

Bogazici University, Istanbul

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The Erasmus website is very clear and helps you with the full application process. Just follow all the right steps on the website and watch the deadlines clearly, then you will be fine
counselling & support at Utrecht University
There are a lot of students willing to help you at your own department or at the Study Abroad Platform. Utrecht University also added a meeting for studying abroad to the program, which was obligatory for all the students, which is in my opinion a good thing.
academic preparation
I had done all my mandatory courses at home already, so I was free to choose whatever I wanted to study abroad. The catalogue of Bogazici University is not updated until the very beginning of the semester, which could be annoying. Therefore, use the last catalogue of the same semester one year ago.
language preparation
The main language I attended classes in was English. You are mostly speaking in English as well. When you followed English courses in secondary school and in university, you are definitely ready for an Erasmus abroad in English. It is a plus if you could speaking some Turkish as well, but you could also take a course Turkish for Foreigners at the university, which I did to learn the basics. This was very helpful to make myself understandable with the locals.
finances
I received an Erasmus grant of 882 euros in total. In addition to that, I worked half a year fulltime to get the funds needed for this experience. Istanbul isn't an expensive location, it depends on how much your travel throughout the semester, but living costs are way less than in the Netherlands or other parts of Europe. Flying to Istanbul is just approximately 75 euros and food and drinks are cheap as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed 5 courses at a different level. As I said before, the course catalogue is very late on the website. The teachers have a good level of English. Sometimes, the content of the course is very unclear and assignments could be the same as well, but you will find your way.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was good. It is very different from Utrecht without any working groups for instance, but there are a lot of options to develop yourself and the library and campus offer you a lot of opportunities too.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The International Office in Istanbul has been very helpful to be. Whenever I had a question, I received an argued answer. Don't hesitate to ask, Turkish bureaucracy is sometimes very inefficient, so make sure you will reach to the right people.
transfer of credits
For each course, I received either 5 or 6 credits, which could be easily transferred to Utrecht University. Just get

Bogazici University, Istanbul

a Transcript of Records and deliver it to Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

We had one full day of orientation, explaining all the ESN possibilities as well and showing us the campus. The welcome was in a very well-known lecture hall.

accommodation

I chose not to live in the Superdorm because it is very expensive, 600 euros a month. My advice: go to Istanbul 1 month earlier to get a better feeling of the city (approximately 17 inhabitants) and find a nice place to stay. I stayed in Sisli, which was a nice neighbourhood, both close to the touristic city center and the university.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is the place to be! Even after a semester, there is more I didn't see because the city has loads to offer. There are a lot of beautiful palaces, mosques, water sides and architectural wonders which give you an impression of the rich history of the city. Do not forget to do a lot of boat tours over the Bosphorus, which were very amazing.

suggestions/tips

If you don't know what to do, ask as early as possible, the people are the most friendly I have ever seen and always willing to help!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Go to Istanbul! It is the perfect place to study abroad. Leisurement options are unlimited, the university is known as the best public university of the country and people are sometimes willing to give you a discount just because of that, living could be chaotic due to the traffic, but metro lines are very good. I would say, don't let the fear of terror have any negative effect on your choice, Istanbul is worth it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Bogazici University, Istanbul

2016-2017

PREPARATION
exchange application process
All the deadlines for the application process were very clear in advance. The process requires a lot of documents, but as long as you start in time there is no problem
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I had some questions concerning the study program and possible last minute change of my destination (because of the failed coup attempt: I cant tell how glad I am that in the end I did go to Istanbul; -)). Those were answered very accurately by my international officer of my department.
academic preparation
In my first block of 2016-2017 academical year, I did a course (Post)colonialism around the Mediteranean Sea. I did not chose this course as a preparation for my Exchange semester in Istanbul, since the course on itself sounded very interesting, however it did offer some very interesting background information about Turkey and its history (former Ottoman Empire, the creation of the Republic of Turkey, Turkeys applications to become a member of the EU, etc.) So I would recommend to take this course in case you are interested in history and want to prepare a little for your exchange semester in Istanbul, not that it was a necessity, but it is nice to know something about the history of the country you are going to in advance
language preparation
in my first block of 2016-2017 academic year I did a elementary course Turkish (TKF 1.1). It is a really good course to take if you want to understand the construction of the Turkish language. Turkish differs extremely from any Romanic or Germanic language Ive learnt so far. This course offers a perfect introduction to Turkish grammar and sentence construction. Thanks to this course it was doable for me to upgrade my Turkish course in Istanbul from Elementary Turkish 1 to Elementary Turkish 2
finances
It was necessary to make a financial plan for the application process. That gave me quite a good idea of what the entire experience would cost. With my personal saving, student loan and public transportation compensation it was not too hard to generate the amount needed to stuyd a semester abroad

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Only a few days in advance the final course catalogue was published online. Therefore it was necessary to revise my initial study program which I needed to base on the course catalogue of the previous year. The courses offered were quite diverse and interesting, even though the majority of my courses i selected for my initial study program werent available, I still was able to find courses that were interesting
academic quality of education activities
the academic quality of the literature of the courses is quite high, just as the level of the lectures during the courses. However the level of exams is quite a bit lower than I was used to in Utrecht. It was relatively easier to get a higher grade at Bogazici than at the UU.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Bogazici University, Istanbul

The international officer of Bogazici is an extremely professional woman, who helps you with all your questions and documents you need.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits is a process that is still going on now

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation of the Erasmus Network of Bogazici was very nice, the first few weeks were crowded with all types of sightseeing trips and club nights. This really was a nice opportunity to get to know the other Erasmus students and Turkish Erasmus Network students quickly.

accommodation

I stayed in Sisli, a neighbourhood that is about 35 min. from Bogazici Univeristy campus by metro and about 15 min to more 'city centre' neighbourhoods like Cihangir, Galata and Sultanahment. I liked staying in Sisli, because I wasn't iving in the 'bubble'of campus life (around university campus there are a lot of appartements as well, which is very convenient if you only want to walk max. 10 min to campus) but as well it was very easy to go to city centre quickly. Neighbourhoods like Cihangir and Besiktas are as well really nice to live, especially if you want to be relatively close to University as well as city centre. Most convenient is if you live near a metro line, since Istanbul bus traffic is the worst.

leisure & culture

Istanbul is heaven on earth in terms of leisure and culture. Go to Kadikoy for all the nice hipster pubs and bars and Moda Beach, go to Cihangir for the nice restaurants and cocktail bars. Get the student Museum Pass which will give you free entrance to a lot of public museums, after paying a small fee for the card

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would sincerely recommend Istanbul and Bogazici as a destination. Istanbul is an amazing metropole that has everything to offer for an fantastic exchange semester. Friendly locals, an awesome cuisine, a massive amount of nice coffee places, pubs, restaurants, clubs and festivals, amazing cultural diversity, a beautiful language. I especially want to stress that the way Istanbul is portrayed in the media is an extremely biased one. Just as always with media, only the negative news about Istanbul gets published. In all honesty, I have never felt a single moment of insecurity during all the 5 months I was in Istanbul. Yes of course it is true that the current political situation of the country is not all desirable, however as a foreign student living in that city, the status quo of that political situation is hardly influencing your daily life.

I would as well strongly recommend Bogazici University. It is an amazing University with a stunning campus, an awesome 'campus vibe', a really nice, friendly and 'horizontal way' of communication between professors and students. It offers very interesting courses, that are relatively easy to pass.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Bogazici University, Istanbul

2014-2015

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Utrecht University has a lot of nice exchange destinations to offer. It was hard for me to choose, since there were many places I liked. Istanbul became my destination and I haven't regretted this outcome once! The application process it not too complicated, it is just a lot of work and it takes you a while to get everything signed. Just start on time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University was helpful before, during and after my exchange period. They respond to your mails within a few days and if you have something urgent you can also visit their office. During my exchange period I had some questions and they were always able to answer them for me.
academic preparation
I did not really do much academic preparation for my semester abroad. The courses I followed in Istanbul were all accesible for me, there were no conditions about certain required courses I had to follow before. I picked courses that were part of my study field, so the knowledge I obtained during my bachelor contributed to my understanding of the courses at Bogazici. However I made sure to choose courses I could not follow at Utrecht University, as to broaden my scope and to learn things I could not learn at my home university.
language preparation
My level of English was already sufficient before I went to Istanbul, so no language preparation was needed for me. The only thing I did was doing the English test required for the Erasmus grant, to discover my level of English.
finances
Because of a gap in my study schedule I had two months of free time before I went to Istanbul. I spent my time wisely and used it to work a lot, to save money for my journey. I am very glad I did so because living abroad costs a lot of money. Turkey is a relatively cheap country, however Istanbul, as a big city, is more expensive. Furthermore, as an Erasmus student you are probably going to do some travelling and you will spend money on other fun things to do. Of course you can make it as expensive as you want, but don't underestimate your costs and make an honest calculation in advance.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Bogazici has kind of a difficult course application process. They offer a lot of choices and you are basically free to choose the courses you want, they do not have to be from your own faculty. The only thing you need is consent from the teacher that gives the course you want. You can ask for this consent during the application period. My experience as an Erasmus student is that teachers will accept your request, if you try enough times. You may get declined the first time, but just try again! The content of the courses I followed was okay, interesting articles are used and (most of) the teachers are good. However at my department (political science), the grading of exams was not as severe as in Utrecht, they grade you higher easily.
academic quality of education activities
Bogazici is one of the best universities of Turkey. The Turkish students that attend this university are the best of their country, which makes you realise how privileged you are to be able to study there too. The academic quality of the courses I took was good. Most teachers were really nice and inspiring, but some were very old fashioned in their teaching methods, they just gave lectures and were not able to inspire and motivate the students too much. This depends on the teacher so during the course selection period, make sure to pick

Bogazici University, Istanbul

courses with teachers you like.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Bogazici offers her exchange students support in an international office. Just keep in mind that Turkey is pretty bureaucratic, and so is Bogazici University. Signing documents and stuff is okay, but if you have a more severe issue be prepared. I had some issues with my course application process and I had to visit five different offices to fix the problem. Make sure to make some Turkish friends at Bogazici who can advise and support you if needed.

transfer of credits

My credits are not transferred yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN Bogazici is an active club of Turkish students at Bogazici who organize a welcoming program for exchange students. The first week of class they have activities every day, like a pub crawl, sight seeing and a boat party. I made a lot of my best Erasmus friends during this orientation period, it is definitely a recommendation to participate.

accommodation

Some exchange students stayed in the superdorm of Bogazici University. I would not recommend this, because it is relatively expensive and I did not hear very positive stories about it, like small rooms, bad wifi, no atmosphere. Besides, it is very easy to find an apartment yourself, because there are many facebook sites that offer rooms to rent in Istanbul. I recommend you to go live in Rumeli Hisarustu, the area around Bogazici. It is nice and is close to uni. Living a bit more in the city centre (Bogazici is north of the centre) is also okay, but make sure you do not end up too far from uni. The traffic in Istanbul can be very bad and you don't want to spend two hours per day in traffic jam.

leisure & culture

Istanbul has a lot to offer! It is such a big city that it has practically everything. Beautiful old mosques and monuments but also big fancy malls. Cute little cafés and shiny expensive clubs. Crowded touristy squares and small little backstreets. Enough to entertain yourself for a few months! Besides, flying to other places in Turkey is very cheap, so make sure to check out the rest of Turkey as well! For example I can recommend diving in Kas or paragliding in Oludeniz.

suggestions/tips

- become friends with the locals! I lived with a Turkish girl and this really enriched my time in Istanbul. You learn so much more about a city from a local, and you will end up in situations you would never expect. For example I was invited to a real big Turkish wedding, which I consider one of the highlights from my stay! Also it can be very useful to have some Turkish speaking friends, since not so many people speak English in Istanbul
- take the course Turkish for Foreigners. I could not fit it in my schedule and I still regret this. With a few words and sentences you can already communicate a lot and the Turks will love you for trying it!
- buy the student museum card. It gives you free access to most places you will visit and I saved a lot of money with it!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Bogazici University, Istanbul

Yes I would recommend Bogazici. I had a great time in Istanbul and it was even better than I expected. Bogazici is a great university, one of the best in Turkey, and once you get there, you will feel privileged to be a part of it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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Bogazici University, Istanbul

2013 – 2014

preparation
exchange/placement application process
The initial idea was that a friend and I would apply for the same university, so we could go on exchange together. This didn't work out because my friend wasn't selected for exchange to Bogazici University. Apart from this minor disappointment the application process went quite well. I did have to wait a very long time for an official response from the host university, in the form of the letter of acceptance.
counselling/support at home university
The counselling and support of the REBO international office and of my student counselor at the USBO was excellent.
academic preparation
When choosing my courses at Bogazici University I did look at the prerequisites, so I didn't take any courses where my academic background wasn't solid enough. Almost all my courses had as a prerequisite "Introduction to Political Science", but as a B&O major I already had the required knowledge to start these courses. So I didn't need any academic preparation besides my 3 years of B & O.
language preparation
All courses are in English at Bogazici University. I didn't do any extra English language training for my exchange semester, but I have had 3 years of bilingual education in high school.
finances
To finance my semester abroad I got a monthly allowance from my parents. Besides that I had a DUO state grant, a DUO state loan (of 70 euros), compensation for OV-kaart and the Erasmus grant. Together it all worked out fine and I didn't encounter any financial problems.
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I did 3 courses from the Political Science & International relations department and 1 course in Elementary Turkish. Registering for the courses is kind of a nightmare, all Bogazici students have to subscribe at exactly the same time for the courses they want. Places are often limited and first come first serve. Of course the system can't handle that many students logging in at the same time so you're kicked out all the time. In the end I got all the courses I want. The content of the courses was very interesting, just as I hoped.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The academic quality of education varied a lot between courses but was in general good. The academic quality of the course "Political Economy" was excellent. The professor was inspiring and she had a lot of expertise. The

Bogazici University, Istanbul

academic literature was outstanding. The quality of my turkish class on the other hand was poor. The literature and excersises were okay but the lecturer was unable to transfer her knowledge to the class. She seemed to not care about her job or her students at all. The other two courses I had were interesting and the academic quality was good.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

Counselling support at Bogazici was fine. You could walk into the international office any time with questions and they would help you out as much as they could.

transfer of credits

At the moment my credits aren't transferred yet.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

There was a general welcome meeting for all exchange students on the first day. Some people of the international office were introduced and they gave some important information about our stay in Istanbul and the system to registrate for your courses. A few days later there was a meeting with our student adviser from the department of political science.

accommodation

During my stay in istanbul I shared an apartment with 3 turkish guys who also studied at my university. The apartment was located in a neighborhood from where it was a five minutes walk to the university campus. The majority of the students lived in this neighborhood.

leisure/culture

There is a lot to see in Istanbul, and of course I visited the blue mosque and the Aya Sofia but I spend most of my free time at the bosphorus or at the beautiful campus.

suggestions/tips

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes I would defenitely recommend Bogazici Univesity and Istanbul as destination for exchange. Bogazici University is the best univesity of Turkey and all the students and professors are very interantionally orientated and speak english fluently. It is easy to make contact with the turkish students and they are very open towards exchange students. Besides all this the campus is magnificent, its a beautiful park with an amazing view over the bosphorus.

Bogazici University, Istanbul

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Finding a room in Istanbul isn't too hard, but i used craigslist.com to find my room and i worked out perfectly. If you want to live near campus, you can easily find a room in Hisarustu (neighborhood) via craigslist.com. And often you share an apartment with turkish students from the same university which is definetely great.

2013 – 2014

preparation

exchange/placement application process

The application process was okay, it was clear to me what I had to do. The only thing that was less pleasant was the fact that I only heard a few weeks before the semester would start if I was accepted or not at Bogazici University. So I didn't have much time to prepare my departure.

counselling/support at home university

Support at home university was fine, I could ask the questions that I wanted to ask and they provided me with a lot of information

academic preparation

I couldn't already choose my courses when I was still at home, I could only choose them in the week before the lessons would start. So I hadn't much time to prepare myself regarding the courses.

language preparation

At home I took private lessons to start with Turkish. I had 2 hours each week for about 1,5 month. Later I continued in the host country.

finances

I saved some money before my departure and also my parents provided me with some money. Compared to my home country (the Netherlands) my host country (Turkey) was more cheap so I didn't had problems with money.

study/placement abroad period

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

I took five courses, two courses at the department political science, two courses in economics and one language course (Turkish). This combination of different subjects was perfect.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of education seemed to be fine at first sight. The classes were interesting and the teachers know much about their subjects. However when it comes to exams, it turned out to be quite easy to pass the exam. The questions in the exam were fine, the level of the exams was similair to the level of the exams in the

Bogazici University, Istanbul

Netherlands, but I guess the rating system was very gentle because many people got very good grades without being a good student.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The Host institution couldn't help me so much. I needed their help to get my residence permit, but my counsellor couldn't help me and couldn't do anything to help me.

transfer of credits

The point that were given to every course was fine in my opinion. It correlated with the amount of time that you had to spend on the subject.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The welcome programme was fine, there were different activities that you could participate with.

accommodation

I found my accommodation because of a friend that stayed in Turkey the semester before mine. She gave me the address of the landlord and this is how I got my room. It was a room close to the city centre, I lived with other Erasmus students and it was cheap. So my accommodation was perfect.

leisure/culture

Istanbul is a really amazing city, I can recommend this place to everyone. Go there and you will never have a boring day. I could not even visit all the interesting places in 4 months, you will find every day new places that are great. The culture is part of this feeling that I have about the city. The people living in Istanbul are great, they are very kind, especially when you can speak a little bit of Turkish. The culture has many different aspects and when you try to learn them it is a great experience.

suggestions/tips

- Try to learn Turkish. Learning Turkish is fun, but it's more than that. The biggest advantage is that you can speak with the citizens. Instead of being a tourist for the whole semester, you can become a little bit of a citizen yourself. This experience is great and you will see that the people will appreciate it very much.
- Start early with the process to get your residence permit. Bring somebody to the police station that can speak Turkish, and be completely nice, patient and polite to the police men.
- Try to find a room or apartment in a nice neighborhood in between the city centre and Bogazici University. Neighborhoods like Ortaköy and Besiktas are very nice to live.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes I would definitely recommend this host destination to others. The University is beautiful, the courses are fine. The city is amazing and you will learn a lot about other cultures and about yourself when you go to this place.

Bogazici University, Istanbul

2013 – 2014

preparation
exchange/placement application process
<p>The application process is normally a quite smooth procedure, if you are motivated to really take the time to sort things out and to fully committed to the procedure. In my case, as a student at the Utrecht University School of Governance, the procedure was even more secured because our department has a partnership with the department of Political Science at Bogazici University. Therefore the chance of being accepted increases. Nevertheless, I had some difficulties with my application. Due to the fact that every year the rules concerning the admission may change, I found out that I was obligated to take a test of English as a foreign language, TOEFL. This rule was new and that is why I wasn't aware of this obligation. Finally, after a lot of effort and time, I was accepted without taking this test because I didn't had the time to take the test before my departure. For new applicants: be aware of all the requirements and try to start the procedure as soon as you can.</p>
counselling/support at home university
<p>The support for my home university was very good. They always take the time to help you with every question, under the condition that you first try to find out the answers yourself.</p>
academic preparation
<p>As a preparation before my departure I first looked up all the courses that were available for me during my semester at Bogazici University. While doing this I ask several students who had been to Bogazici before if they had any advise about the courses that I was interested in. They provided me with tips about the content of the courses, the professors and the work load.</p>
language preparation
<p>Knowing that all the courses at Bogazici University will be held in English, it is smart to start practicing your English before departure. At my home university all the required courses are held in Dutch. That is why I recommend to follow an English course as an elective course. It is very usefull to follow one or several courses in English before your departure, not only to get used to studying in English, but also for your own confidence.</p>
finances
<p>To be able to estimate your expenses during your time abroad, it is useful to contact other students who have been to the same city before you. By doing this, I could make a quite precise estimation. Besides, I would recommend to always safe some money beforehand. This reassures that if you are facing suprisingly high costs, you are able to pay these costs without being in troubles immediately.</p>
study/placement abroad period
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
<p>At Bogazici University it is possible to change the courses that you are enrolled for after two weeks. Although</p>

Bogazici University, Istanbul

this is a quite stressful procedure, it gives you the opportunity to change courses after attending the first few lectures. After two weeks you will have to choose your final courses. For me, this meant, that I had five different courses from four different departments. I really enjoyed the courses that I have chosen. It was great to get the opportunity to follow courses from completely different departments and learning about completely new subjects.

academic quality of education/placement activities

I found the courses quite easy in comparison to the courses that I have taken at my home university. Besides, Bogazici University allows you to change courses after two weeks. This is called the ADD/DROP PERIOD. It was really useful to have two weeks to sort out your own schedule. At first, I was enrolled in three courses of the Political Science department, after visiting the first lectures I noticed that I was truly interested in the courses I had chosen. Therefore at the ADD/DROP PERIOD I changed several courses and I enrolled in courses from the department of Sociology and Management. A final note about the quality of the courses: all the courses have different levels, so it is quite easy to estimate the work load at forehand.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The host institution was very welcoming. The semester started off with a week of introductions and an orientation day. This was a nice way to meet other new exchange students. ESN, Erasmus Students Network, is also active at Bogazici University. This contains a group of five students who organize activities for the new Erasmus Exchange students. They also provided a "Buddy-program", which means that they found a buddy for me who already knew the university. This was a nice way to meet Turkish students.

transfer of credits

My credits haven't been transferred yet. But I don't think that this will cause any problems. Probably, my home university will use a different method for marking my grades, but I am not worrying about the outcome of this procedure.

student life

welcome/orientation programme

As mentioned before, the university organizes a very nice introduction day. It is called the 'orientation day'. At this particular day they provide you with a lot of information and the day ends with a nice dinner at the campus.

I found my room by using Facebook. There are a lot of (facebook)groups in which Turkish students place advertisements to find new roommates every semester. Using these groups you can already look for places to stay before your departure.

There is also a group, organized by the university, for all the new exchange students. With joining this group, you can easily get in contact with others and it makes meeting new people very easy.

Bogazici University, Istanbul

accommodation

The university offers you a room at the dormitories. I didn't use this option because I had heard from other students that it is very easy to find a room in a studenthouse and it is also cheaper to live in a studenthouse. I choose to live with three other Turkish students, which I really liked. I know that there are also houses where exchange students live together. But I really enjoyed living with Turkish students because it was a great way to learn more about their lifestyles and culture.

leisure/culture

Istanbul is a great city to live. There is so much to do in this wonderful city. Every neighborhood has his own characteristics, so you will never be bored. Being a student in Istanbul also makes it very easy to visit museums, concerts and art galleries, as a student/resident it is namely very common to get discount. The university also provides the opportunity to get a public transport card, with which travelling through the city becomes very cheap and easy.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to always look for a room in a student house. It is very easy to find a nice, affordable room in Istanbul. I would also advice to really take the first two weeks of the semester to see as many courses as you can. By doing this you are able to really choose the courses that you really like. Do not stick to your own department, use this semester abroad to follow different kind of courses!

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I absolutely recommend this university and this city. The university is a very nice place to be, the courses are diverse and the professors are good and friendly. I strongly would recommend this city because it is one of the most interesting cities I have ever been. There is so much to do and to see, and with the Erasmus Exchange program you are able to explore this city with other students from all over the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to get in contact with a (Dutch) student who has already been to Bogazici University. It is very useful and a lot of fun to fully prepare your stay abroad!

2012-2013

preparation

exchange/placement application process

It is important to write a good personal letter for the Bogazici Univeristy; this shows that you made some preparations for the Bogazici University and for the city of Istanbul. Furthermore, it is important that a person

Bogazici University, Istanbul

from your home insitution writes a good letter of recommendation. The grades are not that important, but they play a small part in the application process.

counselling/support at home university

The support of the University of Utrecht and the Utrecht School of Governance was allright, but nothing more than that. You have to arrange a lot of things on your own, but you allways can sent an email to the International Office of the University of Utrecht, but they have only a few office hours.

academic preparation

Regular curriculum of the Utrecht School of Governance

language preparation

None

finances

Personal savings, Erasmus grant, Study Finance of the Dutch government and a compensation of the Dutch government for not using my right to travel for free with public transportation.

study/placement abroad period

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

The Bogazici University works in an quite American way; you can submit most of the courses you want, but be quick, because a lot of the courses are full a few minutes after the registration system opens. When you find out that a course that you wanted to include is full, you allways can contact the Prof of the course, because for most of the Erasmus students they will make a exception.

academic quality of education/placement activities

The quality of the courses at Bogazici University is quite high, but it depends on which courses you pick. If you are a thirh year Bachelor student, I recommend to pick 3th or 4th years courses. These are from a high quality, the lower courses are quit easy.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The support of the Bogazici Univeristy was in the beginning pretty good; they explain the registration system and explain how to get a resident permit and a travel card. But when the classes and the courses start, this support faded away and it was difficult to make a appointment with someone who was responsible for the international students. Furthermore, you have to find out a lot of things on your own and the best thing to do is to ask other exchange students for help or to ask Turkish students to arrange things.

transfer of credits

I do not have my final results yet, but at the Utrecht School of Governance it will not be a problem.

Bogazici University, Istanbul

student life

welcome/orientation programme

The welcome programme of the University is informative and good and for more informal information about leisure time, the introduction of the ESN network of the University is pretty usefull.

accommodation

The accomodation the Univeristy is beautifull. Furthermore, they offer rooms in a dormitorry, but I preferred to stay in a house with other Turkish students in a house. This was a good choice; the house was allright and the Turkish students help you with everything.

leisure/culture

Istanbul is the perfect place to spent your time; it is a beautifull city full of culture and opportunities to relax. Furthermore, it is a very big city, so there is always something around to do. Istanbul is also the perfect spot to start to explore more of Turkey or the Middle-East.

suggestions/tips

Try to come one or two weeks before the classes start to explore the city and to get your way around. It is also usefull to arange buscards and to make a appointment for your resident permit before the classes start. Further, try to find a place to stay near the univeristy, because one the biggest problems of Istanbul are the big traffic jams.

conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Yes, I surely recommend to study at Bogazici University. The courses are from a high quality and the student life in Istanbul is great. You meet people from all around the world and you make a lot of friends.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start early to arrange all the bureaucratic aspects of your study abroad, because it takes a lot of effort to arrange everything in the right way.