



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	23 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was easy enough to apply. There are a lot of different things that you have to do to apply, but they were all very manageable and made sense. Sometimes it took a while to hear back from my host university, but it all worked out fine in the end.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The contact persons at Utrecht University are easy to reach out to and very willing to help, which has spared me some stress. Whenever I needed a document signed or had a question they replied within a few days.

academic preparation

I did not have to do anything to prepare academically.

language preparation

I already had a high enough level of English, so I did not have to prepare anything language wise. The online test you had to take beforehand was very doable.

finances

I got the highest possible grant amount because Ireland is quite expensive, plus an extra amount of money because of the fewer opportunities top-up. These two grants covered all of my monthly rent, so the only things I had to pay for myself were groceries and extra things such as public transport, trips and holidays. Ireland is comparable to the Netherlands when it comes to the cost of living, so it was not a huge shock to buy stuff there.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed four courses: Magic and witchcraft, Visual ethnography, Irish cultural heritage and History and theory of documentary. Each course had either one or two lectures a week, and there weren't really any workinggroups. I did have friends in Maynooth who did have many workinggroups however, so this could depend on the courses you are taking. You often had to be at the university for about one to three hours a day, which was annoying for people who had to travel a while to get to campus.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I had were very interesting, some going more in depth than others. They were all very easy



compared to what I was used to back home, but this did not matter as you did have four to six courses at once, so you still had enough to do.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not really need counselling or support, but friends of mine that did have problems with their courses or lecturers did say it was easy to email people about it and get help.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits went smoothly. At the beginning of my study abroad I got the list with which levels the classes I was taking were, which were all very fair. The ECTS also match well with the ones I was used to back home.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was an introduction week for the international students with walks around campus, activities like bingo, some introductory lectures and time to mingle with one another. This was all very well organised and allowed all of us to bond with each other and to find friends. Some of the activities were mandatory, such as the lectures, where we got a lot of good tips regarding public transport, clubs and societies, and other important student life things.

accommodation

It was very hard and stressful to find accommodation, there is a big living crisis in Ireland just like in the Netherlands. You have to start looking as soon as you find out that you are accepted, as on campus accommodation is not for Erasmus students, just for Irish ones and people from the US or Australia. I got very lucky by being the first person to reply to an ad for a house on the main street of Maynooth where I lived with 10 other Irish girls, this was very rare however. Apart from one of my friends, an Australian, all of them had to live in Irish families, often times not even in Maynooth. The public transport is good enough though, so living in the surrounding villages was not that bad from what I have heard.

leisure & culture

The Irish are very outgoing and friendly, and the stereotype of Irish people loving to drink is definitely true. Although drinking is never mandatory and you are never judged for not drinking, there is a big pub culture. After classes everyone would grab some pints or do some activity in a pub. Apart from that Maynooth has a lot of clubs and societies you can join, from sports to films to games to Taylor Swift, there is a club for everyone. I have never been bored living in Maynooth, there is always something to do, even as a new person.

suggestions/tips

Join at least 2 or 3 clubs when you arrive, it is a great way to meet new people and to try a new hobby. The clubs are just a few euros to join, and (apart from some sports ones) you are never obligated to go to the activities.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would recommend this university, as the student life is a lot of fun with the amount of clubs and activities that they have. Irish people are very welcoming and excited to share their culture and customs, so you will feel at home very easily. The courses are also very manageable, they are interesting but not too hard, so you have a lot of spare time to travel around or to do other pastime activities.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

As I said before, start looking for accommodation as quickly as possible. Don't settle for just any house though, as I did have some friends that had a lot of arguments with their host family, with one of my friends even having to



move out because of it. Make sure to call your possible host family to see if you are on the same page and to see if you click. Other than that, enjoy!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and development Sociology

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	I took the plane.
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	23 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	02 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	I thought the application process was complicated and took a lot of time. I still struggle with filling in all the documents and not missing it but in the end it was okay.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The support from Utrecht University was good. They responded fast whenever I had a question about something.
academic preparation	I did not do any academic preparation before my arrival.
language preparation	I did not do any language preparation either, since the courses were in English and I am fluent in English.
finances	I depended on the Erasmus+ grant, my parents and my own money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did two courses in anthropology, three in Irish Cultural Heritage and one in philosophy.
academic quality of education activities	The academic quality was fine. The courses were less difficult than the courses at UU but still interesting. Within the Irish Cultural Heritage programme they organised many fieldtrips which was a lot of fun.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	There was little support and counselling at the receiving university, I did not need it either so it was fine for me.
transfer of credits	Transfer of credits was good, they have the same system of ECT's so there were no problems.



STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	The first week was only orientation. It was fine but there were not a lot of fun activities planned. Just informational lectures, which took over a day sometimes but they gave a lot of good information. So the information was well organised, but I did miss some fun activities besides a tour of the campus.
accommodation	
	There is no accomodation on campus available for EU students in general so I had to find my own place with a landlady or landlord. The university did provide a website where people could upload an advertisement if they had a room available which made it still challenging but possible to find accomodation.
leisure & culture	
	Ireland has a great culture with very friendly people. Walking around Dublin was one of my favourite things to do, but also hanging out in parks with my friends and going to pubs is a big part of the culture in Dublin.
suggestions/tips	
	I would suggest joining a society or club, there are a lot a Maynooth University and it makes it possible to meet Irish students and they organise a lot of fun things. There is for example a movie society and a rock climbing society.

CONCLUSIONS	
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain	
	Yes, it is a lovely university the classes are fun but not too difficult which gave me plenty of free time to explore Ireland. Although the living cost is quite high in comparison to other exchange destinations the public transport is really cheap. Overall, Ireland is a beautiful country and the university is located near the capital and the Wicklow mountains which is one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland.
do you have any additional advice or comments?	
	x



UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023

email address	t.p.kegelaar@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Social and Behavioural Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Educational Sciences

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	12 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process in Utrecht was nothing too crazy. You have to put in some time to make sure you complete all necessary documents, but it was quite clear. If you attend some relevant presentations / informations sessions, and read the website carefully, not a lot can go wrong.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I did not make a lot of use of any counselling or specific support at Utrecht University, but in general the international office seemed very helpful and knowledgeable. Contact with the international office has always been very pleasant, as they are very kind and quick to reply.

academic preparation

There was no specific academic preparation necessary for studying in Maynooth.

language preparation

There is also no specific language preparation necessary. Of course you are expected to have a decent level of English, but I don't think I have ever had to do a test in Maynooth.

finances

Ireland is expensive. In general the expenses are similar in the Netherlands, but especially rent is probably higher in Ireland (see 'accommodation'). It is also a beautiful country to discover, so definitely take travel costs into account. It is not unusual to be away almost every weekend, which can add up quickly in expenses.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There are many modules you can choose from as an international student, for which you have to register before the orientation week. Everything is very flexible though: you can still change your study programme 4 weeks in I believe. This also makes everything a bit chaotic and because of many last-moment changes, it can be difficult to fit about 6 modules (usually 5 ECTS each) into one week without overlap.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality depends a lot on the modules. I chose many modules unrelated to my bachelor for which I am unable to properly assess the quality. In general though, I think the quality is okay. The workload



was a bit lower than I am used to. It reminded me a bit to secondary school, as I was following many modules, the lectures/workgroups were usually combined and were only one hour long, and the classes were relatively small.

The assessment dependent heavily on the individual writing of essays, so there is relatively low focus on research skills.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I have not made use of any counselling or support in Maynooth, but I can safely say that they offer a lot of possibilities. In general everyone is really nice and you will always be directed to someone who can help you out.

transfer of credits

As the grades are translated to pass/fail, this is nothing too exciting. In Ireland you already have a sufficient grade with 40%. I am not sure about the exact process, because I don't have all my grades back yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

A week before the start of the semester all international students were welcomed. In this orientation week a lot of activities helped getting to know other international (Erasmus) students, the campus and the city (Maynooth, but also Dublin). I really enjoyed this week and it really helped with some first social contact. There was also a lot of information presented about the study program, registering for modules, changing modules, available support, and other relevant information about studying in Ireland as an exchange student.

accommodation

Up until now I think I am very positive about my exchange experience in Maynooth, but that is going to change a little bit in this section. For accommodation was a serious problem in Ireland and Maynooth specifically. After being accepted I was informed there would not be any on-campus accommodation available, so I had to look for something myself. Unfortunately however, there is a huge housing shortage in Ireland and Maynooth is just a small town with few available places. So I was basically doomed to commute to the University, which was far from ideal since the public transport is not organized as well as in the Netherlands. This was not my biggest problem at the time though, as it was really difficult to find something at all. Most of the possibilities came down to staying with a sort of host family, who usually asked a lot of money for a small room far away from campus, often for just five days a week. Only just the week before the orientation week I finally found a place to stay, which ended up being awful, as my landlady was really restrictive and not even a little bit understanding (in contrast to the usual friendliness of the Irish). After three weeks I moved to a different place which was much better but still not ideal. The worst thing was that this was the case for everyone, so meeting outside of the university was not very spontaneous. If you are considering going to Maynooth, I would seriously advice you to ensure beforehand that you will be able to stay on campus.

leisure & culture

Fortunately the Irish nature and culture made up a lot for the accommodation frustrations. The country is beautiful and since it is also really small, you can basically travel anywhere you fancy within a day or weekend. I made a lot of use of the trains and busses which are fine, but I definitely recommend renting a car if you're able to. That makes it possible to really explore the nature (the west coast is really nice to drive around) and stop when and where you want to stop. There are also many tours organized by ESN, which can be an easy way to see the country and meet new people. I did find myself to enjoy the trips I organized with small groups of close friends to be nicer in general though.

At the same time Dublin is as close as it can be, which is really great. It is a really nice city with many (free) musea, other cultural attractions, pubs, clubs, shops, etc., where you can fully integrate in the Irish culture; think about seeing hurling or gaelic football games, seeing the book of Kells, drinking Guinness of course, etc.. The university also offers lots of leisure activities. I would highly recommend joining at least some clubs and/or



societies to meet some native Irish and explore or continue some hobbies.

suggestions/tips

Ensure accommodation is actually possible and start early with seriously looking for it. Also save enough money to be able to see as much of the country and enjoy as much of its culture (i.e. Guinness) as possible ;)

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would absolutely recommend Maynooth University and Ireland in general. The accessible nature and friendly culture are simply great. Finding accommodation is a serious problem though, so make sure you know about the current situation and don't underestimate finding accommodation.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

The university offers modules on Celtic studies, which are a great way to get to know some Irish culture, even if it's just one module. They also offer some fun (free) trips.

If you have any questions or just want to know about some things you can do to make optimum use of your exchange, feel free to contact me :)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

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	Maynooth, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	26 / 01 / 2022
end date	04 / 06 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was pretty easy. I went to the information sessions provided by Utrecht which were very helpful. They helped me with picking a destination based on my budget and interest in courses and they provided helpful information on the erasmus grant. The steps are also explained very clearly on the website.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

In my experience the support at Utrecht University is very good. The international office responded fast and could answer any question I had. I had the feeling they were very eager to help and that was very reassuring.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation for my semester in Maynooth. I followed criminology and anthropology courses, which I had never done before but I could keep up with everything pretty easily. I had to write a lot more essays than in Utrecht. I really liked this as a test form as it helped me improve my english writing skills.

language preparation

I did not need to do any language preparation. I could follow and engage with the lessons and other students pretty well with my English level. Writing in English for my essays also went well.

finances

Ireland is an expensive country. I rented a room in a owner occupied home in between Maynooth and Dublin for 550. In my experience this was on the cheaper side. I financed my trip with the erasmus grant and savings. I would recommend to become a ESN member as it allows you to go on cheaper trips and get discounts on Ryanair.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took first, second and third year criminology and anthropology courses. I had no issues with my course choices, nothing overlaped and I was accepted to all of them. Dropping courses was also very easy and went very fast. I really liked the courses I chose especially the third year ones. The lessons were very interesting and I learned a lot. I also liked that I didn't have many exams and instead had to write essays.

academic quality of education activities



The quality and difficulty was very similar to Utrecht University. I definitely studied fulltime but also did not need to do a lot outside weekdays. I took six courses which was doable but if you don't need the credits I would definitely recommend to take less. The exams and essays also were doable. I joined the criminology society and they organised some educational activities that were interesting. Some of my courses also invited guest speakers which was always very interesting.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support and counseling at Maynooth University is a bit mixed. I know they have an active mental health society which was helpful for some students but the support of the international office was very lacking. The international office experiences a lot of problems during and before my semester as they went through staff changes. Therefore a lot of emails went unanswered and it took a long while to get the necessary documents signed.

transfer of credits

As I am writing this my results are not known yet and therefore I have not began the process of transferring my credits. I am hoping everything goes smoothly and I expect it to as they were clear about the steps.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I expected more from the orientation program when they announced it was three days. Unfortunately it was only about technical stuff and we didn't get to meet other exchange students as it was online. Luckily, the Erasmus society organised a walk through campus and a meeting in a pub which was a great way to meet people.

accommodation

Finding accommodation can be very stressful and expensive. I was very lucky to find my accommodation on the studentpad site of Maynooth University. I lived with a very nice landlady and another erasmus student in Leixlip which has a 24/7 connection to Dublin and Maynooth. My advice is to call the accommodation on the first day the studentpad goes online as that was the reason I secured my accommodation. Because I called I even had multiple options.

leisure & culture

There were a lot of clubs and societies that you could join in your free time for only 2 euros per semester per club. I joined the bookclub, the tea society, criminology society and Erasmus society. The Erasmus society organized a lot of fun activities such as a Irish language and Irish dance workshop. I would definitely recommend to participate in these clubs and societies as it is a very good way to meet Irish and International students.

suggestions/tips

If you can I would definitely suggest to look for houses in Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip or parts of Lucan as they have the best bus connections. Busses in Ireland can be unreliable at times and these places all have a 24/7 connection which will definitely relieve you off some stress.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this university. Ireland is a beautiful country and a very good place for a semester abroad as a lot of things are pretty easy to reach. Maynooth is also positioned at a great place. It is close to Dublin which was very convenient to reach other places and also nice to visit every week. I also liked that the university was not in a big city like Dublin as it gave me a more relaxed feeling.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

One thing that Utrecht recommended me was the ISIC card, however the Erasmus society at Maynooth



recommends and can provide you with the ESN card. I would recommend to wait until you are at Maynooth to buy the ESN card as that is used a lot more in Ireland and can provide you with a lot more and more interesting discounts. I bought the ISIC card but did not use it at all. Lastly I just want to say that I would definitely recommend you to go to Maynooth university if you are interested in Criminology as the courses are very interesting.

UU Report form - Erasmus 2021-2022

Contact details	my e-mail address other (social) media	josienfranken@gmail.com @josieinireland > Instagram
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology	

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	24 / 01 / 2022
end date	04 / 06 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process in Utrecht is quite easy. Because I was supposed to go on Erasmus in 2021, I went through this process twice. Due to staff shortages at Maynooth University, it took a while to get the documents I needed to apply for the Erasmus grant signed, but other than that the whole application was quite a smooth and easy process. Figuring out the kind of courses I wanted to take was a bit trickier, as the course catalogue was quite confusing, and during the official registration the courses they were offering seemed to have changed as well. In the end this all worked out though, as during the first week of the semester you can still add or drop courses.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office from the Social Sciences Faculty has always been very helpful and quick to reply to any questions. Because of the problems I had getting my documents signed by my host university, they extended the deadline for me, which saved me a lot of stress.

academic preparation

No academic preparation was needed for the courses I wanted to take.

language preparation

As the university is based in an English speaking country, no language preparation is needed. Because I have had so many classes in Utrecht taught in English as well, and have written so many of my assignments in English, these were also not things that I needed to get used to.

finances



Ireland is quite an expensive country, especially the area around Dublin. Though, prices are similar, or a little more expensive than you would find in Utrecht. I had some savings before I left, and made sure to top up my student loan about two months in advance, just to have something to fall back on. I tried to not worry too much about the money, and simply enjoy my time in Ireland to the fullest. We did a lot of travelling around the country, mostly staying in one of the many cheap hostels that Ireland has to offer. In general I think you can make your semester abroad as expensive or as cheap as you want (aside from basic costs of living), but doing day trips, and travelling around the country is really worth the money in my opinion.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Maynooth University offers so many interesting courses. Registering for the courses was easy and there first week of the semester all students were allowed to join any lectures of courses they were not registered for, in case they wanted to change their courses. I followed four courses from the Irish Cultural Heritage Certificate, which were all very interesting, though there was a lot of overlap and repetition in these courses. In addition, I did the course of Forensic Anthropology, which was really interesting and not something I could have done in Utrecht. If you have time and are interested, I would recommend doing a course on Irish history, as the history of the country is really interesting and these kind of courses can't be followed anywhere else in my experience.

academic quality of education activities

As mentioned above, four of my courses had a lot of repetition, which was quite a shame. In general, the teachers are very nice and know a lot about what they teach. I would say though, that the courses are generally easier than what I am used to in Utrecht and less intensive. I didn't have to do a lot for my courses outside of the lectures and writing mid-term and final essays.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't have to use the counselling or support services, but in the beginning of the semester we were informed about the many services that the university offered. In terms of covid they did offer free self-tests and masks, which was very much appreciated. All of the teachers were also very understanding whenever someone couldn't attend class due to having to quarantine.

transfer of credits

I haven't received all my grades yet and therefore haven't transferred my credits yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Sadly our whole welcoming and orientation programme was online. However, we did have a big whatsapp group with a lot of the international students before the start of the semester, and therefore did plan to meet up during the orientation week.

accommodation

Finding accommodation was really the most stressful part of my entire exchange. Quite early on, it became clear that it would be very difficult for Erasmus students to get accommodation on campus. In my opinion, the easiest and safest option is to find accommodation on the Studentpad website issued by the university. For us this opened on December 1st. Many of the landlords/ladies get a lot of emails, so I would recommend calling. Another student from Utrecht and I managed to find two rooms in a house in Leixlip with a lovely landlady through this website. There are only a few options to live in Maynooth, but Leixlip was a perfect place to stay outside of Maynooth. It took about 15 minutes to get to Maynooth by bus and about 40 minutes to Dublin, with buses leaving every half an hour. There was even a night bus running from Dublin to Maynooth going through Leixlip. If you are staying outside of Maynooth (which is more likely than staying in Maynooth), make sure you are connected to the Dublin Bus services, as these buses are more frequent and more reliable than many of the



other buses. I would recommend Leixlip, Celbridge or Lucan. Many people also chose to live in Dublin, I personally found this way too expensive. If you can't find a room until quite close to leaving, make sure you keep checking the campus accommodation website! I heard quite some people who managed to get a room there only a week before leaving. This is very stressful though, so if you find something in advance, I would really recommend taking it. In the end, it is difficult to know where you will end up until you get there. I can simply recommend to find a room through the university, whether on or off campus.

leisure & culture

There is so much to do in Ireland and it is such a nice country to spend four months in. Maynooth itself is really a student town, and is therefore busy on the weeks, but quiet during the weekends. The town has a lot of nice pubs, restaurants and cafés (make sure to visit Willow & Wild!), a student bar on campus, and the university has many societies that host weekly events open for any members to attend. Maynooth is of course very close to Dublin, which is where we spend a lot of the days and nights on the weekends. In addition to exploring the area around Maynooth and Dublin, we did a lot of travelling during and after the semester. During the semester we travelled to Belfast and Galway and after the exams to Edinburgh, Sligo and Killarney/Kerry.

suggestions/tips

Do as much travelling to Ireland as you can! It is such a beautiful country and there is so much to see and do. For trips such as to Killarney National Park I would recommend waiting until spring, but in general I would recommend not to wait for good weather to do things you want to do. The weather can be very wet even in May, so it would just be a shame to not use the time in the earlier months of the semester.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would! The housing situation is rather stressful, but I am so happy that I did not let this hold me back. Ireland is such a beautiful country and the people are very nice. I enjoyed my time there immensely and met so many amazing people. Maynooth is a very nice university and studying in a small town like that is such a different experience from studying in a big city like Utrecht.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Everything has been said in the text above, but feel free to contact me with any questions or further explanations/advice!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology; English language and culture

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	18 / 09 / 2019
end date	20 / 12 / 2019

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process wasn't too difficult, as you just needed to send in basic information. Quite contrastingly, deciding on which courses I wanted to take was a little bit more tricky. The course catalogue was not completely clear on when classes were given, or on if every class in the planner was mandatory. Unfortunately, when I arrived, I realised I had quite a bit of overlap too, as certain classes weren't on the planner in the CC. Apart from that, I had a lot of courses to choose from. And most courses gave a short overview of what every course was about, how many credits you could get and how to get them (essays, tests, attendance).

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The student-counselors (studieadviseurs) could answer most of my questions. And the international office answered the very few left. I was especially happy with how quick the IO responded to my emails, to both more official/formal and informal ones.

academic preparation

I didn't need to academically prepare myself for the Erasmus semester in Maynooth. I feel like the academic level of education in Maynooth was pretty similar to what I'm used to at UU. The only difference is that in Maynooth we had to write more essays for examination.

language preparation

Apart from doing the mandatory language test beforehand, I didn't have to do anything else to prepare. As I am studying English language and culture in Utrecht, I didn't need any language classes.

finances

Ireland is a pretty expensive country to live in. Then again, it's not the most expensive country, so you'll manage. Still, I did need the Erasmus grand to (partially) pay for my rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme could be incredibly broad. I was quite surprised about that when I arrived. There were almost no rules when it came to choosing my courses. So I could study anything from Computerscience to Chinese. I did decide to stick with the Social Sciences though. I took courses about for instance education (in practice), social policy and gender, and anthropology.

academic quality of education activities



The quality of education activities varied. Certain classes were more practical, others were similar to courses I took at the UU for psychology: sitting in a large hall where one lecturer talked for almost two hours. Then again, other courses had very small groups and workshops.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at MU was very friendly. You could meet someone from the IO in person almost every day. And you could ask any question you had. And you got quick responses to your e-mails. Apart from the io there were all kinds of services at Uni where you could get support in so many ways. And most teachers seemed to be open for pretty personal conversations as well.

transfer of credits

It was not too difficult to get a sufficient grade in Ireland. As a sufficient grade is 40%. And the grades get transferred to sufficient/insufficient. Which is a bit of a shame, as you're not really stimulated to deliver (good or) your best work.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was loads of fun, as I got to meet many other international students. We were very well informed about all the facilities and services. And I particularly liked the orientation activity that included all the international students (not just Erasmus). Which was a 'scavenger hunt' where you had to find certain spots on Campus and in the city centre and take photos for a contest.

accommodation

Accommodation was... terrible*. Although the students staying on campus had pretty good housing (without any pans or cutlery though!). I didn't hear too many positive stories about the off-campus accommodation. Most of the students I met were staying at someone's house, which was very different to what they were used to, when they had their own studio/student dorm. Also, it was really difficult to find a spot that wasn't too far away from Maynooth. And it was quite expensive.

*I got really fed up with my landlord, as he was extremely negative and quite demeaning in communication. So I was very happy I only stayed there for 3 months. Unfortunately there is no way I can leave a review or anything.

leisure & culture

All around Maynooth there's loads to do. If you follow a few facebook pages, meet some local people you can stay up to date for all the activities/socials. Besides, Dublin is really closeby, where you can find all kinds of fun things to do (dancing, playing boardgames (@the clockwork door), pubs (obviously), go sightseeing, and so on. And you can take buses from Dublin to other places to see, like the Dublin peninsula Howth, the Glendalough mountains, or to another city, like Galway and Cork.

suggestions/tips

Find a place to live as fast as you can, hopefully on campus to have more personal responsibility. Also, this village called Lucan is right in the middle between Maynooth and Dublin, so if you can get a place to stay overthere, please do! There are 2/3 buses (67, 66, 25) that go either way, so you can go to Dublin anytime.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Most definitely yes! There are so many great courses to try. It's a beautiful campus (with a campus cat!). And it's really close to Dublin.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even if you're there for just one semester, try to join a few clubs/societies when you're there.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

<p>permission to publish contact details**</p> <p><i>See end note for * and **</i></p>	<p>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</p>	
	<p>my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: florivisser@gmail.com</p> <p>my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>my Facebook account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: Flori Visser</p> <p>other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:</p> <p>or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @</p>	
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology	

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	30 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	At first the application process seemed like a lot of work since there is a lot of paperwork involved, but the instructions that were given by Utrecht University on how to apply were very clear so this helped a lot. Once I was officially allowed to go to Maynooth University, both Utrecht University and Maynooth University were very fast with giving instructions on how to continue the application process and they both replied very fast to my emails which also helped a lot.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht University was very helpul. It was very easy to contact the International Office with any questions and they replied fast to my emails.
academic preparation	I did not need any academic preparation for the courses that I wanted to follow at Maynooth University.
language preparation	The spoken language at Maynooth University is English and since I was already good enough at speaking English and since I had already followed some courses in English at Utrecht University, I did not need any language preparation.
finances	When it comes to finances I would advice students to save a lot of money beforehand, so you can do a lot of trips and fun stuff while you are abroad. Most of the living costs in Ireland are about the same as in The Netherlands, although the rent is definetely higher. Me and a lot of other international students had to pay about 500 euros per month for rent, so this is something to keep in mind. Before going abroad I was already aware that I would spend more money than I usually would, so I saved some money beforehand and I also used the Erasmus grant and a small student loan to pay for my expenses.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>At Maynooth University the study year consists of two semesters and you have to follow your chosen courses during the full semester. Most of the courses are 5 ECTS. In my case this meant that I had to do six courses at the same time, since I wanted to gain 30 ECTS during the semester. This is different from Utrecht University, where I only have to do two courses at the same time.</p> <p>Maynooth University offers a wide variety of courses that are available for international students. You have to apply for your courses before coming to Maynooth, but once you have arrived you first get to try all the courses for one week before you have to make your final decision on which courses you want to follow.</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>Most of the courses that I had chosen were very interesting to me, although the academic quality seemed to be a little bit lower compared to Utrecht University. For most of my courses I only had to attend one two-hour lecture per week and there were usually no tutorials. This meant that I was more dependent on self studying. Luckily I had no trouble with this at all, since the workload was not very high and the teachers often did not seem to have very high expectations of us. Also, for most of my courses all examination took place at the end of the semester. In my case all examinations happened in the form of writing an essay.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>The counselling and support at Maynooth University is very well organised. The International Office is very helpful and the university offers a lot of other places as well where you can go for support. They offer for example support for academic issues, finance issues and health issues. They also pay a lot of attention to making students aware of these support possibilities and to making students feel invited to seek help if they need it.</p>
transfer of credits	<p>I have not received any of my grades yet, so I can not give any information on my experience on this topic.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>The orientation programme at Maynooth University was very well organised. It consisted of three days during which we got informed on important topics and during which we did fun activities to get to know each other and our university campus. In my opinion the programme was very welcoming.</p>
accommodation	<p>Maynooth University has a really nice campus for international students, but I did not get a chance to apply for this campus since the amount of international students that wanted to study here was so high that the campus did not have enough space for everyone. Because of this, I had to look for accommodation myself. It is actually quite hard to find a place in Maynooth, so I started very early with looking for a place via different Facebook groups and via the accommodation website that was offered by Maynooth University itself. It did take me pretty long to find accommodation, but in the end I managed to find a nice place in a student house in Maynooth via Facebook. A lot of other international students did not manage to find a place in Maynooth however, but they went to live in one of the surrounding villages instead. Although this is sometimes a cheaper option I would really recommend to try and find a place in Maynooth itself, because otherwise you are often very dependent on buses. This is actually not really nice because the buses in Ireland are often late and they do not arrive that frequently. If you live in Maynooth instead you can very easily walk everywhere, which is much nicer.</p>



leisure & culture

Maynooth is a small town but there are a lot of great things to do. First of all, I would recommend to join some of the clubs and societies at Maynooth University, since they are very welcoming to international students and it is a great way to meet new people. Second of all, the pubs in Maynooth are really nice. I would especially recommend going to The Roost on Thursdays. Maynooth is also relatively close to Dublin, which is great as well and from here you can also easily travel to other parts of Ireland. I would recommend to visit as many places in Ireland as possible, because the nature is very beautiful and there are a lot of really pretty towns and cities to explore. The people are also very friendly and helpful and you will notice that everybody here is quite relaxed which I thought was really nice.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest to visit as much places as possible and to really get involved in the student life in Maynooth.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes! Maynooth University is very welcoming to international students so it has a lot of great things to offer and you will very easily get involved in the student life here. Ireland is also really beautiful and there are a lot of places to explore.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Feel free to contact me with any questions!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	National University of Ireland Maynooth
start date	26 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I was having a hard time choosing the country that I wanted to go to. One of my selection points was that I wanted the university abroad to start at least at the beginning of February, since my semester in Utrecht only ended the last week of January (in the text above it says that I started at the end of January, but that was only the introduction. The actual lectures started the first week of February.)

For the application there are a lot of documents that need to be signed, so I would recommend to start this process on time. Sometimes it takes a while until you receive an email with a signed document from the staff of one of the universities.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU was a good help when needed. I did not need it that much, since two friends of mine who also study Cultural Anthropology also went to Maynooth, so I could ask them questions as well.

academic preparation

For academic preparation not much was needed for me. I just had to make sure that I had received enough ECTS to be able to study abroad.

language preparation

All of my courses were in English, and my English is fluent, so I did not need to prepare anything for my language skills. Also, there was no specific level of English needed.

finances

Before I went to Maynooth, I had saved some money, but this was not at all enough to make it through the semester abroad. Neither was the Erasmus grant, so during the semester I was lucky enough that my parents were willing to help me financially and I had a monthly student loan through the Dutch government.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I found the anthropological modules that were offered in Maynooth very interesting. Most of the modules were 5 ECTS and since I had to receive 30 ECTS in the end I chose 6 modules; 4 anthropological ones, 1 about Irish Cultural Heritage and one was an Irish language course. I think the anthropology courses in Maynooth were really different from the ones in Utrecht, which I really liked, as I obviously didn't want to follow the same courses as I did in Utrecht.

One thing that I had gotten used to while studying in Utrecht is that for most of the anthropology courses, there



is one lecture as well as one seminar a week. In Maynooth there were just lectures (except for one course), which made the education pretty inactive for the students. In Utrecht I liked discussions about the readings, because I think students understand the content of the course better that way, and that was something that I missed in Maynooth.

One thing that I did really like about the education in Maynooth is the process by which students can apply for modules. As part of the preparation I had to sign up for courses, but those were not definitive at all. In the first week of lectures, students can go to any lectures to try the module and then they might change their initial choice of modules.

academic quality of education activities

Overall, I found the modules that I chose very interesting. One negative thing though for me is the lack of seminars. I feel that by this lack of seminars, teachers aren't able to go as much into depth as I was used to in Utrecht.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

In the introduction week there were several presentations from people stating where (international) students can go to when in need of support. Furthermore, there is a Student's Union (SU) in Maynooth, which connects the university with the students. There were students studying at Maynooth University who also were part of the SU. They also held presentations and told the international students to what students they could go to if they needed support.

transfer of credits

In Maynooth University there are percentages being used for grades. This is something that I really had to get used to, but during the introduction week this was explained. As I have not received my final grades yet I can't say much about the transfer of credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The staff from the SU talked about their union in the introduction week and they did not only talk about the possibility of support, but also about the student life in Maynooth. There are a lot of clubs and societies which students can join.

accommodation

Finding accommodation in Maynooth was a bad experience. It was really hard to do and there was barely any help from the university. The university did give the students a website where house owners could advertise rooms and where students could contact those owners. What I mostly checked was Facebook. There are a few groups on Facebook where you can find available rooms in Maynooth and the area. I would really advise students to look for a room in Maynooth and not one of the closeby villages. This is because buses do not come too often and sometimes other students who lived in a closeby village (I lived in Maynooth) had to walk for a good amount of time to the bus stop.

My experience is that in Maynooth (and the area) a lot of students live in a family house. There is also campus accommodation, but it is extremely hard to find a spot in one of those rooms.

leisure & culture

As said before, there are a lot of clubs and societies at the university. Furthermore, there are also a few bars in the town which are great!

During my stay I traveled a lot during the weekend and the bank holidays. I traveled a lot to Dublin (about 45 minutes by train), but I also sometimes made bigger trips to other cities in the country. For me Ireland looked kind of exactly what I expected it to look like; very green and a lot of hills and a lot of pubs. It's a beautiful country!

suggestions/tips



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CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely!! I have had an amazing experience in Ireland, because of my great host family, the interesting modules, the beautiful nature in the country and because of the great social life I've had. I would recommend studying abroad to anyone, because I think it has great outcomes for you personally, socially and academically.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Utrecht University
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology and Developmental Sociology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	26 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Applying for an exchange experience was somewhat overwhelming. The amount of universities where you can apply is enormous. Once decided however, it is easy to know what you have to do. It is time-consuming to get everything sorted and signed, but I never felt like I did not know what to do.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University helped a lot with knowing what to do. There is a nice overview available and there are many places you can go if you have questions.

academic preparation

I did not experience the need to academically prepare myself for my time abroad, as the modules I would do in Ireland were part of the space in my study programme where I can choose what I want to do.

language preparation

The language that is mostly spoken in Ireland is English. A lot of my study has been in English and therefore I expected that I would be able to understand everything just fine. The only thing that I was warned about was the Irish accent that may prove to be challenging, this was not the case.

finances

For the application process, we had to fill in a financial planning. This helped a lot. It made clear to me that with the help of the Erasmus Grant and my savings that I had already collected I could afford my time abroad. A lot of fellow Dutch students used the student loan to finance their stay.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was fine, and I thought the academic level was right as well. The organisation of the modules was somewhat different than what I am used to in the Netherlands. For most modules we did not receive an overview of the upcoming semester and therefore we got to know some deadlines quite late. It was not very difficult to deal with for me personally but some students did struggle with it.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was comparable to that of my home university. There is a noticeable difference between modules meant for first year students and modules meant for second or third year students. For academic usefulness I would recommend selecting second year modules as those have the depth that I was used to.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Maynooth University has a wonderful support system. There are different people and places students can contact when bumping into problems, whether those are financial or psychological. There are official adults that can help but every type of problem has an appointed student as well, in case somebody finds it daunting to speak to an official member of staff.

transfer of credits

I have not yet received my credits. But we did get an explanation about how the Irish grade system worked, so we could understand how we did when we would receive our grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Maynooth University was very welcoming. There was an entire week to welcome the international students and try to get them into contact with each other. A lot of my friends I met in this week. It is also very nice that they explain everything so when the modules start, students can focus on those modules and not try to figure out how the system works.

accommodation

Accommodation was hard to find and my biggest worry before leaving to Ireland. Accommodation is expensive and most of the times international students end up in a house where the host family lives themselves. Maynooth University offers help by having a page where advertisements are posted but that is not of the most desirable housing. The campus places were all given away to American students so Erasmus students could not even apply.

leisure & culture

The time I spend in Maynooth was wonderful. Although the town looks small at first, there is a lot of life. There are a lot of nice pubs and cafés to spend your time. On campus there is also the SU Bar, a great place to hang around after a lecture.

suggestions/tips

When looking for housing, keep in mind that when you are in a different town than Maynooth that you have to travel almost every day. Consider buying a bicycle and keep an eye on if Bus Dublin reaches your town, because if not, traveling to Dublin is more expensive.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Maynooth University to others. The people are warm and welcoming and life was constantly brewing. You can go to Dublin as often as you like, but Maynooth itself is a great place to spend your time too. The campus might not be the most beautiful of places (South Campus is, that is the old part), but students are constantly buzzing and studying here is a wonderful experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If somebody ends up in a host family occupied house, make sure that you have communicated the rules of their house well. Like if guests can stay over and if you have to cook or will eat with the family. This seems logical to communicate but as you are part of a family for a half year you will want to make sure that everybody involved is gaining from the experience.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

permission to publish contact details** <i>See end note for * and **</i>	optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)	
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: e.rongen@students.uu.nl my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes:	or <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
faculty/college	Social Sciences	
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD	
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	19 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	<p>The application process was very clear. I had no difficulties filling in the forms and questions were answered very quickly. The application process is mostly based on your first choice of university, for me this wasn't Maynooth and therefore my focus was on another university for the initial application (writing a motivation letter, looking at courses, etc.).</p> <p>However, after being granted a place at Maynooth the application process continued. Both Utrecht University and Maynooth University were very helpful and gave enough information. This made that the process went very smooth. There are quite a lot of forms to be filled in and signed, but everything could be done through e-mail which made it a lot easier. Still, it is important to start on time with all the forms so you don't have to stress about them last minute.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>As mentioned before everything went very smooth. The International Office was very quick with responding to questions and signing forms. As a lot of information is provided I didn't need any extra support from Utrecht University.</p>
academic preparation	<p>As I planned on taking courses within my own discipline I didn't need extra academic preparation.</p>
language preparation	<p>As they speak English in Ireland there was no need for language preparation. I already followed a few English courses in Utrecht, so I felt like I was prepared well enough. However, I was a bit worried about the Irish accent at first, but I got used to this very fast. It's nothing to worry about!</p>
finances	



I applied for the Erasmus+ grant and the public transport grant. Next to this I kept my standard student loan and made use of my personal savings. Housing in Ireland is expensive, but all the other costs were pretty much the same (apart from alcohol) so I had no problems with my finances. I did spend a lot more money on fun stuff, so if you would like to make the most of your experience make sure to save enough money before.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Maynooth University offers a lot of courses that are available for international students. However, I found the sociology courses offered a bit limited. Luckily, you are allowed to choose courses within all disciplines. On the website you can find a clear list of all the courses, with a description and the amount of ECTS.

In Maynooth you follow courses for the whole semester, which means you'll be taking more courses at the same time. Some courses are 7,5 ECTS, but most of them 5 ECTS. This meant I had to follow 5 courses at the same time in order to obtain enough ECTS. This took some time for me to get used to, as in Utrecht I always followed 2 courses at the same time.

Before arriving in Maynooth you'll have to fill in an online form to apply for your courses. However, at the time this had to be done there was no timetable available yet. This meant that I had to change some courses on arrival as some of them ended up to overlap. However, Maynooth is very flexible with this and it worked out fine. The first two weeks you can follow all the courses you want and make adjustments to your original study programme.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality really depended on the course. Most courses I followed just had lectures and no tutorials. This meant that even though I was following a lot of courses at the same time, I still didn't have a lot of contact hours. As a first semester student you'll not be taking exams, but writing an additional essay for most of the courses instead. As writing an essay is also part of the normal programme for most courses this meant you had to write 2 essays or 1 longer one in December. Resulting in a high workload at this time of the year. Throughout the semester you have to keep up with the literature, but for most of the courses there was just a very large list of suggested literature and no clear indication of what actually should be read. This made me feel a bit overwhelmed at the beginning, but I got used to it eventually.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Maynooth offers excellent counselling and support. On both academic and personal level. The International Office is very helpful and there are a lot of places to go at the university if you need help with something. You can get help with, for example, writing essays, there's a free doctor on campus and there is a lot of attention for mental health. Most teachers are very involved and you could easily talk to them.

transfer of credits

As I haven't received my grades yet this didn't happen yet. However, the Irish grade system works different than the Dutch one. They give grades in percentages, and at Maynooth it is very unusual to receive a grade above 70% (which is seen as a top grade), however this will only be transferred to a 7.5 back in Utrecht. Which is something I'm very unsatisfied with. Make sure to take this into consideration when it's important to take home high grades.

Some of the courses were seen as a first year course by Utrecht University, even though they were third year courses in Maynooth. Most of my courses were transferred to 'lower' year courses back in Utrecht.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme



In the first week a few activities were organized for international students. All information we needed to know was presented and there was a small tour around campus. They also organized a scavenger hunt and a tour in Dublin, which was a nice way to meet some people.

accommodation

It is hard to find accomodation in Maynooth, which is why a lot of students live in hostfamilies in towns nearby. I was able to get a room on campus, which is quite expensive but I would advice to still try to apply for it as finding another room can be hard and quite stressful.

Living on campus is a great way to meet new people. I lived in a building with a lot of international students and shared my apartment with 4 others. We did a lot of activities together and the atmosphere was nice. You're very close to all the things happening at university and to everything else you need.

However, living on campus also comes with a lot of rules. Make sure you know about them and you're able to live with them. When signing your contract you give permission for people of the university to enter the apartment. This meant that quite often there were people for maintance without any notice at all, something I found very frustrating. Also, your apartment, and bedroom, will be checked once a month (it needs to be clean and they will look for prohibited items). You are not allowed to have parties and noise after 22:00 is not accepted, when you still hang out with too many people you risk security entering your apartment and issuing you a warning (which can come with serious consequences).

I found these rules very frustrating, but still I'm happy I got to live on campus. The people you'll meet and the perfect location will make up for all of this. Don't let the rules hold you back too much, but make sure to be aware of them.

leisure & culture

There are a lot of things to do in Ireland. Maynooth is a small town, but you can go for some nice strolls around the beautiful south-campus and there are a lot of nice pubs and coffee places in the mainstreet.

From Maynooth you can easily take a train or bus to Dublin, from where you can take nice trips to other places in Ireland. Ireland offers stunning nature and is the perfect place to go for hikes. Also, there are a lot of nice cities worth to visit and most museums are free.

Maynooth University also offers a lot of clubs and societies, which all offer different types of activities. You can join them for just €2 and it's a perfect way to try out new things and meet new people. There is really something for everyone. You can also make use of the Universities sport facilities for free.

suggestions/tips

Join a club or society! It's a nice way to also get to know some Irish people. On campus you can also find a cheap bar, which often has livemusic, make sure to check it out.

Get a student Leapcard, this will save you a lot of money while traveling with public transport.

Make sure to look for housing on time and don't be afraid to reach out to people if you need help with finding a room.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Maynooth wasn't my first choice of destination but I'm really happy I got to stay here for a few months. Being a small town, it has a great atmosphere and it was easy to settle in. Irish people are extremely friendly and helpful and I felt welcome immediately. The town has enough to offer and Dublin is around the corner, you'll definitely not be bored here!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Feel free to send me an e-mail if you have any questions or want some more information :)



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

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

destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	19 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite long and involved a lot of paperwork, but it was well organised and clear. The international office answered all of my questions so I didn't encounter difficulties with my application. Just make sure you start in time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I went to Ireland after I finished my thesis and in the beginning I didn't know if this was even possible. My tutor helped me to figure out when was the best time for me to go on erasmus and showed me the different options. This was really helpful for me, so if you have any struggles planning your study abroad I recommend to talk to your mentor or the international office. Also the international office in Utrecht replied to my emails and questions very quick.

academic preparation

I didn't do much for academic preparation. The only thing I could do was to look at the courses they offer in Maynooth and already make a selection of them. For most courses there are no special requirements so I could just sign up for all the courses I liked.

language preparation

I did not follow any courses to improve my English because we have been learning English since primary school. This was sufficient. Don't worry about the English lectures and tutorials, you get used to this very quick.

finances

Before I went to Ireland I made a financial plan, including the costs of my room, groceries, the money I wanted to spend on trips etc. For me this was a good indication of how much I did actually spend in the end, except for the money I spent on trips, which was more than I expected. Keep in mind that the housing is quite expensive in Maynooth/Ireland.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed 4 courses in Maynooth, a total of 22.5 credits. I started with 5 courses but because in Utrecht we are used to following only 2 at the same time, 5 can be too much. I chose to drop one of my courses after a few weeks because then I still had enough time to do nice things next to my studies and see more of Ireland. You can only register for the courses when you are in Maynooth, but on the website they show all the available



<p>courses. I wanted to choose some courses that would be complementary to my studies in Utrecht but sadly most of them had too much overlap so I was not allowed to choose them. So make sure that the courses you choose are approved by the examination committee.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>I think the workload is quite much since you are expected to choose approximately 5 courses. However, in my experience the teachers expected less from us than in Utrecht. I heard more often that they were surprised by the quality of the essays of the internationals, which could imply that the level of the Irish students was somewhat lower. The quality of the lectures really depended on the lecturer. I had some really good teachers and some that didn't teach me a lot...</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>The Irish people in general are very nice, and so are they at the university. You could always go to the international office for questions or send them or your teachers an email, and they often react very quick. The campus also has 'student services' where you can go to see a doctor or get help with mental health very easily.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>I didn't receive my transcript of records yet so I don't have an experience with this. But I also did not get many grades back, even though it is January now, so that can take a while. The grading system in Maynooth is different than in Utrecht and often the highest grade you can get in Maynooth is 80%.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>	<p>Everybody in Maynooth University was very welcoming towards the internationals. In every talk we had they said that the most important thing for us to do here is to have fun and enjoy ourselves. The orientation programme was nice to see the campus and to meet more people. You can also join an Irish dance class which was really fun and a nice way to meet other internationals, I would recommend this!</p>
<p>accommodation</p>	<p>I was lucky to be in one of the student residences on campus, the village apartments. If you want to apply for this you have to be really quick because many people who wanted a room on campus were too late. Living on campus was very nice because we lived in a flat with mostly internationals, which made it very easy to make contact with people and meet new friends. I heard that finding an apartment off-campus could be quite hard so start early when looking for a room!</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>	<p>I loved the Irish culture and the nature. We went on many trips across the country, which is easy to do because Maynooth is close to Dublin. We had several Irish dancing lessons which were fun to do. The university has many clubs and societies for which you can sign up, they are only 2 euros and very easy to join. This could be especially nice if you want to meet Irish students because most internationals are mostly friends with other internationals and not so much with the Irish. The societies can be a nice way to get in contact with them.</p>
<p>suggestions/tips</p>	<p>Ireland has beautiful nature. I really loved the cliffwalks. You can of course visit the Cliffs of Moher which is very beautiful but on the other side of the country. However, Howth is a very beautiful place close to Dublin where you can walk along the cliffs and have stunning views. I really recommend going there because it's quite close and very beautiful! Another place I loved were the Wicklow Mountains/Glendalough. This is also pretty close to Dublin and the views are beautiful.</p>

CONCLUSIONS	
<p>would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain</p>	



Yes I would definitely recommend this university. I liked living in a smaller town like Maynooth and the people and atmosphere were very nice. Moreover, most of the courses were interesting and Ireland is a beautiful country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy! Of course studying is very important but make sure you also have enough time to discover Irelands culture and nature because it's beautiful. Just say yes to all the chances to go on trips and meet new people because that is really worth it!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Cultural Anthropology
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	18 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Overall, I didn't encounter any issues during the application process. All the information can easily be found on the UU website. However, there are quite a lot of documents to fill in and to get signed by both the international office here and the one at the receiving university. The documents themselves have clear instructions and can be filled out easily, but it can be easy to lose track of all the documents that you need to gather.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Aside from the orientation meeting the International Office organised right after your application is accepted, there were no set meetings. I personally found the information given at the meeting not as useful as it maybe could have been, but I did get to meet the other people who would go to the same university as me. We kept in touch and helped each other when necessary during the application process (and afterwards). The International Office can easily be contacted when you have any questions and they sent out a few emails with reminders for documents that need to be submitted which I thought was very useful.

academic preparation

I had no issues regarding the academic preparation.

language preparation

Since I would be taking English courses, there was no need to take a language course. So, there wasn't much to prepare.

finances

Getting my finances together went well, I would say. As part of the application process I made an estimate of how much I would spend during my time abroad. I later made a more detailed estimate for myself, to figure out how much I would need, assuming I would get the Erasmus grant. During my stay, I found that I spent less than I thought I would on living expenses. However, I did spend a little more money on trips than I thought I would. I would say it's a good idea to make an estimate, and make sure you have a little more money at your disposal than you think you will spend, to have something to fall back on.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I ended up taking courses that were different than the ones on my learning agreement. This was partly due to the timetables for the courses being made available very late. This meant that I had to change some courses, because they were being taught at the same time.



academic quality of education activities

The courses that I took were interesting, the lectures for some could be better. The grading for these courses for international students usually consisted of an essay to substitute the exam that the Irish students would be taking. This overall meant that I had to apply very little of the material that was taught in the lectures, instead I had to write about a specific topic. I'm not sure if this is the best way to grade someone's understanding of the entire course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The International Office at Maynooth University is very accessible. You can just come by or email them if you have any questions.

transfer of credits

As of writing, my credits have not yet been transferred, but I expect there to be no issues.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first week after arriving, there was an orientation programme lasting three days, where you get useful information about facilities on campus and where you get to know some of the other international students. It was fun and pretty well organised. It definitely helps you get around campus once lectures start.

accommodation

I was very lucky to have been able to book an on-campus room (which I don't think will be possible for Erasmus students anymore, if I'm correct), so it was nice not to have to worry about accommodation. The rooms were nice, the maintenance team was usually quick to respond when something needed fixing and the location was also good, of course.

leisure & culture

Maynooth University has a lot of clubs and societies you can sign up for (most of them are really cheap), which I did. They met up once or twice a week and were a good way to meet other students and have a good time. Since Irish culture is not that different from Dutch culture, there were no instances of culture shock, or moments of confusion in general.

suggestions/tips

I would definitely recommend joining some clubs/societies, since there a great way to meet new people and there usually cheap to join. Additionally, I would recommend starting your search for accommodation early. Even though I was lucky, I did hear that it was difficult to get a room somewhere.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, definitely! Maynooth is a very amicable place, full of students. There many activities organised by the student's union or by the different clubs and societies, so there's enough to do. The courses that they offer are interesting (at least the ones I took were), but aren't too difficult. Even though Maynooth is not one of the most exotic places to go to, Ireland is very beautiful and I had a lovely time.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2018-2019

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
destination city & country	Maynooth, Ireland
name university abroad	Maynooth University
start date	16 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	21 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	The exchange application process was not too bad, since it was pretty clear stated and on top of that were the required documents rather clear. There was some unclarity but this became clear after contacting the International Office.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The counselling and support at Utrecht Univeristy was pretty good as well. I could just come by or call with questions. Besides that, did I receive rather fast responses to my emails.
academic preparation	The overview of modules of Maynooth University were very clear and extensive.
language preparation	There was no mandatory language preperation since I went to an English speaking country. I had to make an language test prior to leaving though to receive an indication of my English level.
finances	This was fine as well, worked a lot in the summer beforehand so this worked out fine.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	The study programme was really nice. There was an rather extensive list of modules you could choose from. Besides that, they offered many interesting modules in various disciplines so that was a big plus
academic quality of education activities	The quality was overall pretty good. The university itself is however not too organized, which brought up frustrations from time to time e.g. lecturers not putting slides online or still waiting in January for grades from October and November. The lectureres where evertheless incredibly friendly. The bond student lecturer was rather informer which was really nice and they were more than willing to help you if you asked for it. This was really pleasant.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	This was fine.
transfer of credits	



Fine. It is, however different than at Utrecht University since over there you have a semester which is divided in two blocks. In every block you have two courses. This means that you always have tops two courses at the same time. In Ireland on the other hand, you have modules for an entire semester and the modelus are normally of 5 ECTS. This entails that you need to follow six modules for an entire semester in order to receive the standard 30 ECTS. I followed 5, so for 25 ECTS, and this was already really a lot.

Also in regards to the grade conversion system, the table that University Utrecht uses to converse grades, is based on the comparison between Irish and Dutch high schools. This is completely different than universities since it is highly exceptional in Ireland to receive a 70+ %. Conversed according to the table, is it not even possible to receive higher than a 7,5 in Ireland. I find poorly arranged by Utrecht University.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The introduction week was incredibly nice. Also the week in which you could try all the courses before you had to chose them, was really beneficial.

accommodation

The accomodation was not the best. I lived in a campus residence but it wasn't properly cleaned before we moved in there. Besides that, there was mould in my room and the insulation was really bad since there was nonstop water on the inside of the window. We had inspections from time to time instead of just in the end, which I also find rather strange. And we had to rent the room till the end of January even though the semester ended in December. They oblige us to pay for another month even though we're not even necessary there.

leisure & culture

Incredibly nice. Really nice and open athmosphere. Students were really nice. The Irish are really nice. The lecturers are really nice. So overall really good.

suggestions/tips

Improve the conditions of the campus residence. This was seriously quite bad.

CONCLUSIONS

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

For sure, Maynooth is an amazing place, the Irish are extremely friendly, there is a lot of choice in modules, the lecturers are extremely friendly and the university is rather small which makes it a cosy and familiar place in which you'll feel comfortable in no time. On the other hand, the campus residence was quite bad and the grade conversion system is absolutly not fair for Dutch students and works really in your disadvantage.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Look at the negative feedback