



University of Warsaw

2019-2020

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	It is quite a lot of work to get all of the necessary documents before even applying to your host university. Once you have applied to University of Warsaw you will have to complete an online application form there as well, it is not a lot of work though.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	In the second year you can attend an information evening, in which a lot concerning the exchange will be explained. Additionally, everyone will receive a document which explains everything step by step. This was very helpful.
academic preparation	
	I didn't have to do any academic preparation. For the courses I followed I didn't have to buy any books, everything was provided online. For one course (Polish Constitutionalism) I even received a free book, provided by the University of Warsaw.
language preparation	
	I already spoke Polish and English fluent so I did do any language preparation, however, you can apply for a crash course of Polish which you can follow before the semester starts. I would strongly recommend it, because that's how most of my friends met each other. Additionally, it can be handy since not everyone in Warsaw speaks English, especially the older generation.
finances	
	Overall, Warsaw is cheaper than the Netherlands, especially groceries (I would recommend the Biedronka it's very cheap and they have fresh veggies and fruits). However, since I did not work there, and I wouldn't recommend working while being on exchange you will not earn a lot, I did borrow money from DUO.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	There are two time periods in which you can apply for courses, one before the 1 st of October and the second one around the second week of October, so if you apply for a course and you don't like it, you can change it in the second application period. The list of courses for law was very extensive, there were a lot of courses about Polish law as well as international law, criminology and for example Japanese law. My favourite courses were: Law and Religion in Poland (very interesting and a very good professor), Polish Constitutionalism (a lot of interesting guest lectures on the current constitutional crisis in Poland) and Polish Criminal Procedure (again very interesting and we went to a Polish court).
academic quality of education activities	
	The courses are very easy compared to the courses at UU. I barely had any homework except for some reading and I only had one test, for most of the subject I just had to write an essay.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The Erasmus coordinator was very helpful, although you had to mail him before visiting his office and sometimes he would take quite long to respond. I found the support very easy to access.
transfer of credits	



I haven't transferred my credits yet, however, according to my friends it is very easy, you just have to mail your coordinator and he or she will forward you the copy of the transcript.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a very extensive orientation programme with a lot of activities. Additionally, you can join the ESN facebook group and go to their activities, it's a very easy way to make new friends.

accommodation

The dorms of the university are not very nice and some are quite far away from the city centre, I found my room through erasmusu.com . I would highly recommend looking for a room there if you don't want to share a room.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of nice museums and other cultural highlights to visit in Warsaw. Moreover, there are a lot of historical monuments, since Warsaw has a very extensive and interesting history, especially because of the World War II and communism. Some nice places/museums to visit: Warsaw Uprising Museum, Polin Museum, National Museum, Zachęta, Old Town, Łazienki Park, Palace of Culture and Science (go to the top!, it's a great view), the Zoo.

suggestions/tips

Bars: Pawilony, Plan B, PiwPaw Beer Heaven, Loreta Bar, newonce.bar, Cuda Na Kiju, Woda Ognista, FOTON, Warmut, Miejsce Chwila, Swietlica.

Restaurants (dinner): ORZO, Aioli, Hala Koszyki, Hala Gwardi, Setka, Thaisty, Thai me up, SOTO Sushi, Maka i Woda.

Restaurants (brunch/lunch/all day breakfast): The Cool Cat TR, Mr. Pancake, Aioli, Hala Koszyki, Hala Gwardi, Piekarnia Aromat, Bulke przez bibulke, Café Kaka.

Coffee: Coffeedesk Kawiarnia, Relax na Wilczej, Café Kafka, Cukiernia Sowa, Kawa Lyk Sztuki.

Clubs: Miłosc Kredytowa (HipHop and R&B), NITE Sketch (HipHop and R&B), Hydrozagadka (60s up until 00s depending on the night, check their fb events), Smolna (techno 21+), Jasna 1 (techno), Bar Studio, and lastly Mazowiecka is the 'main' street with all the more commercial clubs.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would highly recommend going to Warsaw, it is very cheap, there are a lot of amazing bars, restaurants, coffee places and clubs. Moreover, it is historically speaking a very interesting city and there are a lot of places to visit. The main reason why I loved Warsaw so much is because it is so dynamic and sometimes even chaotic but in a good way, that you will never get bored.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No.

2018-2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process



The application proces is not that difficult. Once you get accepted by the utrecht university, you have to hand in some forms online to the University of Warsaw. Everything was quite clear described in several emails.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I haven't used that much counselling. But in general the support was really good. Emails to the international office are always answered quicly and thorough.
academic preparation
I didn't really feel the need to prepare myself academicy. The courses I took linked a lot to the courses i had in Utrecht
language preparation
On forehand it is not nessecary to take a polish language course. At the university everyone can speak quite well English. During my time in Warsaw I participated in a language course, because it is more fun when you can understand things in the supermarket and order in polish. And also polish can come of way nicer when you can speak a little bit of polish. Otherwise they can act a bit rude.
finances
Live in warsaw is in general quite cheap compared to the netherlands. Especially food and drinks and transport are cheap. It depends on your lifestyle and your accomodation, but for me obligated costs were around 400 euros

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
On forehand it was a bit unclear what courses I could take and how everyhting worked. But during the instruction week this was really well explained and teachers were really helpful. Also you can sign up for several courses and drop them after one of or two weeks if they don't suit you. So i would recommend signign up for a lot for courses and see after the first week you are gonna keep.
academic quality of education activities
In general I would say the quality of the courses was good. Teachers were really passionate and really appreciated active participation in class so this made the seminars quite active and fun. But the workload was easier than in the netherlands. The classed don't need a lot of preparation time and it was not hard to get good grades.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support of the university of warsaw was quite good. During the introduction week a lot of seminars were given on how to adjust to the polish life and how the univerisity worked. The international office was also very open for questions and supportive.
transfer of credits
I haven't transferred my credits yet. But I hope I won't have a problem with that

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The university and ESN together organized an introduction week that lasted 1,5 week. It was really well organized and a lot of fun. During the week there were parties and activities everyday to make you acquainted with the university and the city. It was really exhausting, but I would recommend going to as many activities as possible because this is the best oppportunity to make new friends.
accommodation



I stayed in the dorm from the university. This is really cheap, like 100 euros a month. But it also means the way of living was really basic. You had to share a room with someone and the kitchen facilities were really basic. Also the staff does not really speak english. You can not choose in which dorm you get placed so that can be a disadvantage. A lot of international students live in the dorm. This was nice because I always could go home with people after a party. For me it was fine to live there for half a year. Getting an accomdation in an apartment is also not that difficult in warsaw, many of my friends did this. This would cost you around 300/400 euros.

leisure & culture

The city is really a lot of fun. It is the capital of the city so it is actually really modern. It has a lot of nice bars, restaurants and clubs. In half a year I could not even manage to visit all the different coffee places warsaw has to offer. You could say the city has a really hipster vibe. Especially the praga district is really upcoming. I also really loved the city because of its outlook. It has an old colourfull pretty city center but also a really modern centre and bussiness district. And in between that you can find the grey blocks of flats, that also makes the charm of Poland. Next to this Poland had a quite central location and a cheap airport, so travelling in and outside poland is really easy. Many erasmus students travel through the whole of europe from warsaw, but I would also recommend visiting different cities in Poland. Poland really has a lot of beautiful places like Wroclaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Krakow and the bialowieza forest.

suggestions/tips

Personally I would say that warsaw is more fun during the 2nd semester than in the first because the weather can get quite cold in the winter.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would really recommend Warsaw to go on erasmus. The city really has everything to offer you can imagine. The nightlife is amazing and there are so many great restaurant and coffee places. Also the city is a lot less touristic than for example krakow. Furthermore there are so many students living in warsaw. In think there were around 1000 erasmus students in the city during my semester. So you'll always find enough people to hang out with. There are not that many dutch students, so you can make a lot of international friends.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Half a year goes by really quick so really take out everything you can

2016-2017

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the exchange application process you have to write a motivation letter and a CV for the receiving university. Also you need to have the basic courses of your bachelor.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The Utrecht University helps you a lot with the preperation for the exchange. At the university there are 3 persons who can help you a few hours in the week.

academic preparation

I went in my 4th year of my bachelor, so I had already all my courses of my bachelor program



language preparation
you have to make a english test (I think it was the IELTS test. Not sure

finances
I received an erasmus grant. this helped me a lot. Especially because Poland is quite cheap. My parents gave me money and I saved some money before I went to Poland. I did not work there

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did different kind of courses. I did law courses, because i'm studying law. Next to this, I also followed some economic and political sciences courses
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality of education activities was, in general, a bit lower then in the Netherlands. I followed 7 courses and only 2 of them were difficult. The rest was pretty easy if you compare it with courses of the Univeristy of Warsaw
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	The counselling and support at the University of Warsaw was really good. They were always available. If they were not in their office you could always contact them via email
transfer of credits	I have not a clue

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
accommodation	
leisure & culture	For leisure and culture Warsaw is a good city. But, there is a big difference between warsaw in the winter and warsaw in the summer. In the summer there is a lot more
suggestions/tips	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes, it is cheap and there is a lot to do. In the summer it is even better
do you have any additional advice or comments?	

