

2018-2019

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

destination city & country	Edinburgh, Scotland
name university abroad	The University of Edinburgh
start date	05 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Initially I was surprised by the deadline for applying to study abroad. Luckily for me other friends of mine were in the same process and notified me. First I was going to study in Aberdeen because that university seemed to fit my Liberal Arts and Sciences profile better, however, I actually thought I would prefer both the University and the city of Edinburgh. So at a later point, I was very happy that I could change to that University.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Because of the above mentioned switch, I think my exchange required maybe more efforts from the international office. It is important to take initiative, but I am very happy with the way the international officers were willing to help me.
academic preparation	I did not prepare academically. I was able to to enroll in courses that suited my major and I took another very interesting level 1 course.
language preparation	I did not make any language preparations (apart from a book with Scottish sayings I received from my uncle.)
finances	I made the required financial plan and thought about the fact that living in the UK is a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands and I also knew before I went that I wanted to make some trips while I was there so I took that into account.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Upon arrival I change 2/3 of my courses succesfully. I was able to enroll online during the summer, but to really get into the courses I wanted (which weren't level 1 courses and had entrance requirements) it worked to pay a visit to the international office in Edinburgh and showed them what courses I had previously followed. They

have a number of spots in the higher level courses reserved for international students. Many of them switched upon arrival which created new opportunities for other students.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good. On average I would say that the students spoke up more in class compared to here. The professors were all experts in their fields.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
There were many places to turn to as an international student for help and they were brought to everyone's attention.
transfer of credits
This still needs to happen.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme was amazing! I met a lot of students there and kept meeting with some of them during the semester. There was an app, and there literally are hundreds of cultural and sport societies. I tried out a lot of new things, and going there is very low key and I would encourage everyone to enjoy it to the fullest! A lot is done for student welfare also besides academics. There is a building, from the student association, Teviot Row, which is a great place. It is a pretty old building. The closest thing here would be a building from a "studentenvereniging" however, as it is owned by the student association, it is for all the students. A lot of societies organize events there. There are rooms for committees, a sport bar, a library bar, a roof terrace, a cozy café, a club-like cellar. I went there sometimes to study, but also went for a ceilidh. The best thing is that it's there for all the students.
accommodation
Finding accomodation was very very stressful. The Uni doesn't provide housing for students coming for just one semester who are from the EU. What I did was become part of a group on facebook. However, most people in that group were looking for one and not offering, so in the end I made a group chat with two other students of whom I saw that were looking for a room. We managed to find an apartment together so that worked.
leisure & culture
There was so much to do in the city as well as in its surroundings. In the city of Edinburgh there a beautiful buildings, many musea and a lot of lively pubs. I explored them all. Also outside of ther city there is a lot of nature which wasn't like anything I had seen before. I joined the hillwalking club and climbed hills (mountains) in a place that I would otherwise not even have been able to visit. Also the gym is of very good quality. I knew many people who had a membership and they offer something for everybody.
suggestions/tips
Take a lot of trips to the beautiful Scottish nature and see some smaller villages (to go by car is the best way). Also, join at least one of the many societies and sports clubs there is something for everyone! In

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

Yes, it was a great experience! If you reading this and in doubt whether you should go to Edinburgh: Do it!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
No

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	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
name university abroad	The University of Edinburgh
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>When I started the application process I quite quickly figured out I wanted to go to Edinburgh. Studying English, going to a country where they spoke English made the most sense. I chose the UK mostly for the quality of education and the oppurtunity to get an Erasmus grant. I knew I wanted to take linguistics courses and with a simple google search I found out that The University of Edinburgh has the best linguistics department in Europe. I thus had Edinburgh listed as my first choice.</p> <p>All in all the paperwork isn't too bad. I would advise to try to fill in everything as fast as possible, especially the documents requiring signatures. It's hard to comment on the selection procedure at Utrecht considering I don't know how many students applied to go to Edinburgh to do linguistics. However, as far as I know, everyone who applied also went abroad although they might not have been able to go to the university of their first choice. After having beend selected by Utrecht University the application procedure at The University of Edinburgh starts. This is mostly formality and as long as you fill everything in correctly they won't deny you a place. Just make sure to check your mail so you don't miss any deadlines!</p> <p>When I made my study plan for the application at Utrecht University I only had access to the courses that were available that year. I therefore couldn't be sure that the same courses would be taught in the same block the next year. Fortunately, the courses I wanted to choose were all available. However, it is important to keep in mind that you might have to change your courses.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I attended two lectures on studying abroad at Utrecht University. One before the application process and one after. Both were very helpful. The second one mainly focused on what to expect. I found it primarily handy in terms of information on the rest of the application at the receiving information. They also give you some information on culture shock and homesickness. This didn't really end playing a role for me, considering the</p>

<p>culture is not that different compared to the Netherlands and the semester in Edinburgh is rather short. It is always handy to know though.</p> <p>I contacted the international office a couple of times with regards to administrative questions and signatures. They always answered quickly with the information I wanted/ needed.</p>
academic preparation
<p>As I went to Edinburgh in my third year I was able to choose any linguistics course I wanted too, considering I already had followed multiple level 3 linguistics courses as well as a course in statistics. Be sure to check the entry requirements of the courses you are interested. If you don't already satisfy them you can possibly still take a course in Utrecht to make sure you do.</p>
language preparation
<p>As I study English, language definitely wasn't an issue. I think that if you have followed courses in English at Utrecht University you will also be able to do so in Edinburgh. In case you are not fluent enough in English both Erasmus and Edinburgh University can provide help/ extra teaching.</p>
finances
<p>With your application at Utrecht University you also have to hand in a financial plan. If you fill this in correctly you can easily see what you expect to spend and whether this is doable for you. I filled in rather high numbers, that way you know that even if things end up being quite expensive you will still be able to pay for it all. In the end I ended up spending far less than the number in my financial plan. This was mostly because I stayed in a hostel instead of finding a room.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I took three honours linguistics courses at The University of Edinburgh: Middle English, Origins and Evolution of Language, and Sociolinguistics. All courses were 10 ECTS (20 Edinburgh credits). I would advise against taking any extra courses as the workload was probably a bit more than taking two courses in a block at Utrecht University. When you first meet with your tutor in Edinburgh you can always change the courses you had previously selected. I didn't change my courses since I was still happy with my choices. It also meant I didn't have to add anything to my Erasmus Agreement which was an extra advantage.</p> <p>The course Origins and Evolution had quite a lot of students and consisted of lectures and tutorials. In the tutorials there were about 6 other students, which meant that there was a lot of opportunity for discussion and asking questions. The course focused on how modern humans developed their language ability after the split from the common ancestor with chimpanzees. I really enjoyed this course considering it combined so many different fields such as linguistics, archeology, comparative biology, evolution theory etc. The course required quite a lot of reading and had a big exam on all the reading at the end of the semester. If you have a course where you need to read about 50 pages a week from a single book you might consider buying a copy even if it is available online. Blackwell's basically has any studybook you might need and also has many secondhand studybooks.</p> <p>I found the course Middle English taking up less time than the other two courses. The course was divided into two parts: grammar and phonetics/ phonology/ dialects. The parts were taught by different professors. The professor who taught the grammar part was actually Dutch. That did feel a little weird. As I had already done a course on the History of the English Language at Utrecht University I already knew certain things about Middle English. Some of the students taking the course were not linguistics students and had difficulty understanding</p>

certain grammatical concepts. This sometimes led to the lessons being rather boring for me. The course however did become more challenging further into the semester. I enjoyed looking at ME English texts with the knowledge I had acquired and had fun writing the essays for this course.

The two courses described above were also master courses. Master students followed the same classes but had a different assessment. The Sociolinguistics course was solely for honours students. The course started relatively easy with reading from a course book introducing important concepts in sociolinguistics. After that we read a lot of interesting papers. I really enjoyed that the papers focused on all kinds of languages (also e.g. sign languages) and cultures. The main assessment of the course was a 4000 word paper. You had to write this paper on an analysis of your own speech. I didn't really enjoy this, because it basically forced me to listen to my own voice over and over. You also had to write the paper on your native language, and unfortunately there is a lot more sociolinguistic literature on English than Dutch. In the end I however had an essay I was quite happy with. The course also taught me some elementary knowledge on how to work with R.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of the courses at Edinburgh is high and comparable to Utrecht. I would say the main difference is the amount of options in Edinburgh which enable you to focus on something in more depth than you could in Utrecht. All the professors of the courses are experts in their field and have publications to their name directly relevant to the course. Lessons are only 50 minutes and as a result the University of Edinburgh requires a lot of independent work.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The professors of my courses were all very approachable. In both Middle English and Sociolinguistics I was encouraged to mail my professors with any questions and the professor for Sociolinguistics also invited students to send in their work at various stages of their research to check and help. For the course Origins and Evolution, the phd student who led the tutorial was always open to any questions and also kept the students updated on any recent updates in the field. During my stay abroad I didn't experience any issues that would have led me to contact my tutor or the Visiting Student Office, but both are available in case you need them.

transfer of credits

All courses in Edinburgh list the ECTS credits. The grading system in Edinburgh is different than that in Utrecht. Grades go from 1-100 and the university leaves a lot of room to indicate excellence. Meaning that if you score a 70 you have done really well (probably 8 or 8,5 at Utrecht). It is basically impossible to get a 90 or higher in Edinburgh. I don't yet know how exactly the grades will be converted.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

If you go for the first semester there is a whole welcome week, which you are able to attend along with all the first year students. There are a lot of activities in which you are able to explore the city and campus, get to know the different societies, and just have fun and dance. I would definitely recommend going to the ceilidhs (Scottish dancing) in welcome week! The welcome week is also a great opportunity to meet people, especially through the societies.

accommodation

If you only go to Edinburgh for a semester university accommodation is not guaranteed and you will most likely not get it. I tried looking for accommodation during welcome week but in the end didn't find anything. The hostel in which I stayed during welcome week, Castle Rock, also had rooms for people staying long term. As I didn't want to keep worrying about finding a room while classes had already started I decided to stay in the hostel. I

<p>shared a room with 9 other girls. Staying in the hostel was cheaper than finding a room. The hostel also had a lot of common rooms, including a room where it was usually quiet and you could study, a kitchen with all things you might need, and even a little cinema room. Living in the hostel had its advantages and disadvantages. You meet quite a lot of people but I failed to really connect with the other people staying long-term as they didn't really seem to understand my motivation to study.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>There are lot of things to do in Edinburgh. The university has a lot of societies focused on anything you might be interested in. I would definitely advise on joining a couple of societies. I also really enjoyed the oppurtunity to do things I had not yet done before. Throughout the semester I took lessons in pole dancing and multiple bars in Edinburgh have nights reserved for life-drawing which I really enjoyed. Edinburgh is furthermore a really beautiful city and I took many long walks. My hostel was right next to the castle at the end of the Royal Mile (the main street in Old Town). At the other end of the Royal Mile is Arthur's Seat, a big mountain that provides you with the best view of Edinburgh. Climbing Arthur's Seat is also a great work out! Most of the museums (there are a lot!) in Edinburgh have free entry, and you only need to pay for certain special collections. I would also encourage people to got to Dean Village, which is probably most beautiful in fall. Going out, I definitely enjoyed venues with life music most.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>
<p>Join societies. They organise a bunch of fun activities and it is a good way to meet people with similar interests. Also, because Edinburgh is a city with so many possibilities, try to find something you have always been interested in but have not yet been able to do. If it one of the first times you are in the UK and you want to see more of the UK/ Scotland, The University of Edinburgh/ the societies provide a lot of relatively cheap options to travel!</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	<p>I would definitely recommend The University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh itself. The classes in Edinburgh are really good and you may choose to study things you might not have been able to in Utrecht. Edinburgh is on top of that also a really beautiful and vibrant city.</p>
<p>do you have any additional advice or comments?</p>	<p>You might consider going to Edinburgh for the full year. There is simply so much to do, that you will hardly have time to see and do everything you want to. Also if you go for a full year you would be guaranteed university accomodation, which one less thing you would have to worry about. I don't know if the university places visiting students with other visiting students, but that might be an easy way to find people to explore the city with.</p>

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Linguistics
destination city & country	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
name university abroad	Edinburgh University
start date	15 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

end date	21 / 12 / 2016 (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
<p>I had known that I wanted to go to Edinburgh for a very long time. My application process started quite late, as I could not find the time to work on things like my financial plan and study plan. I started in November, and I arranged everything reasonably quickly. I quickly found courses that interested me, and discussing the courses with my contact person at Linguistics in Utrecht and having my study plan signed went very smoothly. The financial plan took some time, because I found it difficult to think about how I would be spending my money more than half a year into the future. I took enough time to write a motivational letter that I was proud of. In the end, I was quite pleased with my documents when I applied for the exchange. As for my second choice, I didn't spend much time thinking about it. I knew really well that I wanted to go to Edinburgh, but I had no idea where else I would like to go. In the end I settled on Linköping because the location and the courses that I would be following there appealed to me the most. I applied for Edinburgh University in May as the second step in my application process, quite a while after I had received the news that I may sign up for Edinburgh University. This was because it was advised to follow an online information session by the Edinburgh University visiting student office before applying. As I had just missed the previous one, I had to wait until the end of April for the next one. After my application, it turned out that some documents I had attached didn't get through properly. I could however easily send the documents to the visiting student office via email, so there was no need to worry here. In the end my application process went quite smoothly.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>The counselling by Utrecht University was mostly clear, so there wasn't much confusion. The predeparture meeting by the international office mostly covered things that I already knew through documents sent via e-mail, but it was a good opportunity to ask questions. However, during my stay in Edinburgh there was one issue I wasn't very pleased with. The board of examination of Linguistics in Utrecht needed to approve my courses in Edinburgh. I asked for approval in August because I hoped to receive a response near the end of September, which would be in time for changing my courses at Edinburgh University. However, I didn't receive any response, and in October I sent an email asking whether they had come to a conclusion. After a week, I received an response saying that they didn't know why it was taking so long, but they would come to a conclusion soon. This made me quite nervous, as I didn't know whether the courses would count towards my degree and whether I would receive credits for them. In the end, I sent another email in December and I received a response saying that they had approved my courses somewhere in November and had sent me a letter. This letter was only sent to my flat in Utrecht, so I wouldn't have known whether my courses were approved until after my return, if I hadn't sent another email in December. In the end, everything was fine, but this was something that bugged me throughout my stay in Edinburgh.</p>
academic preparation
<p>Not much academic preparation was necessary to study in Edinburgh, as I got the impression it wasn't very different from Utrecht University. I had chosen three courses for my study plan in December, and those were the three courses that I chose when I applied for Edinburgh University in May. These courses were approved when I received an offer to study at Edinburgh University, so I knew that these would be okay timetable-wise. I was dithering about whether I would change my courses, as there were some other courses that looked very interesting as well. In the end I stuck with the courses that I applied for, and I am glad I did as I really enjoyed all of them.</p>

language preparation
No language preparation was necessary for me, as I was going to an English-speaking country and my English is at quite a high level. I had passed a Cambridge Advanced English exam in secondary school, which showed that my level in English was at least C1. This was high enough to study at Edinburgh University.
finances
I originally tried to save money for my stay abroad, as I had calculated in my financial plan that I would need to have quite a lot of money at the start of my stay abroad, and as the UK is an expensive country to live in. In the end I found a job before my stay abroad, which took the pressure off my finances for a bit. In the end, I spent much less money than I had calculated in my financial plan (which was largely due to a good deal in accomodation, I must add - see 'accomodation' below).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses at Edinburgh University I had chosen were all very interesting and exciting. They were well-organised, the only organisational problem was that in almost all my courses the classes were assigned rooms that were too small, so that in the first week of courses people had to sit on the floor. This issue was quickly fixed, and for the rest I am very pleased with how things went. The way the semesters at Edinburgh University are set up does however mean that by far the biggest workload was at the end of the semester. The semester ended with exams for all my three courses, which in itself already created quite a large workload. I also had to hand in two essays, one close to the exams and one during. During the first half of the semester however, throughout October, the workload was quite low in my opinion. In Utrecht, we would have exams coming up in October. The four 'blocks' we have in Utrecht divide the workload more evenly throughout the year in my opinion.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses was very high. Every tutorial and lecture was interesting and different, and I learned a lot. The homework was usually good, not too much and not too little, and in one of my courses there was a short but interesting pre-lecture quiz to make sure that people did the reading. This course also had a tutorial in which the students had to read two different papers and discuss them in the tutorial. This was a nice way to grasp the course material and form your own opinion about two opposing accounts or theories.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not need much counselling and support. I had one meeting with my tutor at the start of my semester, in which my choice of courses and some other things were discussed. I am sure that I could have contacted him if something happened, but nothing happened that needed support or attention. I received regular e-mails from the university about various matters, which I am sure were helpful but I didn't need myself.
transfer of credits
?

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme at Edinburgh University lasted one week and there were a lot of activities to participate in and meet new people. There were parties, of course, but also many tourist trips, like a walk up Arthur's Seat. Various societies hosted meetings, guest lectures or activities. On Wednesday and Thursday there

was an information market for all the societies. This week full of activities and new information was tiring, but nonetheless fun and interesting and certainly helped me in discovering what I was interested in in Edinburgh student life.

accommodation

I was lucky enough to know people in Edinburgh who I could stay with. This meant that I did not need to look for accommodation on web sites and saved me the hassle of being sure that I was looking in the right place (and the web site was not some kind of scam site). I did apply for university accommodation, just because it felt wrong not to check whether I would be able to get into university accommodation. However, I only did so quite late, so I did not get into university accommodation. This was no problem, however: I stayed with the friends of my parents and paid monthly rent. This was a good place to stay: quite centrally located, a big house, and people to talk to that I knew quite well already. However, as it was a family of three, with the two children being in puberty, I also had to endure some rows and grumpy housemates. I had my own room, however, that I could go to. In the end I must say that I am very pleased with my accommodation and the arrangement. I might have met more fellow students had I been in a flat or in university accommodation, but this was not necessary as I already met loads of new people.

leisure & culture

In the welcome week, I had plans to join four groups/societies. First of all, I joined the linguistics society Langsoc, which was not very expensive and hosted regular guest lectures and activities. I also auditioned for two chamber choirs, and I knew I wanted to be in a theatre group. I thought about joining the orienteering society, which is something like running with a map and finding the fastest way from point A to point B, and I took part in a tryout session. In the end, however, I did not join the orienteering society. I auditioned for a few plays before I got into one, and I got into one of the chamber choirs I auditioned for. This meant that I could have three weekly activities. However, since the choir rehearsal and the Langsoc activities were on the same evening, I could never actually go to a Langsoc activity. In my experience, a lot of societies have their socials and activities on Wednesday evening, which to me doesn't make a lot of sense. It almost seems as though it is hard to be in more than a few societies because they all meet up on the same evening. In the end my main weekly leisure activities were in the chamber choir (the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers) and in the cast of the show 'Candlewasters'. These two activities were both lots of fun and the people were very nice and friendly and hosted regular parties or drinks. Especially in the cast of Candlewasters I made friends who I have become very close with and who I still like to visit.

suggestions/tips

In the Welcome Week, try to go to as many society meetups, information stands and activities as possible. Some weeknights when I was at home, I felt like I could have been in more societies. This was also because of two of my activities being on the same evening and the other one not having a fixed day for rehearsals, of course. However, I do think it is better to find one thing that you really enjoy, than to end up doing a lot of things none of which you really enjoy. If you are into theatre, I would suggest auditioning for plays. There is a big theatre society at Edinburgh University and there are auditions almost every weekend for various plays. Don't be discouraged by rejections: I was rejected three times before I got into Candlewasters. I'm really glad I kept trying, because I met so many nice people in this group. Performing a play together really forms a long-time bond, even when you don't know the people that well before the actual show. Of course I still have to find out whether the bond is a long-time bond, but I visited the cast from Candlewasters last weekend, two months after I left, for their next show, and they were all very happy to see me.

On a different note: there were many opportunities for tourist trips into the Highlands, the Hebrides and England amongst others. I only went on one of these trips with Langsoc. This meant that I didn't really get out of Edinburgh. Although I didn't really mind at the time, sometimes I wonder whether I missed out on the rest of the country.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I would. It is a top-notch university with great teaching and lots of choice in courses. There are many societies and activities that you can join, and last but not least, the city is amazing. In my opinion it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and there is a great atmosphere and tons of sights to see. One of the reasons I didn't mind being in Edinburgh all the time is because there is so much to see and do there, and because I feel so at home there.
do you have any additional advice or comments?