



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie

Destination city & country	Msida, Malta
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Malta
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)	05/02/2019
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/07/2019

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The placement and application process at University of Malta was a bit unclear and it took a long time for us to figure out what information exactly we had to send to the University of Malta. The application process in Malta and the application for the Erasmus grant at Utrecht University also did not go very well together. This was confusing and we had to send a lot of e-mails to the international office in Malta, but in the end everything worked out fine.

Counselling/support at home university:

The support at home from the International Office was very helpful as my coordinator sent a lot of e-mails to the coordinators in Malta to get me the right signatures in time.

Academic preparation:

I am currently still following the course 'Intercultureel leren'. This is an optional course that helps you academically prepare for your exchange and helps evaluate and reflect during and after the exchange. The preparation was useful to a certain extent. However, it had a lot of overlap with introductory Cultural Anthropology courses so I would not necessarily recommend to follow this course to Anthropology students.

Language preparation:

University of Malta's official language is English. I did not need a lot of language preparation.

Finances:

Living in Malta is not necessarily cheap. Especially rent is rather expensive if you are looking for a good apartment. Groceries are about the same prices as in The Netherlands or sometimes even a bit more expensive since everything has to be imported to the Island. The Erasmus Grant doesn't



come close to covering the costs. For me it was maybe enough for one and a half month. However, it was surely helpful.

Study/placement abroad period

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

I took Cultural Anthropology courses, since University of Malta required me to acquire at least half of my credits within my main area of study. The other courses I took were in the field of International Relations and I took one Maltese language course.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The level of education in Malta is definitely of less academic quality than I was used to at Utrecht University. The lecturers were sometimes rather biased and expressed their personal opinions as being an objective truth. On the other hand I also really enjoyed some courses and I definitely learned new things especially in the area of International Relations. Keep in mind that you often don't have to hand in a lot of assignments during the semester except at the end during the examination period, so this period might be ten times as busy as the rest of the semester.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The international office in Malta is the university's official support for foreign students. They don't always respond to e-mails etc. If you want to get something done you really need to go down there and hope that your coordinator is present to help you. Other than the international office, there is also a university wide student organisation that might offer help with certain things and there always is ESN where the leaders are always ready to help when they can and make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

Transfer of credits:

At the moment of writing I am still in the process of transferring my credits. Like most things in Malta this takes quite a bit of time and pressuring.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

There was an orientation day at the beginning of the semester we were required to attend. This day was helpful as all the basics of studying at university of Malta were explained to us. ESN Malta is also a very active organisation that does a lot to give every international student the best time of his or her life in Malta.

Accommodation:

Accommodation in Malta is rather hard to find. There is the university residence, which is not too cheap if you don't want to share a room with another person. However there are always other international students or interns there that make living there a lot of fun. The conditions of the accommodation are not the best though. I visited the residence a lot, but I am still happy I didn't choose to live there myself. Via facebook I got an apartment in Msida for a very reasonable price. It might be tricky to get an apartment for a good price since renters are not very well protected in Malta and landlords sometimes really try to profit as much as they can from foreign renters. My apartment was not too big, but it had everything I needed and the best part was the location. It was a ten minute walk from the university and in addition there were busses to every part of the island within walking distance.



Leisure/culture:

Malta is an amazing Island to explore. The city area is beautiful and full of life, it is always very busy though since Malta is very overpopulated. The nature is amazing as well. There are a lot of place to do hikes, to watch great views and of course to swim. The other island, Gozo and Comino are also both really worth a visit. There is a lot to experience and explore in Malta and studying there for half a year has really enabled me to see and experience every little part of Malta.

Suggestions/tips:

If you are going to study in Malta (or considering to) always keep in mind it might take a little extra effort getting things done, for example getting signatures from the international office took me a long time and I had to go there a few times to finally get it done. Considering housing, if you don't go to the residence, I would be careful and not just accept anything. There are a lot of helpful Facebook pages though to get you in touch with landlords renting out property or other renters.

Conclusions

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

I would definitely recommend an exchange semester or year in Malta. The Maltese culture is definitely different than the Dutch culture on a lot of aspects. At times this might get frustrating, but I also experienced it as very enriching. Besides studying, which was bit easier than at home for me (I only really had to do a lot during the examination period) there is so much to explore on this amazing island. Besides, Malta with its Mediterranean culture is a bit more relaxed and this is a very nice change from the busy life in The Netherlands.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

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ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies

destination city & country	Malta,
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was fairly straightforward in the basis: there is a structured International Office page on the university website explaining in steps what you will have to do when. It clearly enlists the required documents. It took me quite some time to figure out the Learning Agreement (in which you have to set out the study programme you're planning to take part in), since finding the relevant courses within your field is a little challenging. Getting in touch by email with the International Office was also difficult at times, so you might want to start this process early.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU counselling service has in my experience always been quick and clear. I did have some complex struggles to do with replacing study units so if you are unsure that it'll all fit, be sure to get in touch in time.

academic preparation

No specific academic preparation was required from the University of Malta.

language preparation



<p>As part of the enrollment, I had to take part in an online "OLS" test to determine my CEFR level of English. The students need to have a B2 level in the English language cause it is the instruction language in all classes and lectures. Those students who select study-units from the English Department, need to have a C1 level in the English Language.</p>
finances
<p>Malta is relatively expensive for housing and groceries. Public transport isn't free, but cheaper (0,75 cents per journey if you get the student tallinja card) I had some savings and other incomes that could cover my personal life spendings. Some people took trips to Gozo and Sicily, which are easy to reach, which of course will cost you more.</p>

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>I took English and Communication study-units. Some of the English ones I found rather boring (literature) but that personal taste. Others were really interesting with overall passionate teachers, just as the Communication ones which I personally liked better. Instead of the two study-units of 7,5 ECTS per block at the UU, most of the UoM study-units were only about 2-4 ECTS, which made me have to follow 8 courses. All courses only had lectures of one hour a week, so I had a pretty wide range of topics covered all over the weeks. I didn't really like this organisational situation but it might be different once you get to follow higher level study-units. I also did an extra course of karate which was a lot of fun, I would highly recommend following one of the Degree Plus courses. They only ask for a small fee and they're all very interesting.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>All lectures were of good academic quality, requiring the right level of academic skills.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>Although there wasn't a big team of counsellors, the people present were always very helpful. There is also a free counselling team if you have issues with anything at all (mentally).</p>
transfer of credits	<p>Not received yet. Grades are given in A - F.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>Organised from the university itself, there was only one activity of introduction just before the start of the semester. It wasn't really a get-to-know but rather a long informative lecture with regards to univeristy rules and procedures (it was clear but very long and a lot of info). I would highly recommend to engage in the KSU (international student committee) activities that take place after. They are fun and you will easily get to know other international students and the activities are also often related to the Maltese culture. Another way to meet people is via the ESN group, which also includes people that for example are doing their internship on Malta.</p>
accommodation	<p>There's different ways of finding accomodation. Make sure to get in touch in time: a lot of people are looking for places and the most cheap ones will naturally be gone the fastest. The university has a Residence for international students, but this is rather expensive and you'll often be sharing the room with others, which might on the other hand be a good way to meet people. The ESN facebook groups are perfect for finding dorms too, lots of people share their search for roommates. I found mine this way. It is beneficial if other exchange</p>



people have stayed in places before cause they can share the pros and cons of flats/accomodations with you. Be careful with using real estate agents. They are known to be very unreliable, especially with regards to getting deposits back.

leisure & culture

The period I stayed in Malta was full of festivities. Check out local feasts before you go, like the carnival, and make sure you know whats going on when. Also, don't stop at the things recommended in your travel guide: the most fun swim spots are not the ones on the busy beaches but on the shores of Sliema. The best food is not at the promenades but tucked away in small alleys. There's good online malta guides that are much more helpful. Lonely Planet also has good recommendations. Maltese people are also very friendly and will give you all the info if you ask for it.

suggestions/tips

Stroll! All of Malta's highlights have much more to them then the main roads. Take the side roads to see the cute local streets and their people. Just walk around with no plan and you'll find so much more.Oh and definitely visit Gozo and Comino as well.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend to go to Malta. The island has so many layers and has such a rich history. The people are so very friendly and used to internationals, the food is good and the nature is astonishing. It's easy to visit places nearby so can explore the island very well. The university is something you might need to get used to but once you're in it's really good.. There's culture, sun, sea, beaches, and also enough possibilities to party

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you choose your courses wisely. Some might seem like they are easy or not so time consuming but once you read closely it will say that there's plenty of work over the whole of the course. It all says it on the website so take enough time to sort that out. Also notice that on the end, when you have exams, some of them might take place in the weekend, on Saturday. It happened to me as well while I had planned a get away so be sure to keep that in mind.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Communication and Information Studies

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	22 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process was a bit confusion and slow, due to the way it was handled by the University of Malta. I had to send a lot of emails and annoy a lot of people to get the required signatures for my application. I learned that this was a nice methaphor for basically everything at the university, because everything is quite chaotic, unorganized and slow. You will learn to appreciate it once your there.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The counselling and support from the UU was good. Everything I emailed about was handled quickly and sufficiently, no complaints.
academic preparation	
	None
language preparation	
	None
finances	



Although the Erasmus grant would make you think that Malta is cheap, I found that it was not. The overall prices are the same as in the Netherlands, but especially groceries are extremely expensive here. I spend between 300-400 euros every month, while I spend about 150 euros in the Netherlands per month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed the courses reporting 1, intercultural communications, social media in the 21th century, media law and ethics in the media within the communications department.

academic quality of education activities

I found the quality to be a lot lower than at UU. It is a lot less academic, you are not required to do any homework and the content of the courses is not very challenging. The classes are not very interactive. You simply sit in a room, the lecturer gives you information which you write down, and you go home.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I could go to the international office everyday between 10 and 12. Whenever I had questions, they would try and help me as good as possible. No remarks.

transfer of credits

Not yet applicable as I haven't gotten a transcript of records yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme consists of a tour around the university and some explanation about paperwork. No particular programme from the university, events where all organized by Erasmus.

accommodation

I stayed at the university residence and I would not recommend it to anyone!! The accomodation is way overpriced. You only get a very small room and you have to share a toilet and shower with 10 other people. There is only one tiny kitchen, which is not even a kitchen. It is basically a camping oven with 4 cookingplates on top and a separate sink next to it. Furthermore, the accomodation is far from Sliema and St. Julians which are the area's where all the fun things happen. You are required to take a bus there everytime which, depending upon the traffic, can take between half an hour and two hours. At night, you have to take a taxi back because there is no other option to get home. I would strongly recommend finding a private accomodation in Sliema of Saint Julians as they more central, often a lot cheaper and the quality of the accomodation is 800 times better than the residence.

leisure & culture

Malta is a great country, especially in summer. The sea is very clear and there are a lot of places where you can swim and relax when the sun is shining, which is practically all the time. You can also go diving in a lot of places and the night life is very vibrant. For cultural sights, Malta is also a very good country as it has a rich history. Especially Valletta is worthwhile in this regard.

suggestions/tips

Do not go to the university residence and seriously consider saving an adequate amount of money before departure as life can get very expensive here!

CONCLUSIONS



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

Absolutely! Malta is a very nice country. The weather is amazing, the sights are beautiful and the people very helpful and friendly. The quality of the education might not be the best, but it does give you a different perspective on your study as the units are often more practical than at UU.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2014-2015

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

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	23 / 09 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I think it is important to start the application process early, because it can take some time to get certain documents signed. The process is a lot of work, but not difficult and if you start on time you'll be fine. For me it was difficult to look up which classes I wanted to follow, I had no idea where to look everything up, but just try out the website of their university and email some staff for explanation if needed. If necessary, it's not that difficult either to make some changes to your learning agreement while you are already there.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The meeting was really helpful, especially to talk with someone who went to Malta last year and to be able to ask some questions. I didn't really need more support, but if I would have needed it I think the Erasmus coordinators are of great help.

academic preparation

I concern my first 2 years of bachelor as academic preparation.

language preparation

In highschool half of my classes were in English and I passed the English IB level C2 exam. Also, most of my books for Psychology in Utrecht are in English so was used to reading in English, so I didn't need any more preparation.

finances

I combined the money earned from work, the DUO grant and the ERASMUS grant and this was enough to be able to live in Malta for 4 months. Malta is quite cheap, most things are cheaper than in The Netherlands. The only thing really expensive was my accommodation.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



The content of my study program was really interesting and variable. The negative point is the organization, which is quite bad. For example, the first week we were there we were not even sure if our classes already started or not, and some things are not communicated that well or too late. But overall it was better than I expected it to be and no real problems arised.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education was higher than I expected, it was quite similar to what I'm used to in the Netherlands. However, think I was just lucky and just chose the right courses, because I heard from a lot of people that their classes were bad, often cancelled, didn't even cover half of the stuff they were supposed to cover etc.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't need that much support but I find the staff at the university to be very helpful. The only problem sometimes is the organization of everything which is often not very well planned.

transfer of credits

I did not receive any marks or my transfer of credits yet, because it takes some time.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation day is helpful, I loved the campus of the university that you get to see during the campus tour and everything becomes more clear regarding your learning agreement, applications and everything concerning your study. Also, there are a lot of information markets where you can sign up for example for ESN (the erasmus students network that organizes a lot of activities for erasmus students) and to get an idea of all the organizations that you can join. Everyone was overloaded with information, but don't worry because you can always look up the information again somewhere and it will become clear after some time.

accommodation

After reading the erasmus reports of other students, I decided to go live at the University Residence in Lija. That is the best choice I ever made. The price is quite high, about 500 euros per months, and the quality of the flats is not at all worth that price, however the life in the residence is so nice that I am really glad I chose to live in the residence. The residence has a bar, a pool, a tennis and basketball court and a free shuttle to university. The best thing is that there's about 200 people living there from all over the world, you get in contact with everyone really easily and you are never alone. A lot of people's doors are always open and everyone just walks in any place any time. Moreover, lot of activities are organised by everyone and there is free/very cheap transport to Paceville (the place to go out) and everyone goes there together.

leisure & culture

Malta is a beautiful island, the weather is really good and there is a lot to see. The first two weeks I didn't have any lectures yet, so in stead I explored the island and saw a lot of places, cities, cliffs, beaches, did some hikes, etc. Even though the island is actually really small, there is so much to see and to do. You won't get bored.

suggestions/tips

If you go to Malta, go see a lot of different places, do not just go to the same places everytime because there is so much to see!

CONCLUSIONS

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

YES! If you are considering to go to Malta: don't hesitate, just do it! And go live in the University Residence! You



will have the best time of your life. The university is really nice as well, I recommend to get involved with some Maltese classmates, as they are really nice and it can be really helpful and interesting to be friends with a local. You will have friends from the moment you arrive; everyone is so easy and open and the next day you will already lay on the beach together. Try to visit a lot of Malta; since it's a small island, you have the opportunity to visit a lot of places easily and to discover all the different beautiful spots it has. It is a really good opportunity to improve your English, make friends from all over the world and to experience a different country and culture and university.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2014-2015

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

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	1 / 10 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	I was quite late with the application process but I still managed in time to fill in all the paper work. I recommend to start early with the paper work, especially because you need some time to sort out the courses and the website is not the clearest one I know.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	There is an information sheet about counseling you get at the orientation day and I've heard from other people that they do that very well.
academic preparation	I needed no academic preparation for my credits.
language preparation	I didn't do a specific preparation for the language, because Maltese & English are the official languages so it was not necessary. My English was sufficient enough.
finances	



I needed to borrow some money from my parents and I worked in summer to finance my trip.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose different courses from the faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, Digital Arts and Psychology. Even though I chose courses of different faculties, I had no problems with clashing exams/lectures.

academic quality of education activities

I think the quality was very different depending on faculties, but in general I found the quality quite okay. I had some lectures in very small groups where you get a very good support. The lectures with more people were also good.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't receive counseling but the support from the international office was nice. They helped me with some questions.

transfer of credits

I didn't receive all of the credits yet, it should arrive after 1 month when you leave. I don't know how they transfer it.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation day is very nice, you get a nice group and they introduced the buddy system the second semester. They make the most of the practical matters very clear that day.

accommodation

I find this one tricky on Malta. I found a flat on AIRBNB but then I had a fifty year old flatmate and a couple who were only in their rooms. I was alone for one week but after the orientation day I made many friends where I could have chosen to live with them, but I already booked the university residence. The location of the residence is horrible! Everybody says it is nice to live there because they didn't try another place. What else you can do is find the pages on facebook "shared flat in Malta" and "Rent a flat in Malta" and more. The best place to live (between the university and paceville where you always go out) is Sliema/Gzira/Tas-Sliema/StJulians. It is beautiful because you live by the sea and you will make friends anyway, don't worry! And it is cheaper ;)

But if you want friends from the first day, you don't care about throwing away money and you want to meet 200 friends but no privacy and nothing close to you, you can go to the residence. I was so happy that I lived in the flat the first month and had so many experiences and met such different people.

leisure & culture

There is so much to do, especially around summer it's amazing! Festivals, culture, everything. The university also organizes a lot and the ESN as well. We had 2 parties a week for international students and a lot of trips were organized. On facebook they also post about festivals, like the chocolate festival in Hamrun. The people are so nice, it's great if you find some locals to spent time with and see the real Maltese culture. There are so many bonfires, beachnights, parties, festivals. No lack of leisure! The culture is also great, because you see so many influences from the different nations that tried to conquer Malta. There are a lot of museums which are free on certain days.

suggestions/tips



CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes ofcourse! I can't speak about all credits, but if you go for the quality of university that should not be the main reason to come here because the university is not the best of Europe. It is very small and everybody knows eachother. You always find some other students you know on campus, which has a very nice vibe. My overall experience was so amazing, I did so many new things, met so much different people from different countries with extraordinary stories. Also it's very nice that they can all speak very well in English, which is unique for mediterranean countries. There is so much to do like ziplining, watersports, museums, parties, and so on.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't forget the plugs for the british electricity sockets ;) If you want to live outside of the residence, don't hesitate to contact me, I still have friends in Malta who maybe know a nice flat!