



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

email address	k.vanhoudt@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study program	Interdisciplinary Social Science

destination city & country	Herzliya (close to Tel Aviv), Israël
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Reichman University (before it was IDC)
start date	26/09/2022
end date	29/01/2023 (except for exams, they will end around March)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This process was quite easy, it only took some time before I heard from the Reichman. They communicated clearly what they needed from me (motivation letter, personal details, etc.). If I did not understand something I could easily contact them, and they would respond quickly. Around September I got the list of courses that are allowed to follow. Because of the credit system is different you must choose many more courses (I followed 8). Next to this you need to make a very flexible course scheme because students of Reichman have earlier permission to choose courses. It is important to check your mail during summer holiday because if I remember well, I received the most emails then. They all had time limits.

For the student visa it was another story because they were out of stock since I started to ask for it (somewhere in July). In the end I was lucky to get one (2 days before I left) but if this does not work out, I heard afterwards that there is another option. You can enter Israel as a visitor, which allows you to stay for 3 months. It does not matter for the university or government if you use this visa. But mostly semesters are longer than 3 months which gives you two options to do. 1) you can ask the university for a permission letter for student visa, with this letter you must go to the city Council in Herzliya. Be there around 6 (even when it opens at 9) because they only look at these visas for a short amount of time in the morning. 2) leave the country for example to Jordan or Egypt (recommend both). You will get a new visa (for 3 months) after entering Israel again. It can only raise some questions at the border but if you can show that it was problematic to get a visa in your home country and you can show your student card it is ok.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from the International Office of UU was really good. They were answering fast and gave clear instructions about what I had to do before/during/after the exchange.

academic preparation

Being a student at Utrecht University is enough preparation for the courses at Reichman. For me, the courses were more easily than in the Netherlands.

language preparation

English is of course necessary. Speaking some Hebrew words is fun, but everyone will speak very well English.

finances

Israel, and especially Tel Aviv (which I recommend to live) is very expensive. You really need to spare money beforehand. Rooms costs easily €900-1100 and for the rest I spend around €1500 a month (including many



trips). So, it is really important to be aware of this. Also, when you apply for your student visa you must show that you will have “enough” money otherwise they need details of your parents

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study program was really good organized. Everything was very clear on my portal.

academic quality of education activities

It really depended on the course, but as mentioned before, the level of education is lower than in the Netherlands. Which is kind of funny because most teachers do or did very impressive work (e.g., worked at Stanford or had an important job in the government).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The teachers and international office at Reichman are very helpful with everything.

transfer of credits

It is easy to transfer the grades, back home it changed into a pass or fail grade. As mentioned before the credit system is different than in the Netherlands. For the ECTS in Netherlands you need to do: Reichman credit x 1.5

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The Reichman organized specially for exchange students an orientation day. Here I got to know the other exchange students and got the basic information about the university. I participated at the IDC connect program. With this program you get to easily know people, get an Israeli buddy and do some activities. I really enjoyed the activities, but I was not a huge fan of the “forced” friendships. As activities we had some nice dinners, went to the Gaza-strip, and had some parties.

accommodation

The Reichman has some dorms (in Herzliya of course) but only one-year students could apply for them. I really recommend in Tel Aviv!! It is a city where always something is going on, it has plenty of nice places to study/eat/chill/go out and it is at the beach! Specially on shabbat (Friday after sunset till Saturday after sunset) it is really nice to be in Tel Aviv, because in other places plenty of things will be closed and the public transport is not going (except for some busses ones per two hours). As said before rooms are very expensive and mostly not as nice as in the Netherlands. I recommend finding a place when you are in Israel because then you can see it. Agencies are always asking for fees, do never react when you have a question when you are in Israel and promise sometimes other rooms than you will get. I choose for only subletting places. Which means that I had to change place so now and then. I did not face any fees and because people are living there my places looked nicer than the ones of my friends that rented by agencies. These sublets are easy to find by FB.

Herzliya is more a quiet small village, but I think when you live there you will do more activities at the University.

leisure & culture

In Tel Aviv is a lot going on as said before! To me, Tel Aviv felt like a little island in the country. A lot of open-minded people are living here, it feels very Western but with more inclusion for everyone. Every district within Tel Aviv has his own vibe (e.g., Florentine is very hip with plenty of cool bars and graffiti and Neve Tzedek has beautiful architecture and nice (expensive) boutiques).

As mentioned, Shabbat --> a lot of things will be closed and there will be no public transport except for few local busses.



For the rest felt Israel to me very controversial. From laid-back vibe in Tel Aviv to the conflict in Gaza to many different religions in Jerusalem to small hippy farms in the middle of the desert to only walkable border crossings between Israel and Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt. I was really interested in experiencing all these different things because it is really the opposite of what we are used to in the Netherlands. I always felt very safe, in Tel Aviv I did not mind walking alone in the night. But if you are easily anxious maybe you need to consider if this is really the place you want to be.

Specially in Tel Aviv is everyone open for a small talk. This happens often in the supermarket, when you are waiting for the bus or when you lay at the beach. I really liked this habitat, but so you know that it is normal. You will also see that a lot of people will ask for your phone number, this is without any intentions, and it is also fine to say no to this.

Every boy/girl that is 18 must go to the army. It is also normal to see a lot of militaries in the streets everywhere. Sometimes with guns, you must accept this. To me this never felt offensive, the military wears it like jewellery (sounds a bit weird but when you experience it, you know that that is true).

suggestions/tips

You can ask me for suggestions in Tel Aviv and have some in Jerusalem (food/drinks/study places)

Search for happy hours, you will need them (plenty of places are offering this)

Travel around the country, Israel has many beautiful sides (really from north to south, everything is beautiful).

Travel outside the country. I have only bin to Jordan which was amazing (organise it yourself, it is much nicer than organized). Border crossing as I said is walkable. Really easy. Friends also have bin to Egypt which must also be really cool.

I read the bible before I went to Israel, I do not say that you must do it, but it gives more depth in the history. I am not religious, but I was happy that I did this.

CONCLUSIONS

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

definitely!!! I will go back for sure, it kind of stole my heart, especially Tel Aviv. But as said before really think twice if you are a kind of anxious person. Things will happen in Israel. I saw the lower education level mostly positive because it meant that I had more time to do other things (like trips), but sometimes I also missed the Dutch education where you get more triggered. Reichman University is further a really nice place, the university organises a lot of events which was new to me. It happens sometimes that there will be a band playing during the break or that you can buy tap beer for lunch.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Be aware of the country your visiting, especially with the new far-right government. At the other side, my experience is also that the Dutch media makes Israel feel as a dangerous country, which to me felt mostly the opposite.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

faculty/college	Social Science
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Pedagogic Science

destination city & country	Herzliya, Israël
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Reichmann University
start date	11/10/2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02/ 02/ 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It took a long time before I heard something, but the communication was very good. They were very helpful.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The IO was very supportive and when I had some questions they helped me. We even had a zoom meeting to talk about options. That was nice.

academic preparation

Definitely not necessary. From my opinion, it is easier to study in Israel then in the Netherlands.

language preparation

It is not necessary from my opinion. Almost everyone speaks English. It is of course nice to learn the basics, but I learned that in Israel. I didn't prepare myself.

finances

Israel is very expensive. It is about three times more expensive compared to the Netherlands. Beside my rent, I think I've spent almost 1000 euro each month. Rent is also around 1000 euro. Be prepared. For example, supermarkets are very expensive. The public transport is very cheap though.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The list of courses was quite limited and it was shortly published before the semester started. Most of the courses are about the middle east, terrorism etc. There are limited courses for example in social science. My courses were very mixed. The first two weeks you could still swap courses, so that was helpful.

academic quality of education activities

The study program is different compared to the Netherlands. From my opinion you needed less effort to study there. I enjoyed the lectures, and the teachers were very enthusiastic about there course. I have to say there was less depth in some courses compared to the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They were helpful all the time.

transfer of credits



I still have exams and papers to do, so I don't know about this process yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university organised an orientation day. This was very helpful to find friends, but also to know how the campus looks like and where you can find the different buildings. They also organized everyday performances of bands, the first week.

accommodation

If you go for a year, then you can stay in the dorms. Or you can find a place in Herzliya or Tel Aviv. I would recommend you stay in Tel Aviv! I did that as well and it was the best choice. In Tel Aviv there is always something to do and the clubs and bars are there. There is a bus that drives from Tel Aviv to Reichman University which is very chilled. During shabbat it is harder to come to Tel Aviv from Herzliya because there is no public transportation from Friday afternoon till Saturday afternoon.

For me it was easy to find a room in Tel Aviv, so you don't have to stress about it. The university will also give you some recommendations. It is very expensive though and nothing like the rooms in the Netherlands, but it is worth it. I already had a place before I came to Tel Aviv, but you can also stay in a hostel the first week(s) and search for a room.

leisure & culture

The culture in Israel is very interesting. There are a lot of religious people then we are used to. I've learned a lot about it and it is very interesting to learn about this big difference with the Netherlands.

- People are more direct, and they start a lot of conversations, which in the beginning was a bit intimidating but at some point, it was actually really fun. Especially when you speak Dutch, they probably going to ask you where you are from. You will have the most interesting conversations with them.
- There are people from the army everywhere, that was also very interesting for me. We are not used to that.
- There is also more tension in some places in Israel.
- The people in Israel are very helpful and speak very good English.
- If you go to Israel, you will understand the conflict more, and that is what I found interesting. We are so blessed with our 'quiet' life, but there it is different and I had so much respect.
- You also must take into account that there is shabbat. A lot of places, supermarkets are closed, there is no public transport only shabbat busses. You should definitely go to a shabbat dinner!

suggestions/tips

- Do trips in Israel!! The nature is insane: Red Canyon, Ein Avdat, Dead Sea, Massada, Ein Gehdi, Mount of Arbel, Tiberias. Also, cities are nice: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Akko, Eilat.
- Clubs: Kuli Alma, Drama, Sputnik, Hive
- Bars: Teder, Salon Berlin (Very cheap), 18 shekel bar (Cheap, it is not on google maps but it is close to California bar in Florentin), Dizzy (unlimited wine on Sundays)
- Restaurants: Herzl 16, Vicky Christina, Vitrina, Frishman Falafel, Diverso, Pizza Lila, La Tigre, Miznon, Ha'achim, Kapara Mio
- Cafés (brunch, lunch, breakfast, coffee): Bucke Café, Anastasia, p.o.c. café, Kiosko
- Go to Jordan

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend it to others. The country really surprised me in many ways. Culture, nature, cities, food. IDC is also a very nice university.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't worry about finding a room! And be aware that the political situations is very different compared to the Netherlands.


UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology

Destination city & country	Herzliya, Israel
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/02/2019
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/07/2019

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It took quite some time until I heard something from IDC, but when I did, things were communicated clearly. After being selected for an exchange in Israel by the International Office, I received an e-mail from IDC which told me to also apply at their website for my exchange and due which date this was possible. In the application form at their website you get asked again for a motivational letter and some other documents that you can mainly get by contacting the international office.

Counselling/support at home university:

The International Office of my own faculty (social sciences) supported me very good. They responded fast and provided my actually always with the rights answers and/or documents.

Academic preparation:

I wouldn't say this is necessary. It also did not happen in my case.

Language preparation:

If you would like to follow courses in Hebrew or just like to be able to speak the language, you could choose to take Hebrew classes in advance. This is something you should manage on your own then. As far as I know, the University of Utrecht doesn't provide Hebrew classes. Learning Hebrew is not necessary though. Especially at IDC there are a lot of courses in English and the level of English of the average student is good.

Finances:

Israel is very expensive, so make sure you do not underestimate this. It could be an option to



already borrow the maximum amount from the government (as most Dutch students can do) some time in advance and put this (partly) aside.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

A list with courses available for exchange students will be published online shortly before the semester starts. This list is quite limited, so do not hesitate to send an e-mail to IDC if there are some courses you would like to follow but are not in the list. They are often very much willing to help and thus let you follow the course if that is possible. Be aware of the fact that some courses can turn out to be for master students, this wasn't clear to me when I read the descriptions of the courses. It is still very much possible to follow these courses, but keep in mind that it thus is not an introductory course.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I really enjoyed the lectures. I choose many courses about Middle Eastern history and/or culture, Islam and Conflict. These were topics I didn't have a lot of academic experience with, but I was able to keep up easily with almost everything.

Some courses I argue to be, academically speaking, better than others. In some courses I sensed some political opinions of Israel coming through. This is something that I was aware of in advance and only made it more interesting for me, but it could be argued that this decreased the subjectivity of the course.

One thing that I really noticed was that details like dates etc. seemed to be highly important. At the University of Utrecht I experienced it to be more about the overall story and drawing connections. At IDC it seemed to be more reproduction, especially at the exams.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Support from IDC was very clear and fast. Only when looking at the exam period and its processes I sometimes found it unclear how things worked, but this never turned out to be really problematic.

Transfer of credits:

I still have to hand in one paper. This means that my home institution did not receive my final grades yet. Therefore, I do not know the process of transferring credits yet. I have to say that this process in general is a bit vague to me. I know that my subjects are approved but I could not say now how much credits I will receive for the work I have done at IDC.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There is a programme to connect international students (IDConnect). It matches you with an Israeli buddy and organises some activities, trips, and if I remember right two or three parties. This costs approximately 70eu. For me this programme wasn't worth the money. I really like the idea, but for me it wasn't what I needed / expected. Maybe this also had to do with the fact that I decided to live in Tel Aviv and the programme focused more on Herzliya. I personally prefer more spontaneous friendships instead of the ones that feel a little bit forced through a programme.



Accommodation:

At IDC you find the possibility to live in the dorms at the campus. For my exchange I've decided that I preferred to find a place in Tel Aviv. Of course, this has everything to do with personal preference, but I would not recommend living in the dorms. First of all, it is very expensive. As said earlier, Israel in general is but I am quite sure that if you choose to live in Herzliya there are better options for the amount of money that you would spend for a room at the dorms. Second, if you decide to live in Herzliya take into account that in Israel shabbat is celebrated. This means that from Friday afternoon until Saturday evening there is no public transportation. This means that going to Tel Aviv in the weekend is very much of a hustle.

Thereby, there is just way more going on in Tel Aviv (read: a lot!), so if you're looking for a more chilled place with nice beaches, definitely consider Herzliya. But as said above, I choose to live in Tel Aviv. It is expensive and the conditions of the rooms are often nothing like what I was used to in Holland, yet I did not regret this for decision for a second. I paid 2900nis per month and I would consider this to be average. I would recommend you to search for an apartment when you are already in Israel. I booked a hostel for the first week and started searching from there by asking around and using a lot of facebook groups (this is the key in Israel / TLV to find an apartment).

Leisure/culture:

In Tel Aviv there is a lot going on. You will find people chilling outside at the beach, restaurants, terraces etc. a lot.

- Direct, which gets by some interpreted as rude. Did not really experience this
- Shabbat, which often results in having a nice dinner on Friday night with your family and/or friends (for more orthodox Jews this of course contains more religious practices than just having dinner, but this is what it meant for me and the more secular Jews that I was hanging out with)
- Less ordered than what I'm used to (e.g no queuing)
- Army that puts in my opinion a big mark on the Israeli society. You find people who are very much letting themselves go when they are done with the army. But also the mindset of the army that sticks to a certain extend to the mindset of (some) people.
- Take into account that there is a conflict going on. It is not like you are in a warzone of course, but for many people within/around Palestinian areas violence is still occurring on a weekly base. In my opinion it would be ignorant to come to Israel and totally try to ignore this.

Suggestions/tips:

- No alcohol after 23u
- Carmel Market on Fridays (cheaper)
- AM:PM quite expensive, but open on Shabbat
- Teder.fm for some great vibes, pizza and music
- When visiting Ramallah: stay overnight and party at Radio
- When interested in the conflict: breaking the silence tours



- Facebook group: Secret Tel Aviv (for literally all your questions about Tel Aviv)
- Take a trip to Jordan
- Consider visiting the Westbank if you want to have a more complete picture of Israel as a country

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I definitely recommend both Israel as the host institution IDC. Israel as a country has so many sides, which makes it a very interesting, cool, but also weird place to be in. For me, as a person that is interested in the Middle East and its tensions, this made Israel one of the best destinations to be during my exchange. IDC has quite an international community, which becomes visible in how they deal with their international students. They seem to be very experienced.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Be aware of the country you are going to. Israel is a country with a difficult political situation, and yes this influences the daily life within society. Of course it is possible to not get too much engaged in it, but to me this is has been a very important part of my exchange. And I actually also argue that if you go to Israel, this is something you should not close your eyes for. If you wish to do so or feel like you do not want to be confronted with political complexities, then I would tell you to maybe reconsider your decision about your destination.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences, Utrecht University
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Culturele Antropology en Ontwikkelings Sociology

Destination city & country	Herzliya, Israel
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Centre Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/02/2019
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28/09/2019

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:



This went pretty easy, although it was a bit of work to apply for a visa. The application process from the University was clear and even if it was not it was easy to ask for help at the International Office. The one thing that I found (and still find) confusing is the exact amount of points you get when finishing an international course. I would have liked to have a bit clearer answers to that beforehand.

Counselling/support at home university:

Very helpful, I felt like the international office was good informed and eager to help with your questions,

Academic preparation:

The academic preparation at Utrecht University is more than enough to follow the courses at IDC. In general, the level of education and depth of the courses is way less than in the Netherlands.

Language preparation:

Sufficient knowledge of English is necessary to be able to follow the courses. The teachers at IDC speak English very well.

Finances:

Israel is one of the most expensive countries in the world, so it's impossible to survive without a lot of money. Living costs and rent is way more than in the Netherlands. (I spend over 7000 euro's approximately, not including my tuition and rent)

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

The study program is very well organized: you can easily make your own schedule beforehand. I followed accidentally three master courses, but since the level of education is quite shallow it is possible to finish it with a good grade. IDC has a lot of facilities which help you getting around as a foreigner and there are plenty of monitors to contact if you're in doubt.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

As stated before, the quality of education is a lot different than at Utrecht University. At IDC, the type of information considered to be important is surface knowledge: what happened when, who did it, why. This is contradictory to UU, where emphasis is put on academic concepts and in depth knowledge. Still, I learned a lot about the topics which had my interest. The teachers are amazing: many of them have a lot of experience in the field and have the ability to inspire students. For me, this is definitely one of the highlights from my time studying at IDC.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Counselling was great at IDC, they put a lot of effort in making the switch as comfortable and easy as possible.

Transfer of credits:

No idea, haven't heard anything about it yet?

Student life



Welcome/orientation programme:

Their program, IDC Connect, was a good way to meet people and to settle in. If you had any questions, the volunteers at the program were eager to help. I ended up having a lot of friends who weren't students at IDC, but still I would recommend signing up for it.

Accommodation:

I did not stay in the dorms but lived in Tel Aviv → I was soooo happy I didn't choose to live in Herzliya. Tel Aviv is a bit more expensive but its really worth it since there is not much to do in Herzliya. I also heard the dorms were about the same price as an appartment in tlv, even more.

Leisure/culture:

Israel is a facinating country if your interested in conflict, religion, politics, history and Middle Eastern culture. I learned a thousand times more about the Middle East and the Israel/Arab conflict by living there and visiting the West Bank than I could have ever learned from books. Tel Aviv is an amazing city, I never got bored for a second. Its super easy to travel all over Israel since its easy to travel by train and bus. Israeli's and Palestinians are both super welcoming and will do anything to make you feel at home.

Suggestions/tips:

Go travelling! Go to the West Bank and learn about palestinian culture by talking to people and wandering around. Also its easy to go to Jordan and Egypt from Israel, which is great during passover. I can give a million tips and would be more than happy to inform the next happy few who get selected.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, 100%. I'm already missing my life there to be honest. The people are the nicest, the parties are the best and you'll learn soooo much more by visiting places and talking to people then you'll ever do from reading about these kind of things.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Its impossible to find a room beforehand. Just go a few weeks early and stay in a hostel and start searching for appartments from there. A lot of people do it this way and in my opinion it's the safest, since you can't get ripped of and end up all alone in some shitty apartment. And again: try to avoid to live in Herzliya but try to search in Tel Aviv.


UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Interdisciplinary social science

Destination city & country	Herzliya, Israel
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/09/18
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/01/19

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was rather simple and straightforward, for both the UU and the IDC. Filling in a couple of forms was sufficient to get accepted into the IDC.

Counselling/support at home university:

It was always very easy to get in contact with the International Office. They were always very helpful and quick in their responses when I send them an e-mail.

Academic preparation:

In general, the academic level at the Utrecht University is higher than the level at IDC so preparation is not needed.

Language preparation:

There is no need to learn Hebrew (although it can be fun to do so) since almost everyone in the Tel Aviv area speaks English.

Finances:

Israel is a very expensive country, way more expensive than the Netherlands. However, if you find the cheaper supermarkets or visit the traditional markets to buy vegetables for example, you can limit your expenses. Nevertheless, I got through the semester with around 5000 euros of savings and a monthly student loan.

Study/placement abroad period



Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I chose courses from the government programme, which is well-known for their teachers who are very experienced in the field. However, having experience in the field does not mean that these people are great lecturers-most of them were not. Some of the courses were interesting, some were not. The courses that were not interesting in my opinion were the introduction courses, since they only scratched the surface of each topic.

The organisation of the courses are different for each lecturer. Some lecturers stick to their syllabus, some lecturers don't which can make the course a mess.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality was often disappointing (although I can only say this for some courses from the government programme). Sometimes it seemed that the lecturers just tried to promote their own (controversial) political agendas.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The first weeks of the semester you have to opportunity to add and drop the courses you initially chose. To do so you have to write an e-mail to the exchange-coordinator. This can be a frustrating process, but if you keep trying you will eventually get into the courses you want.

Transfer of credits:

Has to be done yet.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There is no special introduction programme for exchange students, only an introduction day. However, the Student Union organises some activities that are also open for exchange students.

Accommodation:

It is possible to stay in the dorms at the campus, but I highly recommend to stay in Tel Aviv. The process of finding accommodation there can be frustrating (use Facebook) and you have to pay a lot of rent, but it is definitely worth it.

Leisure/culture:

Tel Aviv is a bustling city. The atmosphere is amazing and there is always something to do (even during Shabbat). I can also recommend to visit the rest of the country, since Tel Aviv is not called 'the bubble' for no reason. Also, traveling is surprisingly cheap. Once you leave Tel Aviv you step into a different world, which is super interesting.

Another recommendation is to join the buddy-connector programme of IDC. They organise a lot of activities and they get you in touch with all the other exchange students, but also Israelis.

Suggestions/tips:

If you are interested in the conflicts that this country is involved in (you cannot escape from it while being here), try to inform yourself from as many perspectives as possible. Visit the West Bank,



Jerusalem and other cities, talk to people, follow different media channels. Do not take anything for granted and enter the conversation!

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Definitely. Although this country has its downsides as described above, I had the most amazing time here.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Cultural Anthropology

Destination city & country	Herzliya, Israel.
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC)
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/03/2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/07/2018

Preparation	
Exchange/placement application process:	Applied through the Exchange program of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the UU in december 2016. I was then granted permission and the UU applied for me at the IDC. I was the only UU student in Herzliya during my semester.
Counselling/support at home university:	The UU helped me with my application process. They made sure I would pay my tuition here instead of there etc.
Academic preparation:	Electing courses was a bit of a hassle. Things aren't as smoothly organized in Israel. So I chose all my subjects during the first two weeks of my stay. At first I wasn't able to participate in certain courses but when I requested to take part in courses at a Master's degree I was luckily granted permission.
Language preparation:	None. I studied in English.



Finances:
Israel is expensive. My parents paid my rent and my living expenses were covered by my student loans.
Study/placement abroad period
Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):
I participated in 8 courses during my semester abroad. All courses were part of the faculty of Government and Diplomacy. In terms of organization IDC is a reasonable place to stay.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
Activities for exchange students in Israel are truly magnificent. The quality of education is also quite good, especially regarding the area and the Middle-East. Their grading system is a little bit different though,
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Excellent
Transfer of credits:
Has yet to take place.
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Truly magnificent. A lot is done and you'll feel at home immediately.
Accommodation:
Expensive but decent. Everything was well-arranged.
Leisure/culture:
Israel has more culture than you can possibly imagine.
Suggestions/tips:
Find an apartment yourself. IDC will only host exchange students in the dormitories starting from next semester and I would suggest this is not a really nice place to live.
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
I would 100% recommend IDC in Herzliya as a destination for an exchange program. Living in Israel is a life-changing experience.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Sociale wetenschappen
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Cultural anthropology and development sociology

Destination city & country	, Tel Aviv, Israel
Name host institution	Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date	03-03-2017
Return date	11-08-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was straightforward and not too hard. My curriculum vitae and motivation letter were enough to get me accepted at the host university. One of the reasons that acceptance was quite easy is that not many people apply for a spot in Tel Aviv

Counselling/support at home university:

The counselling and support of UU was good. I did not have any difficulties and everything was arranged quickly.

Academic preparation:

There was no need of any particular academic preparation. The courses I had been following at the university in Utrecht provided enough knowledge for me to be able to achieve the academic standard necessary in Tel Aviv.

Language preparation:

There is no need for language preparation if your level in English is sufficient

Finances:

Tel Aviv is a very expensive city, but the financial plan I made before departure proved to be sufficient for my subsistence in Tel Aviv

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

The study programme at IDC was very well organized. Everything turned out as it should and I didn't have any problems in subscribing for courses or with creating my personal plan. Questions were usually answered within a reasonable amount of time and in the end, issues could always be



solved. The content of the courses disappointed me a bit. Only two of the courses I followed interested me. Also, I would describe the content of some of the courses as highly biased. Professors didn't mind to share their religious or political opinions regarding terrorism, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and many other sensitive issues. I can say that I learned a lot about how people are even being indoctrinated at university and through 'science', but I can't say that I gathered a lot of 'objective' knowledge in those classes.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality differed a lot with the different courses. Some were easier than others, but those differences can be explained through the facts that exchange students are allowed to choose any course they want: from any year and from both masters and bachelor programmes. Overall, I would say that the level is lower than at our university. Still, there was quite a lot of reading to do and most of the readings interested me a lot.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I didn't have any problems at my host university and I experienced the counselling and support to be good. However, I heard many stories of fellow students having a very hard time arranging everything. Some did not succeed in putting their programme together and had to wait for days to get an answer. This could be argued to be a cultural difference between the Netherlands and Israel, which is also interesting to experience ;).

Transfer of credits:

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation day was straightforward and helpful. Everything concerning life on campus and concerning university regulations was explained. Also, it was a great opportunity to meet fellow international students. Also, IDC had a 'buddy programme' which is very nice!

Accommodation:

Accommodation is easy to find, but is usually expensive and not very poetic.

Leisure/culture:

Life in Tel Aviv is simply amazing! I loved it! However, living in a country which is in war with so many countries and in which conflict forms such a prominent part of life is often difficult.

Suggestions/tips:

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would recommend this host university if you are interested in conflict and in how conflict plays a very prominent part in people's everyday lives. Information is not objective and can make you very angry at times, but it is also something very interesting.


UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Cultural Anthropology

Destination city & country	Tel Aviv, Israel
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Centre in Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	03-03-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10-08-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Many formalities regarding visa and such, but all in all not too difficult. Response from the host-university could have been faster and more elaborate

Counselling/support at home university:

Minimal

Academic preparation:

Minimal

Language preparation:

None

Finances:

Very expensive

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Very simple, content not of high academic value

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Nothing compared to Utrecht university

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:



minimal
Transfer of credits:
N.A., I haven't received them yet...
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Very welcoming
Accommodation:
Difficult to find, expensive, but good locations available
Leisure/culture:
excellent
Suggestions/tips:
Do not focus too much on the country's political situation if you want to just enjoy yourself
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Not to those who are politically interested, nor to those who have a problem with political unrest. It is not an easy country to live in once you realise what is happening right next door as a matter of speaking
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
Do not believe everything you hear, fact check everything



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Interdisciplinary Social Science

Destination city & country	Tel Aviv, Israel
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10-10-2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19-02-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The placement requires no selection. It was relatively easy. At the university of Herzliya there was a very kind woman, who will help you with all of your problems.

Counselling/support at home university:

This was good. Just fill in the forms of the home university and the university of Herzliya and you will be fine.

Academic preparation:

There is no academic preparation needed.

Language preparation:

English is the language to go for. Hebrew you can learn at the university there if you like, it is called: the Ulpan.

Finances:

Tel Aviv is expensive. The whole experience in Israel cost more money than I initially expected, but with small saving and the normal income (loan) you have in the Netherlands you will get there. You can live in Tel Aviv (organise yourself) or in IDC housing (organised by university). You can choose. Both options have different sets of prices. I lived in Tel Aviv, I definitely recommend this, because Tel Aviv is an amazing city to live, but finding a room can be difficult.

To give an indication:

- Housing: In Tel Aviv housing is between 500-700 a month. But always prepare for the



worst.

- Food is in TA more expensive than the Netherlands, about 20-30% more.
- You want to travel, so save money for that!

If you have about 1300-1500 euro's to spend every month you will get there!

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

You have a variety of programs you can choose from. The government program: Counterterrorism is famous, I can recommend following courses there. You are free to choose whatever courses you want. The page on the UU website says 50% percent in psychology, but this is not a requirement.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

It is quite a lot easier than the Netherlands. So you can choose many courses if you like. I had 9 courses, which was quite a lot, but you do not need to visit all of the lectures.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The support at IDC is great. Very nice people everywhere.

Transfer of credits:

Don't know who this works exactly

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

Amazing orientation program. You get to meet Israeli people and have a lot of fun with them.

Accommodation:

Living in TA is amazing. Definitely do this! However, if you are staying with IDC, I also heard this is a very good accommodation and it is closer to the university. If you live in TA you have to go by bus (347) to Herzliya.

Leisure/culture:

The culture is very different from the Netherlands of course. That is one of the reasons to go there. You get to see some many cultures, religions and people who think completely different.

Suggestions/tips:

Go to Israel early before your semesters starts so can you try to find a room. You have Facebook pages for this such as Secret Tel Aviv, Finding Rooms and Appartments. Become a member and start spamming people for rooms. However, when university starts you can tell everyone you need a room and you might find someone who can help you. Life in Israel is relaxed, but this can be a bit stressful, so preparation is key.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

YES. This country has left me with amazing experiences.



Do you have any additional advice or comments?

TA has clubs, bars, amazing foods, try to find them all.

Don't forget to travel the country. There are many amazing places, Jerusalem, Akko, Nazareth, Eilat, Sefad, border with Syria and Lebanon, but also many places in the west-bank: Bethlehem, Hebron (take a tour), Ramallah are perfectly fine to visit as European citizen. It is always wise to check if the safety situation is still good. People in Israel will tell you not to go, but for them it is very unwise, as a European you are very welcome there.