



Université Toulouse 1 Capitole

2019-2020

| PREPARATION | |
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| exchange application process | The deadline to apply for an exchange is the 1 st of december, so I had to apply more than a year before actually going on exchange. After being nominated to go to Toulouse I didn't receive any information from the university about how to complete my application. The international office in Utrecht wasn't very helpful when it came to that and I had to figure out who to contact at UT1 by myself. In the end everything worked out, but it wasn't always clear what you had to do. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University | At first the support of Utrecht University was really good. However, the information they gave me wasn't always right. Before the application they told me that my VWO diploma was enough to proof that my level of French was B2, but it turned out that this wasn't enough and I found out about that one month before the application deadline in Toulouse for which you had to upload a language certificate. This is something that in my opinion the international office of Utrecht University should have known. The walk-in hours of the International Office were great, because they could immediately provide you with the information you needed. |
| academic preparation | After studying law in Utrecht for 3,5 years I didn't feel like I needed a lot of academic preparation and that turned out to be true. |
| language preparation | I took french courses in high school for 6 years and passed two DELF exams (level A2 en B1). However, to go to UT1 you need level B2 and you need a certificate to prove that. I took the TCF in october and without any real preparation my french level was B2/C1. I tried to watch some french series on netflix and read the french news on Le Monde. |
| finances | The prices in Toulouse are really comparable to Utrecht, both for food/drinks as for your rent. My room was a bit more expensive than my room in Utrecht, but there are rooms available for the same price as in Utrecht. Besides that you receive an erasmus grant which is 300 euros a month. |

| (interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| welcome & orientation programme | |
| study programme (content and organisational issues) | I can't write anything at welcome & orientation programme so I will put that here. UT1 organized a welcome coffee at the end of the first week and this was the first welcome and only welcome activity organized by the university. There were only 25 people so that wasn't a lot, but I already met some nice people. However, there are much more international students in Toulouse, but because there are 3 universities and lots of other schools you don't meet them at events organized by UT1. That's why I would really recommend going to the welcome week that is organized by ESN the last two weeks of january. This is a great way to meet lots of new people. ESN also organises several activities during the semester, but I would mainly recommend the welcome week. |



The study programme is really different than in Utrecht. You have the same courses during the whole semester (4,5 months) and all courses are 3/4 ECTS. This means that you have to take a lot of courses at the same time, I had to go to uni 20 hours a week in order to receive 23 ECTS (I didn't need 30 ECTS, because I went abroad in my 4th year). Besides that you can sign up for CM (lectures) and TD (small group sessions). You aren't obligated to sign up for TD's and they don't really recommend it for international students, unless you are really fluent in french, because the level is much higher and they don't take into account that you are an international student.

The examcommission needs descriptions of all the courses you take in France. However, those aren't available and they aren't easy to get. The international office in Toulouse isn't helpful when it comes to this. You have to go to all your professors and ask them to send you a description. Some professors don't want to do this at first, so you have to be really persistent.

Also applying for courses is really different. You can't apply for courses before you go on exchange. In Toulouse you can try all the courses during the first two weeks and after those two weeks you have to submit an application form. At first I thought this was quite strange, but it is actually a nice way to find out which courses you like (especially since there are no course descriptions) and which professors are good to understand (some have very strong accents or dialects)

2018-2019

| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| The deadline for the application is the 30 th of November. There are some documents you need to have and to make to university sign. So at least a month in advance to have the time to collect all the things you need for the application. The application itself is on Osiris and is really easy. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| The support of Utrecht University is great. I called them a few times and they gave me all the answers right away. They are only open a few hours a week, so keep in mind to call on the good days and hours. (IEO: you can always e-mail or call us during normal office hours (Monday to Friday from 9-17h) We host walk-in hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 15h until 16h30) |
| academic preparation |
| The university requires that you make your 'Study Plan'. Just make sure you get the ECTS you need before leaving and that you don't have any exams in Holland during your stay abroad. I, myself, needed to pass 30 ECTS in France. I strongly advice against that. UT1 is not organised at all and just doesn't care about erasmus students, so there is always something that goes wrong. So when you need all the ECTS that can make it stressfull and annoying. |
| language preparation |
| I am a bilingual, so I did the language test when I received it without any problems. I know that for France a certain level (I think B1) is required. So make sure you have a good basic knowledge, because the language test is just a few weeks before you start and if you don't pass it you might have a problem. |
| finances |
| For France you need the same amount of money as you need in Holland. So if you have the same income/loan as in Holland there is no problem at all (and you have even more because you get the grant). A lot of people are travelling while staying abroad. I used my grant for all the trips I made. I would recommand to save some money for all those travels or like me use your grant for this purpose. |



| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD | |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) | In the first week you have to choose your classes etc. This is really hard. You need exactly 30 ECTS, a lot of courses can't be chosen because you already did them, and you don't want to have too much overlap in your classes. It took me at least two whole days to fix everything. You miss all the first classes because you don't have a schedule yet. |
| academic quality of education activities | The academic quality of the university was fine. It's different to what we are used to in Holland, but that makes it more fun. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad | I had maybe some bad luck, but this was real shit at UT1. In January the woman who was in charge of all the incoming students (and didn't speak French (!!!) for me that was not a problem, but a lot of my friends had to ask French speaking people with them to help them) said so many things I had to rely on and then 4 months later it turned out everything she said was not true. I had some problems because of it. Besides, there are no deadlines and they are so late with everything. I heard 5 days in advance that I had two exams in April while they told me they would be in mid-May. So just one big tip: never rely on them. |
| transfer of credits | Normally this must be oke. UU accepted all my courses and credits. UT1 has to transfer them definitely in July, but I can't tell how this went because I had to fill in this file before July. |

| STUDENT LIFE | |
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| welcome & orientation programme | ESN is the big erasmus organisation in Toulouse. Somewhere mid-January they organised a welcome week. I was already here for 3 weeks so I already knew people. But if you are totally new it is a really nice way to know people. The University itself only organised a little gathering after two weeks. It was also a nice way to learn people. |
| accommodation | I asked the university to find me a place to stay. They gave me a room in a residence (Arsenal) and for an erasmus it's perfect. It's really cheap (especially when you have the CAF (go for it, because it's easy and 85 euros a month!) and if you stay in Arsenal the location is amazing. I was close to everything (school, city center, bars, parc, supermarket). The only thing about Arsenal is that you don't live with other people (you can be lucky and have some friends on your floor, but almost everyone I knew didn't have that). If you want to live with other people you have to look for a 'collocation'. Toulouse is an expensive city to live, so the rooms are always 400+ (unless if you have some luck of course). If you are placed in one of the other residences you should reconsider it, because those are far and it's always annoying when you have to get home after a night out. |
| leisure & culture | Toulouse is an amazing city. The city center is full of nice bars, restaurants, museums, etc. I did a lot of (day)trips while staying here. In the winter I went skiing in the Pyrenees (Skirail (for 44 euros train and skipass included)). And when the weather became better I went visiting a lot of places around the city. I also did with friends some mini-holidays (5 days) to Barcelona, Bordeaux, San Sebastian and Bilbao and a skiweekend. ESN also organises some activities: two times a weekend away, some day-trips, parties, language exchanges, food evenings. I, myself, didn't do a lot of things with ESN, but I think you can have a lot of fun with them. |
| suggestions/tips | |



The people love to be out(side). Place St-Pierre is the student 'square' with a lot of bars. But in Carmes and Esquirol are the really nice bars. The 'stairs' at St-Pierre are always crowded. Even in the winter people went there to enjoy a beer with the nicest view of Toulouse. Same for La Daurade. In the summer I would really recommend 'Prairie des Filtres'.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. Except the fact that the International Office is not reliable I would totally recommend this city. The atmosphere in the city is great, the mountains but also the sea/ocean is are pretty closeby, there are a lot of things to do, the people are great. Just do it!!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

This part of the process started very early, in december 2017 I had to submit documents as, curriculum vitae and a motivation letter. I took the time to figure out my destinations and made a top 3. (1: Toulouse, 2: Paris, 3: Strasbourg)

Start on time with this application, in order to combine this with your normal study work.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

After the application in took a while before everything was revised. When I heard I was selected to go to Toulouse, I was very enthusiastic. Little did I know, it took so much work to arrange everything. My overall experiences with the counseling and support at Utrecht University was rather unsatisfied. For me, it was very unclaeer when I had to fill in/upload forms. I went to the international office frequently and called them several times (contact was easily accesible), but the answers I got where vague in general, such as: "not neccessary now, you will hear about this later." The administative work lasted for a long time; even shortly before departure and during my mobility. My friend, who also went to Toulouse and whose home university is Wageningen University, was able to arrange everything a couple of months before departure and helped me a lot during this preparation.

I strongly advise you to visit the international office and don't go away before you got all the answers to your questions. Indicate your opinion about the procedure/your support/the counseling, maybe this will be taken into account. (Once, I sent an e-mail about the last minute work, that frustrated me).

academic preparation

The courses I wanted to follow, were mostly political sience courses. I didn't do a lot of extra academic preparation, because I already was interested in this field and followed the news/politics.

language preparation

The teaching language at the law faculty of Université Toulouse Capitole 1 (shortly: UT1) is French. Make sure you try to improve your French before your departure. I had 6 year's french courses at high school. I revised the grammar, watched French series (such as 'Marseille') and read some newspapers/books. Don't be afraid concerning your French level before departure. You will improve your linguistic skills during the mobility. Make sure you register for a French course during your mobility. You can get ECTS for these courses and they are very helpful.

finances



The prices in Toulouse are comparable with Utrecht (groceries/shopping/alcohol). However, the rent of your student room can be high (if you have to find it privately). I changed my DUO-loan in order to cover these extra-costs.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was very different compared with the UU. 4 months and filled with courses of 3/4 ECTS. In order to get 30 points you have to follow a lot of courses in a short time. The courses you take are filled with CM's (cours magistraux= lecture) and TD's (travaux dirigés = small group session). The TD's are NOT mandatory and I don't recommend to take them if you don't speak French fluently. (I heard that you have to do a lot of homework and are treated like a French student). The organisation of your application/your inscription of your courses is very vague and unclear: It's the typical French 'bureaucracy'. The international has changing opening hours and you have to speak French. Make sure you visit the International office frequently and ask every question you have (don't leave until you got your answers/documents/signatures). This is very frustrating, but it will all work out in the end.

The biggest struggle I had, was the description of the courses I followed. The exam-commission needed these descriptions, but they were not available at the receiving institution. Contact the exam commission at the UU to ask what they need of you, communicate with the receiving institution about the possibilities to receive these descriptions.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of education activities were good. UT1 is specialised in international law and political science. The professors knew a lot about their subjects and the courses were specific and profound. At the UU, I am a bachelor student, but I was able to follow and pass Master courses. I estimate that the level of education is a little bit lower, because you literally need to learn what the professor says in class. (therefore, no additional books/text and no critical view)

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

See:organisational issues.

transfer of credits

I did not receive my transcript of records yet, so I cannot give my experiences on this topic. However I do think I passed a lot of courses , according to the reactions of the professors after the oral exams. (general way of exams there)

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I attended a welcome week. The welcome was well organised and was very helpful to get to know the university. It was not a very 'fun' welcome week. We had a lot of introducing courses about the university and French law. I advise to go to this week, because some important information was given and you immediately get to meet some international students. Later I attended some activities of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN): these activities are super fun and permit you to meet a lot of internationals.

accommodation

Finding accommodations was not very easy, but I managed to find a room 10 minutes biking from my university. Everyone I knew was able to find a place to stay on time. The receiving institution has several places residences, but randomly gives these spots to international students. I think only 50 percent of the erasmus students got a place at a campus, the other people had to find a room privately. To find a room privately, you can use:



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| Bubbleflat/ Appartager.com/ la carte des colocs. |
| leisure & culture |
| Toulouse is a real student city. There are multiple universities. As a result, you can find different associations, bars and activities for students. The ESN organises a lot of fun activities to get to know other internationals and the city. Besides that, you can explore the beautiful museums and cathedrals of the city. The city is situated in between the Garonne (place to chill in the summer/ have some drinks) and the Canal du Midi (perfect running/biking spot). On top of that, you can easily visit some places in the region: Carcassonne/ Albi/ Montpellier/ the Pyrenees. |
| suggestions/tips |
| Courses to follow: Contentieux International/ Droit prive Comparé. (very clear and easy to follow) Take part in activities of the ESN/ visit events organised by the city. Visit museums for free with your student card. Enjoy the city: go exploring! (great restaurants/ bars/ clubs/ nature/ architecture) |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| Besides all the administrative work, I really recommend this destination! Toulouse is a beautiful city and very student friendly. The summer is amazing and the culture in the South of France is very relaxed. The university has great courses and you will definitely improve your French skills. You will meet a lot of other international students and I am sure you will have an amazing experience here! |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| / |

2017-2018

| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| Het proces om je aan te melden voor de uitwisseling was aan het begin nog een beetje nieuw en ongrijpbaar, maar met behulp van de International Office en de informatie online, was het goed te doen. Voor mij was de keuze niet moeilijk. Ik wilde graag naar Frankrijk, en Toulouse had mijn voorkeur omdat het geen al te grote stad is, lekker in het zuiden van Frankrijk ligt, en het een echte studentenstad is. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Ik vond de steun en hulp van de International Office erg fijn en duidelijk. Ik kreeg altijd snelle en heldere antwoorden op mijn mailtjes. |
| academic preparation |
| Ik had twee jaar van mijn rechtenstudie er al opzitten. Dat was dus mijn academische voorbereiding, en voldoende voor het niveau aan de universiteit in Toulouse. |
| language preparation |
| Ik heb zes jaar Frans gehad op de middelbare school en in het jaar voordat ik wegging heb ik nog een talencursus gevolgd bij de 'Alliance Française'. Dit was op B2.2 niveau. |



finances

Ik heb veel gespaard en gewerkt voordat ik wegging. Daarnaast had ik me aangemeld voor de Erasmusbeurs en mijn lening een beetje opgeschroefd.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Ik had eerstejaars rechtenvakken gekozen en één tweedejaars rechtenvak. Hier kwam heel veel organisatorisch gedoe bij kijken. Alles was onduidelijk. Bovendien waren de vakken maar 4 ECTS waard, dus je moest een stuk of 7 of 8 vakken kiezen. Ook bleek dat het niet gebruikelijk was voor Erasmusstudenten om werkgroepen te kiezen, die een apart vak waren en 2 ECTS waard waren. Iedereen moest dus zijn learning agreement wijzigen en het ondertekenen daarvan was ook chaotisch en duurde veel te lang. Frans en efficiëntie is geen combinatie. Dit staat nog los van al het administratieve gedoe als het gaat om het zoeken van een huis, het ondertekenen van het contract, het openen van een bankaccount om een woonverzekering aan te vragen, het aanvragen van huursubsidie etc. De universiteit was hier niet behulpzaam in.

academic quality of education activities

Ik ben niet onder de indruk van het academische niveau aan deze universiteit. Aangezien ik geen werkgroepen volgde, heb ik waarschijnlijk wel een vertekend beeld, want het enige dat ik heb meegemaakt is hoorcolleges. De leraar dicteerde letterlijk de stof en de studenten typten dit als zombies over. Er werd totaal geen verdieping aangereikt en de studenten werden niet aangezet tot nadenken. De stof van deze hoorcolleges was de gehele toetsstof, er waren geen studieboeken. De tentamens waren ook erg oppervlakkig. De tentamens waren mondeling en er werd slechts oppervlakkige kennis getest, totaal geen toepassing van het recht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Ongeorganiseerde en chaotische International Office aan deze universiteit. Ik kwam altijd naar buiten met meer vragen dan waarmee ik binnenkwam.

transfer of credits

Is nog niet gebeurd. Ik hoop dat het goed gaat.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

De ESN vereniging organiseert veel leuke uitjes, feestjes en tripjes. Ik heb hele leuke vriendinnen ontmoet.

accommodation

Het is lastig om hier woonruimte te vinden. Ik heb uiteindelijk een studio gevonden in een studentenresidentie via Toul'Box, een bemiddelaarskantoor voor internationale studenten. Ik ben niet tevreden over mijn accommodatie. Ik betaal 570 euro per maand (excl. elektriciteit, wat neerkomt op 30 euro p.m.) voor een ongezellige kamer in een residentie waar iedereen langs elkaar leeft. Er is geen gemeenschappelijke ruimte en de administratie en het papierwerk dat erbij komt kijken om hier te kunnen wonen, is uit verhouding.

leisure & culture

Toulouse is een superleuke studentenstad. Er is veel te doen en te zien en ook de omgeving heeft veel te bieden.

suggestions/tips

Vind een studentenhuus met Franse huisgenoten! Zo leer je Frans en voel je je niet alleen. Er zijn Facebook pagina's waar studentenkamers worden aangeboden. Is echt de moeite waard! Wees ook actief met ESN en doe met alles mee. Geniet ervan! Je moet ook zeker reisjes maken naar bijv. de Pyreneeën, Montpellier of



Bordeaux. Er is veel te zien in Toulouse zelf en in de omgeving.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Toulouse is een geweldige studentenstad, dus die raad ik sowieso aan. Maar de administratie in heel Frankrijk is gewoon niet zoals in Nederland, waarschijnlijk niet alleen in mijn universiteit. Wees daarop voorbereid en stress niet teveel, want uiteindelijk wordt het altijd wel geregeld. Mijn universiteit vond ik niet top, maar het zal waarschijnlijk ook verschillen per studie. Misschien dat economie al beter is dan rechten. De locatie van de universiteit is wel goed.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Vooral samenwonen met Franse huisgenoten! Verder genieten van je tijd hier en veel leuke dingen doen.

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Applying for an exchange with UT1 Capitole was horrible. The head of their international office didn't reply to my emails en didn't provide me with any information. I also couldn't get her to sign my learning agreement before I arrived. They don't speak any English as well to furthermore complicate the communication. In the end I just went there and after a month she finally signed my learning agreement. The exchange application process caused me a lot of stress and frustration.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was very helpful and understanding towards the situation. Although I expected that they had more experience in dealing with the head of the international office in Toulouse since this seemed to be a problem for years. But also for them it was hard to get in touch with her and demand information.

academic preparation

I didn't prepare on my classes, firstly because it was not needed for the courses and secondly because in Toulouse you pick your courses after your arrival so it is not even possible to prepare academically.

language preparation

I did a course at Babel in Utrecht, I didn't find it very useful since you don't get to talk a lot. I also went to a France teacher for 1 on 1 lessons, those were very useful because we just focused on speaking and less on grammar. I would definitely recommend focusing more on speaking since it makes you more confident in speaking, you can study the grammar after that.

finances

I didn't really prepare this actually.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



In the first two weeks you can go to any class just to see wich ones you like, after two weeks you pick your courses and go on with them. I chose 6 courses: 4 firstyear courses, 1 master course of competition law in English and a French languagecourse. Competition Law was the only course available in English, all the other courses were in French.

academic quality of education activities

The system in France is very different from the Dutch. For the firstyear courses I only had lectures (hoorcolleges) where the professor just talked 1,5 hours straight without a powerpoint. There was no interaction with the students and therefore in my opinion very boring. For each cours I had 3 hours a week of lecture. The mastercourse was more interactive, we also had to give presentations and ask questions. The level was not very high in my opinion, I followed an economy course and the subjects we covered were similar to basic highschool economy in the Netherlands. The more juridical courses were very factual and not open to interpretation.

For Dutch people learning French this is how I expeirienced learning the language: In de eerste maanden had ik erg veel moeite om de colleges te volgen. Ik had slechts hoorcolleges waarbij de docent anderhalfuur onafgebroken een monoloog hield in het Frans zonder powerpoint. Om dit te kunnen volgen moet je echt over een hoog niveau Frans beschikken, ik zat bij aanvang volgens de OLS languagetest op niveau B1. Ik schreef me daarom ook in voor de Frans cursus B1. Na een aantal lessen heb ik er echter voor gekozen om

naar niveau A2 te gaan. Dit om twee redenen: ten eerste vond ik het niveau toch behoorlijk hoog en ten tweede vond ik de docent verschrikkelijk, omdat zij iedereen constant het gevoel gaf dat je geen fouten mocht maken. Ik was daardoor bang om te spreken en dan heeft het totaal geen zin. Bij niveau A2 had ik gelukkig wel een super aardige docent waarbij ik mij wel op mijn gemak voelde. Ook organiseerde de Universiteit conversatieklasjes waar iedereen naartoe kon om 3 uur per week te praten met een lerares en andere studenten, ook hier had ik heel veel aan.

Inmiddels kan ik me behoorlijk goed redden in het Frans, wel denk ik dat dit nog een stuk beter had gekund indien ik Franse vrienden had gemaakt. Waar ik van te voren enorm bang voor was gebeurde uiteindelijk toch want onder de Erasmusstudenten werd vrijwel uitsluitend Engels gesproken en vrienden maken met Franse studenten bleek een stuk lastiger dan gehoopt.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Most professors were kind to Erasmus Students and they really wanted to help to let you pass your courses. The contact with professors is way more formal than it is in the Netherlands though. The international Office was horrible as I said before, very unwelcoming and not helpful. The good thing is that all the students have the same problems with the administration and the students are very helpful to eachother so in the end you figure everything out together and it will be all fine.

transfer of credits

To transfer your credits you have to get a description of all your courses. Not all are available online so you have to e-mail the professors and ask if they can give a description and sign. Unfortunately some didn't respond to our e-mails.



| STUDENT LIFE | |
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| welcome & orientation programme | |
| | The Erasmus Students Network (ESN) organised a lot of activities in the second week on february. The activities were a good way to get to know the city and to meet a lot of people. I really enjoyed it. They also organised a ski-trip in the third weekend, unfortunately I couldn't attend due to other obligations but my friends told me that it was very nice. |
| accommodation | |
| | Because my accommodation was only available from february I spent the first 3 weeks at another residence. It was about 30 minutes by bike from my university but the rooms were fine and it wasn't expensive. After that I transferred to the campus next to the university wich is in the center of the city. The rooms are 9m2 (toilet and shower incl.) and you share a kitchen with the other persons living on your hall. I liked the residence because of the location. |
| leisure & culture | |
| | I loved Toulouse for this. Toulouse is a great city to go to because there are so many (Erasmus) students and there is always something to do. It is a very good place for going out. Toulouse is also a beautifull city with some nice churches and meseums. Another thing that makes Toulouse a great place for doing your Erasmus is that you have the ability to make a lot of trips. I went to Bordeaux, Montpellier, The beach, skiing, Carcasonne and the countryside. You can also take a bus to Barcelona and there are cheap flights to madrid. |
| suggestions/tips | |
| | Try not to get too frustrated by all the administrative work, it's all worth it! In the end you will be able to solve everything. |

| CONCLUSIONS | |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain | |
| | Toulouse is a great city to live in, it is easy to make friends and a great way to learn the language and get the know the French culture. If you are planning an Erasmus mainly for studying I would not recommend Toulouse because the level is not very high and there is no interaction during classes. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? | |
| | Although it is pretty hard: Try to make French friends! |



| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| The application process wasn't too difficult. Collecting and handingt in all the documents took some time but the way to obtain these documents was described very well by the Utrecht University, just follow the steps. After being nominated by the Utrecht University it did however take some time to get a response from the receiving institution. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| Was good. Had some meetings on how to apply etc. At my end there was no real need for counselling; everything went smoothly. |
| academic preparation |
| I didn't really prepare academically. From a document provided to me by the receiving institution I picked some courses that seemed interesting but as soon as I arrived I switched some courses without a problem |
| language preparation |
| I didn't really prepare enough but as soon as you arrive in France you'll start learning the language. If you don't have enough time to prepare the language, don't worry, you'll learn it soon enough. If you do however have some time, I would advise to take some lessons. |
| finances |
| I didn't really save up for my exchange. I bumped up my loan from the government a bit and had nu further financial issues. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| <p>To be honest, the university is a real mess. The woman from the international desk was known for never replying to emails, not answering the phone and not being very helpful. The way you are supposed to enlist for courses is very, very incomprehensible but with enough help from fellow students you might pull it of.</p> <p>The courses itself were enjoyable and interesting. I would advise the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction au Droit Prive - Introduction Historique a l'etude de Droit - Histoire de la societe francaise <p>Note that all the law courses are examined orally, but the courses from other faculties can also be examined by written exam. I picked some courses of another faculty as well, assuming all the exams would be oral. Be careful when picking your courses.</p> <p>A big difference to me compared to Utrecht is the amount of lectures per week. Every course has two lectures per week of 1.5 hour. You don't really have to do a lot of stuff at home but I had at least two lectures per day.</p> |
| academic quality of education activities |
| The academic quality isn't that good but the language was difficult enough for me. Make sure to get some notes |



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| from a french-speaking classmate to study. It is very hard - especially in the beginning - to keep up with the lectures. The teacher uses no powerpoints and there is no room for questions. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| As I said, unfortunately very poor. No responses to mails and the people at the international office didn't really seem to care about the international students, sometimes even being rude. |
| transfer of credits |
| At the time of writing my credits haven't been transfered yet. |

| STUDENT LIFE |
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| welcome & orientation programme |
| We had a week were some of the procedural stuff was explained. Unfortunately there were no social activities. |
| accommodation |
| I stayed in the Cite Unversitaire Chapou. This is a cheap place to stay offered by the University. You have your own room and can choose to either have your own kitchen or share it. I chose to share it to get some more social interaction |
| leisure & culture |
| How disappointed I was in the University, how delighted I was by the city. Toulouse is lovely, especially in the summer, when everyone is always outside, this creates a beautiful ambiance. |
| suggestions/tips |
| <p>For the night:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cool small club in a boat called Cri de la Mouette. The boat is situated in le Canal de Brienne and they play a host a wide range of artists, from techno to disco to hip hop. - In the Rue Pargaminieres, there is a small bar where they sell a wide range of beers. This was a bar that reminded me of "special beer" cafes in Utrecht - Bikini is the most infamous club of Toulouse, definitely advice to go there more than once. - Most of the time just enjoy a simple night at the Garonne, bringing your own beers and some food. <p>During the day just stroll through the city, visit for example the Musee des Augustins or the Cathedrale Saint-Etienne. One of my favourite squares was Place St. George</p> |

| CONCLUSIONS |
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| would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain |
| If you're studying law, you're not that good in French and you want to focus on your studies, I would not recommend going to Toulouse. The lectures without powerpoints are really hard to follow but the content itself isn't that challenging. If you want to improve your French and are looking to do more than just study I would advise going to Toulouse. |
| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
| |



PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process wasn't too difficult. Collecting and handing in all the documents took some time but the way to obtain these documents was described very well by the Utrecht University, just follow the steps. After being nominated by the Utrecht University it did however take some time to get a response from the receiving institution.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Was good. Had some meetings on how to apply etc. At my end there was no real need for counselling; everything went smoothly.

academic preparation

I didn't really prepare academically. From a document provided to me by the receiving institution I picked some courses that seemed interesting but as soon as I arrived I switched some courses without a problem

language preparation

I didn't really prepare enough but as soon as you arrive in France you'll start learning the language. If you don't have enough time to prepare the language, don't worry, you'll learn it soon enough. If you do however have some time, I would advise to take some lessons.

finances

I didn't really save up for my exchange. I bumped up my loan from the government a bit and had no further financial issues.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

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The courses itself were enjoyable and interesting. I would advise the following:

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- Introduction Historique a l'etude de Droit
- Histoire de la societe francaise

Note that all the law courses are examined orally, but the courses from other faculties can also be examined by written exam. I picked some courses of another faculty as well, assuming all the exams would be oral. Be careful when picking your courses.

A big difference to me compared to Utrecht is the amount of lectures per week. Every course has two lectures per week of 1.5 hour. You don't really have to do a lot of stuff at home but I had at least two lectures per day.

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| do you have any additional advice or comments? |
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2015-2016

| PREPARATION |
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| exchange application process |
| (Two things in France will always go wrong: administration and organisation. Keep this in account at all times). The proces at UU is good and clear. The thing is that the french international office (IO) is not always able to give up to date information. Don't stress about this because this is also the reason it is no big deal if you yourself are too late with providing documents. Still I would recommand to get your stuff together soon, just to make sure everything will go smoothly. And you will have the opportunity to live in a studentsdorm. |
| counselling & support at Utrecht University |
| The UU IO is always supportive and will try to give the answers. When you have a problem, calling is the best option. |
| academic preparation |
| For me my Erasmus experience was an extra year, so I didn't do any acadamic preparation. |
| language preparation |
| Officially you will need a document that says that your level is B2 french or english. In the end I never had to show mine (which was a semi-official document (my french was definitely not B2), but I think a B1 level is sufficient. If your level is lower than this, you will have the same problems as me. Because you will meet a lot of internationals who do not speak french that good, the major part will switch to english. Especcially when your own french is not that good, you will follow in this bad habit and in the end your french will not improve that much. I think when you start with a B1 level, you can manage to evade situations like this and really improve your language skill. |
| finances |
| Erasmus will give you something like 270 euro a month. In France you can ask for CAF (huurtoeslag), which provide you with 30 % of your rentmoney. |

| STUDY ABROAD PERIOD |
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| study programme (content and organisational issues) |
| The education system in France is radical different if you compare it to the dutch system. Although I liked my subjects, i cannot say I like the way of teaching. The proffessor will just come in, say "bonjour", opens his book and starts reading out loud. The students will write exactly what he/she will say, like the monks in the Middle-Ages. Not my kind of education, but that is personal. |
| academic quality of education activities |
| Although I didn't like the system, I learned a lot. |
| counselling & support at receiving university abroad |
| The IO is the place you don't want to spend a lot of time, but if you're unlucky, you are. |
| transfer of credits |
| In every european country the ECTS system is active, so there will be no difficulties with the transfer of credits. |



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN in Toulouse is great and active! A lot of activities will be organised by the crew and they will give you the opportunity to meet a lot of new people. The only "bad" thing about this, is that you don't meet a lot of french people (language!).

accommodation

Try to be the first with finishing all the documents before you go. This way you can guarantee that you will have a room when you arrive. If you're not that fast, you will have to stay in a hostel until you've found something (Auberge de Jeunesse Saint Sernin f.e.). You'll have a great time here, but it is not the best option.

leisure & culture

Toulouse is the best student city of France. It's not just me who is saying this, but also the "experts" agreed on this. It is almost impossible to not have a great student life, with loads of bars (St Pierre, Jean Jaures, Arnaud Bernard), cultural support from the gouvernement (theatre and concerts for free or reduced price) and great museums for a nice price/free. Maybe the best thing about the Pink City is that you can start in swimsuit, hanging at the pool and finish wearing your new hat when you are skiing down the slopes in the Pyrenees. Bottomline: you will never get bored in Toulouse.

suggestions/tips

Besides exploring the city and the area, you should try to explore yourself. By that I don't mean any floaty hippie talk. I'm just trying to say that you should try different things with different people than you are used to. Now is the chance to do the things you've always wanted but never had time for.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, with no doubt. Toulouse will never disappoint you. Loads of chances to learn, party, sport or make art, will be waiting for you just around every corner. Do not hesitate any longer. You've got nothing Toulouse (the silly wordplay used by the ESN, but it is true).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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