

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	Duitse taal en cultuur

destination city & country	Vienna, Austria
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Universität Wien
start date	25 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The exchange application process is very bureaucratic, but the information on the site of the uu is very helpful and conveniently arranged. Make sure you note all the important deadlines and have all the required documents that makes the process much easier.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counseling support ist good. And in general you will get quick responses to your emails. The International office in Utrecht is willing to help you and answer your questions.
academic preparation	
language preparation	Language preparation is offered, but not needed in my case as a study german language and culture. If your level of language isn't that high I would recommend to do a language course. It makes everything much easier when you speak the language and can make yourself clear to your professors.
finances	It is easy to gain a clear view of the possibilities for grants. Make sure again that you note all the important deadlines and collect the documents needed for the grant application. Be aware of the amount of ECTS you need to gain in order to fulfill all requirements.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programm is organised well, although one has to know how to choose courses. You will get clear informations about this from the international office. You can choose between seminars and lectures. You will round the lectures of with an exam and the seminars mostly with a presentation and an essay. You will need approximately 8 courses to fulfill the 30 ECTS agreement for you grant.

academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education activities is high. The professors teaching the courses are professional and willing to help erasmus students. There is a wide range of courses on different topics.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International office in Vienna is very organised. You will get updates and informations about deadlines in time and they are very helpful. You will be assigned to a counselor who will help you during your stay.
transfer of credits
Credits are in ECTS the same system the UU uses. Lectures and seminars are worth 4 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The international office and Erasmus Network will organize a lot of events for students. It is a nice and easy way to get to know more people. Some Events are free and for some events you need to pay a small amount of money. You will have to attend a meeting in the beginning of your stay. It is important to attend this meeting as you will hear about all the important details of the university and living in Vienna.
accommodation
I was housed in a dorm for a lot of students (STUWO). It is clean, safe and you will have your own place. The people in this dorm were not very communicative. I would advise to have a look at WG-Gesucht before you apply for a stay in a STUWO dorm.
leisure & culture
The culture is not that different from the Dutch culture, so I did not have the typical culture shock.
suggestions/tips
Go to the Erasmus events. They are fun and an easy way to meet new friends.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend this university and destination to others. The academic level is high and you will be in a different environment.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2018-2019

Report 1

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i> my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: romy.do@hotmail.com
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Kunstgeschiedenis

destination city & country	Wenen, Oostenrijk
name university abroad	Universtität Wien
start date	01 / 10 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Op de website van de Universiteit Utrecht vond ik een lijst met universiteiten in het buitenland. Ik heb deze lijst goed doorgekeken en ik besloot dat ik graag naar de Universität Wien wilde. Dan schrijf je een motivatiebrief, kijk je welke vakken je wilt gaan doen (dit was wel even lastig te vinden, maar de International Office van de Universiteit Utrecht en de Universität Wien hebben al mijn vragen zorgvuldig en duidelijk beantwoord) en vul je een document in over je verwachte uitgaven. Je moet in het begin een hoop uitzoeken en vragen, maar uiteindelijk is het allemaal niet zo moeilijk als het soms lijkt.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	De voorlichtingen voordat je aan je stay abroad begint zijn heel behulpzaam en er wordt op een overzichtelijke manier gepresenteerd welke stappen je moet zetten in het toelatingsproces, maar ook tijdens en na je verblijf in het buitenland. Er werd altijd heel snel gereageerd op de mails naar de International Office en vragen werden altijd duidelijk beantwoord.
academic preparation	Ik heb me niet echt ingelezen over mijn vakken voordat ik naar Wenen ging, omdat het weleens voorkomt dat vakken achteraf nog veranderen. Dit is bij mij ook gebeurd, maar vormde verder geen probleem voor mijn voorkennis over de onderwerpen die behandeld werden.
language preparation	Ik was het jaar voordat ik naar Wenen ging begonnen met een minor Deutsche Sprache und Kultur, waardoor mijn taal op een goed niveau was voordat ik aan mijn studie begon. Ik wist namelijk dat bijna al mijn vakken in het Duits gegeven zouden worden. Verder heb ik in Wenen veel Duits gepraat met vrienden, wat je taalniveau echt verbeterd.
finances	Ik legde elke maand geld apart van het salaris dat ik met mijn bijbaantje verdiende en ik ben in de periode dat ik in Wenen gewas meer gaan lenen. Uiteindelijk heb ik het spaargeld ook echt wel nodig gehad, want ik ben ook

meegeweest op kleine reisjes via de studentenvereniging ESN in Wenen en het is natuurlijk ook heel leuk om na college ergens Kaffee en Kuchen te halen met vrienden :)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In het begin was er wel wat gedoe over de vakken die ik in Wenen wilde volgen. Het werd me niet helemaal duidelijk welke vakken ik wel of niet kon volgen binnen de studie kunstgeschiedenis en welk niveau deze vakken dan hadden. In Wenen is het dus zo dat er verschil is tussen 'Vorlesungen', 'Übungen' en '(Pro)Seminars'. De Vorlesungen zijn vakken waarbij je alleen hoorcolleges hebt en aan het einde een toets moet maken of een paper moet inleveren. Deze Vorlesungen zijn ook vaak minder studiepunten waard (2-5 studiepunten over het algemeen). Dan heb je de Übungen, waarvoor je meestal een presentatie geeft en/of een toets of paper moet maken, deze zijn meestal 5 studiepunten waard. De (Pro)Seminars zijn veel werk: je moet er trouw je huiswerkopdrachten voor maken, je moet actief deelnemen in de discussies tijdens de colleges en je moet een presentatie geven en een paper schrijven. Deze zijn dan ook meer studiepunten waard (ik had een Seminar van 10 studiepunten). Ook waren er bij mij roostertechnische problemen: er was overlap in mijn rooster, waardoor ik uiteindelijk nog vakken moest laten vallen en er andere vakken voor in de plaats moest kiezen. Dit was natuurlijk even een hoop uitzoeken, maar mijn contactpersoon in Wenen heeft me daar goed bij geholpen en bij de International Office daar was iedereen ook heel behulpzaam. Je moet niet twifelen om te mailen of op iemand van de international office of een docent af te stappen, gewoon alles vragen!

academic quality of education activities

De kwaliteit van de vakken was over het algemeen erg goed. Ik vond de colleges erg interessant en ging er ook graag heen. De meeste docenten waren ook erg vriendelijk. Bij de Vorlesungen was je band met de docent of docente vaak niet of amper aanwezig, omdat er eigenlijk geen interactie is tussen docent en student. Alle vakken die ik heb gevolgd werden gegeven door erg enthousiaste en vriendelijke docenten die veel verstand hadden over wat er behandeld werd.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Was heel erg goed geregeld. Er was een soort welkomstweek van de Universiteit Wenen. Dit was niet verplicht, maar ik ben daar wel naartoe gegaan. Er werden allerlei workshops gegeven en er stonden in die week allerlei informatiestands rondom het gebouw van de universiteit. Door je op te geven voor de workshops kon je gemakkelijk in aanraking komen met andere studenten en ik heb die eerste week twee superlieve meiden ontmoet met wie ik nu nog steeds contact heb. Vanuit mijn opleiding werd er ook een welkom georganiseerd, wat heel leuk was, omdat je zo andere internationale studenten ontmoet die dezelfde studie doen en dezelfde interesses hebben. Alles werd goed gecommuniceerd via email en via de website. Ik kan alleen maar positief zijn over de ontvangst.

transfer of credits

Dit moet nog gebeuren. Ik weet niet precies hoe de cijfers die ik in Wenen heb gehaald overgezet worden, maar er was een tabel te vinden met hoe de cijfers omgerekend worden, dus ik neem aan dat het omzetten van mijn resultaten op deze omzettingstabel gebaseerd wordt.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Mijn advies is: schrijf je in voor workshops, ga naar de welkomsactiviteiten en praat met de mensen die je daar tegenkomt! De meeste vrienden heb ik allemaal aan het begin van mijn buitenlandperiode al leren kennen. Er

werd aan het begin genoeg informatie gegeven over alle activiteiten die georganiseerd werden, dus daarover hoef je je geen zorgen te maken.
accommodation
Ik heb heel makkelijk een kamer gevonden via de website housinganywhere.com. Ik heb een mail gestuurd dat ik geïnteresseerd was in de kamer en kreeg de volgende dag al een bericht terug dat ik de kamer had. De locatie van mijn kamer was ideaal. Ik zat op loopafstand van de universiteit en het centrum.
leisure & culture
De stad Wenen is echt geweldig. Er is ontzettend veel te zien en te doen en ik heb me geen moment onveilig gevoeld in de stad. Er zijn heel veel musea, schattige caféetjes, stadsparken, theaters en overal waar je loopt ben je omgeven door prachtige gebouwen. Het openbaar vervoer in Wenen is heel goed geregeld, je kunt eenmalig het semesterticket kopen, waarmee je het hele semester zorgeloos met de tram, metro of bus kunt reizen. Leukste cafés: Vollpension, Café Liebling. Lekker en goedkoop uit eten: Sägewerk.
suggestions/tips
Doe mee met de activiteiten die jou aanspreken en die worden georganiseerd door de Universiteit of door een internationale studentenvereniging bijvoorbeeld. Ik ben lid geworden van de internationale studentenvereniging ESN en ben mee geweest op een trip naar het natuurgebied Wachau en een reisje door Croatië. Door mee te doen aan deze activiteiten leer je veel nieuwe mensen kennen en dat maakt je periode in het buitenland zoveel leuker.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Zeker weten. De stad Wenen is ontzettend mooi, als je van kunst houdt een echt walhalla. Er zijn heel veel leuke caféetjes, er zijn genoeg supermarkten, het openbaar vervoer is super geregeld. Ik heb me ook geen moment onveilig gevoeld in de stad. De mensen kunnen soms misschien afstandelijk overkomen, maar met een vriendelijke glimlach en een positieve houding overleef je dat wel. Ik heb zoveel leuke herinneringen overgehouden aan mijn tijd in deze stad.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Natuurlijk is niet altijd alles leuk en gaat niet alles vanzelf. Maar met een positieve houding kom je heel ver. En als je er een keer doorheen zit: bel even naar huis, ga iets leuks doen met de mensen die je daar hebt ontmoet, of ga er zelf op uit. Ik ging ook weleens alleen naar een museum of alleen naar de bios of een rondje lopen in de stad. Vooral in het begin is het gewoon wennen en ken je nog niet zoveel mensen, maar dat komt allemaal vanzelf.

2017-2018

Report 1

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 (German Studies).

destination city & country	Vienna, Austria
name university abroad	Universität Wien (University of Vienna)

start date	27 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	According to the standard procedure of Utrecht University.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	International Office of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University and my tutor at the Department of German Studies.
academic preparation	No specific preparations other than the mandatory number of ECTS-points.
language preparation	No specific preparations other than the language courses that are a mandatory part of my study program at Utrecht University (i.e. the courses ‚Sprache und Kultur‘ I to IV).
finances	I spent about 1300-1400 Euros per month (including study materials and non-study-related activities). Most of it was spent on rent as I preferred to live in a private apartment within walking distance to the university. You could spare approx. 300-400 Euros per month when you choose to live in an (international) student residence.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	In the field of German Studies there are literally dozens of courses that you can choose from. The content of the courses is very diverse although linguistic courses are few (in the programme of German Studies). Most courses are in the field of Literature Studies or German as a Foreign Language (DaF). In respect to organisational issues, I would say that these are hardly worth mentioning, although, clearly, there are a few obligations to be met, like your registration at the Municipal District Office. The International Office of the University of Vienna offers very clear and helpful information on these issues. Just follow their directions.
academic quality of education activities	To be honest, I was a bit disappointed about the academic quality of the courses. Educational methods are, in my opinion, very traditional at the University of Vienna (I did courses in German Studies, History and General Linguistics). Lectures, but also seminars, usually go in one direction, from lecturer to students, and there is hardly any interaction or discussion, let alone, critical appraisal of the presented theories and ideas.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not need any counselling and support during my stay apart from, once or twice, the International Office and the Erasmus Coordinator at the Department of German studies for standard issues like the Learning Agreement and the Certificate of Attendance. I did not meet any problems in this respect.
transfer of credits	At the moment of writing, I do not have an opinion on this because my test results are not in yet. Therefore, the transfer of credits is, at this moment, not a relevant issue.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The orientation programme of the International Office at the University of Vienna was short and efficient and provided all the necessary information. There was no welcome programme to speak of.	
accommodation	
I rented a private apartment via HousingAnywhere, one of the platforms recommended by the University of Vienna. It was relatively expensive but I had a wonderful time there and it was well worth the money.	
leisure & culture	
Lots and lots of things to do and to see. Vienna is an elegant, beautiful and relaxed city, at least in spring and summer, and when you are interested in Austrian and Central European history and culture, you could easily spend a few more semesters there. Furthermore, it is only a short distance to e.g. the ‚Wienerwald‘ and ‚the Weinviertel‘, places that offer excellent opportunities for hiking.	
suggestions/tips	
In respect to your studies: do not expect too much, many courses are o.k. but nothing special. In respect to Vienna: forget the U and the S, walk the city.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
The University of Vienna does not merit a special recommendation in my opinion. It is o.k. but nothing exceptional. If you are interested in Austrian and Central European history and culture, I would certainly recommend the city (and take the University for granted).	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
No	

Report 2

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	Vienna, Austria
name university abroad	University of Vienna
start date	1 / 3 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 6 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process I think was not that much work as many of the students say. Of course you have to hand in documents so that the international office can decide whether your application is good enough to allow you to	

go to the city of your first choice. The application in Vienna also went very smooth. The support from the international office in Vienna is very good and you will get quick answers to your questions.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Because my whole studyprogramm had to be changed due to my exchange, I got a great lot of support from the Studyadvisor. She was really very helpful in that, so if there are any changes you have to make in your studyprogramm due to your exchange ask for the help you need! The International Office also was a great help especially because of all the emails they send you to remind you of all the paperwork you have to upload.
academic preparation
I am studying German language and culture, therefore any academic preparation was not really needed. I also knew in advance that the courses I was going to follow in Vienna would be very different of the courses that I was doing in Utrecht. A preparation was therefore not that necessary and also not possible.
language preparation
Because I study German Language and Culture and my exchange was to a Germanspeaking country, I did not made extra effort to be prepared for the use of the german language.
finances
When you have to upload the financial plan with your application it maybe seems a bit strange to do. That was what I was thinking especially, because I know how much money I have, I know how much I am gonna get from my Erasmus+ grant, so I did not really understood why this was helpful. In the end I saw that it was indeed helpful to have a little insight in your finances before you leave. So my advice is to really invest time in making the financial plan. Later you will have the benefits of it. Vienna is not the most cheap city that you can go to. It is better to plan spending more and end up spending less that you had expected. That gives you room to do unexpected and fun things.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
First coming to Vienna there were a lot of organisational issues. The courses that you want to follow are pretty free to choose. The only thing is the online application for the courses. I did not really understood how it worked. It worked according to some sort of point-system. The more points you gave to one course, the more likely it was to be accepted for the course. In the end I was not accepted for most of my courses. I asked my coordinator here in Vienna what I had to do, and he adviced me to just go into the classes and say that I am Erasmus and really want to do the course. In most cases that helped! The variety of courses that you can choose is enormous. It depends on the requirements of the UU which courses you can follow, but most of the time it is possible to do most courses.
academic quality of education activities
Like most other international Universities (like I have heard) the academic quality is lower than in Utrecht. In most of the courses you do not have to be present. The online platform helps a lot with that. If you miss a seminar you can most of the time read the script they upload after giving a seminar. At first I thought the academic quality was not very high, until my testweek came. I had five exams in one week and they all differed in difficulty. This period of a few weeks of preparation and then the tests was very intense. That is the disadvantage you have because you are an exchange student. Most of the students here do the exams on other dates, it is mostly possible to do a test also at the beginning of the next semester. But of course as an exchange student that is no possibility.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

You will get in contact with a coordinator here in Vienna. This is the person you can always go to for signing papers or any other questions that concern your studies in Vienna. Also the international office department in the main building of the university is always very helpful. I have no complaints about that.

transfer of credits

Most of the notes of my exams are already in the system. After all the notes are handed in in the online system I can download my transcript of records very easily. I have not received all my notes yet because I have one deadline left after summer for a paper.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I have signed up for the ESN-Programme. That is a programme set up especially for erasmus students. They organised a welcome-week with all kinds of activities that you could do. It was nice to have met some people through these activities. These people also became my friends. It is fun to also get to know people outside of your own studyprogramme. There was not really a university orientation programme as far as I know. I just found it out myself and that was also a nice individual activity. You get to know the city and university really quick if you just go on your own adventure and discover the city and all of the university buildings.

accommodation

I had an accommodation through the "Österreichische Austausch Dienst" short: OeAD. It was really pleasant coming into a fully furnished room and being able to have a place to call your home for those months. You have to consider the prices of the accommodations. Life in Vienna is not cheap and that also counts for accommodation. I found it really important to live in the right neighbourhood and then you will ofcourse pay more for your accommodation.

leisure & culture

In Vienna there are always so many activities to do. Of course it is the best city to go to if you are interested in the cultural life. Visiting museums is an activity you can do endlessly during your semester in Vienna. A lovely afternoon-picknick at the Donau Insel or in one of the beautiful parcs in the citycenter is also a thing you have to do a lot during your stay here.

suggestions/tips

As said before, do picknicks, enjoy the parcs, enjoy the Donau Insel as well as the Alte Donau for a good swim. My favourite museum here is the Leopold Museum that is really worth a visit as well as the natural historical museum. A cup of coffee at Café Landtmann also has to be on your to do list. I could go on endlessly... Vienna is also a good place from where you can visit a lot of other european cities like Bratislava, Ljubljana, Brno, Prague and more!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university and this destination. I really enjoyed my stay here and was really content with the support and counselling that I received at the university of Vienna. If your German speaking skills are not yet on the right level, there are a lot of courses that also help you in achieving a higher level in the language. You can even get the official documents after the courses with the achieved level!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you are on time with your paperwork. Take the emails with the deadlines serious, you only make it more difficult for yourself if you do not take the deadlines into account. If you need help during your stay from

your home university or from the university of Vienna, just do not be afraid to ask. They are always happy to help you and are very quick with answering and helping you out.

Report 3

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> n.vaessen@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies (Taal-en Cultuurstudies)

destination city & country	Vienna, Austria
name university abroad	University of Vienna/ Universität Wien
start date	01 / 10 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for my exchange semester at the University of Vienna was quite easy. I had to hand in all the required documents at Utrecht University and soon I got the information that I got accepted. I could find a lot of information on the website of the university of Vienna about all the things I needed to do before, during and at the end of the semester (such as the learning agreement!). I had more difficulties with the paperwork for the stay in Austria in general, you have to register within 3 days after arrival etc., but this is also explained on the website of the university and they tell you all about it during the introduction.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I got a lot of help and support from Utrecht University, they even helped me pick out to go to Vienna! I could always send an e-mail for help, also after my stay in Vienna.

academic preparation

I did not do any specific academic preparation, other than thinking about what courses I wanted to take during my semester abroad. I had to make sure that it fitted in my program at Utrecht University.

language preparation

I did a language course before the start of the semester. I did this at the 'Sprachenzentrum Universität Wien', the language centre that is linked to the university of Vienna. I took the 'september intensive course' to really prepare myself for the german language. Because of the fact that most of my courses were taught in german I thought this would be a good idea. I really enjoyed the classes, it was for a period of three weeks, and if you study at the university of Vienna after the course, you also get most of the money back if you pass the final exam. I thought it was really helpful and I also got to meet a lot of other exchange students!

finances

I saved a little bit of money before I went to Vienna, but with the help of the Erasmus grant, and the money you get when you 'pause' your 'studenten OV', it was really doable. People often say that Vienna is a really

expensive city but I think it is the same as in the Netherlands or even cheaper most of the time. I also had a job while staying abroad and this also helped me to save money to do fun things while being in Vienna.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did all my courses within the faculty of art history. The organisation with applying for the courses was very difficult. At first I didn't understand how I had to apply and I had to e-mail a lot of different people to ask for help. You have to register via U-Space and sometimes you are places on a waiting list, don't let that scare you, you just have to go to the first course! In my case, the professor took some extra students. There is information available on the website of the university of Vienna, but you have to read very carefully, otherwise just ask for help!!

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the courses at the university of Vienna is quite good. There are different kinds of courses, like 'Vorlesung', 'Ubung' and 'Seminar'. A 'Vorlesung' is a bit like a 'hoorcollege' at Utrecht University, but there are a lot more students. The 'Ubung' and the 'Seminar' are more like the 'werkcollege' and here you are with a tiny group of people. Also, most of the courses only take place once a week. The quality of the courses I took were good, sometimes hard to follow (also because of the language), you are not expected to read as much as in Utrecht, but you mostly have to write an essay and of course take exams (for which you have to apply also!). Over all, I would say that it is very doable if you are used to Utrecht University.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support I got at the university of Vienna was over all good, I had to figure out sometimes who I had to send an e-mail but they were always very willing to help!

transfer of credits

At the end of your erasmus exchange, the transcript of records is available online, on your U-space account and you can just print it. I did not get all my results yet so I am not sure how they will be transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Because the university of Vienna has a lot of students, you do not have a kind of 'welcome week' planned. At the beginning of your exchange there is a introduction day where they explain a lot of practical things, how to get your student card, how to use the library etc. This was very helpful, but I missed a kind of welcome for exchange students. At the beginning of the semester there are some events and my faculty organised a museum trip, maybe other faculties do this as well.

accommodation

I found my accomodation via Utrecht University, a student from Vienna that was coming to Utrecht simply e-mailed the international office UU and asked if there were maybe students coming to Vienna that wanted to swap rooms. I did this and this was very nice! So, maybe you could do the same with the international office of the university of Vienna. I know that a lot of people lived in a 'Studentenheim' for which you can sign up, or lived in a 'WG' like I with some roommates. There are also a lot of groups on social media with rooms that are subrented etc. The price of the accomodations is comparable like in Utrecht, and most of the time even bigger!

leisure & culture

Vienna is the right place for leisure and culture! There are a lot of museums, parks, good restaurants, clubs etc. depending on which semester you are going, in the summer you can swim in the 'Donaukanal' and in the winter there are christmas markets everywhere! I would say, Vienna has something for everyone.

suggestions/tips

Definetly go to an opera! This was really cool and of course eat 'Wiener Schnitzel'! I would also suggest to visit Budapest or Bratislava because it is close to Vienna.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the university and definetly the destination to others because Vienna is a city in which you can feel at home very easily. It is a big city but is not as chaotic as Amsterdam for example. Like I said Vienna has something to offer to everybody, it is vibrant and full of intesting things to do! The university was also really nice, I really enjoyed my classes and learned a lot from speaking another language but also from the different ways of teaching.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just go and enjoy it like I did, it was a wonderful experience and I would recommend it to anyone. I learned a lot from being on my own in another country and culture and studying at another university, not only in an academic way but also as a person.

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	University of Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Art History

destination city & country	Vienna, Austria
name university abroad	University of Vienna
start date	01 / 10 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was a lot; I had to fill in a lot of forms and there were a lot of deadlines not to be forgotten. So you have to be prepared for that, but it is all worth it.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University helped me a lot, but for me it was sometimes unclear wether I had to turn to the UU or to Erasmus.

academic preparation

I could only pick the courses at the end of September, therefore I did not really do any academic preparations for the courses. But I was planning on taking my courses in German, so I attended an optional course in German at the Utrecht University since, for me, it was obligatory to have a B2 Language Certificate.
language preparation
See above.
finances
I saved a lot of money to make sure I could do whatever I wanted, because I wasn't completely sure when/if I would receive the Erasmus grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content and organisational issues differed, in my eyes, a lot. Some courses were very organized and the level was challenging enough (for me studying in the German language was a challenge as well), but some courses were actually not organized at all. You couldn't get response from teachers and the content of the course wasn't described anywhere.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of most courses could be compared with the courses at the UU, but once again, it is hard to compare it because my courses at the UU are in Dutch and most of the courses I attended at the Uni Wien were in German.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office is really happy to help you and is really organized. For example, I went there on the beginning of my staying when I did not have accommodation yet, and they offered me a big list with available rooms.
transfer of credits
This hasn't happening yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There were a lot of welcoming parties at the beginning of my staying - The first 3 weeks almost every night. But those parties are more fun when you already know some people. Erasmus Wien took really good care of that by organizing a lot of activities. There were dinners, pub-crawls, museum tours etc. organized.
accommodation
Accommodation was for me a little bit of a problem since I didn't have it yet when I arrived in Vienna. The rooms in student residences are already fully booked at the beginning of the summers, so when you want to stay at a residence you have to book it really early. I found my accommodation because of a Dutch guy who is studying here and his studentflat was looking for a new flatmate. Before my arrival I was constantly searching the internet for rooms, but it was not working out. First, people rather want to meet you before offering a room. Second, there were a lot of scammers trying to let you pay a deposit without even having an (existing) place to stay. I noticed, when I started writing my messages in German, rather than English, to the people offering jobs that I received more replies.
leisure & culture

For culture, Vienna is the place to be. There are a lot of museums for every type of art. But the city itself is like a museum as well, every building is beautiful! You can't get boring of the sights. For nature lovers, there are lot of trips offered to go into the mountains for hiking and climbing. And Erasmus offers a lot of trips as well to different cities in Austria and Europe. Bratislava is just one hour away from Vienna so visiting that is absolutely no problem! I did some trips, but most the weekends I stayed in Vienna because there is lots and lots to do. There are a lot of nice bars, clubs and go on. During Christmas there are Christmasmartets on every street corner. The university also offers a lot cheap sport-courses, which is a great way to try out (a new) sport and meet new people. I started playing icehockey what was a lot of fun!

suggestions/tips

I would suggest finding a WG (Wohngemeinschaft), since it is a lot of fun living with people who choosed to live together, rather than living with people who just want to have a room. My WG was a big part of my Erasmus-experience since they all have become good friends of mine, and because of them I met a lot of other people from Vienna. The language spoken was German so it was really good for my speaking skills as well!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definitely! I think Vienna has it all for everyone - for cultural lovers but as well for people who love to party. The people in Vienna are really nice and the prices are good (comparable with Dutch prices). The city is bigger than an average city in the Netherlands, but it was definitely not too big. As well, I have never felt unsave in Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

You have to do a lot of arrangements but don't let that stop you. It is all worth it.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication and information sciences

destination city & country	Vienna, Austria
name university abroad	Universität Wien
start date	01 / 03 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went rather smoothly, since the instructions from the university of Utrecht were pretty clear.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Sometimes I got a bit confused with the different mails and at one point I made the mistake of not asking for advice from the International office with collecting signatures for the Erasmus grant. Their support is really good.

academic preparation
I didn't really prepare myself for my exchange academically, in terms of special courses.
language preparation
During the first term of this year I did a course called German language and culture 1 to obtain the B2 level of German. This course prepared me very well, for instance in the seminars we were only allowed to speak German and we had to talk a lot with each other, which helped me very much with my speaking skills. All my courses in Vienna were in German, so it was really necessary for me to prepare myself properly in advance.
finances
I always get quite a lot of financial support from my parents and I receive a study loan. Moreover I received the Erasmus Grant. I had some extra costs I didn't have back in the Netherlands, like for trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Most of my courses were part of the department Publizistik und kommunikationswissenschaft, except for one that was part of Sozial und Kulturwissenschaft. These courses had much to do with commercials, film and media. All of my courses were in German which was quite challenging in the beginning. I had a lot of presentations, which made my German speaking skills much better.
academic quality of education activities
Some courses were more challenging in this way than others. This difference depended on the fact that one of my courses was part of the first year's programme and another one was part of the master's programme.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't get much guidance but when I stumbled upon problems with signing for my courses I emailed someone who redirected me to someone else (in no way I could've found her email address myself). She ended up doing the signing herself for me, which really surprised me.
transfer of credits
Almost half of my courses were 4 and the other half 5 ECTS. At this point I only already have passed one course, but I don't know yet about the others. I aim to get 31 ECTS this semester.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was only one meeting at the beginning, before the classes started. We got a lot of information in one hour about a lot of things and two ESN board members told about ESN, but I already knew a lot from their Facebook page. I found it a bit disappointing though that I couldn't attend a meeting from the studies that I'm doing here. There was no orientation programme on that, so I didn't meet any Erasmus student at Publizistik und kommunikation.
accommodation
I lived in the city center in a very large student home that used to be a monastery with four floors. Each floor contained 27 students of which most of them were international and many were music students. It was really clean and in a good state. The student home was part of the ÖJAB-housing. You sign up online and they appoint you a student home.
leisure & culture

Vienna is a really beautiful city with a lot of cultural events (operas, concerts, ballets etc.), historic buildings and beautiful parks (with a lot of benches). There are also a lot of restaurants, bars etc., where people are often allowed to smoke, which was an unpleasant surprise to me. Besides that is the public transport really good.

suggestions/tips

The cheapest supermarkets here are Lidl and Hofer (kind of like the Aldi), then Billa and the Spar. Further on it was remarkable to me that for instance the International Office and the ESN Office are only twice a week opened for one and a half hours.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I definitely would, because of the perfect location in the middle of Europe which is also the reason there are so many weekend and day trips organised by ESN and Erasmus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I signed up for the buddy system of ESN and attended one of their activities in the beginning of the semester called 'photo tour challenge'. Most of the girls from the group I formed there and the 2 girls I met because of the buddy system I hung out with regularly during the semester. ESN also had a Stammtisch every Thursday. I can recommend to sign up for this buddy system and getting an ESN card.