

Bangor – Bangor University

I made an estimation of how much I thought I would be spending each month and drew up a budget. Before I went, I made a list of things I wanted to do and see and looked up what trips the university organised. This gave a good indication of how much I was going to spend on leisure activities.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Luckily, I could take all the courses I wanted to take which meant I did not have to make any changes to my learning agreement. I really enjoyed the courses I took. I took a literature and a linguistics course which both fit very well into my study programme. I also took a course that wasn't actually meant for English language and culture students, but I was able to follow it really well. I thought it was a good combination of courses in both content and difficulty.

academic quality of education activities

The seminars and lectures were similar to those in Utrecht. The only big difference was that for each course I took, I had a lot fewer seminars and lectures. For each course I did, I had about two hours-worth of classes each week, which meant I had a lot of free time. This also meant I had to do a lot more research for my assignments because less context and background information was provided through lectures. I just had to exert some more self control to get things done. I thought the assignments were similar to those at the UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

While I did not make much use of counselling and support, it was good when I did have any questions. Any documents I had to have signed were signed quickly and when I had any questions, the people from the international support office were always happy to help and were very friendly.

transfer of credits

I haven't received all my grades yet so credits haven't been transferred yet. I think this will run smoothly as well, like the rest of my preparation and paperwork for the exchange.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university really puts a lot of effort in making international students feel at home. Most international students arrived three days earlier than the UK students which meant you get to settle a bit before it gets busy, which I thought was very nice. As soon as I arrived there were lots of activities planned so I immediately got to meet a lot of other international students. Throughout welcome week I joined lots of activities and got to see Bangor and the area. It was a very nice introduction to Bangor and the university and really helped with making me feel at home. There were also lots of information events, some more useful than others, but it all helped with settling in and feeling at home.

accommodation

The accommodation provided by the university was really good. International students got guaranteed a room on campus which saved a lot of time and hassle. I thought the room was quite nice and clean, and every room has its own bathroom which was great. I shared the kitchen with seven other students, one of which was also an exchange student. I thought the price was quite high at first, but considering you get free gym membership and some other things are free, the price is not too bad. Whenever something broke in the kitchen, it got replaced quite quickly and it was nice not to have to worry about that. The campus was also nicely located, as it was only a ten minute walk to my lectures and fifteen minutes to the city centre.

leisure & culture

The international support office from Bangor University offered different trips to international students throughout the semester. This was a really good and inexpensive way to explore the area and meet new people. I've been on many trips and really got to know the area quite well. Bangor University is also quite proud of its Welsh culture so it's quite easy to learn a bit more about Wales and its culture.

Bangor – Bangor University

suggestions/tips
<p>Making a list of what you want to see and do really helps to actually go out and plan a trip. There are lots of nice things to see and places to visit in North Wales and this was also the biggest reason for me to go to Bangor. Some places are difficult to get to without a car though, so you'll need to keep that in mind when you plan on going somewhere. I also looked online to see if there were discounts on attractions or trips in the area. If you plan on travelling by train a lot, getting a rail card can save you a lot of money. I also became a member of the National Trust, which has really nice old buildings and gardens throughout the UK. Both the university and the international office arrange activities every week so keeping track of what's going on can also help you make the most of your time in Bangor.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>Yes, I would definitely recommend Bangor University. The area is beautiful and I've been on some great trips and made some good friends. Bangor is a very small city, but the advantage of that is that everything is within walking distance and I could quickly make my way around the city. The main reason I chose Bangor was because of the courses they offered and the area, and both lived up to my expectations.</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?
<p>Before I came I didn't quite realise how small Bangor actually is, so keep that in mind. Don't expect a big city where there is loads to do. The university does organise a lot of events and activities you can join, though, so you'll never be bored. Especially in the first few weeks this can feel a bit overwhelming but don't feel bad when you don't want to or can't join it all. There are plenty of opportunities to do things throughout the semester. Make sure you take some time for yourself as well.</p> <p>Also, make sure to take advantage of good weather. Wales is obviously mostly wet, so try to plan your trips when the weather's nice. I've got a lot of pictures now from days with a clear, blue sky which is nice to look at.</p>

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Bangor, United Kingdom
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	11 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
<p>The application process for an erasmus exchange was actually quite easy. I was a bit scared at first because I heard stories about it being a long and difficult process, but if you write all deadlines down and make sure you hand in everything before the deadline, it will all work out just fine.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University

Bangor – Bangor University

Luckily I did not need much counselling and support, but if I had question the UU international office was quick to reply. I also appreciated the special brexit meeting we had, just before departure, to clear any questions or worries we might have had.

academic preparation

I did not feel like I needed specific academic preparation, all courses I selected were similar to courses I had already followed in the Netherlands, and there was no need to prepare for the courses in Bangor.

language preparation

Since I study English Language and Culture, I felt like there was no need to prepare to speak English. It might have been fun to learn a bit more Welsh, however everyone in Bangor does speak English as well, so it is not mandatory to speak Welsh.

finances

I found it very helpful to make an overview of all my finances before I came. Make sure to give yourself some extra money to do fun stuff, as you don't want to stay at home, when your exchange friends are going out and exploring the country.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed three modules all worth 10 ECTS, so it is a bit different than it is in the Netherlands. All three modules will run next to each other for the duration of one semester. Semesters are also a bit shorter than they are at UU.

academic quality of education activities

To be honest, I found the academic quality to be a bit lower in Bangor than it is here. Especially the module on Bilingualism & Acquisition Issues, was quite similar to subject material already discussed in some of my modules at the UU. I would recommend to choose courses that will broaden your view and not choose courses which will deepen your knowledge on the topics of your interest.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office in Bangor is excellent. I have never had someone reply to my emails so quickly. The office in Bangor was easy to locate, and there was always someone present to answer my questions or to buy tickets from for fun activities.

transfer of credits

I'm unable to say anything about this, as my credits haven't been transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I really enjoyed the welcome programme in Bangor. All international students were asked to arrive a few days earlier, so that you could get settled in, and meet a few people, before the very hectic (but also very fun) welcome week for all new students started. The welcome week included pizza and film nights, a few bus trips to nearby places, and 3 hours of traditional Welsh dancing.

accommodation

If you apply in time, Bangor University will supply you with accommodation. This can either be a room at the Ffriddoed site or the St. Mary's site. Almost all first years will live in these halls, and therefore it means that you probably will be living with 18 / 19 year olds, but I did not find this to be a problem. I lived in a flat with 6 other people, who I shared a kitchen with, but I did have my own ensuite bathroom.

leisure & culture

Bangor – Bangor University

Bangor has an enormous amount of clubs and societies, and they are all free to join, so I would recommend joining a few, even if you do not plan on going to their activities every single time. Bangor itself isn't very big, but it is surrounded by beautiful nature and nice towns, so I would also definitely recommend visiting them.

suggestions/tips

If you plan to travel by train often (and you should), it is useful to invest in a railcard. The card costs 30 pounds, but it saves you 1/3 on every journey you make. You can buy a card at the train station.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Bangor University, as a place to go for your Erasmus Exchange. The only thing is to really check the module descriptions to make sure you benefit from the exchange academically as well.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It is not the place that makes or breaks the exchange, but the people.

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	Comparative Literature

destination city & country	Bangor, Wales
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	12 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The Preparation process went very smooth. The university was quick to reply to e-mails and very helpful.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	At the UU there was a very helpful pre-departure meeting for all students who wanted to go study abroad. Everything of a practical nature surrounding the application and the Erasmus grant was discussed and explained, but also the more the psychological phenomena that an erasmus student experiences like culture shock and counter culture shock students were given a heads up about.
academic preparation	I went to Bangor in my third year so I had already been familiarized with most of the theory concerning literary criticism in Utrecht. That was my academic preparation.
language preparation	Because many of my courses in Utrecht are taught in English and many of the assignments that I have to submit as well, I was well prepared for engaging in intellectual discussion with my classmates in Bangor. Luckily there are more people from abroad so I was not the only one with a distinctive accent. I did not do any additional language preparation.
finances	I had 2000 euros of savings and the rest I was able to pay with my students loans, the Erasmus grant and the OV-Chipkaart vergoeding.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The 3 subjects I had originally chosen turned out to be unavailable. So I had to completely change my study programme. This also happened to a lot of my fellow erasmus-students, it gives quite a lot of stress, but the University gives you time in the first weeks to sort everything out so in the end it worked out fine. The modules that I did were called: Victorian Literature, Landmarks in Literature (reading canonical works and deconstruct the canon) and I had a module outside of the Languages and Literature department called 'The German Film' which was about German film history.
academic quality of education activities	I have to say that the academic quality in Utrecht is higher and the theory is more diverse than in Bangor. This is based on the 3 modules above mentioned but there were quite a lot of other Erasmus students who expressed the same opinion.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There was many support. At the university the people were very caring and offered to help just as soon as someone looked but a bit puzzled. I think this polite way of offering help is part of the culture in the UK. In the first weeks you get to know everyone of the staff that you can approach for help with academic or more practical matters. Also every student got assigned a tutor that is a fellow student from the same department. Your tutor helps you to explain how printing in the library works for example.

transfer of credits
As of yet I haven't received my transfer of credits, but I do know what my grades are and I am confident that I will receive the transfer on time.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is an introduction week especially for the students that come from abroad. This is one week before the English students arrive so you have some space and quiet to settle and get acquainted with the system and rules. In that first week you get a lot of information specific for Erasmus students and other students from foreign countries. This was very well organised and gave students a lot of comfort. In this week there was also the opportunity to meet other people and join in pub quizzes, barbecues, movie showings and various walks in and around Bangor.
accommodation
The accommodation was very good. I had to send in an application form before I went and the University reserved a room for me on the campus. The room was an ensuite which for me as a Dutch student felt as a luxury.
leisure & culture
In Bangor there are two clubs and a lot of pubs. The University has a very big and new cultural centre called Pontio, where you can go to the cinema, see a concert or attend a play and many other things. And Bangor is also a very beautiful place to be. You can do a lot of hiking in the mountains or visit castles. Also there are many clubs you can join (way too many) to find people that you share a particular hobby with. The buildings of your own university are also very beautiful, I was particularly fond of a certain reading room in the library that gives you a sense of being at Hogwarts.
suggestions/tips
Enjoy the fact that you can meet people from other countries and cultures. The community was very diverse and I can look back upon many enlightning conversations.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend the overall experience far above the academic experience. I do not know what other universities are like in the UK, but this one was not very popular in its level of teaching. Of course I am only speaking for the Languages and Literature department. Still the abroad experience is way more than just the academics. I certainly have learned to be more flexible and capable of dealing with a change of culture and country.
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> s.verdonk2@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	Media and Culture

destination city & country	Bangor, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	12 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	If I am totally honest; the application process was stressfull and confusing, but even so I worked through it and in the end it was totally worth it.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Everyone from the international office at Utrecht University responded very quickly over email. They also were very helpfull when I had any questions. I personally did not speak much with anyone in person, but I could imagine that even then they would help you out wiht anything you need.
academic preparation	I didn't have to prepare for anything else in particular, but if you intend to follow certain courses that you don't have experience with I would recomend to start with first year courses for example. I personally followed a third year course about literature, eventhough I had no experience with that and I made it a bit to hard on myself. Especially since during your study abroad period there is so much going on in your life that you should not put to much on your plate. But still challenge yourself and take the opertunity to learn something new that is not available at your own university or degree.
language preparation	I felt pretty comfortable about my English skills, so I did not prepare for that, except for the mandatory English test for Erasmus. Bangor university was in Wales, and Welsh was the first language of many people there, but everything was also in English so it was not per se necessary to learn it, but it might be fun to learn a couple words and sentences before you go, just to start conversation with the locals.
finances	For my application I made a financial plan. I saved money from my part time job, especially for studying abroad. It is not really necessary, but because I wanted to travel and have as much experiences as possible while studying abroad, I spended more money than I usually would back home.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed three literature classes as my minor. This was a bit out of my comfort zone, because I study media, but I enjoyed it very much. I followed Children's fiction, which was my absolute favourite. We read books like Alice in Wonderland, Charlie and the Choclate Factory and even Harry Potter. I also followed Romantic Period in Brittain, which included a lot of poetry, but also Jane austen. And lastly I followed Medieval Woman's writing, which was a third year's course and there for a bit more advanced, so I would only recomend that if you have some experience with that time period, English or Medieval history.

I did not end up following the exact courses that were first on my study plan. We had to sign up for the classes itself after arrival, so this gave a bit of insecurity at first. It was not so clear at first which courses were open for erasmus students. But it all worked out in the end and everyone at the university, like teachers, head of departments and the international office of Bangor, were very helpful and explained everything if you were stressed out or confused.
academic quality of education activities
I would say that the quality of education is similar to the one in Utrecht. The teachers took their jobs seriously and all the students were very motivated. The level of the courses were not too challenging nor too easy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at Bangor University was absolutely amazing. Everyone was so welcoming and just genuinely nice. The teachers always asked how I was and if I could follow along with everything. The international office was very helpful with all the forms, etc. Then there was also an international support office who organized trips around the country, but also were available to have a chat about anything you would like to talk about, also if you were a bit down. I lived at the campus and each building had a warden, which was a postgraduate student that could help you out with anything or if your flatmates were being annoying. There was also security at campus that made the atmosphere feel very safe.
transfer of credits
I have not received my transfer of credits yet, so I cannot speak for this subject, but when looking at all my other experience I am not worried that anything should go wrong.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I felt so welcome at Bangor university, it immediately felt like a home. There was an airport pick-up that you could purchase, so that you could get a ride on the bus from Manchester airport to Bangor. This is a good way to meet other students right away. Also the members of the support office were so welcoming and enthusiastic, they even recognized me later on and always asked how I was at activities. The first week was for international students only, which was very helpful for signing in for courses, settling in and getting to know Bangor. There were tours around town and many activities to learn about Welsh culture and to get to know other students from all over the world. The week after that all the other students joined in and this was the welcome week for first year students. Because I lived on campus, most of my flatmates were first years students and even though I am a third year student we had an amazing time with all the activities and it was a change to reexperience my first week of uni. The welcoming attitude from everyone at the university never changed and stayed the entire time, just as the locals in the shops, etc.
accommodation
Like I mentioned before I lived at the campus, which was a ten minute walk from the Main arts building where most of my lectures were. I lived with eight other people, most of them first years. Two other girls were international as well and the others were British which was a good mix. Because most of the international students spent their time together, but living with British people gave me the opportunity to integrate more. My room was not amazing, but after hanging some posters and placing some personal items it turned out very cosy. I also had my own bathroom which was fine. My flatmates were very nice and because they were first years everyone in the flat was new and that was nice to know. I became friends with most of my flatmates and every weekend we had dinner together. Not everyone of them was so clean in the kitchen, but if I would have had any problems with that my warden or the representatives of the halls office would have helped me out. The party life at campus was very big, which gave some noise out on the street some times, but security kept everything in check. Living on campus had a lot of advantages, I had free access to the gym and other sport activities. There was also the "campus life" team that organized fun activities, such as parties, pumpkin carving for Halloween and even free Sunday roast dinners. There was bar Uno, which was a Starbucks café during the day and a bar during the night. You could also eat there, there were karaoke nights and sport games on the tvs. There was a little shop that sold merchandise from the university and a few necessary grocery items. I was really glad that I decided to live on campus instead of in a private accommodation, because this was the ultimate student experience, especially since we don't really have campus living in the Netherlands.
leisure & culture

Bangor – Bangor University

<p>Bangor university had any society you could imagine and all free for anyone. I visited the tea time society, the language society, the animation watchers and lovers society, the film society. But there was also a horror society, dog walking society and all sort of sports, even quidditch!</p> <p>Bangor itself was not the biggest place, but it had everything I wanted. There were a couple clubs, mostly for students and many pubs. There were a couple cute coffee and lunch places and the highstreet had shops that had anything you needed. Also we had Pontio which was a theatre/cinema/culture centre. This was for students and the public. I saw many movies on student reduction and also went to a book signing from Phillip Pullman.</p> <p>I also travelled a lot during my time there. I visited a lot of places in Wales, because it has such a rich culture. I would definitely recommend to go to Caernarfon and Conwy. Alos Snowdonia national park was around the corner and if you love nature, Bangor is definitely the place to go. I you like hiking, Snowdonia is the place to be, but there are also castles and cute little villages in Snowdonia.</p>
suggestions/tips
When studying abroad I would recommend to say yes to as much as possible. Take as many opportunities as possible, instead of just staying in your room, because that is what will make your stay as memorable as possible.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend Bangor University to everyone. I had an amazing time there, and have nothing to complain about my entire experience. I even miss it very much now that I am back home.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
If you still have doubt about studying abroad because of the paperwork I would say that that is just something to get through and what comes after is so rewarding.	

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Bangor, Wales
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	15 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
Start early! It was a lot of work. I didn't really know to which country I wanted to go, so I looked at a lot of different countries, universities and their courses. But if you know where you want to go, it still is a lot of work to look at courses and if those courses are taught in English for example.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
The International Office was always quick with answering e-mails and they were so helpful. The only thing is that they selected me for my first choice, but after that the University turned out to be unavailable for me. That was a big disappointment. Luckily they did help me afterwards with looking for another possibility.	
academic preparation	

In Utrecht, I did many psychological and linguistic courses and I wanted to do this in Bangor as well. I'd read about interesting courses that would have been interesting after the courses I had already done in Utrecht. Unfortunately, those courses turned out to be unavailable, but the idea was there. I had looked at my interests and whether the courses in Bangor matched those interests. The answer was yes.
language preparation
I didn't do much as language preparation, considering Wales is an English speaking country. My courses in Utrecht were English mostly and I considered my level of English good enough to go to Bangor without extra preparation.
finances
Together with my father, I made a financial plan. I tried to think of all the possible expenses and more, because I knew I wanted to travel through the UK.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
As already mentioned, the courses I wanted to do turned out to be unavailable. We were told about this at the end of the first week. Luckily, the professors from Linguistics were all very friendly and tried to help us to find interesting courses after all. And I really did find interesting courses: Welsh Linguistics, Near Native English and Functions of Discourse. The modules were very interesting and the professors were all very enthusiastic about their own module.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education activities differs per module and per professor. The academic quality of my Welsh Linguistics module and the Functions of Discourse module were both quite good. Both these courses were for students in their third year of studies and each worth 10 EC, so you'd expect quality. It was not a lot of work though throughout the semester for both these courses. My third course was from ELCOS: English Language Centre for Overseas Students. This course was also worth 10 EC, was very interesting, but even less work than the courses mentioned above.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Bangor University really amazed me with their support. Everybody is very friendly and ready to help you with whatever you want. There is support for problems with University related things, but also housing and doing activities, etc.
transfer of credits
As already mentioned, the modules were each worth 10 EC, which is 20 Bangor credits. I think this is a lot for the amount of work we had to do, mostly for the ELCOS course.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome week was amazing. There was a shuttle bus from the airport in Manchester to Bangor and there were many activities, smaller and bigger ones. There were walking tours through Bangor and they showed supermarkets, night clubs, the high street and things like that. There were also activities that lasted the whole day, to Conwy and to Liverpool. In the first week, everybody got to know many many people and I'm really grateful that the International Office organised so much.
accommodation
The accommodation is expensive, but amazing! The rooms are nice, every single person has a bathroom and shower and the kitchen is shared with seven people. Most of the internationals live in Ffriddoedd Village, so when the sun is shining, everybody lies on the grass on this campus. There is also a bar, a shop and there are common rooms where you can study and drink a beer at night with friends.
leisure & culture
Bangor is not a very big city of course, but there is enough to do in Bangor and the surrounding areas. The busses are driving often and take you everywhere. In Bangor, there is a pier and a high street and nice view points and more. From Bangor, you can already see Snowdonia and it is totally worth the few pounds to go there by bus. Snowdonia is beautiful! There are also lots of castles in cities nearby Bangor and one in Bangor itself. There are even lots of beaches at Anglesey.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. I love Bangor. It is a small city and that makes everything very personal. There are many international students though. These students also came alone, so everybody is very open and willing to make friends. The support on this university is definitely special and makes you feel really appreciated. There are lots of clubs and societies where you'll meet students from Wales and English and this is also incredibly interesting and fun. The surrounding areas of Bangor and Bangor itself are beautiful, so bring your hiking boots and you'll definitely have a great time in Bangor!
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 3

e-mail address	florinekijlstra@hotmail.com
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Bangor Wales, UK
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	13 / 09 / 17 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 18 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The process developed quickly. I was a last minute applicant and both universities cooperated really well.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Very helpful. They answered my emails very quickly and gave me useful instructions.
academic preparation
As I was a last minute applicant my academic preparation was a little bit different. However, the motivation letter and other documents are very useful in straightening out your personal goal during this exchange as well.
language preparation
The language test is a good indicator and heightens your awareness of your language level during your stay as well. Apart from that I did not undertake extra language preparation.
finances
It is very advisable to have a financial plan. This will help to minimize unexpected expenses. It is very useful to save some money beforehand, if you can afford it, to provide a little bit of a back-up in case you need it If you are considering studying in the UK, be aware that the year will be more expensive than usual, and than possibly other exchanges due to the disadvantageous position of the euro-pound exchange. However, food and drinks are generally relatively cheap there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I personally miss-judged some modules in the first semester but that did not have much to do with the study programme and the module information on the university's website. The study programme was well organised

and clear and each teacher clearly mentioned what was expected of you. They were also very cooperative if you wanted to take modules from outside your school. I greatly enjoyed taking some modules on subjects that were new to me.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was really high. The teachers took you seriously and were dedicated and absolute professionals. They also checked every test/assignment twice and provided very elaborate, extremely useful feedback. It is difficult to decide whether the overall work-load/study level was more difficult or easier as a result of the very open, and constructive study environment. The seminars were very personal and the teachers kept challenging the students in creative ways. I really preferred their academic approach over the one employed by my home university.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very good. The international office was always reachable via email and their office hours. The atmosphere was very informal and they really made an effort to make every international student feel at home. They also went the extra mile to ensure you could do the modules you wanted, even if they were officially already full.
transfer of credits
No opinion. I have not yet received my transferred credits, However, I believe that in the UK system a 70 % equals a Dutch 8. So following this system, I do not complain about my credits transfer. It was quite confusing to get used to it though. Me and my friends all had the initial response to feel worse about our grade than needed as the UK system normally does not assign grades above the 80 percent. (40% =pass-70% = A)

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
The welcome and orientation programme was packed! They organised a whole week for international students alone and then an extra week including the welcome for UK students. They also welcomed every international student by providing tours through the town and at the university. Honestly, they organised so much every week throughout the year that often you were unable to join every activity.	
accommodation	
The university accommodation was really nice. Although I was assigned to an older building, which had the usual malfunctions, the overall quality of the housing was really good. However, the cleaning lady did not always do her job with the greatest facility, but hey, we got a cleaning lady, so I did not complain. The maintenance requests could take quite some time to get processed but eventually they completed most requests. They also took safety very seriously and the security and the wardens were really there for your comfort and security. They always made that very clear which made them very approachable.	
leisure & culture	
Bangor is a small city so the town itself is rather easily, and quickly discovered. However, the student community, their societies and the university organised many events which made the town come alive. This made it possible to, even in the final week, be surprised about new places and nice pubs that you never noticed before. However, the size of the town made it necessary to escape the small scale and visit bigger cities like Manchester and Liverpool every once in a while. In Bangor it is the people and the beautiful nature that make the place. And the University and student community did a great job in creating a welcome and open environment.	
suggestions/tips	
It would be useful to arrange some kind of clear agenda with some of the biggest societal events. Sometimes the Facebook pages kind of obscured clear sight of all the events that were on at the same time. Maybe some kind of app with all the activities organised by societies and the university?	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes I would! However, only if you don't mind getting creative and if you're open to a more intimate student city life. Every day you will run into people you know and the small town makes you feel at home really fast. The people are kind, in general, and the entire town breathes student air. However, as with most student towns, do not go there in summer as most students will have left the place. I had no expectation when I came to Bangor and I can honestly say that I left the place without ever having felt a moment of regret. The town is special, the people are nice and warm and the University and student societies are top quality. And you got the bonus of living in one of the most beautiful places in the UK with Snowdonia in your back garden.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

Bangor – Bangor University

In general, for anyone who is considering studying in the UK in a smaller, more isolated student town, get a railcard! This will save you a lot of money as train transport is quite expensive there. Also, although big cities are perhaps more exciting, smaller student towns have very positively surprised me and offered me the additional experience of studying in a smaller town opposed to my big city student experience back home.

2016-2017

Report 1

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies
destination city & country	Bangor, UK
name university abroad	Bangor University
start date	15 / 10 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	For my application I handed in my application letter and my CV before the deadline. I was then
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office Utrecht were always really quick and helpful in responding.
academic preparation	None. (I had already done one year in my Master, there were no special academic requirements)
language preparation	The instruction language is English, so I did not do any special preparation. I did start a duolingo course Welsh, but that was more for fun.
finances	I got an Erasmus-grant, and apart from this I had some money saved. I also had a student loan.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I was able to follow two courses in the English department at master's level. These were 'Medieval Arthur' and 'Literary Theory and Research'. Unfortunately I was not able to follow two courses that had previously caught my interest, due to the absence of two professors. However, the teachers are really helpful and there are possibilities to follow an open essay (one friend of mine did) about a topic of your own choice, supervised by one teacher. I was also allowed to 'sit-in' at other classes if I so wished. The courses I took were more discussion based, so you couldn't just lean back. Especially Medieval Arthur was really good, due to the teacher, Raluca Radulescu, who's an expert on Arthurian literature.
academic quality of education activities	The teachers are all very good. Apparently the English Literature department is number 1 in the UK. But apart from that, all of them are really nice and approachable. They are always ready to help or just to talk to you. The student body is only small, which means they can make time for you.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I personally did not really need any support, but many of my friends did and the people at the International Office really did their utmost best to help them. When it comes to writing essays, the teachers were really on top of things. They really wanted you to go to them and discuss your topic and your work, and you can send them drafts that they will comment on.
transfer of credits	I have not yet had my transcript, but Bangor University states that 2 Bangor credits equal 1 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation programme was pretty clear, although there was some confusion about which classes I was and was not allowed to take, as well as the exams. Luckily that was all resolved. The International Office offers many activities, like a trip to Snowdonia or to Manchester, which are really worth checking out. The Serendipity-fair is where all the clubs and societies present themselves and you can sign up for an e-mail alert as well.
accommodation
Students from outside Europe and students from the UK take precedence over European students when it comes to (University) Hall Accomodation. However, when informing me that I did not get a room there, they directed me to an alternative. This was quite expensive, but I choose to do it because I did not like the idea of going there without having any place to stay yet. The Ty Willis House where I eventually stayed was full of European students. It was a great place to live, with a big kitchen and your own bathroom. I did have to buy all my kitchen utensils, though, which was less great. However, it would probably not be that hard to find accomodation should you wish to go there and look for it yourself.
leisure & culture
All societies and clubs at Bangor University are free, and there are an immense amount of them. I myself went regularly to the meetings of the Japanese Society and the Writer's Guild, which unfortunately coincided with the weekly meeting of the Animation Society, as well as attending several meetings/trainings of the Medieval Re-enactment and the Archery Club. Every society has taster sessions, so you can see if it is something for you. I went to the taster sessions of the Folk Society as well as the Musical Society, but ended up not joining. Through the Folk Society I did meet some people teaching 18 th century dances, so that one month in, I found myself attending a ball in a nice 19 th century dress. But there are many more clubs and societies: you could play cricket, football, rugby, hockey or Quidditch, or do some gardening, crafting, watch movies, play boardgames, make music, listen to music etc. There are some amazing castles in the neighbourhood (tip: if you are visiting at least two, you might want to consider a Cadw membership, especially if they still offer it to students for only 12 pounds. You can then go to all of their castles for free. So that means at least Caernarfon, Beaumaris and Conwy, but also Harlech and Criccieth for instance). Nature is also stunning, especially in Snowdonia. There is a hiking club, and they provide transportation.
suggestions/tips
You must absolutely check out the Victorian Pier! It's my favourite place in Bangor. Apart from that I would really recommend touring around in the area, just visiting random places. A trip to Dublin is definitely a good idea. You might want to consider buying a railcard for discount if you're younger than 25. If you want to go further away (say, to London), check out Megabus (or a similar company). The trains are really expensive, but the buses between major cities are not only cheaper, but sometimes even faster. They leave from Liverpool (and probably Manchester too). I went to Edinburgh by bus and it was only around 20 pounds (which was as much as my train-ticket from Bangor to Liverpool).

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely. Bangor is a lovely town and the university is beautiful. The teachers (in the English, Music and History department at least) are all really kind and forthcoming and they have one of the most stunning (and Hogwartsian) libraries I've ever seen, where you can almost always find a spot (otherwise relocate to the newer part of the library, there is always room somewhere). There are many societies and clubs, so if you want to, there is always something to do. International and UK-students mix a lot, seeing that it is only such a small university. Apart from that, the brand-new Pontio hosts a cinema and a theatre, which are both really cheap for students (2 for 1 on Tuesday, so seeing a movie only costs 2,50 pounds p.p.). Near-by Snowdonia is absolutely stunning, and you're relatively close to Dublin. Also, Bangor is not expensive at all, especially not compared to the rest of the UK. Last: Welsh. You're in the Northern part of Wales, and people still speak a lot of Welsh amongst themselves. You will hear it on the street and in the store, you will see it on all the signs and it's beautiful. It is possible to follow language courses, either a more relaxed one or a 'crash course'. You can even get credits for this.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Don't bring an umbrella. It will break. Bring a good raincoat/windjacket. Apart from that, don't be afraid to try stuff out. Just go to as much taster sessions as you'd like, and you might find a really cool new interest (and/or awesome friends).