



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	1 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	4 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

The application process was fairly smooth, though Tartu's online application was a bit confusing in the beginning. Just be aware of Tartu's own deadlines as well after applying/getting accepted by the UU already.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Didn't feel that I needed any in particular, but the support I am getting with my Erasmus grant during and after my semester is really great!

#### academic preparation

Didn't do any specific preparation.

#### language preparation

Didn't need to do any language preparation as I decided only to take courses in English.

#### finances

I prepared by having savings already from working before going, but Estonia is a very cheap country for most things so that was fantastic! Traveling around the area is fairly cheap, with excellent & affordable bus



connections throughout the country, and the trains are pretty good too. Even renting cars is totally doable. Groceries are also practically dirt cheap as long as you don't buy special items from far away places (potatoes at 20-40c/kilo and bananas at 45-90c/kilo yes please). There are also a lot of student/youth (under 26 usually) discounts for tickets/travel/etc.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme itself was fantastic, I basically pretended to be a part of the Semiotics MA for a semester and was welcomed openly. There is such a fantastic wide array of course options in all kinds of fields, and a rather large part of them are taught in English, so very accessible to international and exchange students.

academic quality of education activities

I thought the academic quality was really good, with some classes being more challenging than others, as always. I did get the impression though that the professors didn't necessarily expect so much of us in assignments as at UCU and so grading was quite soft. I also had great experiences with professors being willing to take into account my academic background when I had difficulties with something.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

support was great all around, from professors and the international office as well as locals

transfer of credits

nice and easy because UT also uses ECTS and letter grades.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

it was really useful and nice and concise

accommodation

great, it was pretty easy just to rent your own apartment in town because there is a lot available and really cheap (you can literally find apartments for yourself from as little as around 150e and quite luxurious places for around 3-400); most places wanted min. 1 year contracts though so you have to search a little harder for the places that don't mind short term (airbnb works too) but there were still plenty around. The university accomodation in the city was plentiful and eeven cheaper, however as an exchange student you can only apply for one of the buildings which was 210e for sharing a room, 420e for a whole room (i.e. really expensive for Estonian standards). There are 3 rooms per apartment so you're essentially living with 5 other people, and the facilities in the building are relatively minimal and it looks a bit like a prison with infinite corridors inside, and the management can be a bit nasty with silly rules like that no one who doesn't live there isn't allowed in after 10pm, etc.. Great community though since most exchange students live all on the same floor. In terms of location, everything is close to town basically because Tartu is so adorably tiny!

leisure & culture

Lots of interesting things to explore! Loads of museums, beautiful nature areas, interesting culture and history. You can also do things like canoe rides in the river.

suggestions/tips

Definitely take the time to learn about the culture and history of Estonia and visit around the country as much as you find time for! Hiking is also absolutely amazing there.



**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes definitely! I absolutely loved the atmosphere of the university and the town and all the people there (internationals and locals alike). It was also incredibly interesting to explore this corner of Europe that is so different from our western corner here.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

have fun!



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts

destination city & country	Tarty, Estonia
name university abroad	Tartu University
start date	29 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 1 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
It all went well.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Fast and useful answers as well as general information on exchange procedures.	
academic preparation	
Not necessary.	
language preparation	
Not necessary.	
finances	
Rent in Estonia is much cheaper than in the Netherlands; it can easily be covered by the Erasmus grant. As for the rest, is also less expensive but the difference is not that big.	



<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took 7 courses since I had to cover 30ECTS, and most courses there are worth either 3 or 6 credits. Be aware that if you go on exchange to a specific department, they will require you to take at least half of your courses from that department. That was my case with Social Sciences, so I took 3 courses on Politics and International Relations. Good courses; they were MA level, the professors were highly competent and the standards were high. The other 4 courses I took were on philosophy and literature; I also enjoyed them, especially 2 of them which were seminar based so we were very few people in the classroom and had a lot of space to discuss the materials. As I said, the academic level is good and some teachers are excellent. I recommend to sign up for as many courses as you are interested in at the beginning of the semester and try them for one day, because there are many, and the good ones might be hard to find. I personally recommend Prof. Marling and Prof. Vaher from the English literature department. And one more tip: careful with the method of assessment of the courses you choose, some courses are just pass/fail and UCR will not transfer credits from those!
academic quality of education activities
Explained above.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good, they have an entire department for international students.
transfer of credits
Don't know yet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I skipped introduction week, but in Tartu exchange and international students in general is a big deal, so I guess they did plenty of stuff.
accommodation
I lived in one of the student accomodations for 3 weeks (Narva 27), and then I moved out because I found a room in a family's house. The first one wasn't a great experience; you share the room and the dorm in general is very quiet and distant among students, which I found weird. The dorm where exchange students usually go is Raatuse, were people are partying non-stop. I recommend to find some local people to host you, for me it was one of the highlights of my experience in Estonia. It is difficult to find, since there are no adds or anything where people are offering rooms. Just go and talk to people, meet the Estonians, they are not as cold as they say (especially after a drink or two).
leisure & culture
There's a street plenty of bars were you will find yourself very often if you go to Tartu. As in "non-student culture" wise, I think there were quite some museums in Tartu, one of them opened recently and supposedly very impressive, but I didn't go to any. For me what was interesting was the communist legacy and the fact that is in their very recent history. Tartu is small, a bit like Middelburg but more alive, so you can get an idea of what will you find there. I personally like it that way; if you stay a bit away from the student life, as I did, you can easily be comfortable in the city and hang out with people you just repeatedly meet at bars or wherever. I think each experience is a lot different and it depends a lot on what you are looking for; you can do it the way I did, but I also met people who were living in the dorm and hanging out with exchange students, which are many, and had the time of their life.
suggestions/tips



You can really adapt what you do in Tartu with what you are looking for. If you don't really feel like studying on your semester abroad, there are plenty of courses which didn't seem very demanding. But you can also do the opposite and will find good academic level and more choices than at UCR. Same goes for accomodation and people you meet.

I strongly recommend though to take some time to travel around Estonia. I did so during 3 weeks before starting the semester, it was August and the weather was great. I volunteered in a couple of farms and it was the best way to get a better sense of where I was. If you like to go trekking, the whole country is plenty of signalled routes with wooden huts and camping sites along the way. A huge part of Estonia is just forest and swamps, so take advantage of it:) Also, most people, specially the young ones, speak fluent English!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, of course. I personally enjoyed my time in Estonia very much. I had a good balance between university and personal life, and I could meet many people, from Estonia and from abroad. Of course, there is one issue with the weather being extremely cold, specially for my Spanish standards. The snow started to fall in October, and in January/Febraury they reach about -20/30º.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

That's all.



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2014-2015

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Interdepartmental: Social Sciences & Arts and Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Tartu , Estonia
name university abroad	Tartu University
start date	01 / 09 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>It was slightly stressful because University College Roosevelt no longer has a single person that deals with exchange. I therefore relied heavily on Utrecht University for information and that was difficult sometimes because the two universities still have different expectations. My first choice (Lund University) also changed their agreement after I got accepted to Spring Semester and I did not know if UCR would allow me to do a Spring exchange. Because I had to wait such a long time to hear back from UCR (as they do not have the person specifically for this) my second and third choices were given away and I ended up having to go to the 'left-over' list despite getting into my first choice initially. Luckily, I found a place within the European Union so I could receive the Erasmus Grant, but it was very stressfull at the time.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>My communication with Utrecht University was always good and Marleen van der Ven who dealt with me was always very helpful and friendly as well as the Erasmus staff at UU.</p>
academic preparation	None
language preparation	None
finances	Receiving the Erasmus grant helped and also the money from DUO for the OV-grant.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	



Well organised program. The introduction week was very fun and helpful and the staff and professors were all helpful. Tartu university always responded back to me quickly.
academic quality of education activities
I felt academically challenged and am very happy with the subjects I took and the professors. I know I have learnt a lot at Tartu. I recommend taking a course that deals with Estonian history and culture because it would be a shame not to learn anything about their fascinating history and key-figures. The university also has many courses to do with the 'Baltic Sea Region' and the department is excellent. If you are interested in politics and relations with Russia there are many courses available on the subject. I took 6 courses in the end and I managed quite well. I also went on a trip to Russia organised by the university and visited the Kremlin and the Red Square as well as the State Hermitage Museum (the dream of every social science and art history student). Our visa was free in the end.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I found that almost all of my professors were helpful as well as the international desk staff at Tartu University. If I had a problem I knew I could go to the international office- but that was never really necessary.
transfer of credits
I did not have any issues calculating my grades. I will say that as a UCR student it is difficult to understand where the grades will be sent to and how UCR will receive my transcripts. It is also kind of frustrating how late Tartu University deadlines are, meaning final grades were received at the end of February for me. It also means that I have no clue when my grades will actually first be sent to Utrecht and then UCR. The grading system is also different there as well as the grading boundaries. I hope the grades are calculated in my favour and not against. For example, a B at Tartu is very good and an 80%. At UCR an 80% is an A and a B a 70%.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	Well organised and fun thanks to Erasmus Student Network (ESN) the first two weeks there were loads of social "get-to-know-each-other" events and they really helped me feel satisfied with my social life.
accommodation	I really liked my accommodation. I lived at Narva 27 which is more quiet than the Raatause flat. Raatause is kind of known as the 'party flat' and completely international. What I liked about Narva is that you can also be housed with Estonians which is great if you need them to call the doctor for you or if you want to learn a bit more about Estonian history and culture. In any case, all the buildings are a 5 minute walk from each other. I payed 100 euros rent a month which is incredible to me. Most students share a room with someone else and I actually really liked this. Of course if you're roommate and you do not get along well that is horrible but most people are pretty lucky.
leisure & culture	Erasmus Student Network are really involved with the international students in Tartu. The first few weeks the weekly events are focused on meeting new people and making new friends. After that, you'll have a group of friends to do things with and you can continue attending the ESN events. Tartu is really beautiful in any season and there are a lot of places to go. The botanical garden for example or the Modern Art Museum or the many museums about Estonian history (one from the university). You can tell that Estonians really value their interwar independence between 1918 and 1940 and with the restoration of independence a large focus was on preserving the things that came out of that first independence. Tartu is really the intellectual capital of Estonia and you can see this with the many statues of figures from this period of writers, folklorists, famous allumni ec. Estonians today speak really excellent English and asking for directions or help is not difficult. For students



Ruutli is a very well-known street where students stand outside (even with temperatures of -11 degrees) to have a drink. In the warmer months this street will have street-performers and it's always very cosy. There are also three big clubs that hold events such as Gen Klubi (alternative hipster kind of venue), Club Illusion, Club Atlantis (not really popular) and Shooters (free entrance). Tartu is also blessed with loads of great bars such as Naiive and the famous MOKU.

suggestions/tips

Attend the ESN events in the first few weeks, this is where you'll make most of your friends. Look into travelling in the area because it is very easy and cheap. And finally, take an interest in Estonian history and culture and even the language.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes absolutely. I would say that I had one of the best times of my life in the 6 months I spent in Tartu and would easily do it again. First of all it is VERY CHEAP to go on exchange in Tartu (100 euro rent a month and the cheapest phone 'contract' I have ever had!). There are loads of students because it is a student town and so it is easy to make friends and have fun, the city also carries so much history which you can see everywhere (in the neoclassical architecture for example), the quality of education is excellent and the professors are very helpful.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're looking at Sweden and Finland, look at Estonia. You will pay 1/5th of the price and experience just as much if not more.



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2013-2014**

e-mail address	<i>optional; only if you don't mind students preparing for study abroad contacting you directly</i> Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name degree programme	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name host institution and/or company/organization	University of Tartu
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> courses <input type="checkbox"/> research <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	04 / 02 / 2014
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13 / 06 / 2014

<b>preparation</b>	
exchange/placement application process	You have to figure out most of the application and exchange process yourself.
counselling/support at home university	There was not so much support, only a lot of mail contact. You should take responsibility for it and just figure out everything on your own.
academic preparation	For me, there was no academic preparation needed.
language preparation	The courses that I choose were taught in English, my level of English was good enough to participate in the Erasmus program.
finances	I was in a country that was relatively cheap. Even though I spent quite a lot of money on trips, the additional money from Erasmus helped me to pay other kinds of bills.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>	
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)	



Although in Tartu, there are not so many anthropological courses, there were still enough interesting classes I could choose.
academic quality of education/placement activities
The quality of education was lower than in Utrecht. However, it was still good enough. The educational system was just different, and I had to get used to that.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
There was not so much counselling or support, but actually I did not need that.
transfer of credits
I do not know yet. My credits are not send to Utrecht yet.
<b>student life</b>
welcome/orientation programme
There were several orientation courses and welcome parties and other events.
accommodation
I lived in Raatuse 22, which is the best place to live as an international student in Tartu. You easily meet a lot of people from all over the world there, and there are parties almost every night.
leisure/culture
There is enough to see and to do in Tartu. You can join different sport clubs and travel to a lot of places because of Estonia's borders with Russia and the other Baltic States, but Finland is not that far away either.
suggestions/tips
You should not expect a big city, however, Tartu is a nice student city where you will get to know a lot of people and even though there are not so many facilities, you will have a great time.
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
I would definitely recommend this! Estonia is an interesting country. I had never stayed for such a long time in Eastern-Europe before, so I definitely had to get used to 'the Estonian culture'. However, later on I saw the beauty of Tartu.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
As I already mentioned, do not expect a big city like Paris or Berlin with a lot of facilities. Also, do not expect too much western-european food. If you do not like small cities, do not go here.



**UU Report form ~ Erasmus 2012-2013**

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences and Education
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	-
destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name host institution and/or company/organization	University of Tartu
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27 / 08 / 2012
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	03 / 02 / 2013

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
The application process was really easy. I orientated on the website of the university and choose the courses that looked nice to me. I filled in the application form and the international office send it for me.
counselling/support at home university
During my application process I didn't need help, so there was no need for my home university to give me support. When I filled in my application form they checked it and send it to the university of Tartu.
academic preparation
The courses I choose didn't need any preparation in advance.
language preparation
I didn't take any estonian language course in advance. But during my study period I attended an estonian language class.
finances
I lived in a dormitory from university. The housing costs (including internet) were about 110 euro every month, so in comparison to Utrecht it was really cheap!
The price for food is the same like in Holland. So it is affordable and you don't need a lot of savings for your stay abroad.



<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I registered already for the courses I wanted to take when I was still in Holland. But at the start of some courses it didn't seem what I expected or with some courses it wasn't even possible to attend, due to some schedule and class size issues. But that was no problem, because in the first two weeks of the semester you can switch your courses and just register for new ones. In the end this works out better than you may expect, because you can meet the teacher, see what the course is like etc. And if you don't like it, you can cancel and choose something else.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Some of the courses I took were not the level and quality I am used to in Utrecht. But other courses were from a higher level than I am used to. I think it really depends on the course and teacher.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
There is a very active international office at the university of Tartu. There is one lady especially for Erasmusstudents and with most of your problems she can help you. When she can't help you herself, she helps you to find the right person for it.
transfer of credits
There were no problems with transferring my credits, because all the credits you get are ECTS, just like they use in Utrecht.
<b>student life</b>
welcome/orientation programme
There is an orientation programme that takes three days. They tell you everything you need to know about the university systems, the city, the country, the public transport etc. You also meet your tutor and you get to know the most important places in Tartu. Furthermore ESN is really active and they organize many events for the international students.
accommodation
I lived in a dormitory from the university. I had a roommate and in the beginning that is something you really have to get used to when you never had it. But in the end everything worked out fine. The facilities are very good and there is always someone at the administration to help.
leisure/culture
There are many bars and facilities for students. It is a small town, but you really notice that there are many students. Also the international organisations are really active and you can take part in a lot of nice events.  It is also a great opportunity to travel through the Baltic States, Russia and Scandinavia.
suggestions/tips
When you are studying in Tartu you should definitely make time for some trips through some other countries!
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain



Yes. Tartu is a real student city and the university provides a lot of different courses. The level of English is quite good and there are a lot of travel opportunities!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you think about going to Russia, it is important to take a passport with you!


**UU Report form ~ Erasmus 2010-2011**

faculty/college	UCU
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
name degree programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in SSC/ HUM
destination city & country	Tartu, Estonis
name host institution and/or company/organization	Tartu Ülikool
purpose Erasmus grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement
departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	03 / 08 / 2010
return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30 / 01 / 2011

**preparation**

## exchange/placement application process

All the information about the application process itself was supplied by my tutor. I made my decision for the exchange destination by looking at the website of the University of Tartu (and other universities), also to check if they had enough courses on offer in my subject area. After filling and handing in all the forms, I was informed about two months later that I could go to Tartu.

## counselling/support at home university

I got a lot of information from my tutor and later the coordinator for region1 before I left, but didn't need much while I was in Tartu.

## academic preparation

I looked up the courses on offer on the website of the TÜ. There were enough that fitted my program, so I didn't need to do anything to prepare myself academically before leaving.

## language preparation

I didn't know any Estonian before leaving, but did a language course (EILC) in august before the exchange period. This is something I can highly recommend, even if it is not strictly necessary to function in Estonian live afterwards.

## finances

Estonia was considerable less expensive that staying in the Netherlands for the same period would've been, so there were extra financial considerations for me.

**study/placement abroad period**

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

As expected it was not possible to get most of the courses I originally thought I would take, due to schedule/availability issues. I arranged the courses during the first two weeks of the period and got into some very good course - with one exception, that I could still change when I realised it wasn't such a good course (bad teacher, I



thought). Don't worry too much about this in advance, it'll work out. In fact, you can make a much better choice when you're actually there, because you can already meet/see the teachers.
<b>academic quality of education/placement activities</b>
The quality of the courses was higher than expected. It differed a lot per course, but there were a few really good courses (Paul McLaughlin and V. Morozov are very good teachers, I can recommend their courses) and the others were at least okay.
<b>counselling/support at host institution/organisation</b>
There is a very active officer for international students, but I didn't have much contact with her. As far as I heard though, you can approach her for most problems you could encounter as an international student in Tartu.
<b>transfer of credits</b>
I'm still in the process of transferring the credits, but don't foresee any problems.
<b>student life</b>
<b>welcome/orientation programme</b>
There are three introduction days, in which you get to know most of the facilities of the city. For the rest there are the ESN events, of which there are many in the first weeks. I recommend doing the EILC though, it also involves a cultural program that gives a more thorough introduction.
<b>accommodation</b>
I choose to arrange private accommodation in a house with other students. This was very easy to find, so it's a good option.
<b>leisure/culture</b>
Tartu has a good student life, it is condensed but still surprisingly diverse. There are about 6 good bars each with their own atmosphere, a theater, multiple cinema's and various grassroots cultural events (including 2 film festivals, and amazing student days)
<b>suggestions/tips</b>
Go here if you're interested in EU-Russia relations or in structuralist philosophy, that is what they specialise in.
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Yes, it has everything most people want in an exchange (student life, travel opportunities), so if you're interested in any of the academic specialisations (Russia, structuralism, semiotics) of this university, I can definitely recommend it.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Make sure you have a passport so you can travel to Russia.