



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Every UU student going abroad is expected to submit a report, as stated in the conditions of the UU Study Abroad Contract. Please send it as an e-mail attachment to verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl. Please state your destination country (e.g. *Costa Rica*) as subject. The deadline to return this report is **July 1, 2016**, even if you are still abroad at that time!

Your report will be made available to UU students preparing an exchange, placement or research period abroad. We will take out your name and student number. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Thank you in advance!

Text boxes will expand automatically while typing. Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

Family name:	
First name:	
Student number:	
Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Human Geography and Planning

Destination city & country	Rome, Italy
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Università degli studi Roma Tre
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/02/2016

You are requested to write on the following topics.

Text boxes will expand automatically while typing.

Preparation
Exchange/placement application process:
Fairly easy, because I just followed the process which was clearly explained by the International Office in Utrecht. Afterwards I got an email from Roma Tre saying that I was excepted and had to fill in some Learning Agreement from their University. They also gave me a name an email address from the Erasmus Coordinator at the science department to help me to choose my courses.
Counselling/support at home university:
The international office in Utrecht were very understanding when I had problems with communication with Roma Tre. They responded to my emails very fast and they try to help you and as much as they can.
Academic preparation:
No need for academic preparation



Language preparation:

Before going to Roma Tre I did a language course at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia. It was a 3 week intensive summer course for Erasmus students who are going to study at Universities all over Italy. It was very intense, the quality was good so it was very helpful. And another plus for me is that because of the friends I made there I had the possibility to travel cheaply during the semester to places where my friends were studying and vice versa.

Finances:

Rome is an expensive city to live in but I already had enough savings. I applied for the Erasmus Scholarship which gives you 270 euros a month for fulltime studying.

Study/placement abroad period

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

Before coming to Rome I had looked up on their website some Italian courses which seemed interesting to me to follow. But as I got there I didn't feel comfortable with my Italian and decided to change some of my courses into English (which are unfortunately very rare). In the first weeks you can change courses as much as you like because there is no need to subscribe to them (only for exams in January-February). So I made some changes in my Learning Agreement.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Academic environment is very different in Italy. The courses I took consisted only of lectures and a lot of reading material. In the end I got an oral exam where you are expected to know a lot of facts and for another course I had to write an essay. There are no placement activities for a course. It's your job to know everything what is expected for the exam.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Italy is famous for its disorganization. Of course that wasn't very different in my experience.

The international office at Roma Tre doesn't answer your emails very often and calling will lead to an invitation to the office. The office is only 2 days per week for a few hours open. So if you have a question prepare for a lot of waiting because during opening hours there will be queue from here to Tokyo. Above all, often they don't know answers to your questions. I also had quite a few problems with my Erasmus Coordinator from my faculty. So you need to have a lot of patience in this country, but eventually you'll get there.

Transfer of credits:

In Italian Universities work with a grading system from 1-30 (and lode). Roma Tre has an online "portale dello studente". After you've registered and taken the exam your result will appear there. It depends on UU how they transfer these grades/credits into the Dutch system.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The welcome programme of the University itself wasn't so great. It was a lecture which started off in Italian and when asked to repeat essential information in English it was extremely difficult. Afterwards the ESN Roma Tre organisation took over and they explained that they have an introduction week with lots of activities. They also have a Buddy-programme which connects you to a ESN member and this person will help you with all your questions.

Accommodation:

Roma Tre has a student accommodation service for Erasmus students called CTS which helps you to find a private accommodation. When I saw the prices and the state rooms where in I decided to find an accommodation on my own. I looked on websites like easystanza.it, bakeca.it, subito.it and facebook to finally find my room close to the Piramide Station.

Leisure/culture:

No need to be bored in Rome. The Erasmus organisations organise daily activities, nights out and trips. Trastevere is a really nice area for day and night to be outside and chat around fountains and piazza's. There are of course a lot of museums, parks, shops, beautiful neighbourhoods and hidden places. Also a tip: Every last Sunday of the month the state museums are for free! Vatican museums on the last Sunday of the month.

Suggestions/tips:

Join the ESN Roma Tre network! Specially in the first weeks it's perfect to get to know people.

Conclusions



Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes, Rome is overall a wonderful city to live in. It's quite chaotic but definitely never boring. ESN is very active, there are a lot of activities organised. And the academic level is not something to worry about. So do not let bureaucracy stop you from studying in Italy.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
If you want to go to Rome and especially to this University, I recommend you to get in touch with someone (I'd be happy to help) who knows how it works in this city to get some advice beforehand. Once in Rome, if things are unclear the ESN office is the place to go. Enjoy living in the eternal city!

Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

exchange@qdesk.uu.nl (information) / verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl (report)

www.uu.nl/students/exchange