

2019-2020

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

destination city & country	Salzburg, Austria
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	University of Salzburg
start date	16 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I applied to study at the University of Salzburg. After some time I heard that I was admitted for the semester. The process was quite easy.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	To my knowledge, there were no other students from my study programme who ever went to this university, so I did not know exactly what to expect. My counselor at the International Office in Utrecht, however, was very involved with the process.
academic preparation	I did not do any specific academic preparation before leaving. I had, of course, taken some courses on the German language, but those were part of my study programme anyway.
language preparation	Again, no specific preparation before leaving. Do keep in mind that the Austrian accent is quite different from "Hochdeutsch". This can cause trouble in communication with local students. However, when they notice you are foreign they often try to aid you by adjusting their speech. Also, there is an option to follow a German language course during the orientation week in Salzburg.
finances	I applied for an Erasmus+ Grant and received compensation for public transport in Austria.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took courses in German, Linguistics and History. Most of these were taught in German, but there are also courses that are taught in English, in case you don't master German. Because of some organisational issues with registration of foreign students at the university, I did have to contact the teachers of courses I wanted to take directly if they could reserve me a spot in their classes, but this was not a big issue. Most teachers were enthusiastic about having a foreign student in their classes.

academic quality of education activities
The structure of classes are very different from Utrecht. The courses take a whole semester to complete, and you often only have one class a week per course. The level that is expected of you academically does not differ much from Utrecht in my experience, but instead of writing several papers, you often have to write only one larger paper.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office is very involved with incoming students from abroad. They have an elaborate orientation week in which you get to know the city and the university. You can reach them easily via email.
transfer of credits
The process of transferring credits is very well explained by the University of Salzburg. At the beginning of term, incoming students receive a booklet with instructions on all these kinds of practical matters.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme lasts two weeks. They planned a lot of activities which helped to get to know Salzburg and your fellow exchange students.
accommodation
It wasn't hard to find accommodation. The university itself does not own any dormitories, but they do provide tips where to find accommodation in Salzburg on their website. In comparison with The Netherlands, I found the rent to be quite low.
leisure & culture
The city of Salzburg is small (especially in comparison with Vienna, or even with Utrecht), but there is a lot of tourism going on in the area, so there are many things for you to undertake in the surroundings of Salzburg. The public transport system allows for easy travelling to various locations. You can also take a train to Vienna on weekends (the train takes about three hours).
suggestions/tips
I loved visiting Vienna. Also, the nature surrounding the Salzburg is very beautiful for walks.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would. I did not know anything about the university beforehand, but the International Office is very well organised and they try their best to make you feel at home in Salzburg. The classes I took were also very interesting.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The biggest thing to consider, I think, when making the choice to go to Austria, is the accent. I study German Language and Culture and I often had a hard time understanding locals who did not immediately know I wasn't from Austria. Also, there are many (many!) public holidays on which shops and universities are closed. This is not so much the case in The Netherlands. But still, a great city.

2016-2017

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Salzburg, Austria
name university abroad	Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg
start date	14 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 03 / 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 exchange application process wasn't that hard. I had to fill in some forms for the University of Salzburg (and of course the Erasmus ones) but it was quite easy.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I didn't need much support from Utrecht University, but whenever I emailed the international office, I got a reply quite soon and they were always willing to help.
academic preparation	Since I did a research project in Salzburg with a professor there, I had to catch up on some reading about the research theme, but it wasn't much at all!
language preparation	My German was already quite good, so I did not need any language courses while I was still in Utrecht. However, when I arrived in Salzburg, I took part in a language course in the two weeks before the semester started.
finances	Salzburg is somewhat more expensive than Utrecht. My room cost around 400 euros, but there are also cheaper rooms in Salzburg! The one thing that is really much more expensive than the Netherlands, is going to the super market (especially fruits and vegetables). However, since I got an Erasmus grant, there was no real problem with that.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did a 15 ECTS research project with a professor, comprising a lot of archive work. The legacy of the composer Fred Raymond (1900-1954) had just arrived at the university's archive, and I was asked to sort it out, and write about it. I even had to make a small exhibition in the library with the most interesting documents and photos from the archive, which was much fun. Furthermore, I did some courses, one on Gustav Mahler, one on Music theatre in the Third Reich, one on

music and migration, and a German language course. They were all interesting and slightly less stressy than in the Netherlands.
academic quality of education activities
<p>The quality of the courses and the reserch project was quite good. It was really a new experience to have a course that was 3 days in a row (Thursday-Saturday) in just one single week (but just that one week). I learned a lot in the archive. The language course (C1, the highest level possible this semester) was much too easy, but I just did it for fun because the exam committee (examencommissie) in Utrecht told me I could not use those ECTS in my study programme anyway. I really liked the Mahler course taught by prof. Lindmayr-Brandl, she is amazing, and prof. Grosch is also very nice.</p> <p>I do have the idea that the students get a bit more time to do their homework and write their papers than in Holland, so it was less stressy than the RMA in Utrecht! (That does however not mean that you have to do less in total, the paper I wrote for a 8 ECTS class was more than 10.000 words!)</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>The international office of salzburg is really committed and well organised. During the welcoming week, international students get loads of information and booklets about all the things you need to know. After the orientation week I virtually never needed the international office anymore, because I already had all the information I needed. They also sometimes send email to all the Erasmus students with general info about for example the transcript of records.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>Quite easy! After you succesfully completed all the courses, you can print it out from plus-online (the salzburgian Osiris) yourself. My research project wasn't in PLUS however, so that was a bit more difficult, but the teacher was very helpful!</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>The welcome week was really good and fun. Lots of information, but also nice trips around the city and to the castle. We were welcomed by the mayor in the Mirabell palace and on some days we got lunch, super fancy. There are also erasmus pub visits every month or so, but I never went there.</p>
accommodation	<p>The university of Salzburg does not offer student rooms, you have to find it yourself. However, the OEAD is a student housing corporation and I got a room from them very easily (but they don't have that many rooms, so you have to be quick!). The room is nice and the kitchen and bathroom are used by only one other international girl! The room is 400 euros, but you can also find cheaper rooms. However, it is not uncommon to have actual roommates (in the sense that there are 2 beds in one room) in Salzburg, if you don't like that, mind what you sign up for!</p>
leisure & culture	<p>Salzburg is amazing for walks in the mountains! It is a really pretty city. However, it is quite small, so sightseeing inside the city is done in 1 or 2 days. Having dinner somewhere is always nice. There are a few Irish pubs for the students, but that is all regarding nightlife. I you really like going out, you should probably not come to salzburg. Be also reminded that it is still allowed to smoke inside bars and cafes in Salzburg, that's the reason I normally don't go there. However, if you are not really into going out that much, and if you like having a coffee or lunch/dinner in the city, long walks in the mountains, snow, nice buildings and a lot of cheap concerts (classical of course), Salzburg is the right address.</p>
suggestions/tips	

All my courses were taught in German, so speaking German is pretty handy if you want to study musicology. Other studies are sometimes also taught in English, but musicology is only in German.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely. The university is really good, has nice teachers and a nice atmosphere. Salzburg itself is extremely beautiful. The only thing that is less good, is that Erasmus students normally cling together enormously, so that it is hard to get to know real austrian people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go sing in a choir! Obviously, Salzburg being the Mozart city, there are a lot of choirs. I myself sang with Klangscala, which was a really nice, higher level choir and an amazing experience - our concert was in the Haus für Mozart!