



Faculty/college	Faculty of geosciences
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Bachelor
Name study programme	Erasmus+

Destination city & country	Madrid, Spain
How did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
Name university abroad	Universidad Complutense Madrid
Start date	22 / 01 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)
End date	03 / 06 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?	
It was confusing, sometimes I did not know exactly what I still had to do and who I had to ask	
How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?	
I was a bit confused about which parts the international office was responsible for and which they were not	
Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?	
No	
How did you finance your exchange?	
Borrowing	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses?Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available?Which courses did you end up taking?	
It was quite difficult to find which courses were available even though I speak Spanish, and the course documents were often very old so it was hard to know if they were still valid	
How was the academic quality of the courses?	
It was lower than the quality in the Netherlands	
How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?	
There was barely any	

STUDENT LIFE	
How was the welcome & orientation programme?	
It was way less than I expected	



How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

Finding housing was not difficult but very expensive, also there are often agency fees but fortunately I found an agency that does not have agency fees

What did you do for leisure & culture?

Travel, go out with friends, touristic stuff, sports

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

I would recommend this destination to others because I had a lot of fun and the course load was not very high, but I would not recommend it if you are looking for quality education or if you do not speak at least some Spanish

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?



Faculty/college	Facultad de Psicología
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Bachelor
Name study programme	Psychology

Destination city & country	Madrid, Spain
How did you travel to your destination?	By plane
Name university abroad	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Start date	01/09/2024
End date	24/01/2025

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

PREPARATION	
How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?	The application process was a bit hard sometimes, because I had to do a lot for it. Especially making a Learning Agreement was difficult, because I had to change it multiple times, even when I was already in Madrid. This was because I could not follow some courses that I eventually wanted to follow. However, the amount of e-mails and information I received consisted of plain information. That was helpful.
How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?	The support at Utrecht University was great! We had a meeting with everyone before departing where they helped us with the application process. Also, I had sent many e-mails which they gave useful answers to.
Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?	I already knew Spanish a bit because of high school. That's what I did. But I did my minor in English, so I didn't have to speak Spanish at uni. However, it was nice to know some Spanish in the supermarkets or in restaurants.
How did you finance your exchange?	Before leaving I organised everything so I could receive DUO monthly. They also say you'll get an Erasmus grant, but I didn't receive it because I only asked for Erasmus grant plus... They are really strict with the deadline in this so please check that you applied for everything the right way, otherwise you won't receive money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses? Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available? Which courses did you end up taking?
	Yes, it was really difficult to find courses that would all fit in my timetable. To receive 30 ECTS you'll have to follow 5 courses, but there was always a course that would not fit with the other courses because I would have them at the same time. At the end, I just stopped trying and only followed 4 courses instead. The courses I followed were all in English.
How was the academic quality of the courses?	The courses I followed were really easy actually, except from Fundamentals of biopsychology. The classes all looked like a high school classroom. Sometimes the teacher did some instructions and sometimes we had to do exercises. I really liked this way of studying, also because half of this English classroom existed of international students who I kept up with. The exams mostly existed of knowledge questions which were quite easy.



How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?

It was okay but really with a Spanish tempo... Hahaha. The international office was only open for like 2 mornings a week, but they helped me well when I got there

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?

It was good! They did 2 introduction days and showed us around the campus. I met really nice people who became good friends! So, I would motivate you to go there.

How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

I found my room through HelpHousing. That was actually not difficult to find, but I already booked my room in June, I think. The rent was okay, around 750eu each month. I lived with 11 others and we had a shared living room and kitchen, but also multiple bathrooms. The apartment where I lived is located in Calle Alberto de Aguilera, which is just in between the neighbourhoods Malasaña en Chamberí. It is the perfect place for students to stay and next to a metro station that leads you everywhere! I would recommend this area for everybody!!! Also, living with 11 others was a really good option, because most of them became good friends of mine. Because they were also Erasmus students, we could discover the city together.

What did you do for leisure & culture?

There is so much to do in Madrid!! Often, I went to Gran Vía, which is the most popular and busiest street in Madrid. I went for picnics to Parque del Buen Retiro or Templo de Debod. But for all these highlights you can search on Google!!

Madrid is an amazing city for nightlife. Almost every Monday I went to the event 'Fucking Monday' which is in Club Shoko. Even more, club Cuenca, Kapital, and Mondo Disko should definitely be on your bucketlist!!!

I also did a lot of trips during my stay in Madrid, because it's easy to travel to other places by train. This way, I visited Valencia, Sevilla, Toledo, and Barcelona.

If you purchase a Madrid Citylife card, there are also a lot of good trips and activities you can do. With Citylife Madrid I went to Morocco to visit Marrakech and the Sahara Desert!

And last but not least, the food and restaurants are amazing! I'd recommend Villa Capri, Circolo Popolare, and for delicious sandwiches in the sun go to Focacciamo at Plaza de Olavide.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

Yes! As I described before there is so much to do and see in and around Madrid! Also, I got my ECTS easily at this university which is nice. I lived the best life there in Madrid.

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

Please enjoy the beauty of the adventure you're going to make and don't worry too much about the study, because that will be okay too!



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Faculty/college	Utrecht University: Faculty of Science
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Bachelor's
Name study programme	Information Science (Informatiekunde)

Destination city & country	Madrid, Spain
How did you travel to your destination?	By plane
Name university abroad	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Start date	01 / 09 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
End date	31 / 01 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?

I got nominated to a specific option/package of faculties in UCM. However, I did not like this and luckily, I could change it. While it took countless emails and many communications with the UU and UCM international offices and coordinators, we eventually had my faculty-specific "contract" changed.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?

All the emails of the UU international office are very clear, and they answer quickly and are also very helpful.

Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?

UCM is strict with the language requirement, but luckily, I have done my 6VWO exam in Spanish as well, so this counted as a B2 level Spanish certificate. The UU coordinator made sure of this for me.

How did you finance your exchange?

Erasmus+ Grant, OV-vergoeding from DUO (public transport substitute compensation), uitwonende beurs (DUO grant for living outside of parent's house), and some savings. I did not work in Spain.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?

- Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses?
- Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available?
- Which courses did you end up taking?

I would say it was quite difficult to find the courses, but if you understand the bad-designed websites of UCM, you will find the relevant course list after a while. I chose to only do courses in English, since I did not want to create extra stress from having to follow courses in Spanish (I think my Spanish level is not high enough for this). Because of this preference, it was quite hard to find a fitting schedule with 5 English-taught courses (30 ECT total) that all fit well. For me, it was also important that my courses were at the Ciudad Universitaria campus (near Moncloa, within the M-30 highway) instead of at the Somosaguas campus (which was quite far from the center). Eventually, though, after many emails and quite some stress 😊 I finally found a schedule with 30 ECT / 5 courses that don't overlap and are all English-taught and at the Ciudad Universitaria campus.



I took the following courses:

1. (801807) POLÍTICA, SOCIEDAD Y CULTURA EN EL MUNDO ROMANO // Politics, Society, and Culture in the Roman World
2. (801812) HISTORIA DEL MUNDO Y GLOBALIZACIÓN EN LA EDAD MODERNA // World History and Globalization in the Modern Age
3. (801827) HISTORIA DE LAS MUJERES Y RELACIONES DE GÉNERO // History of Women and Gender Relations
4. (802211) LITERATURA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS HASTA 1850 // Literature of the United States until 1850
5. (802237) TECNOLOGÍAS DE LA INFORMACIÓN Y LA COMUNICACIÓN (TICS) APLICADAS A LA LENGUA INGLESA // Application of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to English language learning

These were the final courses I followed. At first, I had some other courses, but I changed them. In the first few weeks at UCM, you can follow a bunch of courses and submit your final decision later. This was a bit of a stressful and slow process sometimes, but it turned out fine in the end. Make sure to also let the UU Board approve of these courses (should be fine, though, but just don't forget).

How was the academic quality of the courses?

Most of the 5 courses I took were academically fine. Maybe not as good as at UU, but I wouldn't say the courses were very bad. I thought I would have some more free time and relaxed days, but unfortunately the courses were quite intensive. I had classes 5 days per week (luckily in the morning + early afternoon, but still...) so the courses I took were not per se super easy (except for my 5th course haha). If you want some more specific information about the courses I took, please contact me (my email should be in this form at the top, I think).

How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?

I did not really require this, so I don't know much about this.

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?

The UCM didn't really have this. They (the specific faculty, I think) had one big presentation session with all incoming exchange students where they just explained some stuff. But that was all. However, I really recommend going to welcome week(s) activities (because in general, there are more activities in the beginning of the semester) of organisations like ESN Madrid/UCM, CityLife Madrid, and Smart Insiders. These organisations (especially the last 2) really contributed heavily to my experience. They are a must! Please remember these organizations, their activities, etc. They are amazing and facilitate a great Erasmus exchange!!!

How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

It was not very difficult, but I was quite picky, so it made it a bit more difficult. I checked Aluni, HousingAnywhere, SpotAHome, UniPlaces and some other smaller websites. Just be very mindful if the platform / housing agency is trusted and good. As for the aggregator platforms (like UniPlaces and SpotAHome) just make sure to only view checked rooms from trusted landlords and check the full cost overview. Unfortunately, even legit / non-scam companies/landlords like to include a bunch of silly extra costs (like asking a full month of rent for the administration fee, which is unfortunately very common and almost unavoidable). You could also check Idealista (basically Spain's version of Funda), WhatsApp groups, and Facebook pages but I did not want to have in-person viewings in Madrid (or I was too afraid of scams) so I did not do this.

Eventually, I had a small room in an apartment at Parque de Atenas (1 bus stop from Principe Pio metro station). Here, I shared the apartment with the landlord that was the private owner of the apartment. The



monthly rent was 450 euros all-included, and I had no administration fee (outside of the UniPlaces fee, which is the platform where I found my accommodation). This living arrangement is quite rare, since most people that I talked to had a monthly rent of 600+ and also had many roommates and just lived in apartments from companies/agencies. I didn't mind my accommodation type though, and in the end, I was happy with it and it just depends on your preferences and what you're comfortable with.

What did you do for leisure & culture?

I did way too much to list. It was great. I did trips, some partying, cultural activities, (day)trips to other parts of in Spain (the high-speed rail network of Spain is great and cheap!!). The Meet&Speak activity is very recommended, especially in the first few weeks. I regularly met up with friends, relaxed in the city, walked around, visited museums, travelled, etc. I also did the South Morocco (Sahara) trip with CityLife Madrid where I made many friends and had an amazing experience. I also went to Sevilla, Cordoba, Toledo, London, Paris, Portugal, and some other smaller towns in Spain, during my exchange. The high-speed rail train system in Spain is very good and inexpensive and there are also cheap (Ryanair) flights from the main airport in Madrid.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

I really recommend Madrid. It's more amazing than I thought. It's developed, big, cosmopolitan, relatively affordable, quite international, good weather, etc. Every type of person can be happy here, it has parties, culture, even nature if you are fine with traveling a bit further outside of the city, etc. It's really a great city and I honestly cannot think of any better city in Europe to spend my Erasmus+ exchange.

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

BiciMad is amazing, do as much as you can and say yes to everything (especially in September/1st month, in this period you really create your circle of friends, so don't stay in your room too much, especially not in the 1st month!!), the weather in Madrid (for autumn semester at least) is the best in the first 2-3 months, check out CityLife Madrid + Smart Insiders + ESN Madrid/UCM, don't get housing outside of M-30 highway of Madrid if you have the possibility (it's fine, but if you can, just stay near the center of Madrid since that's where everything happens).



Faculty/college	Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, Universidad Complutense Madrid
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Bachelor
Name study programme	Business Administration

Destination city & country	Madrid, Spain
How did you travel to your destination?	By plane
Name university abroad	Universidad Complutense Madrid
Start date	06 / 09 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
End date	16 / 01 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?	My application process to fill in the forms for which University and which city/country I wanted to go was an easy process. I did not find any problems with the application to go on Exchange at Utrecht University, but the UU did nominate me for the wrong faculty and this was pretty hard to change and took a lot of time to find the problem and fix it.
How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?	The international Office of the UU always answered quickly and tried to help me with a lot of things. They were very supportive and when there was a problem, they helped me good. The International Office at UCM in Madrid did not speak any English and only answered their emails on Thursday from 12:00 – 14:00. This made it hard to communicate and fix problems.
Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?	I did an B1 level Spanish course before my exchange. This helped me a lot abroad, especially because the teachers speak English, but their English is not very good and the International Office at UCM barely spoke English it is very important to learn some Spanish.
How did you finance your exchange?	I financed my exchange with the Erasmus grant, and I saved up around +/- 1000 Euro per month. Rent can be expensive in Madrid.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses? • Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available? • Which courses did you end up taking?
	<p>Once my nomination was done right by the UU, I could easily change my courses in the first 2 weeks of the exchange. The process to change and find courses was very clear. You can find the different courses on their website. For the Business Administration Faculty every course was available in English, this does not count or all faculty's so make sure to check this before applying.</p> <p>Since I am a Law student and had not taken any Business Administration courses in my life before, I mostly took first year courses and 1 marketing course of the 4th year:</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historica Economica (1st) - Derecho de la Empresa (1^{ste}) - Fundamentos de Dirección de Empresas (1st) - Introducción a la Economía (1st) - Compartamiento del Consumidor (4th)
How was the academic quality of the courses?
For every course they had 4 hours of class in the week, so 5 courses per semester are a total of 20 hours of class a week. I thought the quality of the courses was not very high, the courses don't go quick. But most of the teacher do explain well and I learned a lot.
How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?
The international Office barely spoke English and only answered their emails once a week. I would recommend going their in person, but make sure you speak some Spanish or bring a friend that speaks Spanish. But other than that, they are happy to help you.

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?
There was a seminar for all the exchange students, where they explained how the University worked, where you can find your course details, their house rules, gave whatsapp link for the exchange students to be in one group for questions, student activities etc.
How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?
It was easy to find a house through the websites of SpotAhome , Helphousing and Housinganywhere. You do pay an extra fee with these websites, but you are sure that you are not getting scammed. Make sure to read the contract before signing it, if you find any trouble with the contract you can always contact the organisation where you found the house. Housing is cheaper at the beginning of the summer than last minute, So I do recommend to start on time with searching.
What did you do for leisure & culture?
I visited a lot of museums, since they are free as a student, and just walked a lot through the city. Madrid is very big and there is a lot to do. With the metro card you can also go to Cities nearby, which I highly recommend. The going out scene is also very popular, big and fun. Watching sunsets from Templo de Debod is also very fun to do. Since Madrid is a metropolitan there are lots of random activities every week. Therefore I highly recommend to follow the local news a bit to know what goes on that week.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.
I would recommend Madrid to others, because the city has a lot of possibilities and it's a big city that never sleeps. If you are more a nature fan I would not recommend this location, since Madrid is only city with parcs and one river. It's very crowded so you must like that. I would recommend the University of Complutense, but maybe not for the faculty of Business. Since I heard from others that other Universities in Madrid are better for Business Administration and have a better quality of the classes. Next to the fact that UCM faculty of Business Administration is located 40 min from the city center, so there is a lot of travel time.
Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?
I recommend starting early with finding housing and taking a course to learn the language. You can also take a course there at location.





Faculty/college	Geosciences
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Bachelor's
Name study programme	Global Sustainability Science

Destination city & country	Madrid, Spain
How did you travel to your destination?	By car
Name university abroad	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Start date	06 / 09 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
End date	14 / 01 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?

I believe we were informed quite well about the process before hand, with the information session at the beginning of the year, and through the website, thus I could be aware of the deadlines and what documents I needed to present. For me it wasn't difficult to chose courses because I was going to do the exchange after I completed all my mandatory courses so they would be electives. I think that makes the application easier. Anyways, there were still some steps you need to go through that take time, so I did spent some time looking for courses in the websites of the universities I was interested in, and making sure it was okay with the study advisors, and the board of examiners. Overall, I believe it was well explained and it went well.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?

I did contact the international office once before applying to solve some doubts as well as my study advisors, and they provided me with he answers I needed and thus were of great help. They showed they were there for me for anything I needed.

Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?

No I didn't, because the courses I was going to take abroad were in my mother tongue.

How did you finance your exchange?

I financed my exchange with my parents' economical support and the Erasmus Grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?

- Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses?
- Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available?
- Which courses did you end up taking?

As I said above, I only had to chose elective courses that were apart from my study program so that made it easier for the course registration. That made me chose courses based on what I was interested to learn that I did not have in my bachelor or even that I could not do at Utrecht University. This is because as I specialised in Governance, and really liked Environmental law, I wanted to have a stronger base in law, but the law courses at UU were in Dutch and I don't speak Dutch so I decided to study it with the exchange. Then, I preferred to study law in my mother tongue, so that also influence my decision. And it was easy to chose the courses also, because as I wanted a base in law, I ended up taking just introductory courses from first and second year bachelor level. So I did four first-year courses and two second-year courses that would give me a base and those that I was



interested in, like Public International Law and History and Institutions of the European Union. To organise the courses, I had to choose myself which class and schedule I preferred, and as they were many different groups with different schedules I could adapt easily the combination of courses I chose. And I was automatically registered to the courses by the Faculty based on my selection.

How was the academic quality of the courses?

The academic quality of the courses was high. Because they provided with a lot of theory and thus, I felt like I was learning a lot and was in fact getting the strong base in law I was looking for. Even if they were first- and second-year courses, they had a heavy workload. The courses had very different teaching and testing methods from what I was used to in my bachelor in Utrecht, but I still liked it a lot.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?

The international mobility office from my host faculty was very helpful with their welcome session, and were always helpful in person or by mail for any requestor doubt I could have.

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?

First, I had a general welcome session for all the Erasmus students at the university, where they explained us about the university, the student life, the Erasmus student network, and more. There you could already make friends from all over the university faculties. And then I also had a welcome session of my Law faculty, where it was more specific, and explained the documents we needed to complete at the beginning and end of the exchange, how the educational system was in that Faculty, and gave us a tour. Therefore, the orientation program was quite helpful and informative for me, and a first opportunity to meet other exchange students.

How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

For me, I did not have to go through the process of finding a house, because I was going to stay at family's house.

What did you do for leisure & culture?

For leisure, I hanged out with uni friends to grab a drink, have lunch, or party. I also met with them often at the university to have lunch together in the canteen or to study together in the library. Also, I really liked just walking around in the city and going to the country side.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

I would definitely recommend this university to other students, as I think you can learn a lot with its strong theoretical approach, and because it's a very big and prestigious university. However, I would recommend bearing in mind that during exam period you have to study a lot, at least for law. Also, Madrid, is a very big and beautiful city with a lot of things to do and there are a lot of international students from everywhere, so I think it's easy to make friends.

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

I would just add as an advice to keep in mind that for me it was a very different educational system than in Utrecht, and that it may be difficult to find house so look into that on time. Otherwise, just to enjoy the multiple leisure and cultural options that Madrid can offer!