

2016-2017**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Mainz, Germany
name university abroad	Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
start date	04 / 10 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was particularly straightforward for JGU Mainz because this university does not require Erasmus students to provide proof of linguistic competency. I received a letter of acceptance quite quickly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	My director of studies (Prof. Kügle) and the regional coordinator (Monique Hanrath) were both extremely helpful in supporting my application.
academic preparation	
	I read some recommended literature in preparation for my research project.
language preparation	
	The online resources provided by the Erasmus programme was quite useful. I also used a self-study book. It would have been better if I could have attended a summer course but I was unable to find a suitable (and affordable) course. I attended a Babel course in Utrecht last year.
finances	
	The Erasmus stipendium of €210 per month was helpful. It's a lot cheaper to live in Mainz than in Utrecht.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The courses offered were very interesting and useful. The registration process was reasonably quick.
academic quality of education activities	
	Good
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Good

Germany – Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

transfer of credits

Not yet known. The administrators at Mainz are very slow at responding to emails.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There were lots of forms to fill in but this was completed during the information days well in advance of the beginning of classes so this was fine.
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accommodation

Cheap (€300-€450) and convenient since international students receive free transport in Germany - unlike in the Netherlands!
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leisure & culture

There's plenty to do in Mainz!

suggestions/tips

Go to the Erasmus parties.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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The German system appears more relaxed than the Dutch. In Utrecht I was required to complete weekly assignments and my lecturers were constantly checking on my progress. There was no such pressure in Mainz as assignments were rarely set. This is good for students who are self-motivated and can pursue their academic interests independently without the close guidance of mentors. The disadvantage is that it is all too easy to slacken one's workrate when feedback is not forthcoming.

do you have any additional advice or comments?
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Mainz is good for students who want more free time to pursue their research interests than they are able to find in Utrecht. Maintaining a steady workrate is more difficult as the lecturers don't seem to push students.
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