



Vienna University of Economics and Business

2019-2020

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The exchange application process is very well to do. It is explained into detail in various documents and presentations. It starts already far in advance (ofcourse), this is something to be aware of and which makes it a little bit difficult because you have to plan/ set out a lot of things far in advance.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The UU staff is very helpfull in preparing you for your application for and your depart to your exchange destination. Huub Klein Schiphorst helped me with my study plan and the International office provides all information needed for your preperation.
academic preparation	Well in advance I made my study plan and enrolled for my courses in order for my studies to not get delayed.
language preparation	The language in which I would be practicing my studies was english which is the same as my bachelor's, so this was not a big issue. I spoke German quite well, which was quite usefull when I was in Vienna.
finances	I worked and saved for my exchange semester in Vienna. Life is equally expensive in Vienna as in Utrecht. However there were a lot of trips planned there. The Erasmus Grant helps in the financing of the exchange semester, but I would recommend to save for your trip.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
welcome & orientation programme	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The WU has a large variety in courses of which you can choose from, so for anyone there are courses which they would find interesting. Group work is a big part of every course. The organization of the courses was very well structured even when we had to switch to distance-learning.
academic quality of education activities	I would rate the academic quality of the WU Wien equal as that of the UU. Academic staff was very professional, just as the study material and the working environment.
transfer of credits	Not applicable yet, since my credits did not get transferred yet. The grading system is different however. Austria rates: 1-5, where 1 is best and 5 is worst and a 4 is needed to pass.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES	
support guidance of host university	The host university WU was very supportive in helping to complete the semester succesfully. They provided us with a lot of information and guidance. I have experienced no probles in my studies and in my personal life when the education switched to distance-learning.



support guidance of home university

My home university UU helped me sufficiently in bringing the semester to a succesfull end. They kept me up to date about the situation and gave guidance where needed.

online offer and quality of digital courses

Every course I was enrolled for switched to online and did so perfectly fine. In my opinion I did not lose a lot of education/ material which I would have learned if it did not switch to online. Of course the online courses were less interactive, but with MS Teams these consequences were reduced.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

Lectures should be recorded/ presentation with voice over. And seminars should be done in MS Teams (or similar). As a student I would not 'go' on a digital exchange since I went on an exchange in the first place to meet new people, explore a new city etc. The only advantages are that you learn to work in an international and digital environment and you experience an other university (style).

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes 100%. The University is very professional and offers a lot of courses and is well equipped with staff. The city is beautiful and a lot of events/trips are organized for exchange students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take part in the Orientation and Cultural Program, you will meet a lot of new people and you will go on fun trips/events and you will get to know the city well.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application procedure was really easy. You need to make a studyplan with the courses you want to follow. The study advisor has to check this plan, so it is convenient if you make this appointment a month before the deadline. In case that you have to change something, you still have enough time to make this adjustment. You also have to fill in some personal information on Osiris, but this is really straightforward. When you are nominated, the Univeristy in Vienna is sending you an email with information about the courses and how to enroll. The only thing you have to take into account is that the dealine was in the Summer holiday and some courses are already full within 10 minutes.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office in Utrecht is responding fast on questions that you are sending by e-mail. Also the study advisor helps you to check if your courses are on the right level. The information sessions about exchange were really useful, because they explained in detail all the forms and signatures you need to get for example your Erasmus grant.

academic preparation

I looked very carefully at the courses and if I needed any requirements for the courses I wanted to follow and also if they were not overlapping. You get an email from the university in Vienna how to register for your courses and a day before the registration you get a reminding email. Before I registered, I watched a video that carefully explained how to register. It is very helpful if you know the coursecodes of the courses, because that it the only thing you need for the registration.

language preparation



I had German in highschool so I did not do any preparation. All the communication with the university of Vienna is in English and also all my courses were in English, just as my bachelor in Utrecht.

finances

The Erasmus grant was really helpful. Also the OV reimbursement was really nice to have, make sure that you apply for both of them on time. I had a loan from Duo, the financial support of my parents and the money I earned from my previous job, were the reasons I could finance my exchange.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There are a lot of courses you can choose from, so if you want, you can choose a very specific topic, however there are also more broad courses. With your WU-studentnumber, you can see which courses are available and read about the content of the courses. Everything is very straightforward. The only that was difficult is that some courses are not on the same time and same day every week. Somethings this can be difficult for your schedule, however the professors are really understanding. Also, the courses are 6 ect or 12 ect. Personally I selected 3 courses of 6 ect and 1 course of 12 ect.

academic quality of education activities

The courses contain a lot more groupwork compared to Utrecht. For some courses you also have to do weekly presentations. The exams are more easy and overall is the level of the courses a little bit lower than in Utrecht. All my courses are regarded as level 3 courses.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office is really nice and quickly respond to your emails, moreover you are always welcome at their office and they try to find a solution as quickly as possible if there are any problems.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received all my grades back, so I cannot comment on this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The WU is offering a welcoming day at the university to give a general presentation and a tour around the campus. There is also an orientation programme of 2 weeks in September. In this programme you are going to do a lot of sightseeing in the city, but also outside of Vienna. During these 2 weeks, there is also a German language course if you want to improve your German. During this programme, you see a lot of the city but it is also a great opportunity to make new friends.

accommodation

The OEAD is a really good organization for housing. I stayed in Gassgasse, which is very good located (next to the subway). Also you have your own bathroom, that was really an advantage. You can choose between a room with or without roommates. With roommates you are sharing a kitchen with 2 or 3 other people. The nice thing about Gassgasse is that a lot of students live there, so it is a really good place to meet friends.

leisure & culture

Vienna is a beautiful city with a lot of sightseeing. There are museums, but also nice palaces with beautiful gardens (especially in the summer). Everything is really easy to reach with the subway. At the end of november, there are Christmas markets, those are really nice and cosy.

suggestions/tips

You can get a semester card for the subway for only 78 euros, so get this as soon as possible. Make sure to



search for your accomodation on time and also arrange all other administrative things, like the Erasmus grant, on time. Especially if you want a nice accomodation, it is important that you arrange this on time (immediatley after you receive your nomination letter).

Also, organize a lot of fun trips outside of Vienna. The city is in the middle of Europe so it is a really easy to see a lot of Europe.

You should go the the palaces in September and October after these months all the flowers in the gardens are gone.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Vienna is a really beautiful city to visit. Almost everywhere they speak good English, only sometimes at the supermarket or some restaurants you have to speak German. The WU is very organized and they are easy to reach. I selected very specific courses, because I was really interested in them and could not follow them in Utrecht. There are also a lot of students on exchange which makes it is really easy to make friends. So I would definitely recommend the WU in Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I would definitely recommend to do the orientation & culture programme. I met most of my friends during this programme. The EBN is organizing a lot of events and trips, make sure to sign up early for these trips. Every Monday and Wednesday the EBN has student nights. Vienna is a city with a lot of history and you can find a lot of historic buildings so you should definitely check them out. Do not be afraid of doing things with internationals and plan fun trips with your new friends.

Volksgarten is a really nice place for clubbing.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was very convenient and easy. You should think about where you want to go to, and all the information about all the exchange programs can be found online. For me, it was really helpful to talk to other people that have been to the locations that seemed interesting to me as well. Make you choice, talk to other people and than apply online.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was very good. Both before, and during my stay abroad my answers were always answered withing 1 day. Questions about destinations and courses, but also personal questions were answered and the help was very good during the whole process.

academic preparation

Since I went to Vienna, the competition was not that hard. I just did what I always did, nothing special or more than usual.

language preparation

Everybody in Vienna speaks English very well, so no need to learn German very well. However, I followed an introduction course in German, because I think it's nice to speak a bit of the language of the country in which you are living for almost 6 months.

finances

I was used at living on my own for 4 years already. So for me, nothing changed really. Due to the erasmus scholarship my costs for living were actually cheaper than in Utrecht, so that was very nice. Also the costs of living are very comparable with the Netherlands, the only thing that is a bit more expensive is doing groceries.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The WU is an economics university, so there is a broad range of topics from which you can choose. There is something for everyone, and also courses which are very interesting and not available in Utrecht. So course wise, it is a very good choice. Everything is well organized and structured, so very easy to use and work with.
academic quality of education activities	
	The education is a bit different than in Utrecht. In Vienna your classes are scheduled all together, so for example, you can have a course for 3 weeks, but with classes of 5 hours a day. This gives you the opportunity to work hard for a shorter time and travel around inbetween your classes/courses. There is also more groupwork and presentations at the WU. In the beginning this was very hard, but since I got used to it it was actually very nice! Presenting more and more makes you more comfortable with every presentation. I learned a lot from it. Furthermore, the exams were easier than back home, if you study and prepare everything well, you can pass everything with very nice grades!
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Good! Again, quick responses, clear emails regarding all the information about your studies and your stay in Vienna as well. Everything is well organized and structured (as how the people in Vienna are).
transfer of credits	
	I don't have them yet.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	There was a cultural programme of 2 weeks. We went to other city's, did a lot of cultural things in the city, from dance classes, tours, museums and a lot of other things. This is something that I will definitely recommend to do. You are meeting new people and you can explore your new home town with them! I met all my friends during this introduction programme, so don't even think about not doing it! The only thing is that it is 300 euros, but it is worth it!
accommodation	
	I lived in Gassgasse 2, it is a complex from OeAd which I can really recommend as well. If you are going there go to Gassgasse and NOT to Molkereistrasse! Make sure you apply on time to make sure that you have a spot in this accommodation. This building was new and very clean, and on top of that we all had our own bathroom. Gassgasse is further away from WU, but closer to the city and very close to district 7 (neubau) which is a very nice area to have lunch, drink coffee, shop, or just walk around.
leisure & culture	
	Great! There is always something to do in this city. The city is organizing a lot of events during the year, there are a lot of museums (I went to almost 10/15). And the city is just lovely and especially during Christmas it is very nice to live there. Furthermore, Vienna is a very central city, so if you want to travel around this is great! Budapest is just 3 hours away with the bus (for only 15 euros), Bratislava is nearby, Krakau, Ljubljana, Salzburg, Hallstatt and many more cities (these are the places that I went to) and it's also very nice to go hike, or to go to a ski area because everything is very close.
suggestions/tips	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join the introduction program --> it is the best way to get to know other people and the city. 2. Travel around!! 3. Go to Gassgasse!



CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
The university is very nice, you feel comfortable and everything is very well organized. From a perfect introduction program to very nice classes. I took classes that were not available in Utrecht, and they were actually really nice and interesting. Vienna is a perfect city to live in, the public transportation is really perfect. Also, everything is very well organized for exchange students, in the gym there are special conditions, for your 5 months public transportation card they have special terms for exchange students, and it is just a very convenient! I can recommend everyone to go to Vienna because I really loved my time there!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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PREPARATION
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The application process was very convenient and easy. You should think about where you want to go to, and all the information about all the exchange programs can be found online. For me, it was really helpful to talk to other people that have been to the locations that seemed interesting to me as well. Make your choice, talk to other people and then apply online.
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STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

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suggestions/tips

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2. Travel around!!
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CONCLUSIONS

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do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2018-2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application proces was time consuming but straightforward. You need to hand-in a motivation letter, CV, Study Plan and a Financial Plan at the international office at Utrecht. However as soon as the international office in Utrecht nominates you, things are easy. The WU will always accept the nomination and you're good to go!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Oké, everything is described well at the student website. Furthermore I attended three infromation sessions regarding doing an exchange, writing a CV & motivation letter and final tips from my own faculty. I highly recommend visiting these infromation sessions as they are really inspirering to start preparations.

academic preparation

None as I did the same studies in Vienna as in Utrecht

language preparation

None as my bachelor was in English and so were most of the courses I followed

finances

I spent approximately €500 extra a month compared to living in a studenthouse in Utrecht

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme is explained well on the website of WU. Just as in Utrecht you have to be ready with your laptop as soon as the subscribtion to the courses start, otherwise you risk not getting your favourite courses. The subscription opened in the summer during my holliday which was a bit annoying. Luckily the airbnb had great wifi connection and I was able to get all the courses I wanted. I also chose one course in German, eventhough my level was only B2. I signed up for the course and then sent an email the the teacher explaining my situation. The teacher was totally okay with it and I received a good grade for the course:). If the teacher would not be okay with it, the international office at WU offers great counselling and they will hapily arrange a different course for you. Make sure you email the teacher as soon as you are subscribed to the course in WU@learn (WU's blackboard) and know his/her email adress (in early September).

academic quality of education activities

Education is different in Vienna compared to Utrecht. There is no formal split between lectures and tutorials. Furthermore you have to mandatory attend all the lessons. This makes it feel a little bit like highschool. Unfortunately proffessors do not provide much practice excersises. For the economics courses just learning theory was okay for me. However for math and econometric courses this is highly annoying and therefore I highly recommend not to take exact beta courses at WU. I did not take any finance or business courses. I have heard that the finance cources are okay and that the business cources are rather easy.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The people at the international office at WU are very friendly and answers emails quickly!
transfer of credits
Not done yet so cannot comment

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The number one reason to choose WU as your exchange destination!!! The Orientation & Cultural programme plus the German Courses are amazing. I highly recommend signing up for both. During three weeks in September (or March) you will get German classes during the mornings and fun activities to do during the afternoons. You will improve your German a lot, see lots of the beautiful city of Vienna and meet a lot of new people with whom you can hang out during the nights.
accommodation
I stayed at Gasgasse with the OeAD exchange students housing provider. I had my own bathroom, a furnished bedroom and a fully equipped kitchen as the common room. The best thing about living there were my three housemates. I highly recommend searching for an accommodation with house mates. We became best pals and had an amazing time together! Roommates will keep you accompanied also during times that you might miss home a little bit.
leisure & culture
Vienna is a beautiful city!! In Utrecht you can bike across the innercity in just fifteen minutes but in Vienna the innercity is gigantic and there are beautiful white buildings everywhere :). Going out is a little bit more expensive, but if you "pre-game" at home you can save money. I recommend Travelshack on Tuesdays, Volksgarten on Thursdays and PraterDome on Saturdays. Besides going out, there are also a lot of cool bars where you can have a cheap beer with friends. Even after living in Vienna for half a year I feel like I haven't even seen 10% of all the cool bars. There are also a lot of nice cheap restaurants which offer tastes from all over the world. Of course there are the touristy schnitzel restaurants and kaffeehouses but especially around the 7 th district cheap hipster restaurants, lunchrooms, coffee places, second hand stores etc have been popping up. So if you think Vienna is conservative, you are surely mistaken!
suggestions/tips
Go see and explore all the nice 'old' Vienna has to offer! But don't think Vienna is conservative/old-fashioned. Behind the beautiful, white marble facades, a new city has emerged. There is much more to do than in Utrecht or even Amsterdam (except for electronic dance music parties). However, the single most important thing that is going to determine whether you are going to have a great or a not-so-great exchange, depends on the friends you make. During the Orientation & Culture programme you will meet a lot of new people. Personally I did not see many of them after the orientation was over. Make sure you have a nice fixed group of friends after that period to do fun activities with (diner parties, museums, kaffeehouses, ice-skating, football matches, bars, restaurants, going-out, card games, christmas markets or showing your home to each other on google street-view :).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would surely recommend the destination to others! Vienna is a beautiful city and learning German is fun! The Orientation programme and the Erasmus Buddy Network makes it really easy to make new friends.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Most internationals you will meet in Vienna are from Europe, North- and South-America. It is really interesting to talk about cultural differences which will make sure that you never run out of topics to talk about. Check the student website for symptoms of culture shocks, because you will surely catch some. The site gives good tips about how to overcome them, don't worry about them too much. I highly recommend going on trips with the Erasmus Buddy Network! I went to Salzburg, Krawkow, Sell am See and the Oktoberfest (we went there with a party train, absolute the highlight of my trip:). Best to do the trips with your new friends but don't be scared to sign up for them without friends. The subscription for these trips is quite early on, so you might not know who you will hang out with during the trips. Don't let this stop you! Furthermore don't choose too challenging courses and really enjoy the experience! Such an exchange will only happen once in your life. Now I am doing a internship at a pension fund and everyone here has done an exchange as well. They all look back at it with fond memories. So make new friends and enjoy, you won't regret it.

2017-2018

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is rather easy. As long as you provide the documents in time, there should be no problem for getting into Vienna University of Economics. Usually 4 spots are enough for the people that name the Uni as their first choice. To make sure you get it, provide all the documents in time and write a sound motivation letter.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

UU was always available for questions and usually the exchange desk responded fast enough to emails. If not, just write a reminder email. Visit the information sessions, because you might get insider knowledge about Universities or the application process.

academic preparation

Make sure that the courses you are planning to take at WU are accepted by the board of examiners in time. My advice would be to create a list with the top 10 favourite courses that are in the course catalogue of the WU, make sure they don't overlap in terms of schedule (if they do, be aware of that so that you don't book both of those two courses, but only one of them) and then once you have done that, check whether all of the courses are going to be accepted as level three courses by the board of examiners. You can do this the following way: You simply hand in two or three applications, with always different courses, and then see what the response is. In the end you will have a list of courses that you know for sure are level three. In order to increase the probability that your courses are accepted as level three, send emails to the course coordinators at WU and ask whether the courses expect prior knowledge, or build on other courses, or on a scale from 1 to 3, how the coordinators themselves would assess the level of the course.

The last step is to apply for the courses at the WU. Really make sure to be ready at the exact time the website says the application opens. Also do not keep the tabs open for too long before you apply, otherwise the website might crash. Rank your selected courses by priority and open them all in separate tabs a few minutes before application opens. Then as soon as it opens (use an atomic clock), click on register AND THEN ALSO ON CONFIRM (!!!) (I forgot that and didn't get into my two favourite courses... You will immediately be told whether you got into the course or if it is already full (some fill up within seconds, sometimes there is only one or two spots for exchange students).

In order to not run into problems regarding graduating with a minor, try to take courses related to your minor in order to get as close to 15 minor related credits as possible (I had 12 minor related credits and that was



enough).
 Be aware that you only have to work for 20 ects, but receive 30 (the credits that show for the respective courses are always inflated by 50%). Thus if you find so many interesting courses, you can actually think about doing 36ects.

Also it is better to register for more courses than possible, because you can afterwards easily unregister, without any consequences. There is also a waiting list where you can apply for courses you didn't get into.

language preparation

It's in English, but there are German language courses and also courses offered in German. In Vienna it depends, but you will get along with trying to speak German or just English.

finances

Vienna has about the same prices as here, but living is cheaper.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You will receive a comprehensive info session which you should attend. Most courses are with mandatory attendance.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I took were very interesting and for almost all of them, participation and presentations were an important part. Also there are a lot of group works. The professors were about the same quality as in Utrecht and also the English level is comparable. The courses in general are maybe a bit easier, but that depends of course of the courses you pick and of the ects you take. The fact that 20 ects are worth 30 during your exchange reduced the workload either way.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Except for IT related issues, I thought that there is always a desk that is eager to help you.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits should be no problem if you have backed all your courses up with the board of examiners before going on exchange.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I did the programme. It was fun, great to get to know people and see some parts of Austria/Vienna that you wouldn't see otherwise. You get a lot of insider knowledge and always have someone to ask small questions to (your coach)

accommodation

You will get great help for finding student accomodation in one of the student houses. If you want to experience the proper exchange student life you should go there. It costs about 460E. If you have somewhat high expectations for your accomodation and also want to have a quiet/private space sometimes, then you should look for accomodation yourself through websites. Prices in Vienna are good, there is more supply and it is easier to find something than in the Netherlands. I found a place for 470E in a good location through housinganywhere. If you don't find something you can still go with the student accomodation. just make sure you don't miss the deadline.

leisure & culture



There is so much to do in Vienna. A lot of variety with regard to everything. Great parties, even though most clubs suck, but you will find some that are your type and the erasmus parties are fun anyways, no matter where they are.

suggestions/tips

let vienna surprise you.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, see my explanations above. Also there is just so much to do, the city is really big but your are very flexible and mobile with public transport. The city is very pretty, has a lot of culture and history and you find a lot of good food (Austrian and foreign) for acceptable prices (try Schnitzelwirt for a huuuge Schnitzel with fries for less than 8€).

do you have any additional advice or comments?

you can always ask the student desk for email addresses if you have further questions.

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process is obviously the most important thing to do if you want to go on exchange. It might be time-consuming but is definitely something you should take your time for and do not underestimate. I am happy I started early with the preparations and it really helps if you make an overview for yourself with all the deadlines and all the documents that you have to hand in/ get signed.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The exchange office of U.S.E. is very kind and friendly. They were able to answers all my questions and concerns regarding my exchange. They respond quick to all your e-mails, which is nice so you never have to wait long before you can hand in a document on Osiris or send it to the receiving institution.

academic preparation

I knew that I was going to follow only economic and business economics course at WU, these courses all build on the courses I already did here in Utrecht. With regard to academic preparation I was not worried at all.

language preparation

Since the bachelor program I do here in Utrecht is an English program, I did not prepare myself extra with regard to the language since I already spoke/write academic English for two years.

finances

I was able to finance my exchange through the Erasmus student grant, my regular DUO student grant and through financial support of my parents and money earned through previous jobs I had. This was for me enough. I would say that everything is just as expensive in Austria as it is in the Netherlands. Only some supermarket products, especially meat, chicken, vegetables and fruit, are slightly higher priced than here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



I personally did 5 course each worth 6 ECTS, so a total of 30 ECTS. There are enough courses offered to choose from. I would say the university is more orientated on business than on economics, however they do offer enough economic and socioeconomics courses to choose from. What I also find interesting to mention is that they have some course on sustainability, and these courses I found particularly interesting.

academic quality of education activities

I would say that the difficulty of the courses is slightly lower than here in Utrecht. However, since you are on exchange this is quite nice, you also have enough time for other activities. Also, the difficulty really depends from course to course. I had one really easy course, 3 intermediate and one advanced course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The exchange office and support were great. They respond quickly and give you all the information that you need. I would say that the quality of counselling & support is of the same level as in Utrecht.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received all my grades back, so I cannot comment on this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I would definitely recommend the Culture & Orientation programme that WU offers. It is a great way to meet new people and get to know the city at the same time. It is a 3 weeks program and even includes trips to other cities in Austria.

accommodation

The OeAd housing accommodation is set up for exchange students. You can rent here a room with or without roommates and even includes weekly cleaning of your room. What is especially nice is that you are in a building with only exchnge students, this way you make soon new friends with which you can easily hangout with since you live in the same building. I lived in Gasmasse, and can recommend this one since you have your own bedroom and bathroom, and you share your kitchen with 2 or 3 others.

leisure & culture

Vienna is definitely an amazing city to spend a semester in. The city is really big and offers lots of activities to do. There are lots of museums, cafes and bars to go to. Especially the time around Christmas is nice since Vienna is famous for their Christmas markets, which attracts tons of tourists every year.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest doing all the activities as soon as possible, if you postpone them to later on in the semester you might be too busy with school, while in the beginning of the semester you have more than enough time.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Vienna. It is a beautiful city, especially if you are interested in art and classical music. Vienna is also a good city to go to if you like coffee and cake because of the Viennese café culture. I would also recommend WU since it is a really good, well organized university. It is similar to Utrecht and located on a beautiful campus, full of architecture, that is well connected with the underground. I had an amazing semester abroad and definitely will come back to Vienna.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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PREPARATION
exchange application process
There was a lot of bureaucracy you have to go through in order to go onto an exchange, even though the amount is not that much the process gets dragged to unnecessary lengths due to slow response times of competent authorities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The study advisor and international office was happy to help with any questions i had, however the board of examiners was slow to respond to anything and was not available on the contact hours where they should be available. The study advisor and international office could also not help me with questions i had for the board of examiners and approval of courses making the process extremely long and frustrating.
academic preparation
Choosing courses was not a problem, asking for approval was not either. However, the board of examiners took months to respond to any proposed courses and did not respond to any tries to contact them about it.
language preparation
None
finances
The process for applying for grants is long but self explanatory.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The content was extremely interesting taking a different approach of teaching and requiring much more participation in classes and less pressure on performing well on exams.
academic quality of education activities
Quality of teaching was great, however the exams were generally easier then the ones in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Did not have any problems when trying to contact them.
transfer of credits
Even though grades work much different, transfer of credits is not a problem.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Smoothly organized and an amazing experience.
accommodation
Great location however the building itself sometimes had problems with the fire-alarm being too sensitive and giving an false alarm multiple times a week aswell as malfunctioning elevators and too busy laundry rooms.
leisure & culture



The student organisation organizes amazing trips for students, international or native, and there are truly no words to describe the beauty of the city of Vienna.

suggestions/tips

Location of your accomodation influences the quality of life a lot due to travel times, make sure to pick a great location with good public transport connections!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, the university was everything you expect a good quality university to be. And the destination, Vienna, is an amazing city with a rich, beautiful and unique atmosphere. Centrally located in Europe it also offers the ability to travel to almost anywhere. The whole experience was truly amazing.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I doubted whether to do the Erasmus exchange because i did not directly see the added benefit over an already interntionally oriented city as Utrecht. However, the whole experience of going on an exchange is unforgettable and definitely something everyone should do!

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process went smoothly as most documents are provided online. Sometimes it was unclear what exactly should be submitted on specific dates.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling and support at Utrecht University went well since they responded to all my questions and troubles. Sometimes it took them very long to sign some documents.

academic preparation

The courses that I took at Utrecht University prepared me for all courses with a prerequisite. This way I did not need any extra academic preparation for the courses that I took in Vienna.

language preparation

All my courses in Vienna were taught in English and the language test from Erasmus informed me that I have a C2 level for English. This way I did not need any extra language preparation before starting the exchange semester.

finances

The Erasmus+ grant provided me with €270 euros every month. I further borrow money from the Dutch government and I received a public transportation compensation for studying abroad. My parents also supported me. This was all described in the financial statement that I prepared before the exchange semester.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

WU provided exchange students with a list of various different courses, without being attached to a specific study program. As a result I was able to choose a variety of interesting courses. One organizational issue is the registration process in which courses get filled up within several minutes. This way getting the courses that you want is very stressful and very hard.



academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is a little lower than in the Netherlands. Many courses cannot be considered level 3 courses at Utrecht University. So this way you need to find prerequisite courses.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office at WU is very helpful regarding questions and problems. This way the counselling and support is very good.
transfer of credits
The university in Vienna worked with ECTS credits, which is also used at Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
Before the start of the semester in October in Vienna, there is a three week long orientation program in which you explore the culture of Vienna and Austria. During these three weeks there is also a pre-semester German course in which you can learn or refresh you German language skills. The orientation program was very fun and interesting and I would recommend it to everyone. There are also two Welcome Days, one for those who want to follow the orientation program and one for those that don't. During these welcome days you get all the information you need before starting your exchange semester.	
accommodation	
While there are two ways of finding accomodation in Vienna, either via OEAD (student dorms) or arranging it yourself, I stayed at the student dorms. Here you'll live with mostly exchange students which is a lot of fun as you meet many different people from different nationalities.	
leisure & culture	
Vienna has a lot of culture and places to explore. The Erasmus Buddy Network (EBN) organizes many weekly parties and trips. This way you never have to get bored. Vienna is also really close to Prague, Budapest and Poland which makes going on trips there very easy. There are also enough cafes to explore and spend your afternoons in.	
suggestions/tips	
I would recommend taking part in the cultural orientation program. Here is when you meet many new people with whom you will stay close during the semester.	
It's also important to start organizing everything related to accommodation, courses , and financing early. The earlier the better. This gives you less stress at the end.	

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
Yes I would definitely recommend doing your exchange semester at WU in Vienna. The university is very well organized and provides many interesting English courses. There is also a wide variety of courses so as long as it fits in your schedule you have many options. The WU campus is also very new and modern, which makes it a great place to study.	
In addition, Vienna as a city is a great place to live in as a student. The U-Bahn makes everything very accessible and makes exploring the city very easy. The city consists of many historical buildings and palaces while also having many hip student areas. During the day you can visit the Hofburg Palace, Schönbrunn or Rathaus. While	



these places are also nicely lit up at night, there are enough bars and parties to have a great night life as well. Many trips are organized by EBN.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Please start early planning everything out, especially regarding the course sthat you want to take as the registration system makes it hard to get into everything that you would like. It is also very important that you look at the requirements for graduating on time for your bachelor. This makes creating a good study plan beforehand crucial because you'll need some plan B courses.



2016-2017

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process was at first very difficult and inconvenient. However, when you start preparing all the required documents it becomes more easy. Almost every step of the process is described online and the presentation about studying abroad was very helpful as well.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Counselling and support was pretty good at Utrecht University. They replied to all my emails and I have had no troubles. However, keep in mind that it takes them quite some time to respond in some cases.
academic preparation	
	The courses I followed during my stay abroad did not require me to follow extra courses. All the prerequisite courses they required, were already in my program in Utrecht. Therefore, I did not had to do any academic preparation.
language preparation	
	As I did not participate in courses which required other language skills than English, I did not do anything for language preparation. If you are in an English bachelor, you may assume that your English is good enough to travel abroad.
finances	
	For my finances, I prepared a financial statement. This statement showed all my income (loan, stufi and my income from working) and I estimated all my expenses while living abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	I did not follow any specific program and I was allowed to choose any course at the WU I wished to follow. I followed quite some interesting and exciting courses. The content of the courses offered at the WU was sufficient and good, however the level was not as hard as I expected it to be. The only disadvantage of the courses at the WU was the registration in my opinion. Their registration system opens at a certain time and day for everyone at the same time. Hence, if you were one minute late, the courses were filled up.
academic quality of education activities	
	The academic quality is a little bit lower compared to the Netherlands, in my opinion. Not all of my courses are being regarding as level 3 courses back in the Netherlands for example.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	The counselling and support at the WU was very good, the International Office always responds very quickly and is very willing to help you with any troubles.
transfer of credits	
	This is not yet applicable.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The Welcome Day organized by the WU was very helpful. There are two welcome days, which is very practical, as not everyone arrives in Vienna at the same moment. At this day, we got presentations and a folder,



informing us all about the university, Vienna and everything we had to arrange. I did not participate in the orientation program of the university, so I cannot recommend it myself. However, I have heard good stories about this program. In this programme, you are being showed around in Vienna and you learn a whole lot about Austria and its culture.

accommodation

In Vienna, there are two ways of finding yourself a place to stay. Either you apply for one of the student dorms, via Oead, or you arrange an accomodation for yourself. I did the latter, which was very easy to arrange. I found an accomodation via Housinganywhere.com and I lived with two other people, who were locals, which was a lot of fun.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Vienna, there is enough culture to see and explore. And with the international organisations, like EBN, there are a lot of parties organized. You will never be bored in this city, that is for sure. Also Vienna is really close to Eastern Europe and it is normally very cheap and easy to make a trip to Budapest, Krakow or Prague for example. And of course, Austria has a lot of skiing areas which is especially attractive during the winter season.

suggestions/tips

Start early with arranging everything, like accomodation, study plans and financing. That safes you a lot of time while being abroad.

Try to come early to Vienna, before the semester starts. It is easy to find your way around the city and the university beforehand. Lots of activities, like a welcome week for internationals, already start before the semester even begins.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend this destination abroad to others. At first, the university is very good, the WU is recently renovated and everything is very new and works perfectly. This makes it a nice place to study and in addition, there are enough courses provided in English and these courses are pretty good and interesting.

Next to the university, Vienna is a very beautiful city. It has all the old cultural atmosphere, but it also has a lot of new, hip places. There is enough to do in Vienna during the day, like visiting the Hofburg or one of the many palaces build by Franz Joseph. By night, Vienna has enough places to go to as well, there are many clubs, parties and bars in Vienna. Also, the international organizations, will provided a lot of activities, trips and parties. So, you will never be bored.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start early with arranging everything, the earlier, the better. That safes a lot of time and stress. Also, be on time with registering for your courses in Vienna. As their register system opens at the same time for everyone, a lot of courses will be filled up very quickly (sometimes even within minutes).



2016-2017

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The exchange application process was pretty straightforward. After the information session I made up my mind and finally decided on two different universities in Europe. I did not get into the university of my first choice, but I did get into my second choice, the WU.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	The support was pretty good at the UU. Since there were a few unclear things, they had sent me a mail that the students a year before me had gotten from the WU, which helped me in the beginning.
academic preparation	
	Due to the good and clear WU site, it was fairly easy to skim through the offered courses and make a plan regarding the courses I would want to follow at the WU.
language preparation	
	Since there are many courses in English, and since my study in Utrecht is also taught in English, I did not have to prepare much for it. Furthermore, through high school I was already able to speak a bit of German which has eventually helped me most in day-to-day life.
finances	
	Austria, and especially Vienna is a country which is not too expensive but it is to my experience more expensive than it is in Utrecht. Both rent and groceries are a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. I think rent is in most cases around 400-550 euros for a decent room in a student dorm. Groceries are also a bit more expensive but there are also plenty of supermarkets which have more or less 'Dutch' prices (Hofer for example).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The WU offers a wide variety of courses in both English and German. Therefore there is I did not have any organisational issues with the WU. Everything was handled very well.
academic quality of education activities	
	The WU is a very good university with great teachers and professors from all over Europe. The levels of the courses are comparable to the courses in Utrecht, although it sometimes depends on whether you already have some previous knowledge on the subject or not.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Since I did not need much support or counselling I can not tell much about this matter. However, the questions I did have were answered very adequately.
transfer of credits	
	Most courses consist of 6 ECTS, which means that you have to take five courses in a semester. And since it is ECTS I expect the transfer of credits to go smoothly.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The orientation programme, which is kicked off by the welcome on the first day, is a great way to start your exchange semester. You get to know a lot of people, and you start to get familiar with the city and Austria as well.



accommodation
I paid 470 euros per month for my room in a student dorm near the WU and 10-15 minutes away from the city centre.
leisure & culture
If it comes to culture, Vienna is one of the best places to go to in Europe. But also for going out, enjoying your free time in the sun, and so on, Vienna is the place to go to.
suggestions/tips
I don't have specific tips for now.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend going to Vienna and studying at the WU. Vienna itself is a very beautiful city with a high diversity of things to do in your free time. Furthermore, the WU has a good name in Europe and the level of education is also more than satisfactory. Overall, it has been a great semester abroad for me and while I was in Vienna I have never regretted taking the opportunity.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
For now I do not have any additional advice or comments.

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The biggest challenge was to compose a fitting study plan. Especially if you want to sign up for courses, but the courses you want to follow appear to be full.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
This was fine, they answer all your questions and the study advisor is willing to plan a meeting to discuss your study plan.
academic preparation
Not applicable. The UU provided a good base to follow the courses.
language preparation
I had German in high school. I just followed courses in English, but it was nice to speak some German. It is not necessary since almost all Austrians speak English.
finances
Nothing special. Living expenditures are about as high as in Utrecht. You receive an Erasmus grant which is quite high.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
There is a lot of choice in the courses which you can follow. However, there are not many choices in Law courses, which might get complicated if you follow a law minor.



academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the curriculum and the lectures was pretty much the same as in Utrecht. Only the group assignments were not really academic, those were more practical assignments.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
It is great. They offer a very complete information packet. If you mail the international office, you got a mail back in one day.
transfer of credits
It is still happening. WU is sending them to UU international office.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	Was a little bit disappointing. There was a formal introduction at the university, but no activities to get to know other exchange students.
accommodation	My accomodation was in the student building Donaubase. It was a mini-apartment (for 1 person) which was fine with nice facilities. The only problem was the organisation. They try to earn extra money in every possible way. I had to pay cleaning costs, but they never came to clean my room. Furthermore they were not helpful if I had some problems. I have heard a lot of exchange students about this. The living circumstances are fine, but the organisation is terrible.
leisure & culture	I had a lot of spare time to do some trips and to discover Vienna. The culture is pretty much the same as in the Netherlands. Only different I noticed, was that people in Vienna are more polite. It looks like they never break any rule.
suggestions/tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make some friends as soon as possible. - Use your time useful. You got a lot of spare time to do trips to other countries/cities. If you like to see a lot, start in the first month. I started too late, so did not visit all places I wanted. - Try to find a private room, not via the student housing organisations. They are after you're money all the time. I am still waiting for my deposit, which they refuse to pay.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	Yes, the university is really good with good facilities. There is a lot to discover in Vienna and to discover some interesting places in Eastern Europe.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	Try to sign up for courses directly when the application period starts. I was not able to follow all the courses I wanted since I was 15 minutes later.