neighbourhoods with plenty student bars. The students union has a multitude of societies, so you will not get bored easily. There is a photography society, cheese and wine society, hiking society, sports societies.. Basically any society you can think of, exists. The level of lectures is high and the courses I took part in definitely contribute to my CV.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My opinion is that the university does not really recognise certain needs Erasmus exchange students have. Erasmus students who study in Manchester for only one semester cannot get residence in a hall. Student rooms in town are also let for the full year, not just for one semester. It can really be hard to find accommodation. This can cause some problems. There is not really such a thing as a society for Erasmus students with events and trips, there only is an international society. I would have expected to really be part of an Erasmus exchange group.

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!