

2019-2020

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Norwich, England
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane and bus
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	20 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process overall went quite smoothly. Although it was quite a lot to figure out at first, once it is clear what you have to do or submit before every deadline it will be less overwhelming. I would suggest to make a plan in advance and to write all the deadlines in your calendar early on.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support service at Utrecht University was very well done. There are multiple orientation evenings and briefings. Besides that, you can always plan a conversation with one of the study advisors if you're in doubt about something.
academic preparation	I didn't prepare academically for my exchange period apart from reading a few books in advance that were on my reading list for the modules.
language preparation	I didn't do any language preparation as well. However, I did have to take a language test for the Erasmus grant which could tell me whether I did or didn't need preparation.
finances	I saved up a lot during the year before going on exchange, because I didn't want to hold myself back because of financial reasons. So because I had a summer job and saved up through student loans, finance turned out not to be an issue during my stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I mainly participated in literature modules which I very much enjoyed. My main track in Utrecht is art history so I liked the change in discipline and I learned a lot.
academic quality of education activities	

The academic quality was very good. Overall I would say it's almost the same as in Utrecht, but it is less focused on research in the way Utrecht University is.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling and support services are quite good. The university has a strong focus on the mental health of students as well which I thought is really good, however, I've heard from multiple people that it takes a long time before you can have an appointment with the mental health department. But they do have a therapy dog called Boomer which anyone can visit and pet.
transfer of credits
Half the credits calculated at UEA are the credits in ECTS, so it is quite easy to calculate. I received 30 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The first two weeks are 'freshers weeks' that are packed with any kind of activity you can think of. There is so much to do for internationals as well where you'll meet the most people and make friends instantly. So I would advise going to everything you find interesting and be open that's how to make the most out of the welcome programme.
accommodation
I lived at the UEA campus in an ensuite room. In my flat, we were 12 students in total, all English first years. My flat was really great and everyone was nice, so we got along well. I know in other flats it can range from 7 to 12 people, and others also had more internationals living in their flat, so it can vary depending on which flat you'll get placed in. The room itself is very nice as well as the bathroom. Everything is quite small, but it has everything you need. The kitchen was fine, however, the oven was terrible and basically almost unusable.
leisure & culture
I fell in love with the city of Norwich. It's so versatile while it also has a particular style. The market place might be the highlight but there is a lot more to explore in the centre. It's great for shopping, discovering cute independent shops, going to café's and it has a great nightlife.
suggestions/tips
You can discover a lot just roaming around in the centre and find out about different sidestreets. Apart from that, I would say to just be open, meet as many people as you can and go to as much as activities as you like.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the university and the campus is wonderful. Norwich is also a great student city with a lot of possibilities and its people are very nice as well.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Have fun!

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Norwich, United Kingdom
how did you travel to and from your destination?	To by plane, from by boat
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	08 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 06 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was fairly easy and clear. I made a list of the destinations I wanted to go to, and applied using the provided checklist so that I had a good overview over what I needed to do before I left.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The UU provided adequate support for me. It wasn't often that I had a question, but when I did they got back to me quickly enough for it to not be a problem. Things that I didn't know but also didn't mail them about were things I solved by looking at provided documents, so either way there was good support.
academic preparation	There wasn't any academic preparation needed before I went on my exchange to the University of East Anglia, as none of the classes I took had prerequisites, and were all second year courses.
language preparation	As I was going to an English-speaking country, and am studying English Language and Culture, other than what I've learned while in university I didn't need to do any extra preparation. Aside from that, I also have a Certificate of Advanced English C2 level, so extra preparation was redundant.
finances	Aside from what I received from Erasmus, I did need to keep loaning money as the Erasmus grant on its own wasn't enough to finance my rent and overall living costs. I never ran into financial troubles while abroad, but that's also because I again, was loaning money next to my grant.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
welcome & orientation programme	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I didn't get to take all classes I had written down in my original learning agreement; instead the classes I took were my second or third choices. Which was fine, cause I still wanted to do them. They were second year courses, so fairly easy and I didn't need to do a lot to earn my credits. So content wise, technically they were

lacking but as a student abroad I didn't mind as I didn't need to study all the time. I did have the option to transfer to my first choices, but didn't end up doing that as I was happy with the classes I had.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the classes was good. I had clear and good teachers, and we had quite a few hours for every class, which I thought was nice. There was a good mix of practical and theoretical activities in the classes I took, which definitely was a welcome thing.
transfer of credits
As far as I'm aware the transfer of credits has been done correctly and without any trouble, and both universities (UU and UEA) have always been very clear on what the credits mean and will entail.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university
UEA could have been more clearer in what they needed when I left, as I ended up paying rent at their accommodation even when I wasn't living there anymore, and I did have to go and ask them about stuff I needed to do rather than the other way around sometimes. However, the international office of UEA has been incredibly helpful.
support guidance of home university
Other than an e-mail from the UU telling me I needed to come home, I didn't receive a lot of support from them, nor did I need or feel the need to have any support from them.
online offer and quality of digital courses
All classes I took at UEA switched to virtual classes, which allowed me to take them and finish them back in the Netherlands. Though everyone was of course figuring it out as they went along as it was unprecedented, I feel my teachers did a great job at adapting and the quality was just as good as in-person classes.
suggestions/tips on digital exchange
A part of the exchange is of course staying there and living in the country, and I am sad I only spent 2 out of the 5 months I was supposed to live there. Without that, I don't believe you can call it an exchange. However, it was nice to still be able to follow classes, so if an exchange isn't possible due to the virus this year, it might be worth allowing students to follow at least classes they wouldn't be able to take here. But that's not an exchange.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, absolutely. The university was really big and the people were very nice and welcoming. There was a lot to do on campus at night, as well as a lot of societies you could join even as an exchange student. Their facilities are mostly great, and the university itself is very accepting and also organized events for the LGBTQ+ community and Black History Month. The city Norwich itself is also beautiful, it's a relatively close proximity to London and there's cheap ways to get there. Norwich itself has a lovely charm to it, the same charm that Utrecht has in my opinion. Definitely worth the trip.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Although my exchange was short, I had the best time there, and just wish I could have stayed longer. I am however really glad I went wouldn't have changed it for the world. Also, the file isn't letting me type in the: "Welcome & orientation programme" box so I will be typing that below:

The first 2 weeks of my stay were filled with activities in terms of orientation. Not all were mandatory, but they were still really nice to go to. Eventually, I didn't end up meeting any people there that I would call friends, but it was nice to get to know some of them as I took classes with other exchange students and you knew you weren't alone there. The programme itself was very fun and diverse, with pizza and game nights to a night at the museum. All in all, very well done.

Report 3

faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's master's PhD
name study programme	Media en Cultuur

destination city & country	Norwich, England
how did you travel to and from your destination?	To by car and boat, from by train and boat
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	08/01/ 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12/06/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	After the UU approved my application for the University of East Anglia I quickly received a confirmation from the UEA itself as well. In that confirmation was a link to start the online application, which had the deadline before 30 th of October. I finished my application in June. There are some forms you need to hand in and get signed by the International Office, like you grade list and a confirmation of your level of English. You can save your application and take one step at a time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The meetings and presentations from the international office were all pretty clear and straight forward. Sometimes I kind of got lost in all the information, but everything was available in powerpoints and handouts. The checklists helped with doing everything in time. I did not need much extra counselling, but the international office is very quick in responding to questions and signing documents.
academic preparation	The modules that I followed did not have any specific requirements. All the modules that I chose were within my field of study and knowledge, so there was no academic preparation needed.
language preparation	In addition to the B2 expected level of English I had from middle school, the year before my exchange I did a minor that was completely in English. The lectures were taught in English and all assignments had to be written in English. This made me feel confident in my level of academic English writing and understanding, so I did not do any other preparation
finances	

I already had some money on a savings account and in the last months before going abroad I started putting a little bit of extra money aside. I knew I would be receiving the Erasmus grant and would still be getting DUO every month as a steady income, so I did not worry too much. Rent is about the same as in The Netherlands, although I recommend looking for off-campus accommodation, because on campus it can be quite expensive.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

The study abroad team of UEA is very active. Before coming to England they already sent a lot of e-mails with information about travelling to the UK and arriving at campus. The first few weeks they organized a lot of events to get to know them, the university and other international students. They were all very well executed and I already met a lot of nice people the first days because of this.

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed the following modules: British Cinema since the 1960s, Gender and Genre, Writing the American Script. The first week I started with Film and Video Production, but it was too similar to a module I did at UU, so I did not feel like I was going to learn anything new. It was very easy to arrange to change modules together with the Study Abroad team. I changed it to British Cinema since the 1960s, to learn more about the film history in the country I was visiting. Both the content and the level of British Cinema and Gender and Genre was very similar to the way modules are taught at UU. Writing the American Script is a more practical course, which we do not really have at UU, so that was new, but nonetheless very interesting. Every meeting we would discuss genres and ways of storytelling on an academic level, but also using this knowledge to build stories and write scripts yourself.

academic quality of education activities

To my experience, the academic quality is very much the same as at UU. It all works a little bit different, since they work in semesters. The modules I followed each had one or multiple 'formative' assignments (ones that you don't get graded for, but you have to do in order to get feedback) and one final 'summative' assignment. The summative assignment is the only one you get graded for, so my final grades depend on these three assignments. However, this can be different for every module at the UEA.

transfer of credits

As an exchange student I followed 20 credit courses, which translates to 10ects. There are some courses that are 20 credits, but also 30 credit courses that offer 20 credit versions for exchange students.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

I have been receiving a lot of information, both from the Study Abroad team and the University itself. All assignments got a 10 day extension and even after that it is fine to hand in, as long as it is before the 3th of August, which is really nice. Because of the big change of going home and living in a pandemic my head was not ready to work and focus for a long time, and this extension helped a lot, as otherwise I would have had a lot of stress trying to finish the assignments on time.

support guidance of home university

The International Offices emailed all exchange students with the urgent advice to return home. I did follow this advice and the International Office of Humanities personally emailed me to ask if I had returned safely and if I could continue my studies or had any questions. I did not have any further questions, so after that I have not been in touch with them anymore.

online offer and quality of digital courses

After I returned home there were only two weeks of teaching left. For two of my three courses we did not have online classes, but they put the presentations that were left online, as it were extra classes that would otherwise have been used to revise our final essay plans and ask questions. For the American script writing course we did have the two seminars that were left on zoom, which worked very well.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

The teachers of the two courses that we did not have online courses for could've been in touch with the students a little bit more, because this way it was a very abrupt ending. But they are always available for questions and emails.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this University and the city of Norwich. The university is a very easy going place which has a comparable atmosphere to the University of Utrecht. The campus is very nice and everything is there, it is even surrounded by nature and a lake. There are a lot of modules to choose from that allow you to specialize more in a subject you are interested in than at the UU, at least in the film field. There is a lot organized for exchange students and it is easy to join a club or society to meet even more new people and maybe try a new sport. The city itself is very nice and very old. There are enough facilities, stores, pubs and cinema's to enjoy yourself. There is a lot of nature around the city to go and explore on trips or by yourself.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Definitely go to the things that are organized for you, as it is a great way to meet new people. Don't be afraid to try new things and step outside of your comfort zone. This way you get the most experience out of living in a new place.

2018-2019

Report 1

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

destination city & country	Norwich, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	21 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	While the application went smoothly for me and wasn't too complicated, I would advise to start as soon as possible. I waited a little too long until the deadline, and while the paperwork was all clear and easy to fill out, it was more extensive and took more time than I expected, which lead to some stress in filling out the application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Counselling is available, but apart from the information meetings there is no other support offered. Questions directed to the international office are answered relatively quickly, but as I needed little extra individual guidance there is not much I can say about this. A little more general information about the paperwork that will need to be filled out before, during and after the exchange would have been welcome, as at times it was unclear to me what I needed to do exactly, but all this information can also be found on the UU website, which helped me.
academic preparation	When selecting my courses, I made sure all of them fit with the courses I had already done at home. I made sure there was no overlap, but also that I would not choose an advanced level course in something I had no prior knowledge of. I was mainly interested in taking courses related to the program I study in Utrecht, which made choosing courses easier.
language preparation	As I study English I am quite used already to speaking English during seminars as well as writing in English, so I did not take any courses or prepare in any way, apart from participating in the online language assessment which was required by the Erasmus+ program.
finances	Before leaving I made up a balance in which I looked at income and expenses during my time abroad, including an approximation of what my Erasmus grant would be. This helped me get a perspective on what I could expect during my time abroad, and I would highly recommend doing this, as it may give you a better sense of the budget you can afford to spend on housing for example. I had to find my own accomodation, as accomodation at the university campus was not guaranteed, and knowing approximately how much money I had to spend in advance helped me figure out how much rent I could afford.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The courses I took, on modernism, Shakespeare adaptation and translation studies, were interesting and well-structured. The translation course was on a lower level than I had hoped, it felt more like an introductory course, but the other two were a similar or higher level than courses I would have taken in Utrecht. The courses I could choose from all sounded interesting and especially the course on Shakespeare adaptation had a very interesting approach and content. The courses were well-structured, however, all of them were graded on a single essay due at the end of term, which was worth 100%. This put a lot of pressure on them, and they were all due around the same time, which was stressful. This is not the case with all courses at the university, however.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality of the Shakespeare adaptation course and the modernism course was very good, though the translation studies course was lacking a little in quality. The seminars were often chaotic and the class discussion was less interesting and in-depth than it could have been. However, all courses offered a great deal of guidance by the seminar teachers, which was very nice. They helped prepare you for the final essays through class-discussion of your essay topics, as well as through one-on-one tutorials and meetings, which was very nice.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	I personally did not receive a lot of support, as I didn't feel I needed any during my time there. However, I was well informed through email and pamphlets about the various support systems the university offered, both for exchange students through language classes, as well as for all students through for example mental health support and academic support. Everyone was assigned an advisor, who we had a meeting with at the beginning of the term, and who encouraged us to contact her if we ever needed anything.
transfer of credits	
	At the university of East Anglia, 20 credits transferred to 10 ECTS. It is important to make sure you have enough credits at the end of the semester to be able to finish your year, so this is something you should always check. They did state this on their site quite clearly for exchange students, and they also stated how many courses everyone should take per semester which corresponded with the amount of credits I needed, so I didn't run into any problems there luckily. After the exchange, I needed to fill out an application at Utrecht University to get your credits and grades transferred to your home university, which takes about six weeks to be approved. I probably left this later than I should, but as the transcript of records, which states my grades, also may take a while to be sent to the UU, this shouldn't be too much of a problem.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The welcome and orientation programme was about a week long. There were informational events, which were useful, as well as drinks and activities to meet your fellow exchange students and to get to know the city. Exchange students were also welcome to participate in the university's freshers week, where you could go to parties and meet other students.
accommodation	
	Accommodation at the campus was not guaranteed, and while you could sign up for it, it was likely that the campus would be full. I also didn't hear whether I was selected until I was already in Norwich, which meant that I had already found alternative housing. I also recommend looking for alternative accommodation and renting a room in the city, as this is likely also cheaper.

leisure & culture
The University of East Anglia has a lot of events such as parties for students, and the city of Norwich also has a few very nice bars and clubs to go to, though most students who live on campus usually go for drinks at the campus bar. There's a theatre in town, and the drama faculty also puts on plays at the end of term for their assessment which can be seen by students, though I didn't go to any of this. There's a few cinemas as well, and the university has a museum on-campus, which is free to students.
suggestions/tips
I suggest visiting the Norwich Playhouse bar, especially in summer (or at the end of summer), as this has a very nice terrace and it was a favourite of mine when the weather was still good. Another nice club is Gonzo's, which has a roof terrace which is open in summer, but is also very nice to visit when the roof terrace is closed. I also recommend Brick if you want to go out for pizza, and if you're into art the on-campus museum is very good, if not a little small.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would definitely recommend Norwich and the University of East Anglia. While the city is not very big, it is similar to Utrecht, it is definitely a very nice city with a lot of students, which means there is enough going on that it isn't boring. The university is very good, with interesting courses and nice teachers and people, as well as a very nice atmosphere. I enjoyed myself very much in Norwich, and I think there's something there for everyone.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
-	

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Norwich, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	21 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
The application process for going on exchange was quite straight-forward. I applied to the Humanities office for a spot at UEA, and received this spot halfway through the academic year. After this, I had to directly apply to UEA	

to complete my registration. I received a student number and had to complete my registration for UEA through a portal. It was quite straight-forward, but there was quite a lot that I needed to fill in to complete my registration. They allow you to split the registration up into parts so that you won't have to fill in everything at once, you can save your progress and come back to it later. It is better to get the application done as soon as possible, because then you can start to orient for accommodation. UEA was really fast with responding to my registration with an offer and more information, which made it easier to prepare for my time abroad.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The support at Utrecht University is very good for exchange students. The International Office replied very fast to all the questions I had, and they provide enough and good information for exchange programmes. They organise information evenings and provide useful links to help you complete your registration. Do keep in mind that sometimes it takes a few days for the International Office to reply, so don't wait until a few days before the deadline to avoid stress!
academic preparation
All the subjects that I wanted to follow were all in my area of interest and study, so I did not feel the need to do a lot of academic preparation for UEA.
language preparation
I am a bilingual speaker of Dutch and English, so I didn't have to learn another language to get by during my exchange.
finances
For my finances, I mostly relied on my DUO student loans, travel compensations and I tried to save money from the part-time job I had in Utrecht. You also receive the Erasmus grant after you arrive on your exchange. The UK is more expensive than the Netherlands, and the pound is more than the euro so it is quite important to realise what you are spending and to organise your finances every month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed two classes from the school of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing and one class from Art, Media and American Studies. All the classes were part of Humanities and they all were about my point of interest. I took the modules The Art of Murder, I Am and Documentary. The semester is 12 weeks long, which really gives you a chance to go into depth into the topic you are studying. I haven't followed any creative writing classes, so the two LDC classes Art of Murder and I Am really taught me a lot about my personal way of writing and relating writing to myself. Documentary taught me a lot about film history and relating it to documentary. I was also able to use things I learned in Utrecht about film history in my module at UEA.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education is quite similar to Utrecht University. The content and structure of the seminars are quite similar as well, so I did not feel like I was struggling to keep up with the rest of my coursemates. Some modules are more practical than in Utrecht, but that is quite a lot of fun.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at UEA was very good, but at the beginning of the semester the Study Abroad office got swamped with questions, which meant that it took quite a while for them to get back to you. They did have good support when you went to see them in the office, and there were a lot of other support services for students on campus. I also received a counsellor, and he was there if I had any personal problems.
transfer of credits

I haven't received my grades yet so I can't say anything about this.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme for exchange and international students officially started on the 21st of September, but we had a chance to register as a student and receive our a campus card on the 19th and 20th of September. The start of activities was on the 20th and through a very useful app, you could track all the activities there were happening. The app was very useful because you could set reminders for yourself to attend the activities, and they had activities such as a city tour, campus tour, a pubquiz and at the end there was a reception at the Castle of Norwich, a very nice museum and one of the most well-known locations in Norwich. The orientation programme was very useful for meeting new people and getting to know the campus and city. The first week of the semester, the student union also organised different fairs for us to get to know the societies and sport clubs, and to sign up for them. This way, you were able to get a complete picture of what UEA had to offer.

accommodation

Because I am an Erasmus student, the university did not provide any accommodation for me on campus. I could find accommodation with a host family, but I preferred to find something for myself because I personally felt that staying with a host family was not something that I wanted to do during my exchange. I found independent accommodation about a 10 minute bikeride from campus, and that was fine. But I would have preferred to stay in accommodation on campus because it would have been more convenient.

leisure & culture

I personally feel that the British culture is not very different from the Dutch culture. There are also a lot of international students at UEA that do their whole degree abroad, so you will meet a lot of non-British people and will be able to learn about loads of different cultures. The city of Norwich is also very busy and there is a lot you can do with societies and sports clubs at UEA. I was part of the volleyball club and the Cinema society. It is also quite easy to book a bus or a train to cities nearby or go for a longer trip in cities around the UK.

suggestions/tips

There are a lot of things you can do at UEA and in and around Norwich. To really make the most out of your time at UEA, you could sign up for one or more of the many societies they have to offer. They also have a lot of sport clubs, you can sign up to the sports park and UEA offers activities everyday with the Do Something Different-initiative. Norwich also has a lot of nice café's where you can drink coffee and eat nice things, the Norwich Castle is a great museum. The Norwich Market is a very fun spot to visit, you can take the train to Great Yarmouth to see the sea or go on one of the student-organised trips to popular places around the UK.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely, I had a great time in Norwich at UEA and I have met a lot of people I now call my friends. The experience of going abroad is great, but spending it at UEA is even better because there are so many people from different nationalities and student life is very involved. The campus is great and compact, Norwich is a beautiful city which is not too big but also not too small. The academic facilities are also great, and studying there really has enhanced the way I study.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your time and make the most out of it! Going on exchange is a great experience and you will meet many people who are in the same situation as you. If you're nervous about going, remember there are always people

who know what you're going through and there is a lot of support from both the UU and UEA. There are so many things you can do in England and time will definitely fly by.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Norwich, UK
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	17 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Process went well
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office was helpful and the information seminar was insightful
academic preparation	None
language preparation	None
finances	Saved money

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The information on the course selection was clear (and complete) on the website. The actual enrollment went smoothly as well. Other exchange students could easily change courses in the first two weeks if they wanted.
academic quality of education activities	I found the educational quality similar to the UU, the lecture/seminar sizes were of similar size. Though the seminars at the phillosophy department were a bit too short for my taste. All my teachers were supportive and available for questions at all times.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	I did not make use of any counselling services, but the people at the exchange office were all lovely!

transfer of credits
Received the marks in time from UEA, but haven't completed the transfer process yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was a pretty extensive introduction programme for all the internationals in the first week. I only went the first day so it is hard to evaluate, but it is a great opportunity to meet your fellow exchange students.
accommodation
Find some people via Facebook and get a nice room in the private sector. A place between the campus and city centre is ideal in my opinion. If you settle on a room in a more remote neighborhood, do check out the bus times! Cycling infrastructure is almost non existent, so prepare for a more adventurous commute on your bike!
leisure & culture
There are tons of great pubs in Norwich and a diverse music scene (Norwich Art Centre, Waterfront etc.) Great record and music stores as well.
suggestions/tips
Get a bike! You can get a cheap one via Gumtree, the bike shops are expensive. While cycling is a bit more challenging, you are not the only one and it is a ton of fun. It also affords you a lot of freedom since the busses stop quite early.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely. The quality of education is good and Norwich is an fun city with a great pub nightlife. The campus, while at a similar distance from the city centre as De Uithof, is way more cozy and inspiring place.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy!

**2017-2018
 Report 1**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> m.vonkeman@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies
destination city & country	Norwich, England (United Kingdom)
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	22 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

end date	15 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
----------	-----------------------------

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	In the autumn of 2016, I started making a list of all the universities and countries I considered for a study abroad period. I wanted to study abroad but, since I had never traveled on my own before, I did not want to go too far. I have always been interested in British culture, so I decided that the UK would be the perfect destination for me. I looked at the modules/courses that were available for exchange students, the exchange reports of former UU exchange students, and the information on the websites of the universities. Based on this, I selected UEA as my first choice. The application process went very smoothly, both at UU and UEA. The information on both websites was very clear. I think the motivation letter is the most important thing for the UU application, because it says the most about the student in question. The application process for UEA had to be completed before the 1 st of June, but aside from the transcript of records and the language proficiency form, I already had all of the information I needed to provide, so this did not lead to any difficulties.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Counselling and support at Utrecht University was really great! The 'information evenings' were very helpful and the International Office was always quick to respond to my e-mails. The pre-departure meeting in April was especially worthwhile, since you could also talk to students who already studied at UEA. The International Office was always there to help and they were very responsive to emails, which was great.
academic preparation	I did not follow any specific courses as a preparation for my study abroad period, since I chose modules that corresponded with the courses I had already completed at UU.
language preparation	Although I had completed various courses in English at UU, and even followed two English Language & Culture courses in my first year, I did not feel that confident about my English language skills and my English speaking skills in particular (and I still don't). Therefore, I did a summer school course at Utrecht Summer School in the summer before my exchange. It was called 'Spoken English B2+' and it lasted two weeks. I followed the course with a group of international students, so we had to speak English, and besides improving my English, I had a great time. I must say that it really helped me that I already did some Gender Studies courses in English at UU, because I was already somewhat used to communicating in English within an academic context.
finances	The financial plan you have to fill in for your application at UU really helped me to gain more insight in the amount of money you have to spend, although I did not even come near to the amount of money I thought I would spend (but that's a good thing I guess). England is quite expensive, so you should take that into account. However, with the student loan, the Erasmus grant, and my savings, I managed quite well. The rent can be especially pricey, but in the end it turned out to be less than I calculated at first. I just made sure that I kept track of all my expenses, so that I would not encounter unexpected surprises (especially phone bills, creditcard bills, etc.). I was also lucky that the pound sterling was so low against the euro due to the upcoming Brexit.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	

Each module counts for 10 ECTS, so I had to choose three modules for the autumn semester. I chose the following modules in the School of Arts, Media, and American Studies (AMA): Animation, Film Genres, and Theorising Television. You need to provide a list of nine modules just in case, but I was selected for my top 3 choices, which was great! The organisation and structure of the modules were very similar to what I was used to from Utrecht University. I really liked the content of the modules, it was a great addition to my study programme so far. Film genres focused on melodrama and war film, theorising television focused on all kinds of debates surrounding television, and animation focused on animation techniques, and the productional/distributional context. I also liked the fact that I had screenings for all of my modules. All my teachers were really great and supportive, as long as you participate in the classes by attending, making your homework, and contributing to the debates.
academic quality of education activities
My modules were all level 5 modules, which they refer to as second-year modules at UEA. The academic quality was very similar to the quality in the Netherlands. There were many debates about the literature and screenings in the seminars. However, some lectures and seminars only took one hour, which was not enough for me to really dive into the subjects, so that was a shame. I also had less freedom with my essay topics than I was used to, but I think this was mostly due to the fact that I took level 5 (level 2 in Utrecht) modules instead of level 6 (level 3 in Utrecht).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at UEA was really great! - The website and the international office provide lots of information about studying at UEA and the international office replied very swiftly to my (numerous) e-mails. - The official 'UEA study abroad incoming' Facebook page was also really helpful. It is a very easy and low-key way to ask questions and express your worries, and the International Office employees respond to most of the questions that are asked, which is really nice. - I also went to the Student Support Service a few times, and they were always happy to help. If you're not sure where to go for help, just go to the Student Support Service and they will redirect you to the right place. - Students also get assigned a personal advisor, often someone from your School (AMA in my case). My advisor was really nice. They can help you out with all kinds of problems you may stumble upon, academic and personal ones, or you can just arrange a meeting if you would like to talk about specific things or need advice.
transfer of credits
At the moment of writing, this has not yet occurred.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme was great. I met lots of new people from all around the world. UEA provided an app for students, with the schedule, a campus map, and the opportunity to ask questions and talk to other students, which was really useful. I recommend going to many events, and don't worry about going on your own, because you'll meet new people soon enough, as everybody wants to meet other people and make friends. It is really nice that international students arrive a few days ahead of the UK students, so that you get a chance to get to know the city and UEA before all the busyness starts.
accommodation
This is something that got me really stressed out for the entire summer. Although I knew that they do not guarantee university accommodations for Erasmus students, I heard that it was very likely that they would have a room. Thus I applied for the university accommodations, which needed to be finished before the 31 st of July. I

did not know when I would hear anything but it is very difficult to find a non-university house/room for such a short period of time (one semester or even for 10 months). In August, I received an e-mail that they wouldn't be able to say if Erasmus students could get a room until the beginning of September (which is around two weeks before classes begin!). However, since this year they had a new option: Homestay, for which Erasmus students are prioritised. This means that you will stay with a host family. Because I was stressed out at the end of August, I asked if I could still apply (since I missed the deadline), and a week later I received an e-mail with a host family offer! I don't know what would have happened if I had waited until September, but I did not want to take the risk of not having a room by the end of September. However, all the Erasmus students I spoke to in the first weeks of university had a room, either private or a university accommodation, so try not to worry too much (as I did). My host family was really nice and incredibly sweet, and it is great to live with English people to learn more about their language and culture. My room was also very nice (and quite cheap compared to the university accommodations). I could walk to the city in 15 minutes and it took me 30 minutes to get to campus on foot, but I could also go by bus (the bus stop was really close by).

leisure & culture

Norwich is such a wonderful city! It has many historical buildings and the landscape surrounding it is very nice. The castle is okay, and if you go an hour before closing time, it is only two quid! I would definitely recommend to visit the cathedral, it is really beautiful and you can go in for free (although a donation is recommended). There are many churches in Norwich as well, which are much more beautiful than the ones I am used to from the Netherlands. Eaton Park, the park near the university, and the broad (the UEA lake) are also really nice if you are into nature and if you seek a moment of peace and quiet (I was not used to living in the city, so I really needed those moments from time to time). The main shopping street and the market in the city centre are full of street musicians, and there is a such a great vibe!

suggestions/tips

- Every week there is a 'conversation club' on campus, run by and for international students to improve your English and meet new people, and it is for free. I really liked it and met amazing people there.
- UEA has a lot of societies, which is a great way to meet new people as well (or so I've heard).
- Buy train and bus tickets in advance, it is a lot cheaper! There is also a relatively cheap bus subscription for students for one semester (this year it was 99 quid) or one academic year.
- Join the social programme events! (Unfortunately, there are not that many, but they are really nice).
- I am a big fan of English country houses. So if you are into these houses as well, I would recommend visiting Holkham Hall, the Burghley Estate, and/or Blickling Hall.
- The beaches of Norfolk are quite famous as well, especially those on the northern coast, but I did not have time to visit these unfortunately.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely! UEA is a great university and I felt very welcome. Everyone is so involved with the university through all kinds of activities, societies, etc., and the support is great. Because all the buildings are close and because there is a central Student Union, you feel part of the whole university instead of just your own study programme. The English/Norfolk culture is not that different from Dutch culture in general, so if you are looking for something that is a perfect balance between your comfort zone and new experiences, this is a great study abroad destination! Furthermore, Norwich is a beautiful city. It is not too crowded and quite small, but it has something on offer for everyone. I really liked living here, even though I am not that fond of cities in general.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

- Just remember that you are not the only international student who is not familiar with UEA and Norwich. So if you are feeling lonely, or if you do not know what to do, try to connect with other international students that might feel the same way through social programme trips or other international students events.

- The first two weeks can be a bit overwhelming due to all the new impressions, so try to find your way around the city and if you can't find something or you don't know something, just ask! Most people are happy to help. I'm not really into parties and drinking, but there were lots of other activities (pub quizzes, afternoon tea, city trips, conversation clubs, societies etc.), so try to find something that suits your interests and meet new people!

- Take initiative! Both in your academic life and your everyday life. If you're alone and going to an event, just try to sit next to other people who are sitting alone and try to initiate some conversation.

Report 2

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> n.wierenga@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	Musicology

destination city & country	Norwich, England
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	22 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION
exchange application process
<p>To complete the application I had to hand in several forms. The first few were for the nomination. I had to choose to which 3 universities I would like to go. I wanted to go to England so my first 2 choices were in England, but for my third choice I wrote down a Swedish university, just in case. Along with this I had to hand in a resume, a motivation letter, a financial plan and a study plan. After about two months I got an email saying I had been nominated for the UEA. I had to wait another two months or so for an email from the UEA, so I could start the application process. I had to give them a lot of information and choose which courses I wanted to follow. After some more waiting, I was finally accepted, and could now also apply for housing on campus. However, in August I finally got a message that they could not guarantee me that they would have a room for me since they prioritized their own students, not Erasmus ones. In half September they would let me know if they had any rooms left. Since that would be very close to the date I would start, I wanted to look for a different type of housing. Private housing was very hard to find for only 3 months, so I applied to homestay, and luckily I was placed in a lovely host family, which made my time there so much better. For the application for the Erasmus grant I had to fill in which courses I would be following, but I got notified very late which courses I was placed in, and I still had a form that needed to be signed by both universities. This resulted in me handing the application in a day before the deadline, which was very stressful. So I advise people to start their Erasmus application as soon as possible to avoid any deadline stress.</p>

counselling & support at Utrecht University
Whenever I had questions about what I needed to do or if I needed forms to be signed, they were always very helpful. However, most of the time this takes 4 work days, so if you need to reach a deadline you need to take this into consideration since it can take a long time for a form to be emailed back with a signature. (As opposed to the UEA who returned forms sometimes on the same day if they were not too busy)
academic preparation
I did not prepare much academically, since I was already familiar with the subjects I would be following.
language preparation
My English was already good enough, so I did not need any preparation for this.
finances
As an addition to my savings and parental contribution, I received the Erasmus grant and I got money from the government instead of a student OV.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed three courses: American Music, Contemporary Mediascapes, and Media Industries
academic quality of education activities
The two media courses were of good academic quality and I learned a lot. The American Music course however was below my standards since I study Musicology. So because the UU has more expertise in the music field, I do not suggest the music courses at the UEA. The media courses however are very good and in my opinion sometimes even better than the ones the UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Everyone at the UEA was very polite and helpful and I did not have any negative experiences.
transfer of credits
My credits still need to be transferred at this point in time.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The week in which I arrived, only the international students were on campus so there were loads of activities for us to explore the university and the city. I highly recommend attending as many of these activities as possible, because they are very useful, and you get to meet many other international students, who are all very social and open.
accommodation
I stayed with a host family, which I can highly recommend to consider. However I did notice that people who lived on campus did befriend more English students since they lived together. So it is up to your preference, but I became very good friends with my host family and plan on visiting them soon.
leisure & culture
The city is easily accessible with the bus which travels between the campus and the city centre. There are many shops in the city and all the buildings look very beautiful. The university itself offers many different societies

which you can join. These are a lot of fun and are a chance to meet people outside of your courses. I joined the music society, but there is one for every interest and sport. The campus is next to a big lake with a park, so you always had a nice view and could go for lovely walks.

suggestions/tips

Time passes by extremely quickly, so make sure you make the most of your time there. Try and do a lot of activities, and also take part in the activities for international students. I went on a trip to Cambridge and London, which were both very lovely, and all the international students are very kind, so even if you go alone, you can most of the time join some other people since many people are alone.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I recommend this University, and especially England to others. I loved being able to speak English all the time, and really live right in the middle of the English culture. The UEA is a very progressive university and everyone I met there was very nice.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take the chance to study abroad since it is an once in a lifetime opportunity! You will learn new things in terms of academic information, but also new life skills.

Report 3

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

destination city & country	Norwich, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	10 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 06 / 2018 (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 went quite smoothly on the side of the UU, after submitting my CV, transcript of records and a letter I heard I was eligible for a study abroad quite quickly. On the side of the University of East Anglia (UEA), however, the process took a bit more time. After I officially applied to UEA, I had to wait until the end of October before I finally got confirmation that I was accepted. This gave me roughly two months to prepare for my exchange, because the semester started in January. Although I was really happy to be accepted, I would've liked more time to prepare.

counselling & support at Utrecht University
The student advisors were a big help in my application process. It was really useful to sit down with them and discuss my exchange and what was left to do after I got back from my exchange. They gave us plenty of information and the deadlines were really clear. I was kind of afraid at the amount of deadlines at first, but when I actually had to complete them it wasn't bad at all. I especially appreciated the pre-departure meeting, where we could talk to students who had already been to my exchange university. Unfortunately the students who went to UEA both went in the first semester, and it turned out their experience was quite different from the one I had in my second semester. It would have helped to have someone there who attended the university in the second semester.
academic preparation
Since my main focus in TCS is literature, I felt quite prepared to do a literature module at UEA. My history minor turned out to be a really good fit with my history module at UEA as well.
language preparation
I did not have to do any specific language preparation, since most of my courses at TCS are in English anyway. I felt quite prepared to write academic essays in English and to participate in class discussions.
finances
I had saved quite a lot of money so I would be able to do fun activities outside the university as well. I had about €1000,- saved and I received an additional €800,- from my Erasmus grant. For my regular expenses I just continued my DUO loan which was about €800,- a month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I absolutely loved the study programme at UEA, which is why I picked this university. The Literature, Drama and Creative Writing (LDC) department is quite big and especially the Creative Writing modules are very popular. I was really excited to try a Creative Writing module, because to my knowledge we don't really have a Creative Writing programme in the Netherlands. Both the literature and history modules mostly revolved around one topic, eg the Cold War, Victorian Writing, Shakespeare, etc. Because the semester is 12 weeks long this really allows you to delve into a specific topic/person and really become 'experts' on that specific topic which I thought was really interesting. I had plenty of modules to choose from, and I had to select quite a few when I applied. The university placed me in three modules depending on the space available in every module. Two of those modules have to be from the same department (in my case LDC), the third one can be whatever you want (in my case history). I received my timetable about a month before I left and everything worked out perfectly, there were no organisational issues and I was well prepared for the modules I was going to be following.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the education at UEA was very similar to the quality here at the University of Utrecht: the amount of preparation and reading to be done for each course was quite similar to what I was used to in Utrecht. The examination of my modules consisted of essays, presentations and exams, all of these I was already familiar with. I was very relieved when I found out that the professors had about the same expectations at UEA as they do at UU: the way of writing essays and sitting exams was very similar.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The Study Abroad Team at UEA was fantastic. Everyone was kind, their office was at a very central place to the university so it was very easy to find them in case there were any questions and they were always very quick to reply to e-mails and provide help where necessary. When I had a few questions about accommodations they were really helpful and immediately referred me to the right people to contact. They were very active in the

facebook group for incoming exchange students as well: they checked in regularly and seeing their faces and names pop up every once in a while made me feel like they were very actively engaged with the students and really cared about their exchange experience.

transfer of credits

I haven't received my transcript of records yet so I don't know exactly how my credits will be transferred, especially because the credits they use at UEA are different from ECTS. Every UEA student has to get at least 120 credits every year, so roughly 60 credits per semester. I had three courses of 20 credits each, which means I got the 60 credits necessary to complete a semester. At UU we only need 60 ECTS each year, so 60 credits would be about 30 ECTS.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I felt very welcome at UEA right from the start. The orientation programme lasted three days, from Wednesday until Friday. Wednesday was all about registration: they checked our papers and ID/passport, finalized the enrolment in our modules and gave us our campus card. We were also introduced to the Study Abroad Team, which had organized a pizza night so we could meet other exchange students from all over the world. On Thursday there was a campus tour and two lectures, one on Norwich and its history and one on studying at UEA. Friday was all about social activities, with a trip into town to explore Norwich, a High Tea and a pub quiz. This allowed us to get to know other exchange students and to experience life at UEA and in Norwich for the first time.

accommodation

UEA provides two places of accommodation: on a campus or in the city. When you apply for UEA accommodation, you'll usually be placed at one of those two locations. Since every student activity happens on campus (including going out), staying on campus has its advantages. However, Norwich is a cute little city and living in the city can be fun as well. The UEA website provides a detailed overview of the different rooms available and the price. When applying for UEA accommodation you can select a few options (based on your preferences and budget) and UEA will make you an offer, which you can then accept or decline. In my case, however, I received an e-mail after I submitted my application that UEA would most likely not be able to provide all Erasmus students with accommodation. With the help of the Student Union website I found a room on my own, about 15 mins from campus. After I'd finalized my living arrangement, I received an e-mail from the university saying they'd be able to offer me a room after all, but I had to reject the offer because I had already arranged something else. My rent was 280 pounds every month not including gas, water, electricity and internet. My room was quite cheap but it was also really small, usually the rent is about 350 pounds/month (about 400 euros) or higher.

leisure & culture

There are some great things to see in Norwich. The river is quite beautiful for example, and there are plenty of old buildings to see and explore (including two cathedrals). The central points of the city are the market, which is open six days a week, and Norwich castle, a castle and prison turned into a museum. Both are definitely worth a visit. During orientation we received a few tips on what to see, which helped me a lot. There are plenty of nice cafes and restaurants and even a few clubs, but the social life of UEA student is on campus. UEA has a lot of different societies you can join, from sporting societies to cultural and political societies or societies that revolve around a specific hobby (for example a baking society or a Disney society). This was a great way for me to meet other people that shared the same interests. The societies are organized by the Student Union which is quite a big deal at UEA. The Student Union organizes everything: they can help you find a room, they organize societies and other fun activities, lectures and they also have a bar and a café (Unio) which is the central point

of the campus. It's a great place to get coffee, study, but it's also where activities are held and where you can buy your UEA merch. The café is inside the Student Union building, which also contains the club on campus: the LCR. The LCR is a must for every UEA student, exchange or non-exchange. It's where students get together to dance, drink and have fun.

suggestions/tips

- If you get to the museum an hour before it closes you can get a ticket for 2 pounds. This is a major price reduction, because for students the regular price is 9 pounds.
- Join a society! It will be a great way to meet people and to discuss common interests.
- Explore life outside of Norwich! London is only two hours by train (three by bus) and Cambridge is only an hour. You can get to the beach in half an hour by train and explore the cute coastal towns of the county of Norfolk. There are also excursions that are definitely worth going on if you're interested in seeing Stonehenge, for example, or Winsor Castle.
- Make sure you submit all your documents in time, especially the ones that take time (like getting permission from the Exam Committee for your Study Abroad programme).

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend UEA and Norwich to others. They have interesting courses, especially if you're interested in humanities like me, and plenty of facilities on campus. The staff is incredibly friendly and always willing to help and the professors I had were very interesting and good teachers. The nickname of Norwich is 'a fine city' and that's definitely true. It's a small city, but there are plenty of things to see and explore and bigger cities like London or Cambridge are not too far away and often easily accessible by train or coach (bus).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I had a great time studying at UEA and I really hope others will, too. Having a university with a proper campus and proper facilities was so interesting to me and a great experience. Make sure to get everything out of it that you can by meeting other people (exchange or non-exchange) and exploring the beautiful country that is the United Kingdom.

Report 4

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> a.vreeken@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	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Norwich, England
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	15 / 01 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	As I always aim to prepare accordingly for important matters, I was quite prepared when it came to the application process. This helped me to process all the required documents beforehand. It is good to know which universities suit your needs. For me it was beneficial to look at universities that provided courses I was interested in. That helped me determine which universities I wanted to select for my top three options. Luckily for me I was selected to go to my first choice, but I would have been happy as well had I been selected for one of the other to universities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The international office is very helpful. As long as you go to all the organised lectures and talks surrounding the exchange and subject, you will know what to do and when to do it. But if you have any questions they are also helpful and patient.
academic preparation	
	It might be beneficial to write down the relevant deadlines and dates. You can easily lose track of what it is you need to do and when it has to be done. Especially once you are on exchange. So take note of the application deadlines, and don't forget that you still need to apply at the visiting university as well, despite your nomination.
language preparation	
	As I study English Language and Culture, this part of the exchange was not something I was particularly worried about. English has been my main focus for years. Nevertheless, you still might come across some difficulties when engaging with native speakers. It might be beneficial to prepare (in terms of pronunciation exercises) for your stay abroad if you don't feel confident.
finances	
	This was something I was really worried about, especially as England is known to be expensive. However, in my experience, it wasn't that different to the Netherlands. That is not to say that the prices do not differ. I decided to keep my travelling to a minimum by bringing my bike, but this might not always be an option. As long as you keep track of your spendings I'm sure you'll be fine.
STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I absolutely loved the modules I took. I got three courses I really wanted to take (super lucky!) and they were fascinating. Different from what I'm used to. At UU I usually have six hours per week per class, at UEA I only had one three our seminar per class, but they were really engaging and fun. The teachers stimulate the discussions and love hearing other opinions. I'm really happy with my choices and what was provided.
academic quality of education activities	
	In my experience, especially in comparison with UU, they have a smaller workload and fewer deadlines. Where at UU I had four blocks of ten weeks in which I had seven weeks worth of classes, at UEA I had a semester in which I had ten weeks worth of classes, a few workshops and tutorials, and a month dedicated to exams. My advice is not to worry too much about the workload, you'll be fine. That being said, the seminars are a lot more engaging, so I do advice to put the work in.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	This is something I didn't use, though I know it's available to those who require or seek help.
transfer of credits	

This is a bit of a hassle. I received my grades in the beginning of June, but they still needed to be approved by the board of my visiting university. This was going to happen near the end of July. So I wasn't able to give the UU the official transcript until that time. This is unfortunate, but logical. It just takes a while. The UU is aware this might happen so it's not a problem as long as you communicate about it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was really boring for me, but that is mainly because I decided to go abroad in the second semester rather than the first, so there's no freshers week or introduction week. The organised events were mainly lectures on university rules and the locations of the buildings. It didn't really prepare me for my university experience, but that's not their fault. It is mainly because I didn't start there at the start of the year.

accommodation

I decided to live off campus as I wanted to live among English students, rather than exchange students. I used a Facebook group (organised by the university) to find a room. In this group, the students from the university were subletting their rooms while they themselves were on exchange. If you don't want to live on campus, I'd suggest looking at whether there is such an opportunity at your university of choice.

leisure & culture

I didn't really engage too much in student life in terms of party's or activities, as that's not what I was looking for with my semester abroad. However, most English universities offer a lot of opportunities to engage with students. I joined two societies, and though I wasn't super active, it still helped me get out of the house and connect with people. It is an easy and quick way to meet people. Plus, there's a gigantic variety of societies available.

suggestions/tips

Try to make the most of it. Time flies by, before you know it you'll be going home again.

CONCLUSIONS

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

The University of East Anglia is a small but pleasant place, and the same can be said for Norwich (the city it's located in). It has a family-friendly feel to it, especially as I didn't live on campus. While the university itself isn't traditionally pretty (as in the building) it is a very pleasant environment, the people are really nice and the modules are very interesting. Especially if you're interested in literature, creative writing or drama.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

While abroad, keep track of the needed Erasmus+ documents and deadlines. It's easy to lose track of it while you're abroad.

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	Norwich, UK
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	21 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	17 / 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	It's a bit fuzzy because it's a while ago now, but I think I made a list of all the different documents and steps that I needed to fill in and do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I narrowed down my choices of exchange to a couple of universities, then had a chat with one of my teachers. He was able to tell me more about those choices. A few weeks later, I came back with the specific courses I wanted to follow at a specific university, which was then approved by him.
academic preparation	None - I knew I would be doing courses in subjects close to what I had been studying at home, so I did not need any other preparation.
language preparation	None - my English was already at a high enough level (C2), so I did not need to take any language courses in advance.
finances	I consulted my parents if they could finance me for three months abroad, since the UK is a bit more expensive than the Netherlands. That was not a problem at all. I sublet my room to cover costs for accommodation, and I saved up to a 1000 euros to use on top of my Dutch grant, Erasmus grant, and my parents' money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I took three courses, two about literature and one about history. The literature courses were about medieval gender and sexuality, and gothic literature. The history course was about the first British Empire. While the courses seemed very promising, I was disappointed with the way they were organised and given in many respects, with regards to the literature courses mostly. The teachers for the literature courses seemed lacking in academic and didactic aspect.
academic quality of education activities	I had the impression that the level of academic quality was a bit lower than at home. For example: one of the things for the history course was giving a presentation. However, according to the teacher, they were not allowed to assess you on your presentation skills, only on your PowerPoint. This is absurd, I believe (which is feedback I have, in fact, given to UEA), because being able to present is simply a skill any academic should have. This rule, in turn, led to people not preparing their presentations properly. Another example is that for the course about literature, we were allowed to do two short stories instead of two essays - and you didn't even need to hand in any commentary whatsoever with those short stories. That seems strange to me, for an essay

takes much more time and preparation and is vastly different from a piece of creative writing. It would have made more sense to include commentary and do one short story and one essay.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had a counsellor who I've seen once at an introductory talk. To be fair, I never ran into any problems, so I didn't need to see him more often. However, for students who experience difficulty in any area, the UEA has a huge array of different support organisations at your disposal, be it study-related or finding a house, for example.
transfer of credits
I haven't gotten around to do this yet, so I can't say anything about it, unfortunately.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There were loads of welcoming activities the first week before lectures actually took place. They were a fun, low-key way to get to know the city, the campus and the other students a bit. Very useful and well-organised.
accommodation
I had a room in the city centre (Mary Chapman Court), arranged through UEA. It was quite shabby, but rather large (especially when compared to any room on campus) and affordable. Nothing special, really, in a good or a bad way.
leisure & culture
UEA has tons of interesting societies. For most hobbies or interests, there is a society that is focused on it, which I thought was absolutely brilliant. It is also really cheap to join them. The sports clubs were a bit more expensive, but still rather cheap when compared to in the Netherlands, I would say. Norwich as a city also has a lot to offer: it's not a very big place, but there are several museums and medieval buildings (such as the castle). It's also only a couple of hours away from London, and about an hour away from some nice beaches.
suggestions/tips
Be sure to join some societies. It's only 3 pounds for a full-time membership, and it allows you to come in contact with people who share at least one hobby/interest. Most societies have events going on every week, so it's an easy way to get your social life going. Oh, and be prepared to pay a lot for public transport (if you're not on campus): I paid about 170 pounds for a full-time 3-month membership for the bus. Definitely worth the money, but relatively expensive when you're used to free public transport.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely. Although the courses did not live entirely up to my expectations, on university-level, the UEA has arranged everything really well. The welcoming week made me feel at home rather quickly, and there was plenty of help and support around if I had needed it. The communication from UEA was also very regular, clear and quick. Moreover, Norwich is a lovely city.
do you have any additional advice or comments?

Report 2

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

destination city & country	Norwich, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of East Anglia (UEA)
start date	21 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 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	The application process went altogether smooth. I picked two universities, of which the UEA was my first choice, and followed the application process on Osiris. Everything was explained clearly and I was well informed over the next steps in the process via e-mail.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Because the application process went so well I did not actually need that much support but the options were certainly there. The Study Abroad office were always quick to reply if I needed anything for my application and offered ample support where needed.
academic preparation	The courses I was going to follow were only known to me very late, just before I left to be precise. So I couldn't do much to prepare myself academically. As a student at the end of my History bachelor I didn't feel much need for it either, as I thought I had all the skills necessary to succesfully follow courses at UEA.
language preparation	I speak English on a level that is next to native. I have previously followed a course in Cambridge Advanced English so language preparation was nog big concern to me as I already had the necessary abilities.
finances	I had saved up money with my summer job and together with my usual student loan and the Erasmus grant this proved ample money to live in Norwich and finance a room in one of the halls of UEA. I had arranged that my room would be let to another student during my study abroad, which I highly recommend.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The UEA has an excellent selection of courses withing the humanities. I followed three courses, one about Russian history, one about film theory, and one about youth and subcultures. because the semester is longer I found that the courses cover more theory but the workload was about the same. As mentioned, the courses I was going to follow where only known to me very late which wasn't very practical. I chose 9 courses I wanted to follow, and I was punt into a set of three. However it was very easy to change out my courses as long as it fitted into a weekly schedule. So in the end it was only a minor inconvenience.

academic quality of education activities
Academic quality was on par with the Netherlands. I enjoyed the fact that the courses were more focussed on self study, especially the ones within History. Instead of some course books and a reader to go through as is the Dutch standard, we usually received a set of sources and a reading list. This meant I spent much more time in the library actually doing research for my seminars, which are very useful skills to learn. The lectures as well were of high standard. The lecturers and seminar leaders had clear personal affinity with the subjects and it showed in the way they performed.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Counselling and support mainly came through the study abroad office, which were both accomodating and useful. They helped me out with all the necessary paperwork and questions. The university also appointed a tutor, but I never found the need to actually contact him. At the end of my time he did however made an appointment with me in which we talked about my experiences, which was pleasant.
transfer of credits
I followed three courses each worth 20 UCU credits each. It is worth noting that the UEA's credit system works differently than in the Netherlands. They use University Credit Units, or UCU. They are equated to our ECTS points on a ratio from 2 to 1. So I worked to achieve 60 UCU points, a full semester. Which are 30 ECTS. A month after returning I have received all my grades but I have not yet received a transcript of records. So I have so I haven't been able to transfer my credits just yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The welcome programme had enough opportunities to meet other study abroad students, we were the first to arrive on campus. It was also quite long, a week and a half of free time to get to know the campus and city. The English students arrived in the first weekend in time for Freshers. The two week long starting event of UEA. Which was very fun, a lot of differently styled parties and events. Especially the first week is worthwhile, the second week was mostly in clubs in the cities. Its up to you if you like English clubbing culture enough to commit to that.
accommodation	I lived on campus, which was great. The flats pack so many people in limited space, very different from what I was used to. Most houses had 14 flat mates but ours had 9, which was nice. I lived in the ziggurats featured very prominently in many promotional work for the university. And even though the age of the buildings shows, it being quite cramped in some places, it was overal very pleasant. I do recommend living on campus because its very convenient but mostly because they are very sociable. There is always something going on near your place which is great. And the campus is surrounded by a wealth of nature to explore, which is very nice. There's a fine bus service from the campus into town which gets you there in about 20 minutes so travel isn't a problem either. It is quite expensive however but seeing that it was for limited time only, I was fine with that.
leisure & culture	I made quite some friends in the first weeks so a lot of time was spend hanging out with them in the flats. But we also attended a lot of cultural events in the city. Norwich is quite artistic and lively so it's quite easy to find things to do, there are lots of film houses, theatres, etc around town. I especially enjoyed the Norwich lanes, am old district in the centre with all kinds of cool and interesting places to discover. There's also a fine clubbing scene with all kinds of different parties in interesting locations. If you like pubs better you're also settled because Norwich has a ridiculous amount of those. Most of them have special ales to drink you won't find anywhere else, which is a great experience to share with friends. During the daytime you can visit loads of

shops, café's, weird antique stores and more. There are also loads of societies on campus you could join. Most are quite inexpensive and they are grouped on their activity or interests. There are societies for a lot of sports as well. You can train on your own at the UEA sports park, which is huge and well equipped but expensive to join. The Sainsbury centre on campus is also very interesting, a great museum and its free of charge as well.

suggestions/tips

Make contact with not just other Erasmus students but with natives as well! They're often way more in touch with what's going on in town and on campus so it's not just a great crowd, they can also be really helpful to enhance your experience.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely, I had a great time in Norwich and also had the ability to learn a lot. The UEA clearly aims to provide students from abroad with the best possible experience. With succes, seeing that there are a great wealth of different nationalities present. I'd say its especially interesting for students which are into culture or language because these subjects are huge at UEA and the city is also very cultured.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're doubting to study abroad I can guarantee you it can be an amazing time. If you keep up with your work properly there are so many things to experience abroad and you can really learn a lot about yourself and the environment you're from by living somewhere different for an extended amount of time. It has definitely broadenend my perspectives, which is a great feeling but also quite difficult to put into words. I'd advice anyone to try it out for themselves.

Report 3

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	Norwich, United Kingdom
name university abroad	University of East Anglia
start date	26 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I started preparing my exchange a year before departure. I attended all the meetings and found the info provided was very useful, as was the information on the UU website. The website clearly states the deadlines and provides all the documents you need to apply for an exchange.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

<p>The International Office was a great help in the process of applying and during the actual exchange. They made time to meet me and talk about my choice of university, and they went out of their way to help me extend my period abroad. Emails were always responded to within a few days and with all the info I needed. I felt safe knowing that the International Office would be there to help me if I needed it.</p>
<p>academic preparation</p>
<p>I prepared academically by going over the content of the modules I had attended in my years at Utrecht University. Some of this proved useful in the modules I took abroad, but I would have survived without it.</p>
<p>language preparation</p>
<p>I didn't practise my English before going abroad: having received a Certificate of Proficiency in English from the University of Cambridge while in secondary school, I felt confident I would be able to get around in the UK. This was true, but I can't deny I learned a lot while actually living there and meeting locals.</p>
<p>finances</p>
<p>I assessed my financial situation before I left and found I would be able to survive on my student bursary if I was careful. Thanks to the Erasmus grant, I was able to extend my period abroad without going bankrupt or having to live on the street.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

<p>study programme (content and organisational issues)</p>
<p>The modules I chose at the University of East Anglia were quite varied, expanding my knowledge of the field horizontally. I also got the opportunity to choose modules from different schools, allowing me to experience what it's like to study literature and art history. I found this very useful and I learned a lot while abroad.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The academic quality of the modules I chose was appropriate for the levels, which varied from a module students would follow in their first year to a level 6 module meant for final year students.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>I didn't experience the quality of counselling and support at UEA as I didn't need any, but I knew that help was there if I did need it. That was comforting to know and made me feel safe.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>My Transcript of Records has not come through yet.</p>

STUDENT LIFE

<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>
<p>The entire first week of the semester was aimed at welcoming the students and showing them around the university and the city of Norwich. I felt this was a good way of introducing us to student life at UEA and in the UK, and made me feel confident about the serious academic content that was yet to come.</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>I stayed in university halls located in the city centre, in a flat with four other students. As most accommodation was on campus, not all info was equally appropriate for us, and our travel time to campus was often forgotten by people living nearby. The building itself was quite old, but well maintained and cleaned often by very friendly staff. Because of our distance from campus, we paid relatively little for a large and light room. My flatmates, three boys in their first year of university, caused me and my other (also Dutch) housemate some trouble,</p>

mostly because they had never lived on their own and didn't quite realise no one would come wash their dishes if they didn't. Usually this was solved by just reminding them of their responsibilities. Being located in the city meant we got to experience the university as well as the centre, unlike most students living on campus, which I thought was very nice.

leisure & culture

The city of Norwich is just lovely. It has everything you could want from a city, yet it lacks the alienating feeling I experience in metropolitan cities like London. The city centre feels friendly, safe, and intrinsically English, with lovely markets and small shops as well as chains like McDonalds and Primark. It is said that Norwich has a church for every Sunday of the year and a pub for every other day, which seems plausible when you walk around. There is something for everyone in the city, and to top it off Norwich is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Truly a fine city.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
I would wholeheartedly recommend UEA and the city of Norwich for a stay abroad. The atmosphere of both city and university feels safe, welcoming and friendly. Students and staff at UEA are very open to international students and will do their best to make you feel at home. There is bound to be a club or society to your liking, as they include everything from rugby to knitting and are run by very enthusiastic students. I will cherish my time at UEA and the lovely people I met there forever, and I would recommend anyone to go there and do the same.	
do you have any additional advice or comments?	