



Bilkent University

2015-2016

PREPARATION
exchange application process
All information needed for the application was easily found online on the UU website.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University was more than kind with their help in regard to my exchange program. I was originally late with my application, but after they saw that I was properly motivated to put in the extra effort they helped my every step of the way and even provided me with multiple options.
academic preparation
I was nearing the end of my Bachelors' degree, so I mainly spent time figuring out which courses I should follow in order to reach 180 ECTS when I would come back to Holland. Once again, Utrecht University was more than kind to guide me through the process.
language preparation
All courses were provided in English, and considering the fact that my English was already rather good I did not need much preparation in this field.
finances
I got most of my money through loans at DUO, but the contributions from the erasmus program and my parent was very helpful as well because going on exchange is (or can be) rather expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study program offered was well formulated and structured. The other exchange students and myself were given the luxury of picking our courses a day before the courses opened up to everyone else. This was extremely helpful due to the fact that popular courses would instantly be full upon opening. To me, everything about Bilkent's study programme was more than satisfactory.
academic quality of education activities
The quality of the education was excellent. There are some teachers who did not speak English perfectly, but they more than made up for that with that expertise about the courses that they taught.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Bilkent University and especially their ESN department were available for questions at all times, and would help you with your problems pretty much instantaneously through Facebook and Whatsapp.
transfer of credits
Still ongoing, received the transcript of records around the time that we were told.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Bilkent University was very welcoming to their new arrivals. The University orientation days with very nice buffets and created a wonderful environment enabling you to quickly get to know your fellow erasmus students. After the orientation the ESN department continued by organizing many parties and events on an



almost weekly basis to keep everyone entertained.

accommodation

If you'd prefer to stay in the city you can get an affordable apartment easily, but Bilkent University offers free accommodation to its exchange students so most end up staying in dorms.

leisure & culture

Ankara truly offers everything for everyone. Whatever it is that you find entertaining, the city provides in some way or another. From gaming cafes to rooftop bars to sporting events. Which remind me that Bilkent University also offers free gym membership to all exchange students where you can pretty much do any sport imaginable (basketball, football, tennis, squash, swimming, boxing, karate, etc.).

suggestions/tips

The food is excellent and just like everything else in Turkey, it is very cheap (especially for Dutch standards). I would recommend seeing the city itself as much as possible, because it has many hidden gems to offer. Food wise, you can order delicious meals from www.yemeksepeti.com (they also have an app) for about 4 euro, and going out for food will not exceed over 10 euro. Due to the additional taxes alcohol is more expensive in Turkey, but it is still relatively cheap when compared to western Europe. Lastly I would definitely recommend travelling as much as possible, considering the fact that domestic flights are really cheap (Ankara -> Istanbul costs about 20 euros, Ankara -> Cyprus around 30, if you early).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely. Not only Bilkent University but the Turkish people in Ankara in general have shown me hospitality that I had never experienced before. The Turkish population is very humble and friendly and are bound to feel make you feel right at home. Although most do not speak English properly, they are always willing to try and if you make an effort to learn their language (even if it is really basic) you will be greeted by a smile that can light up any room. I absolutely loved Turkey and I can't wait to go back.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to learn some of the basics of the Turkish language before going through apps like Duolingo, as it will help you considerably when you first arrive!

Save this UU report for your own records and send it as attachment to verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!