



faculty/college	Faculty of Social Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Pedagogische Wetenschappen

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	25 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>In december I had to decide on a top 3 of destinations and I had to apply in Osiris. In January I heard that I got the spot at the University of Tartu.</p> <p>In april I had to apply to the University of Tartu. On the website of the University of Tartu instructions were provided and the instructions were quite clear. In july I heard that I was accepted.</p> <p>In august I applied for the Erasmus grant. Utrecht University provided instructions for this.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The counselling and support at Utrecht University was good.</p> <p>The international office organized a pre-departure meeting in which you got information about applying and in which you could ask al your questions. Next to this, they provided students a document (guide for the exchange) and you could find a lot of information in this document (about applying, grants etc.).</p> <p>If you had questions you could always contact the international office, and they responded quite fast (mostly within a week).</p>
academic preparation	<p>Before the semester started I looked up the courses that are thought in English and I made a list of all the courses that seemed interesting. I put some of those courses in my learning agreement. However, I didn't make a definitive choice yet, I only did this when I arrived in Estonia.</p>
language preparation	<p>Because I took all my courses in English, I did not need to do language preparation.</p>
finances	<p>I used the money of the Erasmus grant. Next to this, in the year before my Erasmus I worked and saved some money.</p> <p>I would say that Estonia is not super expensive. Some expenses are the same as in the Netherlands , for example groceries. However, other things are very cheap, for example: rent and travel expenses (bus tickets, hostels). On workdays, a lot of restaurants have lunch offers and when you take the lunch offer you can have lunch for around 5 euro's. You can find the lunch offers on: https://paevapakkumised.ee/tartu (you only need to translate the webpage)</p>



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I had to sign up for the courses in the Student Information System (SIS). A few days before you could sign up for courses I received my username and password for this system. I tried to sign up for the courses as soon as the registration opened. However, because a lot of students were trying to pick courses at the same time, the system did not work for me. I had to pick my courses the next day, and some courses that I wanted to take were already full.</p> <p>In the first two weeks you can (if the course is not full) change your courses. This is very nice because, in this way, you can check if you like the course.</p> <p>I followed 5 courses of 24 ECTS in total. The courses were 3 ECTS or 6 ECTS. I had to take at least 12 ECTS in the department of political studies. Although I am not a political science student, the political science courses were not too hard to pass. The I would recommend taking the following courses: Estonian for Beginners I, on the Basis of English (6 ECTS) and Estonia and Estonians (on the Basis of English) (3 ECTS). I really enjoyed these courses. Moreover, I heard from other students that the course Insights to Estonian Culture, Film and Museum Course on the Basis of English (3 ECTS) was also a nice course.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>I thought the quality of the education was fine. It was, in my opinion, a bit lower than the quality of the education in the Netherlands. The courses I took were not really interactive (except for the language course). Moreover, it was easy to pass the courses. I mostly had to write papers or give presentations, and those were not strictly graded.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>If I had questions I could always send an email to a contact person of the University of Tartu. They always responded quite fast, I would say within a week.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>When all my grades were in the student information system, I had to send an e-mail to the University of Tartu to request my transcript of records, and I had to ask if the university of Tartu could send the transcript to the international office. The international office put the grades in Osiris. After they did this I had to send the Board of Examiners of my faculty an e-mail and they checked my grades and transferred the credits.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The university did not really have a welcome & orientation programme. There was only one online lecture in which the university provided information about studying in Tartu.</p> <p>However, I don't think that a welcome & orientation programme is necessary in Tartu. Tartu is quite small and it is easy to meet other students. There were Facebook and WhatsApp groups for international students, and in the first days people met through those groups.</p>
accommodation
<p>I lived in the dorms for exchange students: Raatuse 22. I had a dorm room for two people for myself and I shared the apartment with two other people. The room itself was quite big, but the rest of the apartment was not. However, I think that the dorms are the best place to live during your exchange, because most exchange students live there. Because of this, it was easy to meet other students.</p>



I paid 330 euros for my room, and this included weekly cleaning. Also, bed linnen and basics (pans, pots, cutlery, water cooker, mugs) were included. You can apply for the dorms online on the following website <https://www.studenthostel.ee/> . It is important to apply for a room in time, because they have limited spaces.

leisure & culture

Tartu is a small city, however there are a lot of international student and there is a lot to do. The ESN organizes a lot of activities where you can go to. Moreover, there are a lot of nice café's (Krempel, Reval café, Werner & Säde), bars (Möku & Kivi) and restaurants (La Dolce Vita). Moreover in Estonia there are a lot of cool (art) museums and the Estonian nature is very nice.

suggestions/tips

Try to see more of Estonia. Go on a (day)trip to different places in Estonia (for example to Saaremaa, Parnü, Tallinn, Narva or Viljandi) or go hiking in Estonian nature (for example to Elva or Otepää). Moreover, try to learn more about the Estonian language, history and culture, because it's very interesting. You can do this by taking university courses, but also by attending events.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Tartu as an exchange destination. It is a city that is not too big, because of this it is very easy to meet other (international) students. However, Tartu is not a boring city. There are a lot of other international students and there are a lot of events organized by for example the ESN. Moreover, Tartu has cool bars, cafés and restaurants.

Tartu is also a very good destination for people who like to travel. You can reach a lot of places by bus and ferry and this is very cheap. In Estonia I went to a lot of different places (Parnü, Tallinn, Saaremaa, Viljandi, Võru, Otepää, Elva and Narva and a roadtrip along lake Peipus). Also, it is very easy to go to places outside of Estonia (for example Helsinki, Stockholm, Riga, Vilnius, Kaunas, Lapland, Götheburg and Oslo)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take language and/or language courses in university.

Try to go to a lot of events / parties in the beginning, because that is how you will meet other students.

Travel within and outside of Estonia. Go on the ESN trip to lapland, because it is very cool! And if it is possible (if the borders are not closed because of Covid) try to visit Russia, because it is supposed to be very cool.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Betawetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Informatica

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	28 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It is quite some work to go through the application process, but most time I spend on deciding where I wanted to go. My main advice would be to start early with thinking about it, since the deadline is already the first of December for the autumn semester.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht University was always fast. I preferred to communicate over email and this was always possible. They were always willing to scan in the documents I needed or receive them as a PDF.

academic preparation

Academically I prepared by choosing some course, however I didn't make any final decisions, because I knew that a lot would probably change when I got there. This was a good idea, because in the end I think I only did two of the courses I originally chose.

language preparation

I didn't do any specific language preparation, since I already had the C2 level in English. I did learn some basic Estonian words, like hello, just for fun, but this was not necessary.

finances

I made a financial plan to make sure I'd have enough money. I had saved more than enough money before, so I didn't worry about this too much.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

They said they had the requirement that I'd take 50% of my credits within the faculty they put me in (Social Sciences), but after talking with the study abroad center they were okay with it as long as I took one course in Social Sciences, which was fine for me. In the first two week everyone could still enroll in courses and drop them, which was really useful. I just went to a lot of courses in the first week and chose the ones I liked best. So I suggest not to worry too much about choosing courses before you get there, it is a lot easier to do it when you are there and have access to the Study Information System. Although as soon as you have your login for the system (a few days before you get there) it is smart to enroll for popular courses. You can always drop those in



the next weeks, but enrolling fast ensures you a spot if you want it. Also, I recommend taking the course 'Insights into Estonian Culture through film and museum', it is a lot of fun!
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses at the University of Tartu is great.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They were always quick to respond.
transfer of credits
Getting a Transcript of Records is easy. Just email your faculty and they will send it to you by email or post.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation program was great. Not too long, but enough opportunities to meet many new people.
accommodation
I lived in the student dormitory for exchange students Raatuse 22. It is a nice new building, but it has a bit of problems. The kitchen is a bit small and has only two stoves, and it is a bit expensive. Either way, I think it is nearly impossible to find something cheaper for half a year and it is an awesome place to meet people and have fun with other exchange students. So I would absolutely recommend staying there.
leisure & culture
Tartu is a small city, but has a lot to do. You can have a great lunch at most restaurants for about 4 euros. There are a lot of great bars and a few good clubs.
suggestions/tips
I would suggest making a lot of trips, there is a lot to explore in and around Estonia. I would particularly recommend visiting the islands of Estonia, Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, and cities like Saint Petersburg, Helsinki, Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn and Stockholm.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! Tartu is a lovely city and Estonia is a really interesting country. The university is great as well, you won't regret going here!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
After you get a password for the study information system you can see feedback other students gave on courses last time, this can be very useful for choosing courses!



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 accommodation in the city was plentiful and even 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	
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)

PREPARATION	
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.	



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
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.

STUDENT LIFE
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.