



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Utrecht School of Economics
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Economics and Business Economics

destination city & country	Lille, France
name university abroad	Lille 1 Science et Technologie
start date	12 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	27 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	My application process went quite smooth, although I was quite late with my application and housing request. My application deadline was on the first of July so I had enough time to gather every part of information. Only trouble I had concerned my learning agreement as it was hard to find information on courses online
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I had a few conversations with Andrea Neylor at the Exchange office to discuss my courses, and we had a general meeting with everybody who went on an Erasmus program just to talk about what to expect when you are there
academic preparation	
	Doing the Erasmus in my 4 <sup>th</sup> year of studying, I already completed almost every necessary course, the Erasmus program was kind of like a minor for me.
language preparation	
	I already had my B2 level in French, which came in handy
finances	



My grant and my student loan

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

This was quite an issue, as there was little or no information on the courses online I had to figure it out when I arrived there. But since there we also almost no course descriptions it was sometimes hard to get my courses approved. In the end it all worked out but I would advise students going to study in France that it is a bureaucratic nightmare and thus be wary that when you send an email in English you might not get a response or it will be in French.

academic quality of education activities

The level was a bit lower than I was used to in Utrecht, but the language barrier makes up for a lot of it. Especially since for some courses there were no tutorials, only lectures, and it was all in French, so you had to pay attention.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Counselling and support were widely available in Lille, if I had a problem with my courses I could always rely on Mr. Cuvelier and his secretary

transfer of credits

As of this moment I have not yet received confirmation that I passed my courses so we will see.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the month September there are a lot of parties on the campus and everybody is very kind and keen to help you out

accommodation

I stayed in Reeflex, the accommodation provided by the University. The upsides were that I it was a 2 minute walk to my lectures and tutorials, and it is well organised, rooms are good and spacious. Downsides were however that you don't live in the city center and that you live alone. There is not a real communal area where you can cook together or just hang out. So it can get a bit boring sometimes.

leisure & culture

The university provides a wide range of sports in which you can participate and other than that I made trips to the beaches of Normandy and Paris. Via ESN it is also possible to go to Bruxelles and Brugge and a lot more.

suggestions/tips

If you don't like to eat alone, try to find an accommodation where there is a communal kitchen, so not the accommodation provided by the university

### CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend the experience to anyone, but I would warn them about the bureaucratic nightmare, and that is an absolute necessity to speak French. Only English doesn't get you very far.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Speak French



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sociologie

destination city & country	Lille, Frankrijk
name university abroad	Université Lille 1 Sciences et Technologies
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	This process was very clear and easy for me, because everything is explained on the UU website. When I needed a signature from the universities I received it on time and there were no problems. Sometimes I got stressed because of the deadlines and all the forms, but this was not necessary.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was really good. When I had questions, a lot of people were there to answer them, by email and at the university in person.
academic preparation	
	My academic preparation was just the first two years of my Sociology study in Utrecht. I didn't have to do anything else besides this.
language preparation	
	For my language preparation I bought a beginners course of french for at home. I started this one year before my stay abroad. I can recommend to go to a real class where you also have a teacher who can help you speak the language.



finances

I saved some money, but here I mainly lived of the Erasmus money, and the money you receive for your OV and the 'uitwonendenbeurs'. In France you can also apply for CAF.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At Lille 1 the study programme wasn't very clear for international students. We started later than the normal students and I had to change all the courses I had chosen before.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was in my opinion a little lower than in Utrecht. The exams were easier and we just had lectures and no working groups where you discuss the lectures. But because it was in French it was harder for me.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support was less organized than in Utrecht. They were willing to help you, but where you needed to be and who could help you was often unclear.

transfer of credits

I haven't had the transfer of my credits yet.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This program was really nice and welcoming. We also had a full week of French courses where you could already get to know a lot of international students. ESN organized a lot of events.

accommodation

I lived in REEFLEX, the building on campus for international students. I loved living here, because it was full with Erasmus students and people from all over the world. We had lots of parties here and the location is amazing. You're on campus and the city centre is just 15min by metro.

leisure & culture

I loved the city and its culture. It is a beautiful old city with lots of kind people. Every time I went to the centre I was amazed by its beauty. There are many amazing restaurants, clubs and bars.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to apply for a room in REEFLEX. It's easy to meet new friends here, the location is amazing and the building itself is really well organized.

### CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would recommend this destination. The city is amazing and it's close to a lot of other cities, like Bruges, Bruxelles and Paris. The university is okay, but for Sociology not amazing. Still, I learned a lot at Lille 1, just had to get used to the different ways of organizing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES

### UU Report 2014-2015

e-mail address	
faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Biology

destination city & country	Lille, France
name university abroad	Université Lille 1
start date	25 / 08 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

#### PREPARATION

##### exchange application process

The application process is not difficult, but you'll have to fill in quite some forms and collect signatures, so start on time and you'll be fine. It can be a bit hard to find information on the site of Lille 1, so really take at least a month.

##### counselling & support at Utrecht University

There is an information meeting for students who want to go to southern Europe, which is really helpful to get information about the application process and Erasmus+ grant. If you consider going abroad, you should at least participate at one of them. For more specific information about the city or university you want to go to, it's better to contact students who went to there already. They can often give you more practical information about your stay than the International Office of Utrecht.

##### academic preparation

Actually, I didn't really do any specific academic preparation. Just make sure with your study advisor that the classes fit into your study plan. In general, it helps to have good grades to get a place at the university you want to go to.

##### language preparation

If you want to go to France for your bachelor, all classes will be in French. This scared me at first, but in the end it was not as difficult as I had expected. If you have a B1+ or B2- level of French before you go, it will do. I learned French in secondary school and re practised with my old teacher before I went to Lille, which helped me a lot. As well, you can follow a week of French classes organised for all Erasmus students before the start of the colleges, make sure you go there! It will help you and it is the best way to meet the other Erasmus students.

##### finances

To finance my stay, I applied for the Erasmus+ grant. From the Dutch government, I got the normal studentscholarship for students not staying at home. Furthermore, I temporarily stopped my student OV-card to get a monthly compensation as well. Still, I also needed my savings to be able to do everything I wanted to. If you choose the accomodation offered by the university the rent won't be so high (€220 a month), if you look for



a place yourself you'll pay at least €300. An unlimited public transport card is €28 a month (called VIVA), my groceries were approximately €100 a month. After your arrival in Lille, you can also apply for something called the CAF, which is a compensation from the French government for students not living at home. But I never managed to actually get it, because you need to complete multiple forms and send them (among other things) a copy of your insurance, your passport and a birth certificate in French.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I went to Lille during my third year of bachelor and followed the bachelor parcours "Biologie des Organismes et des Populations" for half a year. This parcours contained six different subjects, in total exactly 30 ECTS. Next to the Biology classes I also followed the free French class organised for all international students coming to Lille, which was really usefull and also counted for 2 ECTS. For me, there was no liberty of combining classes from different parcours or studies, like I planned initially. This really depends on the study you follow though, because students from Economics or Sociolgy could combine any classes they wanted so I would really advise you to contact the Erasmus coordinator of the classes you would like to take to see what is possible.

### academic quality of education activities

The quality of the classes was not lower than in Utrecht, but the education works differently. For one, lectures take two heures without a break, which was hard in the beginning but you'll get used to it. Furthermore, in some of my classes they really focused on learning things by heart, instead of understanding how things work. I had way more lectures than working classes. This does really depend on what you study though. A general difference the other international students noticed as well is that students here really are not used to do presentations or essays in a scientific way. In this, I really had an advantage.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I can only say the support I got was really good. My Erasmus coordinator would help me anytime with any problem, whether it would be administrational, financial or personal, and the professors and other students were always there if I didn't get anything during class. Furthermore, there is an Erasmus organisation (ESN) situated on the campus where you can go to for things unrelated to your studies. Don't count on the people to speak English though. But at the ESN they do and before you leave, you sign up online at the ESN for a French 'buddy' to help you in the first days, who normally speaks English too.

### transfer of credits

At this moment, I'm still waiting to get my results so I can't really say anything about the transfer of credits. I do believe it will be fine though.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The ESN organisation arranges an extensive welcoming programme for the Erasmus students, with activities such as a welcoming and informational lecture, an international dinner and meetings to get a French bank account. Like I already wrote, you can get a French 'buddy' as well to help you through the first days and show you around the campus and the city centre. The preparational week of French class will help you get into speaking French and meeting other students. I never felt unwelcome, lost or lonely.

### accommodation

I chose the accommodation offered by the university, because I didn't dare to go and look for an appartement myself. International students get a room at one of the many residences on the campus. These residences are fine, but not really well. Depending on the residence, you'll either have your own place to cook in your room



and share the toilets and showers, or have your own toilet and shower and share the kitchen. Anyway, it's more like living in a flat than living in a student's house and there is nothing to do on the campus. If you want to experience more of the real French life, I would recommend to go to Lille a few weeks in advance and try to look for a 'collocation', a student house where you'll really live together with other (French) students and which will probably be in a nicer neighborhood.

leisure & culture

The cultural offer was surprisingly big. Every neighborhood in Lille has its own 'Maison Folie', where they regularly organize concerts and exhibitions, most of the time for free. Every first Sunday of the month all museums are for free as well. Furthermore, many bars organize free concerts too. Actually, there were so many things going on every week that it was impossible to keep up-to-date. The site [www.lille.sortir.eu](http://www.lille.sortir.eu) is really helpful, it gives a clear overview of all exhibitions, concerts and other events in Lille and the surrounding cities. The university of Lille offers free sports classes for all students. You'll have to inscribe during one of the first weeks and you can even get ECTS for them. Be sure to inscribe as soon as you can though, because the classes are full in a day or two.

If you go partying, many bars close around 3:00 am but there is one street called 'Rue Solferino' where the bigger clubs are, which stay open all night long.

suggestions/tips

If you go from September to January, make sure you're already in Lille during the Braderie, which takes place in the first weekend of September. It is a massive flea market on all the streets of the city centre, lasting the entire weekend and accompanied by drinking beer, eating moules-frites and partying all night long. Don't miss it! Though Lille is not so big, there are many small bars and coffee places to discover. The new Use-It map of Lille, made by people actually living here, gives a good overview of really nice ones. You can find it online at [www.use-it.travel](http://www.use-it.travel).

The last thing I can advise you to do is go to the Wazemmes market on Sunday morning. It is a huge market where you can find anything for a really low price. I mostly went there a bit late (around 14:00) to get vegetables for a bargain. Afterwards, act like the French people do and have a seat at one of the many terraces surrounding the market with your friends to drink a beer (or a coffee) and eat some of the food you just bought. To end the Sunday in a real northern French way, go to 'Cheval Blanc' around 17:00. You'll be surprised...

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! Lille has really surprised me. The city is really nice and because it is not so big, you run into friends all the time. There are many things to do, people are welcoming and the big amount of international students you'll make friends from all over the world. It's actually really close to Holland, which means you can easily go back during the holiday and Belgium is just half an hour away, so you can visit many cities during your weekend and you'll find artisanal Belgium beer in every bar in Lille. In general, things are well organized at the university too, so you don't have to worry about any administrative aspects.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are considering studying in Lille, just do it! You'll have a great time!