

2015-2016

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	German language and culture

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I heard about the exchange application during the information event of the international office. There I was told what I had to hand in. What I thought was difficult, was to already choose courses. That was, because I had to choose from courses of the year before I went to Cologne. The courses would change thereafter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I think the support at the Utrecht University was bad. I had problems with my bachelor's thesis and the international office wasn't cooperative at all. For me, it turned out to be a problem in Cologne, because I had to do a lot of work on top of what I had to do in Cologne.
academic preparation	I didn't have preparation on what was expected of me in Germany. However, I could do this preparation in Germany itself before.
language preparation	I studied German language and culture before, so for me that wasn't a problem and I could go to Germany very easily.
finances	I had two grants. The Erasmus grant and a German one. In this way, it was possible to pay for the expensive rooms in Cologne and for the excursions and studies I did there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did courses on linguistics and German language. I also did a course on speech therapy, a study we don't have in the Netherlands. That was a big opportunity for me, because I could do something I wouldn't be able to do here. As I said, for me it was a problem my bachelor's thesis extended. I wasn't allowed to bring it into my Erasmus transcript, so that I had to get all the ECTS beside my thesis. That was a lot of work...
academic quality of education activities	The level/kind of education was a lot different than in the Netherlands. Most of the courses I did were either seminars or lectures, but not a combination of that. That does change the academic quality, because you become less different information on one subject than here (only hearing or practising, but not both).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	At my receiving university, they tried to help me a lot. They offered courses to learn about the teaching system and the different kinds of tests. Also, the teachers were very helpful and willing to cooperate, if I had to do something different than the German students, because of my Erasmus.
transfer of credits	

I don't know about this yet, because I don't have my transcript of records yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

They had an information event at the start. I also got a buddy, who helped me the first weeks to find places and to explain, how the system worked. She was really nice and so it also was a good way to learn about Cologne and not only about the university.

accommodation

I did find a room by myself, because the university hasn't enough rooms. It is difficult to find a room in Cologne, but not impossible. It is expensive, though and the chance of living near the university is small.

leisure & culture

In Cologne, they had ESN. That was amazing! I meet a lot of people and made really good friends, with whom I still talk. :)

suggestions/tips

If there is ESN, go and meet them! They will help you a lot and you have lots of fun. They also organize trips to different cities in the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, of course I would. I had such a lot of fun and that was primarily because of the people there. They are so welcoming and open and you can ask them anything. They will always help you. The atmosphere is very very nice!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just do a semester (or even better: two, when you have the chance) abroad! It will not only be good for your study, but also for your personal development.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Duitse Taal en Cultuur

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Before the application process, I knew there were only 2 places for the Uni zu Köln. That's why my application was very important, because I really wanted Cologne to become the place to study abroad.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I think the counselling and support was good in the way that the International Office responded very quickly and they helped very well. The only thing I think could be better, is that they could have had more specific information about the universities, such as the dates of the semester or the way we had to chose our courses in Germany.

academic preparation
I didn't have much of an academic preparation, because I was going to attend courses that fitted in my study programma of Duitse taal en cultuur in Utrecht. That's why I was already academically prepared for my stay abroad.
language preparation
I already studies German, so I didn't have to prepare my language for my study abroad. Before I left the Netherlands, my level of German was C2, so that was sufficient for my stay in Germany.
finances
I applied for the Erasmus Grand, and also got these months abroad my Stufi. Also, I registrated that I didn't use my public transport card in the Netherlands, for which I got compensation. Finally, I applied for a job in Cologne so I could also earn money during my stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organisation of the study programmes was very chaotic. At the first place, there were many more students that wanted to attend the course than was allowed, so many students couldn't participate. Also, there were many students from many different studies, and for these different studies, different examinations and different credit points were required. This was not well organized and handled arbitrarily. The content was good, literature was chosen very well, but they went a bit slower than in Utrecht.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality varied very much. There were courses in which there was no good teacher and courses where the academic quality of the teacher was very good. The literature we had to read was also of good academic quality. Mostly, I had to read academic papers.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support was good. It could have been a bit better organized, but it was okay. The only thing which was difficult, was that the opening hours were a bit short. Tuesday till Thursday from 11:00 to 13:00. When you have courses at that time or other obligations, it's impossible to go to the International Office.
transfer of credits
The transfer of credits was a bit arbitrary . As said, some students needed other credit point than others. The teacher then thought of something for that student to do in exchange for these points. It was not well written down what people must do for their credit points. The transfer of credit points was not always very fair. Writing an exam was much work for 6 CP and giving a presentation was approximately 4 hours of work and was rewarded with 3 or 4 CP.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome & orientation programma was not so well organized. The tour around the campus was cancelled for example and a replacing tour was promised, but this never happened. Also, the information given at the welcome days, were given a little too late, because a lot of things weren't open for changing any more.
accommodation
I lived in a apartment with two other, German, roommates. I lived a bit outside the city, but with near public transport. The accomodation was not facilitated by the university.

leisure & culture
I have been to classical concerts and participated in a church choir. Furtheron, I did some shopping in the city centre.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend a quiet accommodation, because it's a lot to take in and I really needed my rest to handle everything.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I wouldn't particularly recommend this university to others, because the university is not very well organized and the classes either. However, I still learned a lot from the classes. I still would say that Utrecht University is a better place to stay than to travel to the Universität zu Köln.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2014-2015

Report 1

faculty/college	Faculty of Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	German language and culture

PREPARATION
exchange application process
You must be aware of all the deadlines and all the documents that need to be filled in. Otherwise the application process is quite simple.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Helpful for the more basic questions, but for most questionions you really need to get in touch with the receiving university yourself
academic preparation
Not to complicated, I just had to check the requirments for my studyprogramme in Utrecht.
language preparation
Not applicable , because of my study programma
finances
Needed to make some extra savings, next to the Erasmusgrant. I knew on forehand that Cologne is one of the most expensive German cities to study, so that was not unexpected.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Study Programme is much profounder here in Cologne, but luckily the teachers are very supportive and they

think with you.
academic quality of education activities
Perfect, broader topics and more focus on newer fields of study like computergames.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support of the International Office in Cologne has been great. Budy-programme did not live up to my expectations, I had to make contact with her myself and in the end I had to arrange everything myself because the budy never had time to help me.
transfer of credits
Will hopfully work out fine at the end of july.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I felt very welcome and everything was clear. Programme unfortunattley overlapped with the courses on many occasions
accommodation
Was difficult in Cologne. I had to search for a room myself, because the university had not enough rooms
leisure & culture
You can sign up to many (sport)clubs , also via the university. The amount and the quality of culture that Cologne has to offer ist astonishing.
suggestions/tips
Make sure you have enough time for the fun things abroad. I had to write my Bachelor Thesis whilst beeing abroad, so that was not ideal.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would certainly recommend going abroad and Cologne is a great destination. It's not that far away but still living there has been a great experencie. Most of the people I've met, have been very friendly and supportive.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The bureaucracy for getting the Erasmusgrant is typical and sometimes frustrating.

2012-2013

Report 1

preparation
exchange/placement application process
I read the information of my home university and suscribed myself on time. After that, I had to fill in a form from my host university.

counselling/support at home university
I didn't directly need a lot of support from the home university, as most of my colleague students went abroad as well. Therefore we all knew a little bit, which most of the time answered our questions. The only time I needed to ask my home university was to check my amount of credits abroad.
academic preparation
None
language preparation
Since I'm studying the foreign language of the country in which I did my erasmus-period, I didn't do any additional language preparation.
finances
I saved a lot of money to be able to do an exchange. I tried to indicate how much I would need by overthinking the costs very carefully.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
International Office there was very helpful. Especially because in Cologne, the uni uses a programm online to subscribe for the courses which is rather difficult to understand. It took my quite some time at home just to figure out how to do so and what my options were.
academic quality of education/placement activities
It is good: the students are very critical and teachers allow us to have discussions about the topics.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
As said before, they were very helpfull and always had a solution to my problems very quickly.
transfer of credits
Haven't done that yet, because it isn't possible yet.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
Was good, though I missed a good introduction to the city itself.
accommodation
It took me a lot of afford to get accommodation (it wasn't funny anymore), but in the end I had a beautiful room in a great part of the city. I couldn't have done that by myself, though. I really needed the help of a teacher in Utrecht (she called them several times before something happened).
leisure/culture
I think that in Germany there are more beautiful cities (as in: city center) than Cologne. But, the atmosphere here is great, the people are really friendly and the city has a lot of trees and parks, so you won't feel trapped in the city. Further, there is so much to tell about leisure and the culture: you could be doing something diffent every

evening!
suggestions/tips
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conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Though I really loved my time in Cologne, I don't know if I would directly recommend it to others. Biggest reason of all maybe is, that it isn't such a lively and exciting city as, for example, Berlin. It really depends on what you are looking for in a city. As far as the uni goes, I would recommend it, because there is a really wide range of courses you can choose from and if you choose wisely, you won't have to sit on any stairs at all. I even had small groups (40 persons maximum), which I liked a lot.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The cologne university could have been more communicative during the period of preparation. Also I have so many email-addresses (as well as for the UU as for the uni of cologne), that I don't know anymore who is responsible for what or who could answer my question the best. Increasing the amount of emailaddresses and communicating more clearly who you should ask for which problem would be very helpful.