

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne****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	History

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	I traveled by train.
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	09 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

## exchange application process

Applying was a lot of paperwork!

## counselling &amp; support at Utrecht University

The people from the Utrecht International Office were wonderful. They were helpful, to the point, and quick to reply to e-mails, but I also very much appreciated being able to just stop by at the Drift to ask a question. Thanks for all the help!

## academic preparation

I already finished all the mandatory bachelor courses, so I didn't take much trouble fitting my courses abroad into my own schedule. Everybody told me I could change courses once arrived, and since the information I got from the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne was poor (and therefore didn't help me much with my decision), I counted on that. That means I did not really prepare for the semester abroad academically.

## language preparation

I took two courses in French at the UU; one was an actual language acquisition course, the other was a course about something else, but in French (for practice). I already had quite a good foundation since I took French in high school.

## finances

Applying for the Erasmus grant was quite some paperwork, but again, the Utrecht International Office really helped. I did not have a lot of extra expenses since I would take the train which is quite cheap if you buy your ticket early, and my accomodation was a bit more expensive than my room in Utrecht but not much, so I had no financial trouble.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

The information provided by the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in advance was very poor and confusing. This made it hard to plan my courses in advance. Once arrived in Paris, I had very much trouble to

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register for my courses. I had to be physically present at several administration centers in different parts of the city. It finally worked but it took me most of the day every day for a week, and a lot of frustration at that.
academic quality of education activities
I only took four weeks of courses in total (because of the corona crisis), and those weeks were in part disturbed by the strikes in Paris, so I can't judge the general quality, but overall I have not been impressed with the academic quality. One of my courses consisted of every student reading one book and giving a presentation about it, without any theoretical framework. My teacher only taught two classes in total (not because of the corona crisis; this was the planning of the course) about very specific topics, which to me did seem random and not appropriate for an introductory course, which this was. The other courses were better, but never required much critical thinking from the students. As one teacher said: your bachelor's degree is school; university doesn't start until your master's. It really is a different educational culture.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not receive much support at all. There was supposed to be an introduction week, but it only consisted of language classes and one poorly organised welcome meeting. I signed up for a buddy program when I applied to the university, but I never heard from the program. There was one contact person who replied to my emails helpfully, but he only knew about the history department. He could not answer any questions about what to do if I wanted to take a course from another department, nor could he tell me who could help me instead. Let alone giving information about anything non-academic, like sports, even though these were organised by the university as well. I really missed an International Office like the one in Utrecht!
transfer of credits
One of the brochures we were sent in advance gave the wrong information about the EC. My one contact person helped me, so it turned out fine. I cannot really judge how much the workload is compared to what I am used to in Utrecht, since it was all so different studying from a distance. I didn't finish implementing my EC in Utrecht yet, so I cannot yet evaluate that process.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
There was only a week of language classes, even though a welcome & orientation programme had been announced. I signed up for a buddy program but I never heard anything from the program after that.
accommodation
I found my own accomodation.
leisure & culture
I signed up for soccer within the university, which was well organised and was a great way to meet French people. Apart from that, I mostly came into contact with internationals. I had a lovely time with them visiting museums, just walking through the city, eating out and going to party at night.
suggestions/tips
I feel like the two universities could be more tuned in to one another; many UU students have studied at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne before, and yet I often felt as if I were the first one, because a lot of to-be-expected problems arose and could not be easily solved. In my experience, this is more the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne's fault than the UU's, because the UU is much better organised and prepared with the International Office.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne****CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would recommend the experience, because I learned a lot, but I also want to say the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne could do a lot better welcoming international students. The organisation is poor even for 'regular' students, and it seems that international students do not count at all. What bothered me most was the absence of one person or institution I could turn to for help. So, as an experience, I would recommend going to Paris to practice your French, make new friends, become more independent in a strange environment. However, as a judgment of the university, I would not say that the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne has made a very good impression on me.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

To the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne: please make an International Office, a clearer website, and a more accessible list of courses. To students going to study abroad: prepare all your paperwork in time, and know that you are definitely not done with it once you arrive at your destination.

**Report 2**

faculty/college	U.F.R.03
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Histoire de l'art

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	05 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The exchange application process went very smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office at the University Utrecht was very helpful. They really take you by your hand and guide you through the whole process. Also whenever I had questions I could ask them during a reunion or I could send a mail to which they would respond very fast. Even when in Paris I knew I could always contact them for everything.

academic preparation

language preparation

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Besides Art History I also study French language and culture. So I didn't do so much about language preparation.

## finances

Before I went to Paris, I knew it was gonna be expensive. I tried so save some money before going there. Once in Paris, I was a little shocked that not only a coffee but even doing groceries was really expensive in comparison to Holland. Fortunately, I found a side job as a babysitter which allowed me to be relaxed finance wise.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

I decided to follow courses of L3 (year 3 of the bachelors) because the courses of L1 and L2 were in my opinion more overview courses and I was searching for courses at my current level. The L3 courses they offer at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne are in my opinion specific and therefore very interesting. You will follow the courses for a whole semester which allows you immerse yourself in a subject and really learn it in detail. I had for example a course about just one artist, Edgar Degas, and we learned about his artistic career in detail.

Also, I know it's a detail but when you follow courses of L3 your lectures will be in the center of Paris near Jardin de Luxembourg. So when the weather is nice all students go there to have their lunch. When you follow courses of L1 or L2 you will have your lectures at the Centre Pierre Mendes (13<sup>th</sup> arrondissement) which is not the nicest location...

As you might already have read in the other reports, the organisation at Paris 1 is not great. I prepared myself for the worst which helped me not to become very frustrated. It is mostly at the beginning and the end of your stay that you might find some difficulties. I found out that the French appear to be very strict with deadlines and the things they say ("You really have to do this because otherwise you can't follow the course") but at the end there is always a solution. So don't worry if you have problems with the administration. Everybody has it and there is always a solution. There is a secretariat who can help you with most of your questions. Just one tip, don't assume that when they say it's fixed, it's really fixed. It is possible that after two weeks you discover that nothing has changed and that you need to go again. Just don't give up.

## academic quality of education activities

The quality of the different courses I followed was more or less the same. The courses are given by (known) professors that are specialised in that subject. The way they give their lectures (CM) depends really on the professor. I had one that was talking free, without a paper in front of him, with a lot of gestures and anecdotes. But most teachers sit down and read their writings more or less out loud through the microphone.

If you follow the bachelor Art History in Utrecht you will notice that at Paris 1 the number of students is nowhere near the number of students in Utrecht; there are many more.

If you decide to follow TD you have a little more interaction with the students (the place to make French friends) and with the teacher. Most of my TD were filled with presentations from students and, besides my own presentation and some exercises, I never had to prepare something in advance. In France the way to do a presentation is very different from how we do it in Utrecht. At Paris 1 you can sit down and read out loud from your paper. I did it the Dutch way (not reading out loud, talking free) and discovered that the teachers really appreciate it.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

There are people to help you with your questions but sometimes it is just a bit difficult to find them since there is not just one person to whom you can address all your questions.

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transfer of credits
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I don't know what to say about this because I haven't received my credits yet.
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<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
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welcome & orientation programme
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I attended the welcome programme organised by Paris 1. At first I wasn't accepted because I forgot to fill out a form and at the time I discovered it, it was already too late. But I really wanted to go so I decided to ask someone where the first meeting would be. I went there and asked if there was still a spot left for me, and there was (eventhough over the mail they told me there wasn't). It was nice to be able to meet some people and to be able to go to the general introduction.
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accommodation
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I found an appartement with the help of people I knew. I recommend to spread the word that you're going to live in Paris and that you search for accommodation. You never know if maybe a friend of your neighbour or a distant cousin have some contacts in Paris.
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If all of that doesn't help you can look on the site "cartedescolocs".
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And I would also recommend to contact Anne Valeska. She helps foreign students to find an accommodation for a nice price.
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leisure & culture
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For art history students, Paris is great to study and to live. Paris has great museums and there are always very interesting exhibitions. During my courses my teachers always had recommendations for exhibitions that were in line with the content of the course. A few times I even got a special invitation from a teacher for an opening of an exhibition. I also loved that for some of the works we studied during the course, I could see them in real life (even the same day if I wanted to).
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When you stroll around in Paris you will never get bored because around every corner there is something beautiful and/or interesting, and you will always discover new places. One new thing that I discovered and want to share is that Paris has a lot of cinemas. No surprise when you think that France is the birthplace of the cinema. Nowadays it has the highest density of cinemas per habitant in the world. So I would really recommend to take advantage of it and go visit some cinemas while you're there. It doesn't necessary have to be expensive since for MK2 you have a discount for students during the week.
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suggestions/tips
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I heard from someone who already went to Paris that there was the possibility to join a choir with only students. I wouldn't have known it if it wasn't from her so that is why I want to write it down here. I had a really nice time there and it was a great way to meet french people and to improve my language skills. Besides that, every year they give concerts at very special places. So if you're interested I recommend you look at the website of this choir: <a href="http://ocup.fr">ocup.fr</a>
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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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I would definitely recommend this university and destination. Studying art history in Paris is a dream. Like I said before you can see most works in real life, you will have great teachers and you have the opportunity to submerge yourself with french art and to study a certain time period or artist for one semester. You will discover another way of teaching and just look how everything goes at a university in Paris.
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After your stay you will understand and know so much more about the french and their culture, not to mention the improvement of your french level.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Right now you have the possibility to go to live in another country and you don't have to organise everything on your own. Maybe it is sometimes a little scary but remember that every Erasmus student has the same worries as you. You are all in the same boat. So don't worry and dive in this unique adventure!

Also when you're in Paris, don't be afraid to talk to and ask french people! French people already appreciate it when you make an effort to talk their language and they are always very happy to talk about their country and culture to others. It is from these conversations with locals that I got to understand some issues better, that I got some great insider tips about what to do in Paris, were to buy my food or even how to prepare certain vegetables.

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
start date	03 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	24 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

There were a lot of things that needed to be done in the application process. I think an exchange should be made easier because you needed to find out a lot yourself and it was a lot of work in combination with studies. It was just every time little things that needed to be done that ended up taking too much time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Compared to the Sorbonne University it was pretty good but sometimes unclear.

academic preparation

I chose the right courses that would fit in to my study programm.

language preparation

I already had a good base in French so I didn't take any language courses before hand. I did the language test that we had to do and got C1 so I didn't feel the need to practice any more.

finances

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I used the Erasmus Grant, but honestly the Grant could only provide for the first week; for the rest of the month I needed to pay out of my own pocket.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The organization on the beginning was pretty good, I got to change a few courses and other than a few difficulties you will always encounter in an exchange abroad it was alright.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality may not be so bad, but I really didn't like the way of teaching. I can say for sure that the Utrecht University has better academic quality than the Sorbonne.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was basically all the Erasmus students that helped each other out, if you were on your own you would have to ask a lot of questions.

transfer of credits

Because of the strikes and the situation at the University the transfer of Credits has not happened yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

We had a language test where we first met other Erasmus people, from there you could make friends and the day after was a general orientation, which went pretty well.

accommodation

I don't really know what to write here, the accommodation in Paris is expensive but you will always be able to find something. I didn't hear about anyone not having a place to stay.

leisure & culture

There are plenty of things to do in Paris. From restaurants to bars to clubs to parks and other activities.

suggestions/tips

My first week I went to 'le ciel' it is a 56 story building in Montparnasse in the Center of Paris. You can either go to the 55<sup>th</sup> floor to visit, or the 56<sup>th</sup> floor to have diner. I suggest it because from there you can see the whole of Paris and it is really beautiful. You can also go on top of the eiffel tower of course but the problem with that is that you can't see the eiffel tower.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would recommend the city of Paris, I hope you will not be so unlucky as I was and go in a period where the longest lasting strike since the 1800s takes place, but the city is interesting and you won't get bored. The University however is highly overrated, but other than the Utrecht University I have nothing to compare it to so I guess I will still recommend it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you find a place on time, go on facebook and join the Erasmus group from the city you are in, so that way you can easily make friends because a lot of Erasmus parties etc. will be organized. Have a positive mindset

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when you go and I promise you will learn a lot of things, also about yourself, that you could not think of beforehand that you would learn.

**Report 4**

<b>permission to publish contact details</b>	<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: tess.wensink@hotmail.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Franse taal en cultuur

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	by car
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	06 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION****exchange application process**

On the site of Utrecht University, it has clearly been described how to apply for exchange. It was easy to follow the steps and I haven't had any difficulties concerning my application.

**counselling & support at Utrecht University**

The support at Utrecht University is very good. Whenever I had a problem, I could send an e-mail to the International Office. They answered quickly. I appreciate the fact that there are contact hours. In that way, students can solve their problems immediately. The people working at the International Office are always friendly and willing to help you out.

**academic preparation**

I haven't prepared myself academically. For me, it was possible to follow courses of the faculty of history at the Sorbonne without having completed any courses of history at academical level before. Sometimes it was hard, but I managed to pass almost all my exams.

**language preparation**

All courses were in French. Since I study French in Utrecht, it wasn't a problem for me.

**finances**

Since the start of my studies at Utrecht University, I saved some money every month. During my exchange, I spent some of that money. With the money of the Erasmus Grant and the money I could borrow from DUO, I had enough money to enjoy my time in Paris.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

As I have said before, I studied history at the Sorbonne without having completed any history courses at academical level before. Although it was hard sometimes, it was interesting to do courses in a whole new domaine. I think the content of the courses was very good.

On the contrary, the organisation of the Sorbonne wasn't good at all. First of all, I didn't know how to apply for my courses. Secondly, due to the strikes that were going on during my stay in Paris, it was sometimes unclear whether my classes would take place. Sometimes I came to university and found out that the class didn't take place. Thirdly, I had problems concerning my exams. I knew the dates of my exams a few weeks before they would take place. However, the friday before the week in which they would take place originally, I received an e-mail with the message that the exams wouldn't take place at all (due to the strikes). Since I was planning to go back to the Netherlands the week after, that was a serious problem for me. I immediately asked my professors whether we could arrange something so that I could do the exams anyway, but they could'n solve the problem. A few hours later (20h00) on that same day, I received an e-mail with the message that the exams for international students would take place as planned originally. I think it is very bad that the Sorbonne didn't make clear immediately that the first message didn't apply to international students. The whole day, I didn't know what to do and when I could go back to the Netherlands.

## academic quality of education activities

As I have already mentioned, the content of the courses was of high quality. However, I think the teaching method wasn't effective. There was no interaction between the students and the professor, which I think is very important. I was also negatively surprised by the fact that we didn't have to read any books at all.

Furthermore, we didn't have breaks during the classes and sometimes one class took three hours.

Consequently, it was hard to stay focussed on the subject, especially because all classes were in French. I also didn't have to do research and I think that is a very important part of an academical study. Instead, we had to write "commentaires". At the beginning, it was very hard for me to write such a "commentaire" since it was a whole new method of reading a text. Now I think writing a "commentaire" is a good way to completely understand a text.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

Although the administrative organisation was very bad, the people were always willing to help me. I had two contact persons that I could ask for help (for example the problems concerning the application for courses); they answered quickly and were friendly. Unfortunately, they weren't always able to help me.

## transfer of credits

I know all my grades, but I haven't received a transcript of records yet. The contact persons don't know when the transcript will be available. This confirms the bad administrative organisation.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

I had one week of orientation during which I had some meetings with the international students in Paris and during which I could take language courses with other international students at a level corresponding my knowledge and abilities of the French language. This week was very nice. I have met a lot of people there with whom I still have contact. It was nice to have contact with people from different countries and different cultures. I learned a lot and I feel like I am more open-minded now.

## accommodation

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The accommodation is good. There are several options for international students. I got a room via a contact person who arranges rooms and studios for international students (especially from Germany and from the Netherlands). I had a room at one of the best places of Paris. I also know some international students that live on the international campus of the university.

leisure & culture

Paris is a great city if you are interested in culture. There are a lot of museums that are free for people under 26 years. I learned to appreciate art and culture even more. There are also a lot of nice cafés and restaurants where I spent a lot of time with my friends. Furthermore, there are a lot of cinemas, theaters and operas with interesting films, ballets, plays and concerts. I also liked to go shopping and to visit the beautiful "jardins" of the city.

suggestions/tips

I recommend the international students that are coming to Paris to try to get a room via the contact person, because she has rooms at the best places of the city. I also advise the students not to worry too much and to enjoy their time in Paris, because, despite the fact that the organisation is very bad, everything will work out fine eventually.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Although the organisation of the university is bad, I would recommend this university/destination to others. Maybe it wasn't such a bad thing for me that the organisation wasn't good. Of course it would be better if the organisation was better, but in this way I learned to deal with unexpected situations and to solve my problems myself. I also learned to be more flexible and not to worry too much (eventually, everything worked out fine). What's most important, Paris is a beautiful city with a lot of culture.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No

**Report 5**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

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exchange application process
Application went well
counselling & support at Utrecht University
International Office offers very good counselling and support that I did not sufficiently take the advantage of, but gladly my friends did so I could ask them every question I had and generally I was able to work everything out in that manner.
academic preparation
I study French language and culture and history, but I had done courses in philosophy as well beforehand (three I believe). Generally speaking I think I was able to keep up with the academic level, sometimes it was challenging, but in a good and stimulating way.
language preparation
I didn't undertake extra preparation because my level of french was already sufficient
finances
I lended some more money during the summer holidays so as to pay my deposit, the first months of rent etc.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took very interesting courses at the Masters level. I would recommend to bachelor students as well to take courses at the masters level, they are often very interesting, and you have to write papers for them instead of 'commentaires' which need a very specific methodology that is unknown to most of us.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good, but it really depended on the teacher. I would recommend to follow the courses given by Q. Meillassoux because they were really interesting and of a really good quality. I would also recommend to see which courses you like during the first weeks and switch to the teachers that appeal most to you.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good
transfer of credits

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
There was a language course at the beginning of the semester, which permitted you to make friends at the university.
accommodation
I lived in a chambre de bonne in the center of the city, which was really nice and not so expensive
leisure & culture

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There is always something to do in Paris, and usually there are people willing to do something with you (it is really easy to do activities and make friends during an exchange)

suggestions/tips

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, the university was good and I had a good time, I think others will enjoy it too.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**2018-2019****Report 1**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

## exchange application process

I had already been warned for the amount of work, and this wasn't for nothing. You're going to have to prepare yourself for this whole administration with a lot of paperwork, this is completely normal.

## counselling &amp; support at Utrecht University

I think the international office did a great job supporting my process. You just have to dare to pick up the phone or e-mail them, but they are really professional, nice and quick (do contact them on time of course!)

## academic preparation

I had been warned about the french education system, but I was still shocked by how inefficiently it worked for me. But I was still happy to have received these tips (also from reports like these), so that the shock was a little less heavy.

## language preparation

I study french language, so this was enough : but even with my full-time preparation I was struggling to follow the classes sometimes. Do prepare very well language-wise, especially if you don't study french! You're going to need your french to get things done as well.

## finances

I have made a financial plan, which is part of the document-preparation, and this was an okay base for me. (Even though Paris is expensive in a lot of ways, and I spent more than I prepared for).

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first administration of my classes was very difficult. It was not clear who I had to go to for my class registrations, and at the pedagogical centre, especially designed for the 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the history department, they could not tell me which classes I could take in 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> year history as an Erasmus student. I went there everyday for almost 2 weeks, and everyday they told me something very confidently, that later turned out to be wrong. I was running everywhere trying to arrange things, and when I had finally done the administration I decided to switch to 3<sup>rd</sup> year classes after the first week, like they had told me to do in the first place. I thought that 3<sup>rd</sup> year classes would be too hard (as I don't study history), but it turned out that the teachers in 1<sup>st</sup> and

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<p>2<sup>nd</sup> year had no idea what to do with an Erasmus student. The first 2 years are also almost exclusively about learning facts. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year you start to do a little analysis, which is more interesting to me. Although it frustrated me to my core, the good side of it is that you learn to be very persistent and flexible through these issues! I finally chose to do 5 classes of 5 ECTS = 25 ECTS. I wanted to do 30 ECTS at first, but I got the advice to stick with 5 classes, and I'm happy I did : I still had a lot of work to do. I've had the luxury to do this, as I still have some extra classes I can fill into my free space (you can talk about this with your study counsellor/studieadviseur).</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>Like I said before, I had been prepared by my teachers and some fellow students, but I was still shocked by the didactics of the classes. I had CM's (lectures/hoorcolleges) and TD's (seminars/werkcolleges) : in the CM, the teacher would almost never use technology (1 out of my 7 teachers used powerpoint and was called one of the best teachers ever), and sometimes they would write a name of an important person on the whiteboard. The rest of the time, you had to type or write very quickly. Because not only did the teacher just sit down and read/tell everybody their text, this information was all you got : there was no handbook or way to find the teacher's text back, the only way was to be the best secretary you could be, or to find french friends who could help you out. During the TD's we analysed original sources, which could be very interesting. But most of this time was filled up by student presentations, and not the ones we know here : it was not uncommon to have a student presentation last the full 2 hours of the TD. I was always very distracted and could almost never follow their point. I had to do the same things as the french students, except in one of my classes where I got a special Erasmus exercise, plus I did oral exams instead of written exams, and the test halfway the semester was optional.</p>
<p>counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>Very, very bad quality! Do not be surprised that they don't care about you at all. You can find real support in nice teachers and your French and Erasmus friends in class. It's all about approaching the right people, and being very persistent at the pedagogical centres when they look at you like you're crazy.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>It's the end of February (exams were halfway January), and I still have a lot to arrange when it comes to my grades : most of them randomly appeared on the university platform EPI, but it says I failed two classes, which is most likely not true. The administration has probably been filled in the wrong way. You have to stay alert with this university : they are by far not as professional and reliable as our international office.</p>

**STUDENT LIFE**

<p>welcome &amp; orientation programme</p>
<p>I was excluded from the welcome week because there was 'extremely little space', with more than 100 other Erasmus students who had also been excited for their introduction (we had registered on time)! We rebelled and created a platform on facebook called 'Les exclus de la Sorbonne', which was a fun outcome to a frustrating situation.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>I was living in an apartment with a small family : a father and his two sons (18 and 21 years old), in the 13<sup>e</sup> arrondissement. I got their contact through facebook, and from one day to the other I suddenly had a room in Paris. Of course, because I didn't know them, I wanted to make sure I felt comfortable living with them, so I came to check out the room together with my mom (for a few days). They were very nice and trustworthy, and I decided to take the room. It was 12 m<sup>2</sup> and 650 euros a month, which is not cheap, but still pretty normal for Paris.</p>

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

leisure & culture
I started out my social groups with les Exclus, who I have met up with a couple of times, and a group of dutch girls I had met through a facebook group : I hung out with these groups in August and September before the classes started, and after this we mostly went our separate ways (although I have stayed in contact wit some people from les Exclus afterwards). Then I joined ISAP1, the Erasmus organisation for students at Paris 1. They had some fun activities and I met nice people, even though the organisation was not as active as I'd hoped (+- 4 possible activities a month). I created a facebook group with some girls I met there, and we did some extra things together. I also randomly joined another erasmus group : they were all law students, except for me. We met at a party, it clicked, and we created a whatsapp group together. Before I though that Erasmus groups would be less complex, but I still found my way as you can see!
suggestions/tips
ESN is also a cool organisation, very Erasmus! I went to 2 language cafés (every Monday) and this was pretty fun. But I can also recommend ISAP1, as it's a little more 'authentic'.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
It's a very pretty and prestigious university, and I have found it super interesting to see how these expectations meet reality. As you can read, I am not very impressed by the educational quality of this university, but I have learned a lot of cultural differences and learned to be super persistent and flexible as well. As it's a very big name, I do recommend experiencing this adventure and the discovery of all these differences, but if you just want to go here for great education I'm not sure if you're going to be satisfied. I do have to add that they have great researchers and intelligent people at this university, I just think that didactics are their weakness.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Struggle is normal and part of the experience, so don't worry, you will make it !	

**Report 2**

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris 1
start date	17 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

I applied for a rest spot, and luckily for me the one at Paris 1 was not filled yet. I filled in all the obligatory forms, wrote my motivation letter and was accepted for the spot. It took a bit longer than expected for the host university to accept my application, but everything went rather smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University gives a lot of information to prepare yourself for your departure. I couldn't join the information meeting, but I heard it was very helpful. Along the way, whenever I had a question the International Office would always help me very well, give advice quickly and detailed. They were very nice and the support from Utrecht has been very well.
academic preparation
I had already finished my first three years of my Bachelor, which allowed me to follow the courses in France with ease. In Utrecht, I study International Relations which belongs to the History Department and I went to France as a history student. I however did all my courses at the political sciences department because those courses suited my profile better. I haven't found any problems regarding that, so I do recommend to look at other departments than just the one in which you follow courses at home.
language preparation
The required language level in France is B2 in French, which I obtained through following 4 courses at the Bachelor of French Language and Culture. I do recommend that you are confident in listening and reading French, as almost nobody speaks English and all your exams will be in French.
finances
Paris is a very expensive city. Groceries are much more expensive than in the Netherlands and going out for drinks are too. Rent is also more expensive, but you should be able to find something that doesn't cost more than €650. Also, there are CROUS restaurants where you can have lunch and dinner for only €3,25 and those meals are quite decent. You will need some extra savings, but that goes for every ERASMUS experience.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Inscription for courses in Paris is very different from Utrecht. There is a wide range of courses you can pick from and the university allows each student to follow every course you want in the first two weeks to see which ones you like. After those two weeks, you will pick the courses you want to follow and you can inscribe for them online through the IntraWeb. Next to that, you will have to officially get your Learning Agreement signed. Don't bother sending it in advance as they will only sign it two weeks after the semester has started. After this document is signed, you are good to go. Don't expect the university to send you a list of courses or timetables, you will have to look everything up yourself and go to every information gathering to hold. In those gatherings, they will explain everything.
academic quality of education activities
The education is quite different from that in the Netherlands. All the courses I did were France oriented. For Internationals, you can always go to the lectures, but for internationals in the political sciences department, we were not allowed to follow the tutorials. Since the lectures are not interactive at all, questions are not really appreciated, it felt to me as if education is one-sided. More reproductive than productive. Since taking notes in French is not the easiest, I was very happy to see that for every year there are Facebook groups in which lots of notes are shared. (Just type in Facebook L1/L2/L3 + your major and Paris 1)
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

If you want to get anything done, go to them in person. They rarely respond on your mail, so just go to them. Online there is some information on the courses, but if you want to have information go to the meetings they organize in the beginning.

transfer of credits

Still in progress

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week, they organized language classes for which you had to sign up. Do this fast, since they only have place for a select number of people. You will receive credits for this. This week was nice to meet other people and practice some French. There was a closing reception that was nice. Per department, they had organised information meetings, go there, because there you will get the information on the courses. ESN Paris organises an introduction week in the second week of the semester which is quite nice, and in the first week of September they organised walks in the city during the evening. This is a great way to meet people. I highly recommend going to ESN activities since you will meet a lot of people there. You can find them on Facebook for information.

accommodation

It is not the easiest, I however found one through a mediation/real estate agent. I paid her a small fee and in return she helped me find housing, open a bank account, arrange my Imagine R and help with applying for the CAF (subsidy from the French state which is around €180 per month to help pay for housing). Look online for CROUS housing or Cité Universitaire, there you can also find housing.

leisure & culture

Paris is the capital for cultural events, museums, music and fashion, so you will always have something to do. Do make the most of your time and enjoy every possibility. Student organizations and ESN also organize a lot of activities that are fun to go to.

suggestions/tips

Don't worry about the course program, everything goes a bit slower in France than in the Netherlands. Everything will happen eventually. If you enjoy studying in a library, the BIS at Centre Sorbonne is very nice to go to.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would highly recommend going to Paris if you like the city and would want to experience studying in French. It is a challenging experience that is unforgettable. Paris is amazing and will never cease to amaze you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne****Report 3**

<b>permission to publish contact details**</b>	<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: e.vandekreeke@students.uu.nl my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Eva van de Kreeke
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
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

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	10 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 05 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>The application process was very easy. It takes some time to fill in the forms and to make sure you get all the signatures in the right place, but the work itself is not difficult. It is useful to know that you have to start early with the process. It takes time because all the parties (home university, abroad university and you as a student) have to fill in the forms. When some things are not filled in correctly the whole process has to start again, so it is important to make sure you start on time.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The international office at Utrecht University is super helpful. They start off with an exchange event to provide information for students who would like to go on their exchange. All the useful information and tips and tricks are on the Powerpoint slides which were also uploaded online, on Blackboard. If there were still any complications during either the application process or the grant application process in Osiris, the staff members of the office were always willing to help. Also, during my exchange in Paris I have had some problems with my accomodation. Because of the trouble it caused, I was really worried that I was not able to complete all my classes. I contacted the Intenational Office and they were really comforting and helped me to tackle the problems I encountered at that time.</p>
academic preparation	<p>The academic preparation was not any different than the preparation you have to do when applying for regular courses at the home university. You can not prepare for the courses in Paris in advance because you don't know which courses are available etc. If you sign up for the integration week you will get all the information you need.</p>

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

language preparation
To acquire a B2 level in french, I followed a language course at the Utrecht University. Once arrived in Paris there was an integration program where language courses were also included. It is always difficult to learn a language, but the best way to do this, is to be there. To have a basis in French is nessecary to give you the confidence to find your way at the University and in the city.
finances
I began saving for Paris since I knew I was accepted at the university. Although I saved a lot I still had to borrow a lot of money. Paris is an expensive city, but totally worth the costs.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I liked my study programme a lot. I followed "contemporary history" courses and one "art history "class. The history classes were all orientated on France or Paris which makes it super interesting to follow. I learned a lot more about the country and the city I lived in. To study these subjects in French, makes it even more special. There were some organisational issues, but it is very easy to fix these. It only takes some time and emails with the professors.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality was as high as back home. The professors expected an analytical and critical attitude of their students when writing papers, doing presentations and making exams. I thought the workload was higher in Paris than it is in Utrecht. This is also because of the language. It will take more time to read texts and write papers.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The International office was quite helpful. It takes some time to reach them, but they were always friendly and willing to give advice. Almost all the professors were really friendly as well.
transfer of credits	This was very easy. You have to write an email to the secretary of the history department and ask for your transcript of records.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	There was a one week programme at the university where students have the opportunity to get in touch with each other and follow a language programme. It was quite nice to get to know your fellow students and the way things work at the university.
accommodation	Finding an accomodation was easy since I looked on the website of 'Housinganywhere'. However, I had many problems with my landlord. When contacting 'Housinganywhere' about those problems, they told me it is not in their power to do anything about this. Their job is to lay contact between landlord and tenants. So I really recommand making clear agreements with your landlord in terms of a housing contract. Make sure all the agreements you make are legally valid, with signatures for example. I also recommand to correspond with your landlord via email instead of mobile phones or other social network platforms. Trust your gut feeling when searching for an accommodation!
leisure & culture	

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

Paris is amazing. This city is vivid, young, and full of culture. Everyday is different because of the endless things you can do and experience in this place. I visited many theaters, restaurants, bars, gardens and parcs. The people are also really friendly. I met people from all over the world in this city. Every 'arrondissement' is really different and each of them has its own attractions. To fully experience this city by living in it, makes it really special.

suggestions/tips

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! You will learn a lot of the university's programme as well as the city. Sometimes it was hard work with the language and especially all of the classes in French. It was a challenge sometimes, but I really enjoyed doing it, because I was proud of my work, once I was done. Also, living in such a big beautiful city is like living the dream.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Going on a exchange will change your perspectives about your own life and academic future. It is one of the most valuable things I have done so far.

**Report 4**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen/Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	14 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 05 / 2019 (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 makes you really enthusiastic about doing the exchange. However, I think that there is too much time in between the application and the actual exchange. For me, going the second semester, there was more than a year in between handing in my application and starting my first course at the Sorbonne.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The information provided by the UU is very accurate and understandable. The International Office Humanities in particular is really helpful and willing to help with all different sorts of problems concerning your exchange.

academic preparation

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

The courses I followed during my exchange were in line with the major I am following at the UU (i.e. philosophy). Therefore, I did not put that much effort in academic preparation, as the courses I wanted to follow were already within my academic field.
language preparation
Personally, I followed two language courses - Frans taalverwerving 1 and 2 - at Utrecht University to train my level of the language of instruction at my receiving university. For me, this really helped a lot in preparing to read, listen and speak in French. Of course, this should fit in your study programme at the UU, but for me, as a Liberal Arts & Sciences student, this was not a problem.
finances
I already saved some money before going on the exchange. Besides that, I think that the grant provided by Erasmus really helps in realizing your study abroad. Of course, a city like Paris is expensive, but if you look and spend carefully it is not over-expensive.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
The organisation was quite clear, and it was pleasant that international exchange students had the opportunity to visit every course available before determining which courses to take. This way, you could have some sort of try-out before actually following the course.
academic quality of education activities
The topics discussed in the courses were really interesting, and most teachers were really inspiring and passionate about their job. However, the courses were (often) poorly set up concerning deadlines and forms of examination, which caused some confusion for the students.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support was not really exhaustive and in many cases I had to send several emails and follow-up reminders to eventually get a reaction. In my case, a more personal and direct approach (for example by arranging a meeting face-to-face) was necessary.
transfer of credits
Unfortunately, there has not been a transfer of credits yet, since I do not have all of my results back and my transcript of records is yet to be composed. Concerning ECTS, I think the courses at the Sorbonne are equally measured as courses at the UU.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
Unfortunately, I have not been selected for the orientation programme, despite having applied for it on time. I was told that there was an administrative mistake, which made that all international exchange students doing philosophy could not attend the orientation programme.
accommodation
It was pretty hard to find an accomodation in Paris. Eventually, I came in contact through Facebook with a women who was born in the Netherlands and now living in Paris. Her daughter normally lived in a studio in the center of Paris - really small (8m2) - but she was doing an exchange semester as well, in Spain. I was really lucky finding this private studio. Another option is to apply for special student housing arranged by the Sorbonne (usually a bit further located from the cirty centre, for example at the Cité Universitaire).

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

## leisure &amp; culture

Of course, in a city like Paris there is an abundance of leisure and culture, which makes it really hard to get bored during your semester abroad. Paris is the second most visited city in the world (after Bangkok) and there are sights and activities in nearly every quartier of the town.

## suggestions/tips

In Paris, a lot of attractions (e.g. almost all museums) are free for people younger than 26 years living in the EU. A perfect way to use this advantage is to walk in random museums and try out activities that offer a discount or even free entry.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend studying at the Sorbonne for one (or two) semesters! Not only is it a stunning university with inspiring teachers, but living in such a beautiful city as Paris for half a year is really a dream.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Maybe it is possible to decrease the timespan between application and exchange. For me, there was more than a year in between my application deadline and the actual exchange period. Besides that, I think that there are a lot of bureaucratic/administrative issues that the students have to take care of, like the countless documents concerning Learning Agreements and reports like this one. Maybe there is a way of combining those into fewer documents and tasks, to make everything a bit more clear.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne****2017-2018****Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> i.verbiesen@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	French language and culture

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
start date	07 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process went well: the university kept me updated on deadlines and gave clear information on what they expect you to do. You have to do things like writing a motivation letter, making a financial plan and a study plan. It seems like a lot, but it helped me in a way that I got very self-conscious: why do I want to go to Paris, what will I be doing there, and what will it offer me in the long run, career-wise? After submitting my application, I was very happy about my choice and I could not wait until the time was finally there.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	A long time in advance, the university organises information meetings for students that are interested in going abroad. The students website also provides a lot of information on orientation and on the application. Furthermore, you can ask for a meeting with a contact person from your bachelor's programme, which I did, and it really helped me, because you can ask them specific questions and they can tell you about the experiences of other students in your bachelor's degree that went abroad. Also, the International Office has been very helpful: they are always there for you when you need help.
academic preparation	Because of the fact that I was going to follow mostly third year's courses, I knew it was important to have a certain academic level of knowledge. However, I study French language and culture, and at Sorbonne I followed ancient history courses. From that point of view, I could not really prepare academically. I just prepared by reading a lot about the subjects, but I am sure that is not necessary. The most important thing is choosing courses that you are interested in.
language preparation	Personally, I study French language and culture, therefore my study programme was sufficient concerning the acquisition of the required B2 level in French.
finances	From a very young age, I already knew that I wanted to study at Sorbonne at some point during my studies. Therefore, I started saving money a long time in advance. Saving money is a good thing to do in my opinion,

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

since Paris is a very expensive city to live in, especially when you are an exchange student and want to make the most out of your time in Paris. Just an Erasmus grant is simply not sufficient.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

Regarding the inscription process for the courses, there is a big difference between Sorbonne and Utrecht University: whereas in Utrecht you sign up via internet, at Sorbonne you have to hand in a signed paper at the secrétariat a few days in advance of the first week of the semester. This was quite stressful to me, since the university did not tell us beforehand, so in the integration week we suddenly had to sign up for the courses we wanted to follow. However, everything turned out just fine. If you do not like the courses you have chosen, you can change courses after a week or two.

The Sorbonne offers a wide range of history courses, but I only did ancient history courses. This meant I was not able to do all the courses I chose before my mobility, due to time schedule overlap. That was quite a shame, but in the end I managed to make some changes in my learning agreement.

As for the course content: the courses are not too hard to follow. The most important thing is a high level of French. In the beginning, I felt like the teachers talked very fast, but I got used to it very soon.

## academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the courses was high, just like the teachers' academic knowledge and competences. I followed third year courses, and I think that the level matched level 3 courses at Utrecht University: you have to work hard and they are very specific and require a certain background knowledge. Nonetheless, I think you are still able to follow the courses if you are just interested in them and if your language level is high enough, as I argued before.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

I did not have any issues, so I do not have experiences with the local International Office or any other counselling or supporting institutions.

## transfer of credits

In the integration week, we were being told that our transcript of records would be sent to us a few weeks after the end of the semester. Since France is a bureaucratic country and things require a lot of paperwork, it can take a long time -- but you can always send an email so they can keep you up to date.

Sorbonne uses the ECTS system, so 30 ECTS at Sorbonne corresponds well with 30 ECTS in Utrecht (the normal amount of credits for one semester). Therefore, I chose to take an ensemble of courses that were 30ECTS together. Otherwise, it would have been too much.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

The university arranged a welcoming cocktail and meeting with all exchange students together. The following week was integration week, in which I had to follow a five day language course and some methodology courses. Especially the methodology courses were very useful, as I got an insight in how things work at Sorbonne: the type of assignments and exams you can expect, et cetera.

Sorbonne offers an international students association, which was especially nice in the first few weeks of my mobility period, because I did not know anyone, and they organise a lot of activities, so they give you a nice opportunity to meet other exchange students. It helped me meet new people, people that are now very good friends of mine.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

accommodation
I was very lucky when it came to finding an accommodation, which I managed to do via one of my teachers at Utrecht University. Otherwise, it can be difficult and stressful to find a place to stay, so I have heard from other exchange students. I can just say: as soon as you know you want to go to Paris, start looking for an accommodation!
leisure & culture
Paris is a very rich city when it comes to culture and leisure. There are lots of museums (most of them are even free for students) and cultural activities to do. Paris has a very rich history, which you see and feel around you when you are walking in the streets: there is always something to do, and you will always discover new places to go to: that is what I love about Paris. Throughout the week, I met my friends mostly at night, because we all had busy time schedules, but we always managed to see each other every few days. On weekends, we organised museum trips and other activities ourselves, but once again, there are students associations that organize a lot of events.
suggestions/tips

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would definitely recommend the Panthéon-Sorbonne University to other students. That is, it has always been a very prestigious university, which made me feel honoured to get the possibility to study there. I must say that the facilities are not always as good as the facilities we are used to at Utrecht University, which makes things challenging sometimes, but it also makes things very interesting. Also, Paris is a very big, dynamic city, but at the same time, if you get to know the city better, you will see that eventually it feels like a very small town. To me, it feels like a second home.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 2**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	French language and culture
destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne
start date	01 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

**PREPARATION**

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

exchange application process
It is quite an intensive application process, there are a lot of things to do, but everything is very well and clearly indicated on the site of the UU. Also, the International Office provides a lot of information.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The international Office is very helpful, and always responds quite fast on your emails.
academic preparation
As I'm a student in French language and culture, the courses of the bachelor were my academic preparation. However, the academic system in France is really different, so you need to keep in mind that, even if you have a better language knowledge than most of the Erasmus students, you will need to adapt to the French way of writing and organizing.
language preparation
Since I am a student in French language in culture, my French language knowledge was adequate enough before going abroad.
finances
The living costs in Paris are quite high, so you really need to be prepared. Especially the rent is very high, so better start saving money early and make some calculations, this really helps to estimate your costs.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took some extra courses to be sure to obtain 30 ECTS, but I do not recommend this! The system is very different, and for a 4 ECTS course you have sometimes the same amount of preparation as a 5 ECTS course, so just take the amount you need. In my opinion, the best combination is 4 courses of 5 ECTS, 2 of 4 ECTS ('complémentaire') and a language or other course of 2 ECTS. The content of the courses was very interesting, sometimes a bit difficult because I was doing history without doing that Bachelor in the Netherlands. The teachers do not always provide guidelines, so you need to find out their expectations by yourself, but this is also a part of intercultural learning I think. The final exams were not well organised, because as an Erasmus student you do the oral exams, but the secretary makes a schedule based on the subject, which means that you have all the exams at the same day when you only choose 'histoire contemporaine' for example. However, I managed to change some dates if you explain this problem to your teachers.
academic quality of education activities
I think it is a chance to study at the Sorbonne, because the history education is the best in France and you have very renowned teachers. However, the way of teaching is very different, so compared to the wide range of exercises we are used to in the Netherlands, the diversity seems to be poor. But I think this is part of experiencing another educational system.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The delegated teacher is really helpful, and for organisational problems you can contact the secretary, but it can take much time to get an answer. Compared to the International Office in Utrecht, the support is not that well organised.
transfer of credits
Still in progress.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
I recommend the integration week! It's a good preparation at the educational system, but quite serious. Also, keep in mind that the 'examencommissie' does not recognize automatically the 3 ECTS, they only gave me 1 ECTS for the whole week.	
accommodation	
Hard to find in Paris! Start in time, I was lucky that I had contacts in Paris. Also, there is the service CROUS, which provides accommodations for international students.	
leisure & culture	
Paris is of course an amazing city when it comes to leisure and culture. There is a lot to do and to see! The association of the university (ISAP) also organizes activities, which can be nice to get to know new people.	
suggestions/tips	
I can only recommend to begin in time with your preparation: make a list of things you want to do, search for an accommodation, so that you don't have to worry once you're in Paris. For your accommodation, you can get financial support of the CAF, so don't forget that one! And make the best out of it, it will be an amazing time!	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes, but it is not the easiest way to go for a stay abroad. Compared to other universities in France, Paris 1 demands maybe a higher level of French and academic competences, but at the same time it is a chance to be able to study at one of the most reputed universities in France. I definitely recommend Paris as destination, because it is an amazing city! I had an unforgettable experience, even though it was not always easy. And I also learned a lot of the difficulties and organisational issues I had, it definitely improves your French and makes you good at problem solving ;)	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
See it as an adventure, an intercultural challenge and everything will be fine! It's Paris, so it will be an amazing experience and it's definitely worth it!	

**Report 3**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> e.j.delooijer@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<b>bachelor's</b> master's                      PhD
name study programme	Communicatie- en Informatiewetenschappen

destination city & country	PARIS, FRANCE
name university abroad	Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris 1
start date	03 /01 /2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19/05 /2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University helped me so much during my preparation for my application process.
academic preparation
I just signed in for my courses when I arrived in Paris. Indeed, I have to do it also before I left Holland (as some kind of assurance that I would really go to Paris), but this was not binding.
language preparation
In the semester before I left Holland for Paris, I did two French language courses to better my French. The first one was about French grammar and vocabulary, and the second one was a course given in French, about the French politics and history.
finances
I didn't had the time to save enough money, as I just decided to go to Paris about 2 months before I actually left.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I studied in a completely different departement than I do in Holland. In Holland I study normally communication, but in Paris I choose for history, just because it seemed interesting to me. In the beginning it was really hard (everything was also in French of course), but it was definately the right choice as it was really interesting. I had a lot of organisational issues though. That's very important to know about the French universities: they are not as organized as the universities in Holland ;) In the beginning I thought that was kind of difficult, but just always: GO THERE. No emails or phonecalls, just go there; that's the only way you'll get your answer.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the education was good, but I have to notice that there is a really big difference between the teacher and the students. In Holland, there's always place for a discussion or conversation between teacher and students about a subject. In France, it's really the teacher who tells you how it is and how you should reproduce it, and that's that.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support is not really strong at my university. Because there's such a high level of bureaucracy, it's really hard to find the right people for your problem or to get your answer fast in general. It annoyed me sometimes a bit that I had to ask 3 times for just a little simple thing. But the teacher (or, the teachers I had) were also really helpful when they got to know that I was an Erasmus student.
transfer of credits
Until so far the transferring of credits went okay. My credits got already accepted by UU.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
The orientation programme was a bit more than one week. It was French classes, tours in the library and other places of uni and in the end a party. It was a nice week and way to get to know the other students and the uni, as this university is literally everywhere in Paris so you really have to know where to go.	
accommodation	
Paris I has no campus, so I had to look for my room myself. I arrived in Paris with no room or anything, I stayed in a hostel and looked for my room here in Paris. That went quit well; I used the site <a href="http://www.erasmusu.com">www.erasmusu.com</a> → it's really useful for Erasmus students. But watch out; prices in Paris are high. My first room was in the 14 <sup>th</sup> arrondissement, 7 m2 and I payed 700,-. But now I'm living better: Bastille, 15 m2 for 600,-. You just have to be lucky or know some people in the city. But please don't think that it's mission impossible to find something in Paris, as some people think, because that's definately not true! And there's also always Cité Universitaire → a kind of campus for ALL the students in Paris.	
leisure & culture	
If you're reading this because you're doubting about leaving to Paris, you already know or can imagine what this city has to offer you on cultural/leisure level. This city has litteraly everything: one of the most famous musea of the world, architecture, little independant exhibitions, squats, parcs, and hundreds of parties/festivals/events. Whether it's summer or winter, Paris is always alive. And that's what attracts me the most to this city: there is ALWAYS something to do, to see or to hear.	
suggestions/tips	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would with all of my heart recommend this university and destination to others. As I said before, it's not the best organised university, the language can be hard in the beginning, you pay a lot of money, but in the end everything can be managed. And I think the experience of living in one of the biggest cities in the world with endless possibilities in art and whatever you are looking for, is way more important. For me it's like living in a little dreamworld. That's why I also decided to stay :) I don't know what it is with this city, but people fall for it. So: YES, go abroad. Go to Paris. It will open your eyes, I am a 100% sure.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

**Report 4**

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> rensvanhoogdalem@gmail.com
faculty/college	humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Philosophy

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	université Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne
start date	05 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 11 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process didn't provide any trouble.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	good
academic preparation	
	I would say this is the part that posed a lot of problems for me afterwards. I didn't have any clue the educational system was so different than the one in Utrecht. The two universities have a whole different way of teaching, preparing for classes and even the classes itself are very different. It would have been nice to have gotten more information on the way they teach, what kind of classes they have and how to study 'the french way'. I feel the academic gap between Paris 1 and UU is big. It would have been nice to be prepared for that. I sent several mails to Paris 1 in preparation of my semester abroad but didn't got a satisfying response.
language preparation	
	I took an delf B2 course and found that to be more than enough. With this course I noticed I spoke better French than most other erasmus-students.
finances	

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I have never seen a university with such a vast and elaborate offer of philosophy courses than the Sorbonne. The big difficulty is with finding the Gems. Do not worry if you still don't know what courses you will follow at the beginning of your semester. Everyone gets two weeks to visit as many courses as you want and then, after those two weeks you have to pick your courses. Because I was in the third year of my bachelor I mainly looked at License 3 courses. Instead, I should have been more focused on the M1 and M2 courses because the L3 courses were really of a much more inferior level than the M1 and M2 courses. Organisation-wise the Sorbonne is a big disaster. You never know what you have to read for a class. It is absolutely not clear what the teachers expect from their students and as i mentioned before, you only know what courses you'll be taking halfway the first month of your stay.
academic quality of education activities	
	Differed a lot from course to course. The challenge is to find the right professors, if you manage to figure out who's good, you might actually learn something, if you don't, be prepared for some nervewrecking classes.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Never mail, allway go to them in real life. The counselling and support is just flat-out bad. At this point you notice that it is such a big university, they don't really care.
transfer of credits

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
You might as well want to skip the introductory programme. It was a waste of time. Orientation programme: find some cool students and figure everything out on your own.
accommodation
I stayed in the quartier Latin dans le sixième, which was cool because it was at walking distance of the sorbonne but i also payed a lot for it. You might be better of not staying in the center but in the 20e or 10e. Very up an coming neighbourhoods. Also the 15 is really nice.
leisure & culture
It's Paris. They give rockconcerts in Musée d'orsay. They host some of the biggest cultural events in the world. Art and culture in paris is number one. What I would suggest to make your stay more worthwhile, focus less on academic endeavours, since they tend to dissappoint, and really focus on having a good time, going to as many museums as, as many jazzclubs, as many gardens, as many festivals as you can. Then you'll have a great time, don't expect the university to deliver.
suggestions/tips

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
It really depends on what kind of student you are. Are you a student that thrives on total freedom, the feeling that you can do whatever you want, read whatever you want and who doesn't expect a university to challenge you but does it yourself, then this could be a good university for you. If you are a student that thrives on structure and challenges given by the university, a student that expects from a university and professors to actively engage with the students, then this uni is maybe not for you. I would recommend this university only if you are fed up with the educational system here and really want to try something completely different and if you are looking for adventure. I wouldn't recommend this university to someone who is pursuing an academical career.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Feel free to contact me.

**Report 5**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> c.c.fijen@students.uu.nl
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**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne
start date	12 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 05 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The exchange application process is not a very complex process, although it does take time. Utecht University informs you well about the deadlines and needed documents. If you start on time, it is not a problem to have your application ready before the deadline. The difficult part of the application is however to write your motivational letter and figure out exactly why you want to go on exchange. If you have clear and interesting reasons for this, your letter will be written in a sec and the application process will proceed smoothly.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office of Utrecht University is there for all your questions! I emaild a lot with them, asking them all sorts of questions, but they always answer very kindly and very quick. It is great to have such a professional and fast operating International Office. They will help you through the entire application process and are always there if you need some reassurance about your exchange. Doing an Erasmus is after all a very exiting yet stressfull project.
academic preparation	The academic level of Utrecht University is very high. Just following your normal courses and being an 'eager' student is in my opinion enough academic preparation. Of course it is helpful to research the academic level of your receiving university, for example by reading course descriptions and comparing the literature they use. But once you have done that I personally think you will have no problems with the level of the courses you are going to follow abroad.
language preparation	Since I have studied in Paris, all my courses were given in French. In order to study at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne you will need a level of B2 in French. To obtain this level you can either follow the first three 'Taalverwerving Frans' courses at the UU, or you can obtain your B2 certificate at another instution. I obtained my B2 French certificate after following a course at the Alliance Française in Rotterdam. They offer a specific course to prepare you for the exam and in my case their course worked perfectly.
finances	Doing an exchange in Paris is quite expensive. This is of course caused by the fact that Paris is the capital of France and that there live a lot of rich Parisians in the city. Do not get scared by the costs of an exchange though, the experience is more than worth it and there are multiple ways to help you financing your stay abroad. For example, the Erasmus scholarship is available for almost every student participation in an Erasmus exchange. Thereby, there are as well additional scholarships you can apply to. Personally I tried to work as much

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

as possible at my side job to save money for my exchange and I did a payed internship before coming to Paris. Last but not least, your parents are most likely to finance a part of your exchange too. For almost every Erasmusstudent I spoke their parents helped out one way or another.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

## study programme (content and organisational issues)

The organisation of the inscription for the courses was arranged properly. After I found out where to go to subscribe myself for my courses the organisation worked very good. The secretariat of Art History helped me a lot and after a week everything was properly arranged.

After arriving in Paris I changed some of my courses due to the content of the courses I had chosen while being in The Netherlands. The descriptions of the courses in the student guide were quite short so it was difficult to determine what the courses in Paris would look like. Therefore I decided to attend the lectures of some courses I did not choose, as well as the lectures of the courses I did choose, to compare them and decide which ones I was going to follow definitely. After a week I made my choice and communicated this with the secretariat. They made sure my inscription was correct and then my study program was organized.

## academic quality of education activities

The courses at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne are certainly different than the ones in Utrecht. That doesn't mean the quality is less, they just focus on other things than Utrecht University does. A difference I noticed for example is that they focus less on the development of your research skills and more on your general art historical knowledge. Instead of writing research papers they ask third year bachelor students to do an 'expose', a presentation in front of the class about a painting or subject related to the lectures. Thereby, students are not supposed to read a lot of articles, which surprised me since it is very common in Utrecht. On the other hand, the lectures and themes addressed in the courses here are very interesting and the professors are true specialists in their fields. So the courses are different, but not necessarily of a lesser academic quality.

## counselling &amp; support at receiving university abroad

The counselling by both the Erasmus responsible for Art History students and the International Office of Paris 1 were great. The communication worked fast and they tried to help you as much as they could. For all your questions the Maison International was there. The easiest way to reach them is either by mail or in person in their office.

## transfer of credits

My home University uses the credit system as Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne. This saved a lot of troubles with the credit calculations. To make sure my university would accept the credits I obtained in Paris, I asked the maison international of Paris 1 to stamp the credit transfer document they use for international students. With this document I hope not to have any trouble transferring my credits, but since the universities both use the ECTS system I do not foresee any troubles.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

The integration week hosted by my guest university was very helpful and well organised. Every morning from 9:00h to 13:00h we had french lessons, so that we all would start our classes well prepared and equipped with enough French knowledge. The teacher was very friendly and helped us a lot with our language troubles. It is difficult to suddenly switch to another languages other than English for me, so the lessons in the intergration week were a welcome starting point.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

Next to French classes, we also had several classes which explained the university to us. Classes on how to use the library, how to make your exams and how the lecture system works were giving to all the new Erasmus students. Very helpful as well, since it is hard to figure this all out by yourself.

In short, the welcome and orientation programme of Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne was very good. It was a helpful first week in Paris which really helped me to start my exchange without any major problems.

**accommodation**

I found the accommodation for my stay in Paris via internet myself. It took me a long time to find an appropriate accommodation in the neighborhood of the university, which was located in the 6<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris. I cannot give a lot of advice on how to find a nice accommodation, since all the students I spoke to about the subject had their own methods. I think it is a matter of searching a lot, holding on and a little luck. Eventually all the Erasmusstudents found a place to stay, so you will find a place too!

**leisure & culture**

Paris is of course a city which has a lot to offer concerning leisure and culture. You can visit a lot of places on your own, but of course it is more fun to visit them with your new friends. Therefore I recommend to all the new Erasmusstudents in Paris to take part in the activities hosted by other students or International student associations as ISAP1 or ESN. They will show you the coolest places of the city and help you find your way to the nicest bars, restaurants, museums or secret 'touristic' places.

Some advise to hold on to: Erasmus is the party everyone is always invited to!

**suggestions/tips**

I could obviously write down some classic advises in here, but I chose not to. I think it is very important to follow your own path while being on Erasmus and making decisions on your own. No matter what you do or what you choose not to do: it will be alright. Just go with the flow, have fun and let yourself be amazed by all the new things you will experience.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would definitely recommend this university and destination to others. The university is one of the best in Paris, if not France and the city is truly wonderful. Studying in French makes things harder than a 'regular' exchange in English might be, although it does add up to the general experience of living in another country where people speak another language. By following classes in French your French will improve and your connection to the French culture will narrow.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go! Be brave and sign up for an exchange. The experience is truly worth it. You will learn a lot about yourself and it is great to experience the differences between universities within the Europe.

**2016 – 2017****Report 1**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen		
level	<b>bachelor's</b>	master's	PhD
name study programme	Communicatie- en Informatiewetenschappen		
destination city & country	PARIS, FRANCE		

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

name university abroad	Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris 1
start date	03 /01 /2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19/05 /2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University helped me so much during my preparation for my application process.
academic preparation	I just signed in for my courses when I arrived in Paris. Indeed, I have to do it also before I left Holland (as some kind of assurance that I would really go to Paris), but this was not binding.
language preparation	In the semester before I left Holland for Paris, I did two French language courses to better my French. The first one was about French grammar and vocabulary, and the second one was a course given in French, about the French politics and history.
finances	I didn't had the time to save enough money, as I just decided to go to Paris about 2 months before I actually left.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I studied in a completely different departement than I do in Holland. In Holland I study normally communication, but in Paris I choose for history, just because it seemed interesting to me. In the beginning it was really hard (everything was also in French of course), but it was definately the right choice as it was really interesting. I had a lot of organisational issues though. Thats very important to know about the French universities: they are not as organized as the universities in Holland ;) In the beginning I thought that was kind of difficult, but just always: GO THERE. No emails or phonecalls, just go there; thats the only way youll get your answer.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of the education was good, but I have to notice that there is a really big difference between the teacher and the students. In Holland, theres always place for a discussion or conversation between teacher and students about a subject. In France, its really the teacher who tells you how it is and how you should reproduce it, and thats that.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The support is not really strong at my university. Because theres such a high level of bureaucracy, its really hard to find the right people for your problem or to get your answer fast in general. It annoyed me sometimes a bit that I had to ask 3 times for just a little simple thing. But the teacher (or, the teachers I had) were also really helpful when they got to know that I was an Erasmus student.
transfer of credits	

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

Until so far the transferring of credits went okay. My credits got already accepted by UU.

**STUDENT LIFE**

## welcome &amp; orientation programme

The orientation programme was a bit more than one week. It was French classes, tours in the library and other places of uni and in the end a party. It was a nice week and way to get to know the other students and the uni, as this university is literally everywhere in Paris so you really have to know where to go.

## accommodation

Paris I has no campus, so I had to look for my room myself. I arrived in Paris with no room or anything, I stayed in a hostel and looked for my room here in Paris. That went quite well; I used the site [www.erasmusu.com](http://www.erasmusu.com) → its really useful for Erasmus students. But watch out; prices in Paris are high. My first room was in the 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, 7 m<sup>2</sup> and I paid 700,-. But now I'm living better: Bastille, 15 m<sup>2</sup> for 600,-. You just have to be lucky or know some people in the city. But please don't think that it's mission impossible to find something in Paris, as some people think, because that's definitely not true! And there's also always Cité Universitaire → a kind of campus for ALL the students in Paris.

## leisure &amp; culture

If you're reading this because you're doubting about leaving to Paris, you already know or can imagine what this city has to offer you on a cultural/leisure level. This city has literally everything: one of the most famous museums of the world, architecture, little independent exhibitions, squares, parks, and hundreds of parties/festivals/events. Whether it's summer or winter, Paris is always alive. And that's what attracts me the most to this city: there is ALWAYS something to do, to see or to hear.

## suggestions/tips

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I would with all of my heart recommend this university and destination to others. As I said before, it's not the best organised university, the language can be hard in the beginning, you pay a lot of money, but in the end everything can be managed. And I think the experience of living in one of the biggest cities in the world with endless possibilities in art and whatever you are looking for, is way more important. For me it's like living in a little dreamworld. That's why I also decided to stay :) I don't know what it is with this city, but people fall for it. So: YES, go abroad. Go to Paris. It will open your eyes, I am 100% sure.

## do you have any additional advice or comments?

**Report 2**

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

destination city & country	Paris, France
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**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

name university abroad	Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1)
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process is quite extensive, so beginning on time is very important. It is also a good idea to always be aware of deadlines etc so keep that in mind.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	In Utrecht the administration is very nice and helpful, I have always been able to send an email with my questions.
academic preparation	I had already finished two years of the bachelor French language and culture so that was basically my academic preparation.
language preparation	Same as above.
finances	I didn't save up for my stay in Paris. I did spend a lot of money there but if you're careful that is actually quite managable. In Paris there are big supermarkets like Lidl and Intermarché, in the 18 <sup>th</sup> arrondissement (where I was staying) I had both in walking distance.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	As for choosing the courses, that is different for every university in France. Initially I was enrolled in year three history classes, but those were too difficult in my opinion. The counselors in Utrecht advised me to enroll in classes of year one and two, so I did and that was a little bit better. To be honest, I had a hard time with the courses. Especially in the beginning. The teachers were nice but weren't all that helpful and the workload is quite large, depending on the teacher and the course. Be prepared to spend a lot of time studying. I know that this is different in other cities.
academic quality of education activities	The teachers were obviously knowledgable. The didactic skills were very poor.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Horrible. It depends on the situation, if you're lucky everything goes as planned. If not, you will probably have a hard time getting someone to give you clear and helpful advice. Most of the people responsible for exchange students know nothing about nothing and will keep sending you to different people who also know nothing about nothing. Ah, the French bureaucracy.
transfer of credits	Don't know yet, I have been sending emails for weeks to find out what my grades are but no answer yet.

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	
Apparently there was a deadline for the application for the introduction week. It wasn't made clear in the email so keep that in mind.	
accommodation	
I got a room at a CROUS residence, a 35m2 room with bathroom and kitchen - had to share it with another girl. The room was separated into two sleeping spaces with doors so there was enough privacy. It cost 300 a month and it was located in the 18 <sup>th</sup> arrondissement, not the best but I never felt unsafe. The residence is only accessible with a key for the gates.	
leisure & culture	
Awesome! It's Paris, so always lots to do and lots to see.	
suggestions/tips	
Buy a Lonely Planet for Paris and try to see as much as possible. 5 months isn't nearly enough to see everything but to me that is a good thing.	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
The university, no. The city, yes. I had a great time there, I know it doesn't seem like it in this report but there is a lot to do besides worrying about university when you're there. And also, all the problems and difficulties made me 1. much better in french and 2. an awesome problem-solver. I am already noticing the difference three weeks into the new semester in Utrecht.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
Eventually, it's all worth it! ;)	

**Report 3**

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Frans taal en cultuur

destination city & country	Paris, France
name university abroad	Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne
start date	01 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	19 / 05 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	

**France - Paris - Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne**

All the information about the process provided by the UU was very clear and easy to follow. The information about credits and cours scheduals from Sorbonne was not so clear, had to ask and email a lot.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The interntational office has always been very helpful
academic preparation
Since the Sorbonne university is very different from Utrecht in academic culture I didn't feel prepared, but that's part of the learning experience too
language preparation
I study french language so I already had a C1 level before going
finances
I made some calculations, which is really necessairy when you go live in an expensive city like Paris

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I liked the content of the courses I took (Histoire contemporaine) But in 5 months I could not get used to the way university organised. Some teachers sended guidelines for Erasmus students for essays and exposés, some teachers didn't at all. Especially the organisation of my lasts exams was horrible. They planned 5 oral exams at the same day at the same time and it was really hard to solve this problem cause nobody would ansvere emails and secretariat couldn't help us. Also they didn't provide any information at all about the content of the exams. I felt very frustrated about this
academic quality of education activities
It's very different from Dutch way of teaching. So in the beginning I considered it to be a low quality, but it also has to do with the way you expect things to be and the things you're used to.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There was no. If you find a problem, you have to solve it yourself.
transfer of credits
I'm still in this process

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
The semaine d'intégration was helpfull, i got to know people and the language course was pretty intense. It was very full and serious, with classes all week from 9:00 till 18:00, more than it was fun.
accommodation
I found easily because I already knew people in Paris
leisure & culture
I choose to study in France because I like the culture and I feel connected to it. But I still had to get used for a long time, especially to the university 'culture'.
suggestions/tips

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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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I can recommend this university. I haven't had the best time in this university because most of the time i was frustrated by poor organisation and all the difficulties I had to solve all the time. Things take a lot of time, are not clear, are not well organised, to say the least, I was disappointed a lot of times because I expected the Sorbonne to be an excellent university. But if you let go of all your expectations and just try to go with the way things go, you might have a better experience.
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do you have any additional advice or comments?
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