



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	FSW
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Algeme sociale wetenschappen

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	UNIBO
start date	1 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	09 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the application proces I had to write an motivational letter. When I got chosen to go to bologna it took a while before bologna contacted me to finalise my application there. This was a little stressfull as a lot of people around me already did receive somnething from their exchange univerisy.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was quit helpfull with the process. The only thing that i missed was a bit more information about bologna university as i received no information from them. - that's why i made a document with information for future students

academic preparation

I did not do a lot of academic preperation for my mobility period

language preparation

as there wasn't any language course available anymore when i checked at bable, i only did a short language course where i learned the basic italian. Maybe UU could say within their accaptence letter that that person should look for a course straight away.

finances

I worked quite a bit before i left, arragedmy OV compensation, did my erasmus+ application and put my student loan on maximum

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did not know what to expect before my arrival. I did not get a lot of informartion. This was quite stressfull for me. i luckily got into contact with someone who has been to bologna before. She helped me a lot. But it would have been easier if UNIBO had send me some more info by email of the whole procedure and the time line. I heard from my friend that I had to sign up on arrival. I wished UNIBO would have told me that.

academic quality of education activities

I think the dutch system is very different from the italian system. the Italian system is very theoratical. All my classes only of lectures and not of seminars. seminars are normaly for me my favourite type of education. So that was a bit of a change for me. Also the teachers are a bit more distant. I did like my courses. Espacially the



lectures where the students also had to talk and discuss. Also the Italian classes were very good. With an amazing teacher. I am happy I could explore some of my interests, like the position of women in Italy.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not have a lot of counseling. The International office was very helpful. When I had a problem with a teacher and a grade, they helped me!
transfer of credits
Do not yet have information about this.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There wasn't really a lot from the university, there was one day. I could not go there as it was during a lecture and it was in October. By then I was already in Bologna for 5 weeks, so for me it was no use. Maybe this was because I did different courses at different faculties. But everyone I spoke to kind of had the same 'problem'. For this reason I applied to 2 different international associations
accommodation
I went to Bologna without accommodation. I think it is possible to do it. I had an apartment after 3 weeks. The only thing is, that this was very stressful. As there were a lot of activities and the people I just met did a lot of stuff. So I had to manage my time between my friends and finding a room. I would recommend going there maybe for a week in June and make sure you make a few appointments with landlords or landladies to make sure you have a room. If you go there without an accommodation make sure you have a place to stay for at least two weeks. There are also different websites (I have a document that I will send the IO with more info on this)
leisure & culture
As I said before I signed up to 2 international associations, ESEG (in Bologna) and ESN, within ESEG I met all my friends in the first weeks I went to a lot of their trips and activities. But as soon as our group was formed we organised stuff ourselves. I also joined a choir, in the welcoming package there was a leaflet with information about this. Bologna is an amazing vibrant city with a lot of opportunities
suggestions/tips
Make sure you speak to people who have been there before you go, as they can help you a lot. And when you are there enjoy it to the fullest as it is an experience like no other.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes for sure! The only thing that you have to keep in mind is that the level of education in Bologna is different (it is very theoretical and there are a lot of lectures and not that many seminars. It might not have the academic level you wished for, but because it is a different culture, different language and you start from nothing, there are enough challenges to overcome. The Bologna life is just amazing and I made friends for life. It was an amazing experience and even though the academic challenges weren't as high, the content of some of my subjects I really liked and it made me realise, what kind of direction I might want to go in.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I am sending a whole document to the UU. I send a lot of tips to students that are going on exchange in Bologna this semester or the next one. So they can get a lot of information from there.
And my time there is something I will never forget. I can highly recommend everyone to go abroad.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

Permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>	
	my e-mail address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: i.j.e.teulings@students.uu.nl
	my weblog	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	my Facebook account	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
	other (social) media	<input type="checkbox"/> yes:
faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Psychology	

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	05 / 09 / 18 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 19 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
The application process was nice. You are pushed to really think your decision through, so eventually it becomes very clear for yourself why you want to go to a specific place.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
There was a lot of help provided., but mostly just general information. They have no one who helps you with univeristy specific information, so not super helpful for me.
academic preparation
This was more than okay. In the Netherlands, we have high quality education, so you are more than well prepared for the education in Italy.
language preparation
Before going to Italy I had to study Italian, because the language courses (provided for free by the university of Bologna) required an A1-level. This was not a big deal at all. It is a fun preparation to get yourself in the mood and as long as you know some of the basic words and sentences, you will be accepted into the program.
finances
<p>Before, I thought I would be able to manage with the grant and my savings, so I didn't put a lot of effort into saving even more. I should have definitely done that, since living abroad is more expensive than I thought. Not only groceries are more expensive than in the Netherlands, but also I did not take into account all the trips you want to go on. This of course, has some costs with them and are totally worth the money.</p> <p>Also I got a great disadvantage moneywise. I was so overwhelmed by all the arrangements and deadlines. I started my application for the Erasmus+grant in June (3 months ahead). It unfortunately took my contact person of the university of Bologna 4 (!) months to respond to me and send me her signature. This meant I had missed the deadline of the application and got no money for the first month, since Utrecht University claimed it was not known for them I was going to apply for the money due to my fault. So be very aware of deadlines and if people at the Univeristy of Bologna do not respond, make sure Utrecht Univeristy is aware of your difficulties (before missing a deadline).</p>



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The study program does not contain a lot of english taught courses. Also, you can only search the catalogs for past years and you cannot see if a course is that in the first or second semester. So basically, you can plan courses all you want (which you should definitely do to give you an idea of what you want to do), but chances are that you are not going to be able to do those courses.
academic quality of education activities
Academic quality was acutally a joke. Lectures are interesting, but exams are easy compared to dutch standards.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The international office is open only two hours a day, but when you're there, they can answer your questions. They however do not respond to emails at all and also my specific individual contact person was not responding nor available to meet in person at the university so little to no help.
transfer of credits
This hasn't happened yet, since I am still waiting for the Transcript of Records to be send to Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme of the university is 1,5 months after arrival and also after all of the courses have already started, so again no help at all. You should join ESN and/or Erasmusland, they will organize fun stuff from the beginning and this is where all the students meet each other!
accommodation
It is very hard to find a room in Bologna, but in the end everyone gets one. I rented a room from july on (even though I was only going in September) and because of Italian policies (read: scamming scenes of normal trustworthy companies) I paid untill the end of February. So be prepared for this Italian Chaos and having to pay more than what you get. Also be aware of scammers in general.
leisure & culture
Bologna is a very lively student city, much like Utrecht. There is something to do every single day and night, where the activities that can be done are very varied. The streets are very lively and the city centre is always fun to just walk around. ESN and Erasmusland are very active and this is where I met a lot of fun people, so I would definitely recommend joining one of them or both.
suggestions/tips
Don't let the chaos and the non-organisation of Italy scare you. It can actually bring and teach you many valuable things. Just be well aware of it beforehand that efficiency is not a priority there, but instead enjoying oneself is, so definitely make sure to enjoy that!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
For sure! It taught me so much on a personal level. It was a fun experiance and the options in Bologna are endless.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	University of Utrecht – Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Pedagogical Sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
start date	04 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	14 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The deadline for the application is quite early already, usually the first of December so this is something you need to know way before already. After that I didn't have quick deadlines anymore. It is important to try to make a schedule when all the deadlines are to not miss any, since they're not all that clear but once you've done that it's pretty easy to keep up with the whole process and be on time for everything. Bologna usually is a popular destination, I had heard of people who didn't get in, so it's good to also think very well about a second choice and to not put Bologna as a second or third choice I think.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office always responded super fast and helped me very well with everything I asked them about.

academic preparation

There was no academic preparation needed for me. I mostly did master courses while I'm currently doing my bachelor's and even that level was sufficient with my knowledge from my bachelor.

language preparation

I practiced my Italian before going there, as all of my subjects were in Italian. Also the University of Bologna offers free intensive Italian courses at the start of the year, you only need to be very fast when the subscription opens.

finances

I started saving money before. The costs of the life in Bologna is pretty similar to the costs in Utrecht I would say. Considering it is also nice to get to know the country and you want to travel.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did three courses related to my own study, one Italian course and one random course. The courses related to my study were all master courses, so these were a bit harder I would say, but they do consider you don't speak Italian fluently during the exam so that helped me a lot. I started with only two courses related to my own study, but then I found out I would receive less points for a course I was doing as I would stay until January and not longer. This was very unclear for a long time and then I had to choose a third course halfway November which made me have a delay.

academic quality of education activities



The quality of the courses was good, but the exams were not that hard. Mostly you had to learn multiple books for one exam, but then the examiner was not that strict at all, they have different rules for Erasmus students.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
In Bologna it is quite difficult to get support. They don't respond very fast on e-mails and it's often unclear where you should ask for help. Only in person they would be a bit more clear. They always did try to help you well once you're in the right place. It can only take some time.
transfer of credits
Hasn't happened yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There was one welcoming day, but that day I had an obligatory lecture so I missed it. They do have two student associations who help you get to know the city and the system better. Most things I got to know was from them, via other Erasmus students etc.
accommodation
This is a big problem in Bologna. I was lucky and found it via someone who had studied there two years before me, but I know many people who didn't find a place to stay until weeks after the lectures had already started. I would suggest to start looking way before, online on Facebook and asking students who have been there before if possible. The best is to find a place within the walls, you'll experience way better the life in Bologna. Also outside could easily be possible as you can travel by bus with a card for €10 the whole year and Bologna is flat, so everything is possible to do by bicycle too.
leisure & culture
The culture is great in Bologna, everyone basically lives outside, even in the winter. IT's very easy to meet people that way. It helps a lot if you know how to speak Italian, that way you can really get to know the Italian culture and be in touch with more Italians. The nightlife is great, every day seems a Saturday, only Sunday night there's less to do. They got many cheap bars in the University area where they sell cocktails for only €3 and that makes it nice and possible to go out very often. Also the student associations offer lots of activities and often it's possible to skip some lectures and travel around Italy as Bologna is very centered. With FlixBus and Ryanair it's easy to find cheap tickets to in about every place.
suggestions/tips
Buy a bicycle, but make sure you always lock it well, connecting a pole or connecting anything or it gets stolen. Many bikes get stolen in Bologna. Try to make Italian friends, as you will get to know the culture way better and you'll get to know more cheap places in Bologna.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would, it is super easy to make friends, both exchange students as Italians. Most Italians come from the south or north and aren't originally from Bologna, so they don't have family or old friends from high school and are also looking for new friends and open for new experiences.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
It is also very easy to change courses while the courses already started (if you don't study medicine or engineering), so if you don't like a course or aren't sure about a course you can always change. You can also try many courses at the start to see what you like and choose after. Also, don't stress too much before actually arriving there, everything will seem super vague, but when you go to the check-in at the office in Bologna a lot of things will be more clear and other students can also help a lot. Try to go to the office as fast as possible



when you arrive, because it will also give you advantages and access to many things online. It's also nice to go to Bologna some weeks before your courses start to get to know new people and the city.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	18 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Before going on exchange there are some things that need to be taken care of: Learning Agreement, financial plan, grant agreement and language test. You will receive notifications by e-mail by the time, and you should read the document 'timeline and instruction' to check if you're on schedule with submitting everything.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I couldn't wish for any better help! My questions were always answered very quickly, even when I was abroad.

academic preparation

I didn't do any academic preparation.

language preparation

From the moment i heard I was placed for Bologna I started learning Italian by myself online. The University of Bologna offers a free online course for exchange students called ICON. You have to email the international desk to receive the codes for taking the free course, I found it really helpful.

Once i arrived in Bologna (3 weeks before the classes started) I attended language classes at a school called Madrelingua, it's a bit pricy but I thought it was worth it. The classes were small, the teachers were very kind, the school is exactly in the centre, and the school was mixed with people from all ages and backgrounds, so I made very different kind of friends (which is nice because during your stay you will mostly only hang out with exchange students). Also there's a discount at Madrelingua for students.

After this I attended an informal language course at Kinodromo, which was not so good. But it was very cheap and it was a way to meet new people again.

And afterwards I attended the extensive language course from the University (there's also an intensive one). It's wise to take the course, because it's good and it's free. But you have to apply in advance, so check the website regularly to see when the deadline is!

finances

I started saving 1 year in advance, and I had a savings account. You receive an erasmusgrant for 4 months (when you're mobility period is for 1 semester), for Italy that's around 270 euros a month. The public transport compensation is monthly 90 euros.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My advice is to use the first 2 weeks of university to attend as many courses as possible and to decide later



which courses seem nice and which professors you like. Because the actual lectures give a better impression of the course. Also you're not obliged to enroll for a class in order to attend it, so you're free to go to all classes. At the end everyone I knew had completely different classes than was written on the Learning Agreement. I recommend the course 'Introduction to Italian culture', because it's open to all exchange students and it's very interesting. You only need to attend a lecture once a week and write a final paper and you receive 6 credits. For the language course from the University you also receive 5 credits if you pass. My only issue was that my language preparation wasn't enough to follow courses in Italian, but almost all courses from the faculty are in Italian. Eventually I emailed and I could take all my courses from other faculties (so also in English), because I was on exchange in my 'profielingsruimte', and erasmus students in Bologna are free to choose whichever courses they want! I decided to take one course in Italian because I wanted to try, the lectures were difficult to follow and the book was difficult to read but the professor was really kind and helpful for erasmus students. So I passed this course.

academic quality of education activities

There were only lectures and no 'werkgroepen'. The academic quality was definitely lower, but that doesn't mean you don't have to work at all for school.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Very good, the people at the office are very kind. And my exchange coordinator responded very quick per email.

transfer of credits

Not yet

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no special welcome programme, only 1 lecture where the most important things for exchange students were explained.

accommodation

This is a real struggle in Bologna, because every year there are too many students in comparison to the house offers. The university doesn't offer accommodation, but there are some organisations like 'campus', but you have to be quick before it's full, so check all the websites!

I didn't have a room before I went to Bologna and it took my 3 weeks to find something. I found a really nice room a little outside the 'walls', but it was only 10 minutes by bus from the centre (I walked most of the times, 30 minutes, but it's really nice to walk in Italy especially when the sun shines, it didn't bother me at all:)). The most important thing for me was if it's a safe neighborhood where you can walk alone at night for example. The areas in the north behind the station are known to be a little less safe, Bolognina and San Donato. But overall Bologna is a really safe city and you shouldn't worry about that.

It's useful when you find a place outside the centre to check how the public transportation is in that area (if there's a nightbus for example). Or get a bike for less than 50 euros.

leisure & culture

Bologna is such a student city, every night it's full on the streets and there's always an event or something going on. There are many many bars where they often they play live music. When it's warmer the nightlife is also happening a lot on the streets. The city is maybe just as big as Utrecht, but I think it's way more lively.

There are clubs where mostly exchange students go, but there are also some alternative ones where only locals go, try to go there!

In Café Zamboni and Lab16 you can have Aperitivo (unlimited food and 1 cocktail) for 7 euros!

The museums are free on the last or first Sunday, check online!

Join the Erasmusland and ESN trips, it's a good way to meet people and they have pretty good price offers.

Go to the Opera, it's only 10 euros for students!! And it's a great experience. But book at least 3 weeks in



advance for good seats:)

suggestions/tips

Try to go to bars and clubs where mostly locals go so you can get in contact with Italian students.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely. Every Italian says the same: Bologna is a university city. The university is well known and also popular under Italian students from all over Italy. The city is a not very big, but that makes it easier to get to know it very well and to get attached to it. You don't have to worry you get bored because there is something going on every day. It's sometimes hectic, but you can find your quiet places in for example Giardini Margherita.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Get a room before coming, because afterwards it's gonna be really difficult. The best way to do this is via facebook, join all the facebookgroups about rooms for rent, for example: Bologna in affitto. Try to write them in Italian, because then you will have bigger chance of respons. And don't transfer any money before skyping with the person.

Get the ESN card because then you'll have a discount and free luggage for Ryanair flights for the whole year.

The university offers a busticket which only costs once 10 euros and you can use it during your whole stay, unlimited! (you will probably receive an e-mail about this)

Travel!! It's very easy and cheap to visit other beautiful Italian cities, because Bologna has the perfect location.

And enjoy your time, because it will be over before you know it!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Algemene Sociale Wetenschappen
destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	University of Bologna
start date	10 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Luckily there's enough information about how to apply to study abroad for the semester. It's nice that the UU allows you to go to many different countries and cities. The thing I found to be a bit strange was the distinction between going abroad via the university or going abroad via your faculty.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I really appreciate the work the International Office at the UU does. I have emailed them many times with my questions and their answers were usually very quickly and useful!

academic preparation

I didn't have specific academic preparation, because I was free to choose any course I wanted to do. (Because it was in my 'profielingsruimte')

language preparation

By going on exchange via the faculty there was the requirement to do 2 courses in the same faculty in the hosting university. For me this meant I had to take 2 courses from the Faculty of Social Science in Bologna. These courses were only given in Italian, so I had to learn the language. Prior to going to Italy for my studies, I went to Italy for two weeks to do an intensive language course. This meant I went to school from 9-14 every day for two weeks to speak Italian. On my arrival I followed another intensive course of two weeks, which is offered to students for free by the university (when you are fast enough to subscribe). After this I did an extensive course, which meant I went to Italian class two times a week, two hours each.

finances

I tried to calculate how much money I would be able to spend and make a planning for it. The amount of money I used was a lot more than I calculated for.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did some random courses, so I'm not quite sure how to answer this question. I found the content of the courses to be interesting. The organisation was a bit harder, but I think this will be the case at any university in Italy. It was not really clear for me what the courses were going to look like, what the exams would look like etc etc.

academic quality of education activities

I think the quality of the contents of the courses was normal/high, but the way the exams of some courses were graded was not how it would be at the UU, they were less strict.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I had really good support at the university abroad. I emailed a woman who worked at the international office in Bologna, and she always emailed me back very soon.
transfer of credits
Not yet completed, but will probably be fine.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I did not really understand why and when we had a welcoming meeting. It's possible that this was because I did not always read e-mails thoroughly. There was only one meeting in which something was explained about erasmus in Bologna. In this meeting they gave you your student card. Further information about how to subscribe to courses, how the courses were gonna be like in general I couldn't find anywhere. When I had important questions I just emailed the International Office, but it would have been nice if they would have given some information about how studies in Bologna normally go, because everybody comes from different universities with different normalities.
accommodation
It is VERY hard to find a room in Bologna. You should really start looking as soon as you know you will be going there. You shouldn't have too many requirements.
leisure & culture
Going out in Bologna is very nice, every night there is something to do. Also the city is really italian with beautiful buildings and a lot of churches. There are some museums as well, some of which you can enter for free with your student card.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would really recommend studying here. I personally love Italy with its buildings, coffee and ice cream, so for me it was ideal living in Bologna.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
As I wrote before, there is a BIG need for rooms in Bologna. Try doing everything you can and start looking for a room as soon as you know you will go to Bologna, and watch out for scams online.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

faculty/college	Social and Behavioral Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Pedagogical Sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Alma mater studiorum
start date	19 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The first of december 2015 there was the application deadline for studying abroad. I managed to submit my application formats on time and after this it was waiting for the results. The application process is not hard, but asks some time to prepare and manage everything. You need to overthink your study programme, the courses you want to do abroad, but also when you come back home. Moreover a financial plan is asked and a motivation letter, which is rather important. March 2016 I got the happy message I was accepted! Even at my first choice: Bologna, Italy.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

For questions and problems, the International Office of the Social behavioral sciences faculty is happy to help you. They know (almost) everything about the exchange procedure and going abroad. The office replies quickly on emails and is very helpful.

academic preparation

For the courses I planned to attain in Bologna, my academic preparation at the University of Utrecht was sufficient, and it was not necessary for me to follow extra courses as academic preparation.

language preparation

At the University of Bologna, most courses are taught in Italian. I knew that within my faculty all courses would be in Italian. This meant: learning Italian! A beautiful language, and I enjoyed learning this new language very much. However, if you have difficulty with learning languages, I would advice to calculate enough time to study and obtain a sufficient level. I started learning Italian at the beginning of April 2016, when I knew for sure I was accepted. I managed, but if you have difficulty with languages, I would take some more time. I learned by selfstudy and a course together with an other Erasmus student of my study who would go to Italy.

finances

Costs differ from country to country. The Erasmus grant takes this in consideration with the amount of money they offer. The Netherlands is a quite expensive country, so for me Italy was not a financial disadvantage. You pay your normal studycosts at the University of Utrecht and you will get your 'normal' basic grant of the government (if you get this), so your financial situation does not change that much. For extra costs, you get the Erasmusgrant. With this financial support, I managed all the costs during my stay abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

School of Psychology and Education



academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of education activities was good for the regular program, which included for me two courses at the School of Psychology and Education. Besides this, I participated a course at the School of Arts, Humanities and Cultural heritage, named: "Introduction to Italian Culture". Last semester was the first time this course was held. I really liked to learn more about some typical Italian topics and Italian culture. In this course, however, is some room for improvement, probably because it was the first time. The general level of English of the professors was not the best, and there can be some improvement made on organisational level as well.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
In Bologna the International Office is very willing to help you as well. You can ask for help whenever you want. There is a large amount of international students, so it can take some time, but they are very kind and helpful.
transfer of credits
The University of Bologna uses the European system of ECTS credits, like Utrecht, so the credits of the courses will be transferred in my study program. After you come back in Utrecht, the examinationcommission will decide on which Dutch notes will be given to the courses you attained and passed.

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	The first weeks there were several "welcome day's" and information lectures. The faculty of Psychology and Education also offered a "Buddy program" which I participated. My buddy helped me through the semester when I had questions. Besides this, there are two associations for Erasmus/exchange students in Bologna where you can buy a membership and participate a lot of nice excursions and other social events.
accommodation	I found my accommodation by myself after a lot of searching on the internet. Bologna is a real student city with many students looking for a room (especially in September). This means that it is not easy to find a place. Many people also prefer students who will stay for a year instead of a semester. But eventually everyone finds something. I had the best accommodation I could wish for. A great location with amazing flatmates (two other Erasmus students and the Italian owner of the flat).
leisure & culture	Italy is a great cultural country with a lot of possibilities to explore some great cities and historical places. With my Erasmus friends, we made some trips to other cities, which was great! The associations also offer nice trips and social/cultural activities.
suggestions/tips	To meet new people, who are in the same situation as you, I would recommend to become a member of the international/exchange association. It is a very nice way to meet people from all over the world!

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	I would certainly recommend the University of Bologna. The city is amazing, also for students: a relaxed but lively atmosphere and very nice and warm people. The University of Bologna also has a good name in the academic scene of Italy.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	I would recommend everyone to go abroad, if this is possible for you of course. It is a great experience, you learn a lot, in particular on personal level and it is so much fun!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	10 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	11 / 12 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was sometimes a bit difficult, because the university of Bologna sometimes had no idea what was expected of them. That is why having forms signed by the right person was really hard, thanks to which I almost missed my deadline.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at Utrecht University was ok. It was possible to request a meeting to get advice on the Erasmus exchange and when I sent them an e-mail, I got a quick reaction.

The only thing that did not go well, is that I never knew to which e-mailaddress I had to send an e-mail, because there are many distinct parties involved in the Erasmus process and with many different e-mailaddresses (erasmus@qdesk.uu.nl, fssosz11@gmail.nl, exchange@qdesk.uu.nl, io.sbs@uu.nl, ubd.oo.region1@uu.nl, verslagen@internationaloffice.uu.nl etc.). I also sent an e-mail to ask if my file was completed. I got the reaction that that was the case, and 2 days later someone else sent me an e-mail to ask for some file of which the other person had not yet spoken before.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation: the level of the courses was fine for me.

language preparation

I did not need any language preparation: the level of the language used in the courses was fine for me.

finances

To live and study in Bologna, I used a bit more money a month than in the Netherlands. Also, the first month I had to spend more money, for example for the contract of my room, for buying a bike and for a medical check that is obligated before you can go sporting.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The content of the courses was interesting, even though it was not really difficult.

The organisation was usually not that good. For example, there were a lot of times when the students did not fit into the room, so they had to sit on the stairs in between the seats or stand in the back (which makes it difficult to make notes).

academic quality of education activities

The content of the courses was not really difficult. It was easy compared to my courses in the Netherlands.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

At the university of Bologna, it was really difficult to get information and to ask for help. Not only did people of the university react really late at questions through e-mail, also their opening hours were not clear and on the internet, there were no phone numbers available. After having gotten an e-mail back, in which they did not answer my question, I could call them because there was a phone number underneath the e-mail. They were never available when I called, though.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was understandable, I got a slightly lower grade at Utrecht University than at the Università di Bologna. When I requested information about that, the exam committee let me know that it was easier to get a high grade at the Università di Bologna, so that is why they transferred it like this.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Before leaving, the university of Bologna sent me a helpful booklet about studying at their university. The only valid information that was missing, though, was the address at which we had to do the check-in. Fortunately, I went to Bologna two weeks before the courses started, because they sent me to 7 different addresses across the city and so I lost 4 days searching for the check-in (also because all of the places they sent me to were only open for 2 hours a day, so after standing in line I was already too late to go to the next address they sent me to). After having checked in, I went to an information meeting. This was helpful, but I also missed some important information.

accommodation

Searching for a room in Bologna was a bit difficult, because a lot of people do not want you to stay less than 6 or 10 months and a lot of them also do not want Erasmus students. It helps if you speak Italian, but still it is rather difficult. Before you get there, you can hardly search for a room, because they want you to come over. It gave me a lot of stress though, to have to search for a room when my courses almost started and when I almost had to get out of the b&b I stayed in.

leisure & culture

While studying at the university of Bologna, it is a good idea to subscribe at ESN, ELBo and/or ESEG Erasmusland Bologna. Here you can meet other Erasmus students and you can visit some cities with them or do cultural activities such as making pasta.

suggestions/tips

I would also recommend the sporting facilities linked to the university. To be able to sport, you have to get a medical check, I would recommend doing that as soon as possible and come early, because they only help 15 people a day and I had to go back 4 times before I could finally go sporting.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university abroad to students who are able to cope with uncertainty well. For me, it was a bit too much stress because information kept changing, was unclear or came too late.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Start in time with the things you need to do. Also, a few weeks before, send an e-mail to ask at which address you have to check-in and what are the opening hours.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I knew already from the beginning that I wanted to go abroad, so I went in my first year to the information evening. There I heard all the things that I had to do for the application process. And later during the application process I had a lot of contact with the International Office at my university.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office offered me a lot of help, I could ask anything!

academic preparation

My academic preparation where the classes I followed in my first two years before I went to Bologna, Italy. There I continued with following subjects that were related to my study programme.

language preparation

I had to follow my classes in Italian and I've learned Italian before. I've done this before I started studying at the university here in Holland. I had a gap year and in this gap year I've been to Rome for a couple of months. There I've followed a language course and in this way I've learned Italian.

finances

I haven't only used the Erasmus+ grant. This was a part of my finances. I also had my parents who supported me and I had saved a lot of money before I went to Bologna with my job that I've next to my study here in Holland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

At the beginning it was all a little bit confusing for me, because it works totally different in Bologna at the university. For example, I had to make my own schedule of classes with the subjects that were possible to follow at the same time. Another thing is that I didn't have to subscribe myself for the classes, but only for the exams.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of the education activities was good, but it was different. Because I only had classes where the teacher spoke the whole time and there weren't active classes, where I as a student had to do something.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I haven't got that much counselling and support at the receiving university abroad. But that was when I got there. Before I got there I had a lot of contact with the person I could contact and she always sent really fast



an email back. When I got there I've maybe seen my contactperson ones or twice and from then I noticed that i had to arrange it almost all by myself en that they let you really free to do it your own way.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits went really fast and good. They immediately sended all my grades that were in the system to my university here on the day that I did my check-out at the International Office in Bologna. I also got an email and i got an email when my university here in Holland had received my grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme was in my eyes a little bit too late, because it was after I had to 'subscribe' for my subjects. And at the welcome & orientation programme they told everything you had to know earlier in my eyes, because then it would have been a lot easier to arrange everything for the courses.

accommodation

There's no campus so I've searched on facebook at groups and on the website www.housinganywhere.com, which I received from the university when I asked if they knew where I could look for a place, for a place to stay. I started already in June to search for a place from september until january/february and eventually I've found something on housinganywhere.com

leisure & culture

To do things in your freetime there's a lot to offer. There are several organisations for the international students who organise all kind of activities. It's also that Bologna is situated really central, so you can go to a lot of other cities by train to visit it.

suggestions/tips

Look for a place as accomodation where you live with Italians, then you're obligatory to speak Italian and then it get's better and better really fast. And if you wanna play your sport, look if there's a normal club besides the university. Because I've played fieldhockey for example at a regular club and it was a really great experence to this!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this destination for sure, because the university is the oldest of Europe and there's a really good atmosphere. And Bologna is a wonderfull city, It's big, but not to big. I almost felt immediately as I was at home. An other thing is, what I said before, it's situated really central, so it's easy to go by train to other cities to visit them. And it's a real studentcity, there are students everywhere, what makes the atmosphere in the city really nice and there are so many thngs to do in this city. There were almost every weekend little festivals and stuff like that.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're going the first semester, be on time with searching for accomodation. And another advice is that it's really important that you're already at a good level of your Italian. The last thing is that be aware of that you need arrange/ figuring out a lot on your own at the university.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2015-2016

faculty/college	Faculty of social and behavioural sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	psychology

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	13 / 09 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 01 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I made an appointment with the study advisor to discuss my courses that I needed to follow back home and made a study plan of the courses that I wanted to study in Bologna. I updated my CV and wrote a motivation letter.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As mentioned before, I had a meeting with my study advisor. Besides that, I went to the International office a few times to discuss an exchange in Italy, cause of lot of things you have to take care of yourself, so I asked their advice and such.

academic preparation

I had already followed all my obligated courses at Utrecht, and I already had enough credits since I did my exchange in my fourth year of my Bachelor, so all the courses I was going to do in Bologna, were extra, so I had no specific topic to choose from.

language preparation

I started learning Italian approximately one year prior to my exchange, just self study from a book with grammar rules and vocabulary.

finances

I knew I would only get stufi for the first few months of my exchange, after that it was just my erasmus grant, so I started saving a lot and working a lot one year before my exchange, so that I would have enough to cover for my expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Almost all the courses I had intended to follow, were not available (either different campus in another city or in the second semester), since this wasn't really clear from the beginning on the website (they only announce it about two weeks before the courses start). So I changed to a few other courses, since you don't register for a course, but only for an exam, in Bologna, this was very easy.

academic quality of education activities

I did notice that the level of the courses at Bologna is not as high as what you'd normally get in Utrecht. Furthermore, the workload was a lot less for each course. But I also followed an Italian language course for Erasmus students from the University of Bologna and that was quite a lot of work.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The counselling from everybody at the exchange desk was really good, really helpful. Teachers may not be that helpful though. Some take forever to answer their email, and also because the semester period in Italy ends later, whilst the second semester in Utrecht had already started, so I had to make my exams before the rest of the people did, because I was leaving sooner. Some teachers were really easy in helping you with arranging that, others not that much.

transfer of credits

I am still waiting for my result for my last exam. When my teacher has corrected that and uploaded the result in alma esami, the online system, then the exchange desk will email my transcript of records to my university.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no real welcome program. We did get a meeting at the beginning where they explained how the university worked, and the libraries and such and how you had to register for the exams. But no tour of the campus or such.

accommodation

University of Bologna doesn't arrange accommodation. So I had written quite a few people who offered a room on a facebook page for rooms in Bologna, and so I went to see about six or seven rooms once I got to Bologna and a couple of days later I got called by one of them that I got a room. But there were many people looking for a room, and because they mostly wanted people who stayed longer, a lot of the advertisements said no erasmus, so it was quite stressful in the beginning.

leisure & culture

Bologna is a great city! A lot of students so there is something going on every night. Also, there are three students organisations for Erasmus people (ESN, Eseg and Elbo). So there are a lot of activities and you'll get to know people very easily.

suggestions/tips

Leave for Bologna at least two weeks before your classes start so you can look for a room and because there is always changing something in the courses that you wanted to follow (it is Italy after all), so you have enough time to change that and look for other courses before they have already started.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, if you're not afraid of having to sort out some things on your own: It is great! Necessary though that you speak some Italian. Within the university you can still get by with English, but for arranging things outside of the uni, only few people speak English then. But it is a very beautiful, lively city

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your time abroad :)