



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social Science at the Utrecht University
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	Manhattan, Kansas. United States of America
name host institution and/or company/organization	Kansas State University
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)	08 / 01 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30 / 05 / 2012

preparation

exchange/placement application process

Application process took a long time. I started in januari 2011, so a year before going. During that year you have to spend a lot of time in the application process. A lot of selections and deadlines where I had to deal with. Searching for the right university was very very difficult, because there were a lot of university which I could choose. But there was nobody who helps you with making the right choice. You have to do a lot of things by yourself. In the beginning it was difficult, but at the end I think I learned a lot from it. If you really want to study abroad, all the work is worth it.

counselling/support at home university

Support at my home university was almost not there. You have to find a university all by yourself and that's a really difficult thing to do. There are so many universities and you have to search for each university if they have the right courses for you. Sometimes you cannot find it or is it difficult to find. So it took a long time. It would be better if there are people who could give me information about some countries and the universities in it.

academic preparation

The preparation was really good. When I finally found a university and my application process was finished, we had a meeting with other students who went to America and a academic specialist in America. They gave us a lot of information to prepare well. How to travel there and common cultural things we had to know.

language preparation

My study Cultural Anthropology is most of the time in English, so for me there was no problem in speaking and reading skills. Only writing sometimes. For other non-english speaking countries there were language courses.

finances

I had to give a financial statement to go to America. For my university because they want to know if I have enough money to go. And for the American embassy to get my Visa. I spend a lot of money, finally more than expected, but it was worth it for sure;)

study/placement abroad period

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

When I came in Manhattan, KS, I first had one week introduction. I could take a lot courses in America so I had a full study programme for the rest of the semester.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The academic quality is variable. Some courses were very difficult and a lot of reading work. Other courses were pretty easy. I think in general the quality is little lower than in Netherlands, that's why I could take more courses.



counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Kansas State University helped me very well. During the first orientation week, we learned a lot of things and they helped us with everything. With applying for the courses, making school cards, buying books, looking for a room or something else etc. I also came in contact with other students pretty fast, that was amazing. It was a really good program. They gave us a mentor who could help you the whole semester if there was something wrong. Organisation was perfect!
transfer of credits
I think the transfer of the credits is not fair. Normally in Netherlands you take 4 courses a semester to get 30 ECTS points. In America I took 5 courses in a semester, but I couldn't do more than that because that would be too intense the finish all courses. Now I have 14 Credits, which is here probably not 30 ECTS points, but around 26 I think. I worked hard for the courses and it is than very disappointed if you don't get the credits you wish for.
student life
welcome/orientation programme
Orientation programme was perfect. I knew the environment and really nice people within a week. It was amazing to meet all those people, they made my semester perfect. During the orientation programme they helped us with everything we needed.
accommodation
I found before I went to Manhattan already a room on campus. There was also a option to live on campus in the dorms, but this was cheaper so I took this option. I was lucky that my room was also on campus so I was close to everything. I my housemates were really fun.
leisure/culture
I had to use to the culture very much. I thought it would be more similar like our culture in Netherlands. But that was not true. It was totally different. But I really loved it to see something else and learn from it. That was fascinating and so much fun.
suggestions/tips
I really recommend everybody to do something like taking courses or an internship in an other country for a long time. It is a really good experience and you learn a lot from it. It was the best time of my life so far!
conclusions
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes for sure. It is a small town in the middle of Kansas. Kansas is not really an exited state, but that was what I liked. Because it was so small and there were no tourists or something you experience a real American culture. That was so amazing. And the state was also perfect for travelling, because it is in the middle of the USA, you can travel in any direction.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go studying abroad because it's the best time of your life!!