

2019-2020**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	LMU
start date	03 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I first selected the country/countries I wanted to go to, after which I made my choice for the the host university on the basis of several criteria: offer of relevant subjects, academic reputation, additional structures, such as libraries, museums and archives, and the city.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the support at the Univeristy of Utrecht quite good, the introductory afternoon at the start of the whole process, was very informative, the exchange office has very quick reply times, and the fact that they send you emails to remind you to do the necessary steps in time is very helpful.

academic preparation

Since I followed courses in my field, I did not need any preparation regarding the content of the subjects. What I did to prepare me was talking to my professors about the academic traditions and conventions in Germany and getting information on acadmic life in Germany via the web. I also followd a language and preparation course before the semester started to acquaint myself with local conventions, rules and structures.

language preparation

Before I applied for an exchange at the University of Utrecht, I started with a autodidactical course, after which I did a German course at a private language institute. Before the start of the semester I also followed a one month language and preparation course to reach the required level. What I do think though, is that the University of Utrecht should offer the possibility of free language classes to all its students (even if they don't want to go abroad), universities are places of learning and research. Learning a new language is part of such development and should be available to all, which is the case at many universities in the world. Having a partnership with a commercial language school does not substitute that.

finances

When it comes to finances I made a rough calculation of the money I needed for my period abroad. In the period before my exchange started I tried to work a little more, especially in summer to be able to save some money. Furthermore, I got a small loan from DUO and my parents offered to support me a bit.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I had to change practically all my classes, since almost none of the ones I filled out on my learning agreement were available. My contact person did what she had to do, but I would have appreciated it if she had taken the time to meet in person and explain me some things about the instute I was in, as was the case for many other foreign students. What was very nice, was that LMU offered a language course during the semester at a very low price, to improve your German further.
academic quality of education activities	I was quite satisfied by the quality of the education activities. The level of teaching is comparable to the Netherlands, but they take a somewhat different approach to things and stress other competences. What I also found very refreshing is that, contrary to Utrecht University, they don't bombard their students with short essays during the semester, instead students have to give a presentation on a topic and then write a long research paper on it, which they have to hand in at the end of the semester. Especially for exchange students, that is really convenient, because it gives you to opportunity to adapt to the language and the research and writing conventions, before you actually have to start writing.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The Erasmus office of the Unviversity was very helpful and tried to respond as much as possible to the needs of the students. What I also found very heartwarming was the support and interest of my professors. If you show that you did not only come to party, but that you also have academic goals you want to achieve during your exchange, they show themselves as very helpful and try to make you feel at home.
transfer of credits	I can't comment on this section, since the classes I took abroad still have to be reviewed by the exam board. However, I assume that all credits will be transferred since the level of education and the working load required to obtain one credit are very similar.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	I took the facultative language and preparation course, which contained a welcome and orientation programme. I was very satisfied by that, since I got to know the city and visited several places around Munich as well. Furthermore, it offered me the opportunity to make friends right from the beginning.
accommodation	Finding accomodation is really difficult in Munich, prices are high and the offer of rooms, especially furnished ones for short time periods, is rather limited. In that sense it is pretty similar to Amsterdam. The organisation responsible for student housing, Studentenwerk, offers some of its accomodations to Erasmus students, which are assigned through a lottery system for which you can sign up during your application at LMU. Unfortunately, they did not have a room for me, so I had to look for private accomodation. What Studentwerk also offers is a counselling service, through this I found my room before I left for Munich, so in the end it finding a room was quite stress free.
leisure & culture	Munich offers a huge array of different options to spend your free time, there are quite a lot of interesting museums, many cinemas (which also offer films in the original language with German subtitles), bars and restaurants. Furthermore, also for those who love to spend their time outside, there is quite a lot, there are many parks, and the S-bahn included in your student ticket brings you also outside the city where you can find

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

mountains and lakes.
suggestions/tips
Contrary to the prejudices, Germans, or at least German students, are rather open minded and interested in you as a foreign student. If you open yourself up to them (which is the idea of Erasmus, but always appears to be harder than it seems) you can make really nice friendships with local people as well, which really is an enrichment of your exchange. Another tip is try to explore Munich's surroundings and other cities in Bavaria (and Austria and the Czech Republic as well). Don't think you can do it all, there are many and six months are over in a blink, the distances can sometimes be big and public transport isn't always the cheapest neither very fast, but it is really worth it and compared to the Netherlands you have so many interesting places just around the corner. So plan on forehand where you want to go, and be ambitious so that if at the end you only could go to half of the places on your list, you still saw a lot of things.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definetly recommend LMU to other students. The University offers good quality education, people are nice and the city and its surroundings offer lots of different things to spend your time with.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Well the best advice would be to learn German, even if your courses will be in English, the level of English of most Germans, including students, is much lower than you're used to at home. So to be able to integrate and not completely end up in an Erasmus bubble you need to know the language.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	RMA Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies

destination city & country	München, Germany
how did you travel to your destination?	By train
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	02 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
You have to apply by filling in an online form that you have to send by post. This seems a bit archaic to me, but that's Germany :) The process went very smooth and was really easy and simple as long as you follow the different steps carefully since you have to gather various documents.

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counselling & support at Utrecht University
In general the support received from the UU was really good. There were some communication issues, but nothing really worth noticing. Thanks!
academic preparation
The annoying thing is that, during the summer, the LMU does not know yet which courses it's going to offer during the Wintersemester. Be prepared and willing to change the courses you want to follow. However, this should not really be a problem since the LMU offers a wide array of courses, so there should always be courses that fit you.
language preparation
For my my master's programme it is very important that your German is at a decent level since almost every course is offered in German. Therefore, I followed a language preparation course offered by the university in September, prior to the start of the semester.
finances
Münich is a very expensive city to live in compared to Utrecht. Although daily groceries are cheaper than in the Netherlands the rents are sky high. Therefore, I applied for, and got the DIA-Stipendium. It is really worth the try to apply for this stipendium.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed courses at the departments of archaeology and ancient history concerned with various topics. Most of my courses were concerned with concepts revolving around materialism or cultural exchange. I also followed a course, which happens more often in München, in which we met with different professors every week to discuss their research. The teachers are really free in organizing their courses and granting ECTS. It is therefore a wise thing to ask your teacher directly if there is an administrative problem concerning her or his course. Be prepared to mail them a lot already in the summer to get to know how many ECTS you can get from following each course. Usually it's 3, 6 or 9.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is in general similar to the Dutch quality. The hard part is doing everything in German. Most often you will be allowed to write your essays in English.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There are many different people for many different things. The easiest way is to go to the international office first.
transfer of credits
I don't know yet since my semester has not officially ended yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme offered by the university is not really extensive since most exchange students also follow the language course (IUCM) which also includes an introduction in Bavaria and the university. The language course includes different day trips to i.a. Nürnberg, Dachau and Neuschwanstein for only 50 euros extra. I have met a lot of people during the language course and the events that were organized through it. So

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do it!
accommodation
Housing is expensive and difficult to find. If you are lucky you get allotted to a studenthouse but the chances are around 50 50. Therefore, start looking early. I knew someone who was living in Munich which helped me a lot. Most other students however had to go to Munich a couple of days earlier to meet landlords in order to find housing.
leisure & culture
There is so much to do in Munich, its incredible. When its sunny, everyone is chilling in the Englisher Garten, which is bigger than Central Park. If the weather is shit, there are so many museums you can visit that I have lost count on how many there are. All museums are cheap and most of them only cost one euro on Sundays. There is also a lot of sports going on in Munich, not only football, but ice hockey and basketball are huge as well.Oh and don't forget Oktoberfest and the unlimited amount of beerhalls and Stüben
suggestions/tips
Visit place outside of Munich as well. Augsburg, Nurnberg and Regensburg are all lovely cities to visit. The alps are only an hours drive away so please go hiking and skiing as well.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Both the university and the city are amazing. Furthermore, Germany is a very important country in Europe and not as stiff as many people think.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

2017-2018**Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> daan_olthoff1993@hotmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	München, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	03 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process took a while. Due to circumstances particular to my studies at home, I only subscribed for the winter semester in February of 2017. I received many letters and document from LMU that I was to fill in and send back (sometimes via post). There were some small technical difficulties, but these were smoothly solved by the International Offices in München and Utrecht. Of course there was quite some paperwork involved, but that is part of it. The only thing I found a bit unfortunate was that I was only definitively admitted half way August, two weeks before leaving.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I am very grateful to the UU International Office for assisting me with my founded and unfounded worries. When there seemed to be anything going wrong, they were very reassuring and quick to help me fix the issue.
academic preparation	
	There was little academic preparation I did before leaving for LMU, besides looking up the staff there to know which teachers I would like to work with and skimming through old course catalogues to get a sense of what kind of courses were offered.
language preparation	
	For various reasons I did not follow a language course prior to leaving. Firstly, I felt my skill level was already sufficient, having completed German at the highest high school level and having years of experience with tutoring German. Secondly, I planned to take two language courses in München. In September, LMU offers a month-long language course before the semester starts, and I felt this was sufficient preparation. Looking back on it, I don't regret that decision.
finances	
	Before leaving, I composed a modest financial plan to account for the costs I would probably make. I subletted my room, cancelled my Dutch public transit subscription in favor of €80 a month and also applied for another scholarship that I was awarded. To be sure, your first month is the most expensive one, and there are a lot of costs that you might not have thought of. Plus, München can be a pretty expensive city overall. This should not impact your decision to go - it's not that bad - but take this into account when planning your stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The course catalogue unfortunately only becomes available in September. This means that you cannot know what kind of courses you will take before you go. It changes a lot each semester, so it is better not to assume the new catalogue will resemble older ones, in order to avoid disappointment. Personally, I was a little disappointed myself because of this. Subscribing for courses was confusing for most Erasmus students across all faculties, but in my instance I could just write the teacher an e-mail. Even if this went wrong, for whatever reason, I was told you could just show up to the first class and that that would suffice (if the class had no limit on the amount of students).
	By the way, do note that almost all courses are in German. If you already know the language around a B2/C1 level, this should not be an issue. In fact, it would be a good reason to attend LMU, since it is very advantageous to learning the language.
academic quality of education activities	
	As a Master's student, I personally was a little underwhelmed by the skill level at the History department.

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Courses were typically available to both Bachelor's and Master's students, but I did not sense much differences between them, and students also do not receive different exercises. Consequently, it was not much work: the challenge lied more in the fact that it was all in German. For a Bachelor's student, this would probably be different. And to be fair, all my fellow students in the Netherlands had the same experience studying abroad in places like Berlin, London, York, etc. Also, you will not hear me complain about having much spare time.

I was also a bit disappointed that many classes revolved around students giving long presentations each week, and not so much about the teachers teaching and dealing with primary sources. This might be my experience, but I did not experience that as very educational.

On a more positive note: I had good experiences with students and teachers. In general, students are motivated and participate very well during class, so that we usually had fruitful discussions. Teachers were also approachable and flexible, so that we could communicate very well. Even though all courses were in German, they also saw no problem in letting me present and write in English, which was very helpful.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Overall, I felt warmly received by the institutions at LMU. Although I had the sense that some counselors were a bit new to the processes involved with taking in foreign students, they were friendly and helpful.

transfer of credits

This is still proving somewhat of a difficulty because of a mistake on the part of both LMU and myself. I had been recommended by LMU to follow an internationals' course on the history of Bavaria and Munich, but only later discovered it was only registered as a Bachelor's course. As of yet, this is still a problem with UU, as I am unsure whether they will accept the credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The semester at LMU only starts in October, but I would recommend that you arrive early September to take a month-long language course as preparation to your semester. Besides learning the language, the course teaches you much about student life and the university that is essential information. You are going to want to do this to prepare yourself and to make friends. It is a pretty intense course, but after each class there is plenty of time for a beer and discovering the city.

LMU also offers a welcome and orientation programme in September that (I cannot stress this enough) you should absolutely follow. If, for whatever reason, you are still in doubt whether you are going to, or whether you will arrive in September or October, I will say it again: follow the programme. When you arrive in a totally new city, it can be hard to make friends, but this way you will get to know many students who are in the same situation. For me, I made my most valuable friendships during this period. IUCM (the branch of LMU that is responsible for the language courses) organized trips through the city and region of Bavaria that were very fun, and for a very reasonable price too. I went on these trips with class mates and got to know many other nice people, and from there on, a solid group of friends was formed.

accommodation

LMU will look for a room for you, and you are most likely going to want to accept whatever room they give you. The rent prices in München are notoriously ridiculous and the most expensive in the country, with the average room going for around €650. The rooms that LMU offer, however, are luckily around the €350-400 spectrum. If you are as lucky as I was, you will get your own small apartment at Olympiadorf, with a shopping mall, U-Bahn station, lots of student facilities and the best student bar of the city at a walking distance.

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

leisure & culture

München is a very fun city to stay in for an Erasmus exchange. First of all, the city is renowned for its beer culture, and this cliché is very well deserved. The beers are absolutely delicious, and when the weather is right, you will find many Bavarians in Lederhosen, drinking liter glasses (Maß) of beer outside. When it gets colder, everybody is drinking their Maßen (in Lederhosen) inside the beer halls, which are also quite the experience. It's all very relaxed. I will absolutely miss the Hellers beers on return.

Throughout the year, there are also many off days and traditional (Catholic) Bavarian celebrations like Oktoberfest, Fasching and Starkbierfest that are a joy to experience.

One aspect I also really enjoyed about München was that it is - from a Dutch perspective anyway - really a large city, with 1.4 million residents. This means that at every moment, there are lots of different activities, events and parties all across the city. There is just more variety, and a larger number of possibilities. For example, as somebody who likes vinyl records, there were many different record stores across the city I enjoyed visiting.

Lastly, München's location in Europe is very nice for exploring the continent. Not only is Bavaria very nice, but countries like the Czech Republic, Austria and Italy are also very near. The entire area really is beautiful.

suggestions/tips

When you are new in a city, and most if not all of your friends are as well, it can be difficult to know about activities or what the best spots are in the nightlife. My advice: use the internet, and especially Facebook to your advantage. The city portal (www.muenchen.de) is helpful, and on Facebook I just liked tons of night clubs and local DJs to receive information. In this way, I have been to some amazing parties I will not forget.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend München. My stay was well organized, I liked the city's culture and facilities, and I enjoyed my accommodation. Also, my German improved a lot, which was one of my main motivations for coming here. The skill level, however, was a bit disappointing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are attending LMU during the winter semester, use the two weeks of vacations between the end of your first language course and the start of the semester to travel around the region and Europe. I went with friends to Vienna and Bratislava by bus and had an absolute blast.

Lastly, if you have any questions or doubts, feel free to contact me through the e-mail address I have included.

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> r.e.korevaar@students.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	German Language & Culture

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU)
start date	01 / 04 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Utrecht University provided enough and clear information about the application process. Both the UU and the LMU have a list with mandatory documents for the application on their websites.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Several preparation meetings have been held before going abroad. This made preparing for the stay in Munich more easy. The few questions I had were being answered quick by the International Office.
academic preparation	Except for the courses I already followed at the UU, there was no need for further academic preparation.
language preparation	Since I am studying the German language, I didn't feel the need to follow a language course. The LMU does offer language courses before the start of the semester.
finances	The prices for rent etc can be high in Munich, but with the Erasmus-Grant and some personal savings it was affordable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The offer of courses at the LMU is huge and the subscribing system can be confusing, but the lecturers are very willing to help you by giving advice on whether a course is suitable for you.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of the courses was high. The students were being well prepared and the lecturers gave us the chance to discuss several topics with each other.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The counsellors were always willing to help out if there were any problems.
transfer of credits	The transfer of credits went okay. The lecturers were aware of the fact that Erasmusstudents might need their notes earlier and corrected the final tests in time.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

The LMU offers several introduction meetings during the first week, held by lecturers and students. During this 'introduction week' I got all the information I needed about the university (accommodation), the subscribingsystem LSF, the library and the International Office. I would strongly recommend to attend to these meetings, since it makes the start at the LMU much easier.

accommodation

The LMU is able to provide several students with a room from Studentenwerk. A few months before arrival, I was lucky to hear I got a Studentenwerk room at Olympiadorf. This means that there are still some months left to look for a room in Munich when you do not get a Studentenwerk room.

leisure & culture

There are always a lot of events going on in Munich. During the summer semester, the Munich people love to be outside and a lot of festivals are being organized in the parks and on the streets. Munich is known for the Oktoberfest, but during the summer semester there are a lot of other options to enjoy a drink as well. The location of Munich is great, with the Alps and Austria near.

suggestions/tips

www.muenchen.de provides a lot of information about events in Munich, but also about the procedure of subscribing at the municipality etc.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend the LMU and Munich. The university is well organized and very helpful to Erasmus students. You are free to follow the courses you want to follow. In Munich you will get the full German experience and you are able to enjoy your leisure time with festivals or a daytrip to the mountains.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Munich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
start date	01 / 04 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

The application process at the LMU started about a year in advance. Most things are settled 2-4 months prior to the start of the semester though.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

If you need help with signatures or forms or if you have any other questions, the International Office answers to e-mails very quickly.

academic preparation

I had a look at the Vorlesungsverzeichnis (which lists all courses offered at the LMU) to choose both my courses and to start to get acquainted with the organization of courses and tests.

language preparation

Since I study German language and culture, additional language preparation wasn't necessary.

finances

I received both an Erasmus+-grant and the DIA-Stipendium. Since Munich is a very expensive city (especially if you didn't receive a room through the service package from the Studentenwerk), this doesn't cover all costs. Besides that, I would recommend to save some extra money for unforeseen costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took 6 courses in total at 3 different faculties: Literaturwissenschaft, Ev. Theologie and Kunstwissenschaften. 4 courses concerned literary topics, one course was about direction history in German theatre and I took one course on the literary history of the Old Testament.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality at all three faculties was outstanding and education is really challenging.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Though all professors are very helpful, most of the time it isn't quite clear what forms for grading coursework they need and what forms you need (usually, you discuss organizational matters with the professors instead of the international office).

transfer of credits

As I mentioned above, grading coursework is very chaotic. Fortunately, both the international office and the professors really want to help. I haven't received my transcript of records yet, but I expect it will work out fine.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

One week before the start of the semester, there was an orientation programme of both the university in general and of the Germanistik-department. They explain the way the courses and the semester are organized and take you for a tour round the library. They also help you with enrolling in courses.

accommodation

I received a service package from the Studentenwerk, which means I got a subsidized room in the Olympic Village. Since there is only a limited number of service packages available, I would recommend to start looking for a room very early (I wrote to some student organizations during Fall 2017), since rooms are scarce and service packages are not guaranteed.

Germany – München - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

leisure & culture

Munich offers a range of leisure possibilities: the olympic park, the Englischer Garten, the city centre, Frühlingsfest, Tollwood festival, lots of theatres and music halls, Starnberger See, Pinakothek. Besides that, I really enjoyed going to the Alps and mountain lakes, which are only one hour away. I was also a member of a symphonic orchestra, which was very nice as well.

suggestions/tips

Practical tip: do not bring your bike to Munich. Though Munich views itself as a very bike-friendly city, compared with Utrecht it definitely is not. Cycling infrastructure is very poor and both cyclists and car drivers don't mind (other) cyclists. I've seen some serious accidents and had a bike accident myself due to an unattentive road user. Public transport in Munich is really good so I would recommend buying a SemesterCard. Besides that, I would suggest registering at the Kreisverwaltungsreferat 2-3 weeks before arriving in Munich (you have to make an appointment via an internet system in order to be able to register your Munich address). If you don't make an appointment online, long queues will await you.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would, considering the university's excellent quality of education and research and the beautiful city and surroundings.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2016 – 2017**Report 1**

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

destination city & country	München, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	01 / 04 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 08 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was explained during a preparation meeting. The process itself was relatively clear and I did not experience any difficulties.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was good. When a problem surfaced it was always solved quickly.
academic preparation	
	I did not need any special academic preparation. The courses I had taken at Utrecht University had already prepared me sufficiently.
language preparation	
	No special language preparation was needed because I was already fluent (enough) in German.
finances	
	With the Erasmus-Grant, parental support and some personal savings it was affordable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	There were interesting courses on nearly every imaginable subject. The academic staff was very kind and helpful.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality of the courses was high. Students were motivated and well-prepared. In several courses there was a lot of room for an exchange of thoughts and arguments. These discussions were taken very seriously by all the participants.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Everyone was very helpful. Questions per email were always answered quickly.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
During the first days I received all necessary information about studying at the LMU. Students showed the Erasmus-group the university and informed us on everything concerning student life München.
accommodation
The Studentenwerk (student union) provides affordable housing to students. There aren't enough rooms for all incoming students. A few months before departure I was informed that I wouldn't receive housing from the studentenwerk. Luckily I found a room through a housing website. It turned out to be a wonderful room, just 10 minutes by underground to the city center.
leisure & culture
I went to the theatre a lot (plays, opera) and I visited many museums. The center for literature also organises very interesting lectures and talks. The cultural life of the city is wonderfully rich. One doesn't need to be bored for a second. It is also affordable: most theaters offer student-tickets and the opera has great standing room places.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend the university to others. There are a lot of interesting courses, also on a lot of subjects that are not taught at Utrecht University. I would also recommend the city, its cultural life is so very rich, that you cannot return home without having learned/enjoyed many new things.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Inform yourself early of the possibilities to find private housing, even if you haven't heard yet whether you will receive a room from the Studentenwerk. If you do get a room, you won't need it. But when you do have to find your own accommodation, it's helpful if you know where to look for it.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Comparative Literary Studies
destination city & country	Munich, Germany
name university abroad	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
start date	03 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

end date	11 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
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You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	It is quite complicated, I would say, but just make sure that you have a list of the email-addresses and office hours of the people you know you will need (head of department, international officers, etc) and you'll be fine. Everyone involved in the ERASMUS application process is aware of the stressfulness and tight deadlines that some people have to deal with, and they all helped me swiftly and with understanding.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	With any questions or doubts you have, just drop a line to the International Office; they reply quickly and clearly and it will save you much time and confusion.
academic preparation	
	The English department at LMU is very accessible in terms of the academic level; there is no need to prepare academically for your stay here.
language preparation	
	I would highly recommend arriving in Munich with a basic understanding of German, since many people outside of the university have trouble speaking English, and within the university German is often reverted to (even in English-taught courses). Alternatively, do the language course the month before the start of the semester: it is incredibly rewarding.
finances	
	Munich is an expensive city: just your ERASMUS grant won't cut it, so make sure to have a financial back-up in place before you arrive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	Organisationally, it can be difficult to get access to all the online data that is used to organise courses (LSF in particular). Again, however, this can easily be resolved by contacting the right people, aka your lecturers. In terms of content, there were, in my field of interest, substantial differences with the UU, but I nonetheless enjoyed my courses.
academic quality of education activities	
	I did not do any educational activities during my stay, but I have heard that the book club and theater company are quite good.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The employees at LMU are very friendly and always help promptly. Know who to write in case of confusion or emergency, and everything will be OK.
transfer of credits	

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STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I highly recommend the language programme at the start of september: many people follow language courses then and the people you'll meet there will stick with you for the rest of the semester. The quality of the teaching is also better during this course than during the other, longer language courses taught during the semester itself. Needless to say, doing the one in september often means practicing your German at Oktoberfest, with a tipsy teacher to help you out. That's just great fun. In addition, pay the extra 80 euros for the cultural excursions! They're a nice and affordable way to get to know the city and surrounding area, and, again; they make for a great way of meeting people before the lectures in October begin.

accommodation

Housing in Munich is very, very expensive. It sucks, but that's the way it is. If you can get student housing via Studentennetwerk, you are extremely lucky. I recommend beginning to look for alternative accomodation early in the summer holidays, as very few people are selected by Studentennetwerk, and if they are, they often come from far away places. Just ask to be a member at all the online Facebook groups that offer housing (but beware of scams) and respond to as many rooms as possible. This is also another reason why coming to Munich in september rather than at the start of the semester (half October) is a good idea: apart from the language course, it enables you to visit accomodations and participate in the lottery for them.

leisure & culture

Munich offers many different types of leisure activities, which makes it so much fun to live here for half a year (or longer). During the summer, there is the Englischer Garten and the icy-cold Isar to swim in, as well as many street festivals and cultural events throughout the city. During the fall and winter, there is of course Oktoberfest, the many christmas markets spread around the city (a must for lovers of glühwein!) and the hiking and skiing trips organised by MESA that allow you to go to the Alps or other mountainous areas for a reasonable price. Apart from that, the city has a couple of really nice museums (some of which are only 1 euro on Sunday), as well as historical sites.

suggestions/tips

Language course
 WG-gesucht.de (for accomodation)
 Englischer Garten
 Oktoberfest
 Medieval christmas market at Odeonsplatz
 Hirschberg Gipfel (mountain)
 Hans im Glück (restaurant)
 Harry Klein (night club)
 Cord Club (nice concert venue)

CONCLUSIONS

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

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I would recommend Munich to those who want to explore the traditional part of Germany and/or enjoy the proximity of it to the Alps, Italy, and several Eastern-European countries (popular destinations, in winter at least, are Budapest, Prague and Vienna). Although surely no Berlin, Munich is a vibrant city with a large student community and many historical sites.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you go for the winter semester: buy a dirndl or set of lederhosen for Oktoberfest! It really is more fun that way, and shops like C&A and New Yorker have quite affordable ones. You'll regret it if you don't.

2014-2015**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

January 2014: Application submitted in Osiris (Study- and Financial Plan, motivation letter).

March 2014: Application approved.

Autumn 2014: Application Erasmus grant submitted (Learning and Grant Agreement).

February 2015: Got the Erasmus grant conditionally.

Then I started looking for a room in Munich, because I didn't get one from the university.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

We have send a few e-mails to the international office, because there were a lot of lack of clarity about what we should fill in one the formulars etc.

academic preparation

At the Utrecht University I followed a lot of basic and higher level courses. Which is why I could participate more difficult courses abroad. Now at the moment here in Munich, I don't find it that difficult to catch up with the classes.

language preparation

Since I study German language and culture, it was not necessary for me to take german courses. Before I left off to Munich, I have done a language test German and my German level was alright.

finances

I got the Erasmus grant conditionally.

Each month I get a particular amount of money from the DUO.

I saved a lot of money myself, which gives me certainty.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Einführung in die deutsche Sprache und Literatur des Mittelalters Kurs F. 14.04.2015-14.07.2015. 08:00-12:00. Schellingstraße 3 R 305.

Content: Not available. Main Subjects: Translate Mhd.-Nhd. Grammar Mhd. and Literature Mhd. 9 ECTS.

Grammatik im Sprachvergleich. 14.04.2015-14.07-2015. 12:00-14:00 Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 M018.

Content: In dieser Vorlesung werden zunächst Grundlagen der deutschen Grammatik aus sprachhistorischer und gegenwärtiger Sicht aufgezeigt. Danach werden Vergleiche mit anderen Sprachen aus typologischer Perspektive gezogen und Unterschiede und Gemeinsamkeiten aufgezeigt. Schließlich wird auf Implikationen aus dem Sprachvergleich für die Didaktik eingegangen.

3 ECTS.

Sprachkontaktforschung. 15.04.2015-15.07.2015. 10:00-12:00 Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 A120.

Content: Sprachkontaktforschung beschäftigt sich mit der Frage, wie sich Sprachen in mehrsprachigen Gesellschaften oder bei mehrsprachigen Individuen wechselseitig beeinflussen. Dies betrifft die Dynamik von Sprachsystemen und Sprachwandelprozessen ebenso wie sozio- und psycholinguistische Fragestellungen. Die Vorlesung gibt einen umfassenden Überblick über die verschiedenen Ansätze, Methoden und Grundlagen der Sprachkontaktforschung und geht vor allem auf Situationen ein, in denen die deutsche Sprache mit anderen Sprachen in Kontakt kommt.

3 ECTS.

Geschichte der deutschen Sprache in Bayern. 15.04.2015-15.07.2015. 16:00-18:00 Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 M110.

Content: Die Vorlesung bietet eine Übersicht über die historische Sprachüberlieferung in Bayern von den spärlichen vorgermanischen Zeugnissen bis zum heutigen Tag. Daraus soll ein dynamisches Bild der Sprachgeschichte gewonnen werden. Im Mittelpunkt stehen typische Textzeugnisse aus verschiedenen Zeitabschnitten als Grundlage für eine Darstellung der Sprachentwicklung. Regionale Sprachgeschichten sind unter anderem notwendig, um das Bild der komplexen Verhältnisse in frühneuhochdeutscher Zeit zu vervollständigen und um die Verdrängung regionaler Normen durch die Vorstufen unserer heutigen Schriftsprache besser verstehen zu können; diese Fragestellungen sind auch ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Vorlesung.

3 ECTS.

Namenkunde. 17.04.2015-17.04.2015. 10:00-12:00. Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 DZ001

Content: Namen sind ein besonderer Teil des Sprachsystems: Sie sind eine Herausforderung für Bedeutungstheorien, sie unterscheiden sich syntaktisch von anderen Substantiven – und dass manch einer behauptet, er könne sie sich partout nicht merken, erscheint ebenfalls klärungsbedürftig.

Im Seminar betrachten wir einzelne Kategorien von Namen, insbesondere Personennamen, Ortsnamen und Produktnamen. Zunächst interessiert uns dabei ihre Semantik: Die Frage nach der Referenz von Namen berührt Kerngebiete der Sprachphilosophie, die wir uns im Quellenstudium mittels Originaltexten genauer ansehen werden. Im Anschluss stehen die Syntax, die regionale Verteilung sowie ihre Erklärungskraft in einem sprachgeschichtlichen Rahmen im Vordergrund.

6 ECTS.

Feministische Linguistik. 20.04.2015-13.07.2015. 10:00-12:00. Schellingstraße 3 R209.

Content: Sprache ist kein neutrales Kommunikationsmittel, sie beeinflusst unser Denken und unser gesellschaftliches Handeln. Darum ist es nicht verwunderlich, dass wegen der maskulinen Formen die Frauen nicht nur sprachlich unsichtbar bleiben, sondern auch gedanklich. Wie Studien längst bewiesen haben, sind Frauen nicht mitgemeint. Der angeblich neutrale Bürger, Geophysiker und Deutsche ist prototypisch ein Mann, und einen Krankenbruder wird es nie geben. Der erste Schwerpunkt des Seminars liegt auf dem Problemfeld Genus/Sexus und dem sprachlichen Un/Sichtbarmachen der Frau sowie auf den Auswirkungen auf Gleichberechtigung und Machtverteilung.

Der zweite Themenstrang behandelt die Asymmetrien im Konversationsverhalten. Wie und warum verhalten sich Frauen und Männer anders im Gespräch? Wenn die Redestrategien der Männer die Norm sind, dann

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weichen Frauen davon ab. Kann ein kritischer Umgang mit Sprache auf der Textebene und im sprachlichen Handeln etwas verändern?

Weitere Fragen, die sich im Verlauf des Seminars ergeben, sind teilweise interdisziplinär angelegt. Gibt es geschlechtsspezifische Unterschiede beim Spracherwerb und bei der Sprachverarbeitung? Sind die Unterschiede auch biologisch-evolutionär motiviert? Wie behandeln Gesetzestexte, Lehrbücher, die Literatur Männer und Frauen? Wie werden die Geschlechter inszeniert?

6 ECTS.

academic quality of education activities

1 Einführungsseminar (Vorlesung+Seminar) Exam: Test

3 Vorlesungen. Exam: Test

1 Proseminar. Exam: Presentation and essay (13 pages)

1 Hauptseminar. Exam: Presentation and essay (23 pages)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I have sent a few emails, because I needed something earlier for the Grant deadline. Their reaction wasn't really helpful.

transfer of credits

Since I am still studying here (The semester is till the end of July), I didn't make any tests yet. As soon as I get my notes afterwards, the teachers will send them to Frau Claudia Agne and she will send them to the International Office in Munich. They will send them to my home adress in the Netherlands.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Well organized. The first week we had a full programm with introductions and guided tours. They informed me well and it was fun to do.

accommodation

I found an accommodation by myself because the university refused me. I live here in a nice flat 10 minutes near the city centre and it takes me about 15 minutes to get to the university.

leisure & culture

I visited a lot of places here in Bayern, because I am here only once. I can name a few: Dachau KZ, Neuschwanstein, Chiemsee, Regensburg, Ammersee, Königssee, Bodensee, Nürnberg, Alps, Olympic Park and also the swimming pool and Englischer Garten here in the centre.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, because the university is very open-minded. There are a lot of opportunities for (Erasmus)students for cultural exchange. The education level is high but still understandable when you put effort in it. The city ist just great and also a nice place to meet new friends and go to the river or something.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

2013-2014**Report 1**

preparation
exchange/placement application process
After filling out all UU stuff, the same had to be done for LMU. No problems however, processing went right and info and explanation was good.
counselling/support at home university
Good information and explanation. Lot of forms though, most of them not really useful.
academic preparation
I went to München for specialized courses in topics I have been studying quite a lot.
language preparation
I have taken a language course in München, organized by the university. This was really great, as it was introduction at the same time, so it included nice outings and I made a lot of friends there. It also prepared for academic use of the language and specific skills that are useful as an exchange student.
finances
München itself is expensive, but the rent of the rooms the uni offers is ok (300-350) and travelling is not that expensive ofourse.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
The amount of freedom students in München experience is awesome (in philosophy at least). I really enjoyed going to a lot of different courses on different levels. All courses are just 2 hours a week for the whole semester, which makes planning really easy. The academic freedom also sparks motivation in students, who really just go to courses out of interest, instead of focusing on credit points. The Examencommissie of UU is a different story sadly.
academic quality of education/placement activities
In German philosophy, I have witnessed a lot of good professors, and nice small groups of motivated students. In general, LMU is known for enormous lectures with 300 students, e.g. in law or bussines. Yet as centre for research, the LMU is great; it has much nice libraries, and the work forms I experienced were really activating.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
They are really nice at the Erasmus office and its open quite a lot; after the registration I didnt really need any further support.
transfer of credits
Right now, the Erasmus office of the LMU is collecting my notes for me and will make a nice transcript of records and send it by post. So so far so good, but I still don't know whether UU will accept all my courses, and I don't know how they will process my notes either. This has to do with bad preparation from my side too, though.
student life
welcome/orientation programme

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The language course and orientation in the first month were wonderful. I explored the city, made friends, partied a lot, and was taken good care of. Oh, I also learned German.
accommodation
LMU provided accomodation for both the language course and the semester. Most of the student housing places are pretty nice; some of them are a bit far from the centre, but they are all really cheap in comparison to the crazy München house market, they have good facilities like bars, washing and food, and obviously many (international) students.
leisure/culture
Erasmus life is great in München: parties, trips, sports, friends. München is quite a big city with a lot of bars, clubs and nice areas. It also has an enormous beautiful park, a river, and of course the alps are near.
suggestions/tips
Theater and Opera are really cheap for students, and really good. The Bayern-Ticket of the Bahn is a very cheap way to explore Bayern, and especially all the beautiful towns and lakes in the Alps below München.
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I found studying in München a great experience, and am going to miss the city. The quality of the university is very good, the city really has its own charm, and having the mountains so close was perfect for me. It is not as exciting as Berlin I think, but I had a great time, and the international atmosphere of living with exchange students from all over the world was amazing and inspiring.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Be careful with Bayern police, they are pretty traditional and enjoy their power. Don't bring drugs (I didn't of course!)

Report 2

preparation
exchange/placement application process
Good. Only problem was the end because the deadline 1. July came a bit early didn't finish my studies and was in exams.
counselling/support at home university
Good. A lot of Emails maybe a bit too much. Reminders can be sent earlier.
academic preparation
Good. Because I study German Language and Culture
language preparation
I study German and went to germany so that was easy and good prepared.
finances
Good. But always too low had an Erasmus grant and my own government finance support.
study/placement abroad period

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study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
It was very easy to change and stuff so that was great because when i went there the lectures we're not sure yet but that easily changed.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Sometimes the courses we're a bit hard. But the placement was easy. And they do help you a lot because you're an Foreign Student
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
That was great. Claudia Agne helped me out a lot and really gave personal advice.
transfer of credits
Haven't done the transfer yet because I am not finished yet.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
Great. Got to know my best friends here now.
accommodation
Not so good. I switched 3 times because the univeristy programm could'nt give me a room. Probably also because my nationality. The people who came from far countries all got a room. When you are dutch you are on the end of the list. After that they did help me find something but found in the end everything on my own and that did cost a lot of time (and money).
leisure/culture
Bavaria is amazing!
suggestions/tips
the Accomodation Options
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Definitely! It's a very good university and they help you a lot and are very easy and academic in the way they treat you with a lot of freedom.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No.