



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sociology

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	24 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	26 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The start was probably the most chaotic phase of the whole exchange. First, you have to choose among hundreds of cities and universities. This is not only a case of preference but also of available courses, student rooms and places for exchange students. Once you have picked the best fit, the application process starts. It was hard to find a way through all the documents and websites you have to check and/or fill in to complete the application. There are a lot of documents to help but still it is quite vague. Above that, it is not possible to see which courses you can follow. The timetables are not yet known and sometimes courses are deleted or added in the next year. Eventually, it will work out but be prepared to the chaos.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

As said before, there are quite some documents and website that help you with the process. For me, there were even too many. After the application, you get an invite for a presentation about the university you will go to. This really helps. You can ask all your questions and you get to meet other students that will go to the same university. We created a group chat so we could help each other through the process. This was really nice and I got some great friendships out of this group already! During the whole exchange, the international office is there to help as well! They answer emails rapidly and are willing to guide.

academic preparation

I had chosen two economic courses for which I thought I needed to prepare myself for because I did not have this kind of subjects since high school. After a few weeks, I dropped one of them because it was too difficult and the other did not need any preparation. So I could have done some preparation but at the end it was not needed.

language preparation

I already spoke some Italian but it is not necessary to speak it. A lot of people in Bologna speak English and they are used to internationals.

finances

The rent for studentrooms was higher than expected but the life is very affordable there. I would suggest to save a bit of money so you have less difficulty with the rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
It is quite hard to form your study programme because you need to check for yourself which courses can be followed next to each other. Take the time for this! Bologna has a lot of options, so there are a lot of possibilities. They are not that great in answering emails and the contact person at Bologna does not really help as well.
academic quality of education activities
I think it is fair to say that the quality is a bit lower than what we are used to at UU. They take way more time for subjects in general and there are no assignments or whatsoever during the course.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university of Bologna is not so great at counselling and supporting during your stay. There are some points where you can go to and at the start, when you check-in, you can also ask some questions.
transfer of credits
With the exchange you only get the points and not the grades. The transfer goes fast and is quite clear.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Bologna does not offer this kind of programme. The student associations do! I did not go to them because I did not felt the urge.
accommodation
This was difficult! There are too many students an too less rooms. Be sure to start on time, probably like 5-4 months before you leave!
leisure & culture
Bologna and Italy are ofcourse perfect for this! You can easily travel to different cities or nature close by! There is something to do for everybody.
suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would recommend it! The university and city are beautiful! The city is very international and inclusive. The have a lot of english courses and there is always something to do.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Make sure to find a room on time!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	by car
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	30 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process in general was not too hard and pretty well-organized. The only downside for me was that I had to apply quite early and then wait a while for actual results. Other than that I would say the application process was easily doable.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was always open for questions, which was nice. On top of that they organized an infosession with a student who went to the same exchange destination a year ago, which also provided great info to prepare for my exchange.

academic preparation

There was not much academic preparation from the UU, but that was also not necessary for my exchange.

language preparation

Personally I didn't really do any language preparation, so I wouldn't be too sure about this one but I think the UU does have options for it.

finances

Because of the Erasmus grant and the student compensation finances were not much of an issue. The university helped by pointing these options out and assisting in the application process where needed.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Content was great, which included courses I would have not been able to take in Utrecht, so in that way it was an enrichment of my curriculum. Organizationally the university was alright, although some things were organized a bit differently than I would have thought so it took some getting used to.

academic quality of education activities

Academic quality was alright. The teaching style was different than in the Netherlands, with less focus on powerpoint slides which made lectures seem a bit unorganized, but once I got used to it the quality of education was good.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There were offices I could reach out to for questions, but I found quicker answers when asking classmates or housemates for advice.

transfer of credits

All the courses I took were accepted by the exam board, so I think as of now the transfer of credits was very smooth.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no welcome programme from the university, but there were some activities organized by the ESN student network which helped me get to know people here.

accommodation

Finding accommodation was all left to me, but with the tips from a student who came here in exchange a year ago I managed to find a house quite easily, although it would be good to start looking on time for houses.

leisure & culture

There were a lot of fun events organized by the ESN student network, so that was great.

suggestions/tips

My suggestion would definitely be to get out there and join some events, to get to know people. I found that it was easier to make friends there than in my classes.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Absolutely, I had a great time on my exchange and also learned some new things in courses I couldn't have taken otherwise. On top of that I really loved Bologna as it is a student city with a great nightlife and it was easy to travel to other cities to see more of the country.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice would be to just go for it, I had the time of my life.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	PPE

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Alma Mater
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	04 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	All quite easy with help from previous exchange students. Although you should expect much longer waiting times for replies from Alma Mater.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Helpful, the online desk helped a lot with the process. However, it would be helpful to get reminded for deadlines such as the TravelGreenGrant.
academic preparation	No academic preparation was needed. However, I chose some courses which were on master's level and not necessarily my specialisation which is why they were a bit more challenging.
language preparation	I did an Italian course which started from A1 level. I continued language classes throughout the whole exchange.
finances	Food and drinks are much cheaper in Bologna. However, the housing situation comes close to that of the Netherlands which is why you should invest a lot of time in searching for housing if you don't want to end up paying 600€ or more.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	different courses from the humanities faculty: Intro to Italian culture, art history, archaeology and colonialism, philosophy
academic quality of education activities	some courses were better, some were worse. Overall, I found the small courses nicer and more interactive than courses with a high number of participants. They can be quite big and only based on large lectures.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	



Overall, it was not easy to get in touch with the supervisors. It was not very clear, who was responsible for what and took ages to reply.

transfer of credits

Everything worked out. I did not even take courses very related to my usual studies so it is no problem to choose very different courses based on your interest (mine were all from the humanities faculty though).

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

there is definitely a lot available options from esn networks. They organize a lot of trips and parties, which can be fun i guess if you like charts. not too much from the university itself.

accommodation

The housing situation in Bologna is very critical. It was difficult to find something; through facebook or dovevivo (but expensive)

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do. bologna is a city full of events from academic, nature and cultural events. there is also a great nightlife.

suggestions/tips

ig: bologna parvenza - they post all events on there. The university quarter is full of nice cafes and pizzerias which are not too expensive.

CONCLUSIONS

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

yes 100%, it's a young, dynamic, activist city where a lot is happening. everyone is very nice and chill. and all that it's a beautiful place and you can feel the history.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

no



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal arts & sciences

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Bologna university
start date	01 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Luckily I did not have much issues during my application process. The application process starts with a lot of things you have to organise and because I did not want to make any mistakes that could delay the procedure it took me quite some time. It is important to read thoroughly what they are asking you to provide and ask questions if there are things you do not understand to avoid issues.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support was really good. The questions I asked via email were answered very quickly and they seem to be very involved in the entire process. Also the opportunity they give you to talk to other students who went to the same university is very helpful.

academic preparation

The courses I took here were my last bachelor courses and also had to be in a certain discipline to be able to apply for my masters. Therefore my learning agreements was quite important so I spend quite some time finding courses. I emailed some professors to ask if I would be eligible being an Erasmus bachelor student.

language preparation

I wanted to take a language course but because my thesis, studies, and job were taking up so much time I ended up just using DuoLingo. Through this I learned quite some words which was helpful to start with the basics after I arrived in Bologna.

finances

My rent here was quite high, about 900 euros a month but I got a very nice apartment for that amount. Besides that I would say daily costs are pretty much similar to The Netherlands. The only thing that is definitely cheaper are restaurants.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took three courses in the department of political sciences, one in humanities, and a language course provided by the univeristy. I would really recommend the language course. The humanities courses was about the Italian culture. Some aspects of it were interesting and it was not demanding at all. The political science courses were



very interesting. I did not have any organisational issues because I sorted out my courses very well before leaving to Bologna. I had lectures every day and they do not have timeslots so it is a bit of a puzzle to fit every course in your lecture schedule, but the teachers are very flexible when it comes to exam dates. Flexibility regarding attendance depends on the course.

academic quality of education activities

The three main courses I took, the political sciences/criminology ones, were really interesting. Some people said that their courses were very different compared to the courses in The Netherlands, but I feel like mine were not that different. One big difference is that lectures are quite frontal in Bologna, but there was room for question and discussions. The level was a bit lower though. I did study well and my courses were interesting, so that made it easier, but still my grades were higher than in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I do not have a lot of experience with this since I sorted most things out by myself, but the international coordinator was very willing to help. They also organise a welcome/introduction presentation online to explain some practicalities.

transfer of credits

Transferring the credits was very easy. After you leave the country you have to check-out by sending an e-mail to the university. They will then check your grades and ask you if everything is recorded correctly. This was the case for me. After that they sent me my transcript straight away. Within four days everything was sorted.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first few weeks the ESN organises a lot of events. I would definitely recommend going there because this is the place where you will meet other students. They organise a sorts of activities and can help you if there are any issues or questions coming up.

accommodation

Finding accomodation is pretty difficult. I found my apartment through housinganywhere after I started looking for housing together with two other Dutch erasmus students. We found each other on the Erasmus facebook group. Even though it was a stressful procedure we found our apartment pretty quickly so I did not realise it was difficult before I actually got here. A lot of people arrived without having a room first, but most eventually found something. Dovevivo, housinganywhere, the Socialhub, and Stanza Semplice are all trustworthy. A lot of rooms are offered via Facebook or whatsapp groups, but also a lot of them appear to be scams so be cautious!

leisure & culture

A lot of Erasmus students love to party. That is also a big part of the ESN activities; partying and drinking. This is something I do not like that much so that was a pity. I decided to just find people who were also a bit less into the diehard party mode and that worked out well. I spend a lot of my free time out in the city wandering out with people or by myself, visiting other cities and Bologna hotspots, and when summer arrived we often went to a park. The culture is relaxed and people are very social and friendly. They also really appreciate it when you try to speak Italian so going out to try and talk to people was very fun to do.

suggestions/tips

Eat as many icecreams and pizzas as you can, and enjoy the time because before you know you're back home.

CONCLUSIONS



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

Yes I would. The city and its openminded, student culture is great and the university offers interesting courses. Not all the teachers speak English very well, but despite that it is still nice.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

-



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculty of Geosciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Sustainable Business & Innovation

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Car
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	19 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	10 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>As the deadlines for the application for an exchange period approach quite quickly in the first semester, for me it was the 1st of december if I remember correctly, it think it is useful to start working on the process as quickly as possible. For me personally, it took some time to figure out where I wanted to go, either outside or inside the EU, and after this also choosing the specific location and university. For me personally, it was quite some work to organise. I just started my master's degree and because the deadline of 1st december was approaching quickly, it was quite some work with letter you have to write, a study plan you have to make, choose the university and also choose courses abroad that you would like to follow. But if you plan everything, it is very doable.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>There is enough counselling and support at UU to help you with anything you need. Depending on the region you're going, you'll be assigned to a coordinator that supervises the students going to that specific region. My coordinator responded very quickly and was always there to help (digitally). Besides that, we had a meeting with a student who had been to Bologna the semester before I went. This was also helpful and gave me a better insight about the city and student life. Afterwards we created a groupchat with that student and others, and she was also there for any further questions. Furthermore, there is always your study advisor who can help you with any questions you have, for example with planning of your studies in general.</p>
academic preparation	<p>In terms of academic preparation, I didn't prepare myself very differently compared to my studies in the Netherlands.</p>
language preparation	<p>As both my bachelor's and master's programme were fully taught in English, I didn't really need to prepare when it comes to speaking English. This is mainly because my chosen courses in Bologna also were all in English. Personally I wanted to learn some Italian before going there, to get around the city and country a bit, I took some Italian lessons in the Netherlands before my departure. After arriving in Bologna I decided to continue taking lessons, which helped me in daily conversations with local people. Although the English level in Bologna is relatively good compared to the smaller cities and towns in Italy, I still liked that I was able to have some simple conversations. If you decide to take courses in Italian, I would definitely advise to start learning Italian before your departure.</p>
finances	<p>It is recommendable to make a financial plan before going. I would recommend to try to save some money before going. Since it is an erasmus exchange, you can apply for an erasmus grant which is around €250 per</p>



month. Quickly after arriving in Bologna, you'll receive the major part of the grant and after coming back in the Netherlands you'll receive the rest of it. Personally, I underestimated the prices in Italy in a bit. Housing prices are quite high and the high inflation in Italy made for examples groceries quite expensive. After being in the city for a while, you know which places to go and then I think Italy is probably a bit cheaper than the Netherlands. However, since most exchange students didn't look for student jobs in Italy, I would recommend to save some money before going.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

For me there were some very interesting courses in Bologna, which is also one of the reasons why I chose this city. However, be prepared for a bit of a chaotic start of the semester. Apparently, in Italy it is common to switch courses at the beginning of the semester. For me it was quite chaotic, because a few courses I intended to follow were not available anymore. Therefore I had to change my study plan, but in the end this wasn't a problem. The positive side about this, is that if you feel that you are not going to like the course you are following after a few lectures, you can still decide to skip it and take another course instead. Just be sure to update your study plan and make sure that the board of examiners at UU agree on your new courses.

academic quality of education activities

In terms of education activities, I would say that Italy is slightly different compared to the Netherlands. My exams were all oral, something that I previously never had done. I would say the quality of the education is not very different compared to the Netherlands. I went to most of my lectures and studied well for my exams, and I managed to pass them all without resits. The oral exams were a bit unusual for me, but it was also fun to see that some countries apparently do it in a different way, and therefore it was also something I've learned from.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Just as in the Netherlands, you'll be assigned to an exchange coordinator in Italy. The person I was assigned to, always responded very quickly (daily) if I needed her. Furthermore, in my opinion Italian fellow students are very helpful with basically anything you need. Whether it is about student life, places to visit, or study related questions, Italians were always available to help in my case.

transfer of credits

Italian grades are a bit different compared to the Netherlands. The scale ranges from 1 to 30, where 30 is the maximum and you have to obtain at least 18 points to pass the course. I passed all courses and after 1 email I received a transcript of records where the Italian grades are easily transferable to the ECTS system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In terms of student life, I believe there wasn't a very organized orientation or welcome week as we have in the Netherlands. However, during the start of the new semester (end of september or beginning of february) many new Italian and foreign students enter the city and the streets near the university are packed with students hanging out and meeting each other. This is a very fun period where everyone is open to meet new people and it is easy to make new friends. Also it is advisable to join ESN, this is a student organization who organize many trips and parties for exchange students, and it is an easy way to meet people and make new friends!

accommodation

Accommodation in Bologna takes some work to be honest, maybe I underestimated it a bit myself. Personally I was quite late with arranging a room, because at first I wasn't selected to go to Bologna. Therefore most rooms were taken when I started searching. So I would suggest that you start looking as early as possible, and then it is



definitely doable! Just don't expect that you go to Italy and you are going to have a very cheap accommodation in the middle of the centre, because this is not the case. Bologna is the biggest student city of Italy, which is very fun but also makes the housing situation a bit difficult. Just start as soon as possible and you will be good!

leisure & culture

One of the reasons why I chose to go to Italy is because I love the country. The food, the architecture, the language, there is so much to see and do. Bologna is a beautiful city, packed with students, which makes it very vibrant. There is more 'street culture' compared to the Netherlands, so in the warmer months people are just hanging outside and having a good time. Furthermore, Bologna is a very central city in Italy, which makes it easy to travel around the country and make good trips (good railway system as well). Bologna is in Emilia-Romagna province which is known for its food culture.

suggestions/tips

- Make a financial plan
- Save some money beforehand
- Start looking for accommodation as soon as possible
- If you're interested, try to learn (some) Italian, it's a beautiful language and people will appreciate if you know some words!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely! For me Bologna was perfect. When we arrived in september/october the weather was still very good! There is much to see and do in the city. Besides, it is very easy to make trips to other parts of Italy because Bologna is very central. The food is great, the people are nice and it is a very open culture. In Bologna you can be who you want and you won't get judged for it. It is known as THE student city in Italy, so Italians from all over the country come to Bologna to study. Next to the many international students this makes it the perfect situation to make friends and have a good time!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

GO!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	01 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The Application process from UU side was clear. Unibo was very late and also messed up my application. But eventually everything went okay, so don't be worried
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Well organised for the preparation part. The helped where necessary, especially when the university of bologna was not responding.
academic preparation	not applicable
language preparation	not applicable
finances	Similar to the Netherlands, due to scarcity the rooms in bologna can be quite expensive. I paid 740 euro per month for my room, which was quite modern, within the walls. From fellow students I heard must higher prices aswell.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I had 5 different course from multiple faculties. Not advisable, but doable. In the end everything went okay but italians tend not to plan to much, so just be patient and everything will be okay.
academic quality of education activities	I would say the courses were easier compared to the UU, especially the exams. But I still learned quite a lot from most courses I followed. But if you want to be academically challenged, I would recommend to go to another university.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	not applicable
transfer of credits	haven't done this yet



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university itself did not have a welcome week as far as I was aware. But other organizations tend to organize parties and trips for incoming students (e.g. ESN). A lot of exchange students go on these trips, so for sure in the beginning to meet new people it is nice to join.

accommodation

Hard to find and expensive, comparable to amsterdam or even worse. So start in time to find an accomodation (I started as soon as I heard that I was accepted by unibo)

leisure & culture

Bologna is a very nice city, with a beautiful city center with lots to do. Not very touristic, classic student city. Known for its good food! Palazzo Albergati is worth to visit. Also the chapel of San Luca is nice to go to.

suggestions/tips

Have some beers on verdi, get lost in the city, eat out in as many restaurants as you can. Try pumpkin icecream with balsamic, its really good.

CONCLUSIONS

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

For sure! Bologna is a lovely city with lots to offer. It's a safe city, with lots of students. The food is great and the coffee even greater. The university itself is okay but not very demanding.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Learn italian, travel around (Bologna is like utrecht central, trains in all directions) and tasted all the italian delicacies. Also visit a local vineyard (poder riosto), to taste the local delicacies!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	Car and train
name university abroad	University of Bologna
start date	02 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process started a long time before the actual departure, which forced me to research all the steps I needed to take well in advance. Everything is displayed clearly on the website, and information presentations and meetings really helped with everything so I recommend attending them. UU erasmus was very responsive which also helped. In my experience the gathering of the documents went smoothly, but it does take some time so start well ahead and make a checklist of all you need to do for the application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Very good! Both my faculty teachers and the erasmus exchange UU offices and the exchange offices were very responsive, helpful and well informed about my personal case. Also the network allowed for me to contact fellow students who did an exchange so that gave me peace of mind

academic preparation

I did none, since the courses I followed were outside of my faculty and lower levelled.

language preparation

I planned to follow Italian courses at the UU, unfortunately I did not get admitted to these courses. I highly recommend doing a basic Italian course before going though!

finances

The grant application process is a bit more complicated and has different deadlines and calls for you to re-hand in documents with signatures added etc. But the UU offers a very clear document on the deadlines for this process, so that made it easier.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

For choosing my courses I looked on the UniBo website and scrolled through the course catalogue for what courses were available in English. You can change your course selection until quite late, even after the semester has started, fairly easily. The only thing is that it is important to check if you are eligible for the courses you plan to follow before starting them. I followed courses in political philosophy, anglo-american literature, italian culture and animal adaptation to climate change. Apart from the last course, there was no overlap in my programme in the Netherlands and in Bologna, but the content of the courses was doable since the courses I



had no expertise in were on bachelors level. The last course was on master's level, but with my Pharmacy knowledge it was easily doable. The level of courses in Bologna is generally a bit lower than in the Netherlands was my experience.

As for organisational issues, the Univeristy of Bologna was quite responsive and helpful. SOmetimes you had to email teachers twice and things are a bit more mouth to mouth, so make sure you are in good contact with your professor or fellow students. aAart from this I experienced no oragnisational issues.

academic quality of education activities

Quality was good, only the level was a bit lower. But all the professors I had were clearly very knowledgable about their subject, and I learned a lot from them. So the quality is very good

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Was good, did not really need a lot from them, but they were responsive and helpful.

transfer of credits

I do now know this yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was none from the University of Bologna so that was a bit of a dissapointment. There are, however, student oragnisations like the ESN and the IC that organize activities for exchange students. Since there are a lot of exchange students you can meet people very easily! Thee organizations also offer trips to other cities and language course which I highly recommend.

accommodation

Hard to find, took me a long time. Eventually I opted for an organiization which charges a lot of money and obligates you to rent for 6 months, shorter is not possible. All in all this was worth it to me since I had a great location which was a 10 min walk from the University and everything was arranged. So if you don't find anything through facebook Stanze Semplice or DoveVivo are something to look at.

leisure & culture

In my free time I travelled around Italy a lot and went to a lot of cities and regiois which was very nice. Train network in Italy is very good so take advantage of this! In Bologna there is also a lot of culture abd museums, so enough to see. Furthermore Bologna is a great city for social life, and it is very easy going. It is also a city with a lot of young people so there is a great amount of music concerts, art shows, parties, etc.

suggestions/tips

I highly recommend taking Italian language courses while you are in Bologna, it really made my experience more immersive. Next to this, I suggest to go to places to meet new people as soon as possible, so that you can have a bit of a social interaction. Furthermore I recommend using your free time to explore the country, this is also something I really liked doing. I also suggest to limit the people who are visiting you (family/friends from home). I had quite some guests which was a bit stressful at times and that also pulled me out of my immersion. Some is fun, but be careful!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, best city to study in Italy. Also a great country and Bologna is a very easygoing place to be introduced to Italy. From Bologna you can explore the whole of Italy very well so that was also a big plus! The univeristy itself



is great, and student life is very nice. Since there are a lot of exchange students it is easy to meet people and that really added to my overall enjoyment.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

/



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	BOLOGNA, ITALY
how did you travel to your destination?	CAR
name university abroad	UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
start date	20 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I had heard that Bologna is a popular destination, so I think I was lucky to get in. For this reason, I made sure to have a good back up plan. I also applied to Padova and Trento. I really wanted to study in an Italian city, so these options were all good.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	I would definitely recommend going to the predeparture meetings. You get the chance to meet students that are doing an exchange to the same destination. What is more, you get a general idea about the things you have to take care of -- and the exchange administration was elaborate in my opinion. You can always send an E-mail to the exchange coordinator. In my opinion, however, their knowledge on the specific universities is limited. And it can be a challenge to find out the information about the Università di Bologna.
academic preparation	
	I did not do any academic preparation.
language preparation	
	I took Italian I and introduction to Italian culture at the UU. After having taken these courses, I had a basic knowledge of Italian (A1). Before the start of my classes, I took a month of language classes. A one week intensive course at the university that i would definitely recommend (be sure to check the application deadlines for this one well in advance!). Moreover, I took an intensive language course at a language school in Bologna. This is absolutely not necessary, but I wanted to take courses at the University in Italian, so for me it was the right choice.
finances	



Bologna is generally less expensive than Utrecht, except for the rent. International students paid around 6001000 euro's per month for a single room close to/in the city centre. The good news is that Bologna is a student city at its heart. Drinks in bars are cheap and eating out as well. Moreover, lots of activities are free. There is lots of open air concerts and movies even that can be visited free of charge. If you plan on making a lot of trips, that will probably be the biggest expense, next to your rent.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The University is not well organised. The upside to this is that it does not matter as much if you miss a deadline. The downside is that it can be challenging to register for classes etc.

academic quality of education activities

The courses I took were taught relatively well. I took a political science course that I liked a lot. The law courses were "drier". It depends on the professor a lot what the quality of the course is. The good news is that you can test out a course before you register. In this way, you can decide if you like the programme and the professor.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The exchange coordinator reacted fast to e-mails. The international office, however, does not speak english. But in the end, it will all work out. They know you are an Erasmus student and they will always take this into account.

transfer of credits

I am still in the middle of this process.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no welcome or orientation programme. You can, however, join the student organisation (ESN Bologna/IC Bologna). They will organise activities, (almost) daily. I met my friends through their activities.

accommodation

I found my student accomodation through Stanza Semplice. They have a lot of student accomodations in the city centre.

leisure & culture

There is almost too much to do here for students. Especially in the city centre and in the university quarter, there are lots of museums and other cultural places.

suggestions/tips

The clubs and party organisations have instagram accounts where they will post what is going on per week. This is really nice as you can choose in this way what you are up for. On a less practical note: I would recommend to learn at least a basic level of italian. Learning Italian has been one of the best parts of my exchange. And it has been so much fun to be able to even order in Italian or say thanks.

CONCLUSIONS

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



I definitely would. Bologna is known for its vibrant student life. There are a lot of students and the city feels like a university city. The buildings are super old and beautiful and it is really special to study in Bologna in my opinion.



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

destination city & country	Bologna, Italy
how did you travel to your destination?	By car
name university abroad	Università di Bologna
start date	3 / 9 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	18 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process	The application process was quite easy. You just have to keep in mind the deadlines. The process was well organized and for me it was clear what to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I didn't need a lot of support. If you have a question, just ask the International Office. They are very willing to help you and will respond fast to your question.
academic preparation	I didn't do any academic preparations. Despite that my courses were at master level and not in my study field, it was not necessary to do any preparations.
language preparation	My courses were in English, not in Italian. Most of the bachelor courses are however in Italian. Because my courses were in English, I only did a bit of self-study before my departure to have a basic vocabulary in Italian. I would recommend to do this as well since the Italian people barely speak English.
finances	I had my own personal savings and applied for the Erasmus grant and the BMW grant (from my own faculty). I would recommend to make an overview of the expected costs and expenses (trips and leisure included) before your departure. The living costs are quite similar to the costs in Utrecht, but be aware of the extra costs you make during your spare time. These are probably higher than you expected.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)	I attended three courses of the Master Health Economics and Management and two language courses of the "Centro Linguistico di Ateneo (CLA)". This is the languageschool connected to the university which offers a lot of Italian language courses to international students at different levels. I attended the intensive (2 weeks) and extensive (10 weeks) language course. It is important to be aware of the deadlines to subscribe for a language course because there is a limit of students that can enroll. Attending a course is also a good opportunity to meet other international students.
academic quality of education activities	Since I had no background in Health Economics, I expected the master courses to be difficult. However, they seemed to be quite easy to follow. I think the courses in Bologna are more easy than the courses I attended in



Utrecht. The academic quality and the quality of teaching are however good and at the same level as in Utrecht. Most of the teachers have an office hour in which you can ask them questions about the content of the course.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support in Bologna was quite bad. It is very chaotic and you have to find out everything by yourself. When you send an email to, for example the international office, it takes a long time before they respond (if they respond at all). So when you have a question you should go to the international office yourself. I think that is the best way to contact them. This is the same for some professors. In the end it will be fine but you have to put some effort into arranging things.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was no welcome programme organized by the university. There was one welcome meeting for students studying at the economic faculty. This one was however in October and not in the beginning of the semester. When you want to meet other international students I would recommend to attend activities of ESN or ESEG (the international student organisations).

accommodation

I lived outside the walls of Bologna, but still close to the university and the center, around 10 min by bike. A lot of people want to live inside the walls, in the city center. The apartments in the center are however much more expensive than the ones outside the walls. It is quite difficult to find a room in Bologna so start to search for a room soon. You can join Facebookgroups or find accommodation via organisations.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Bologna! I signed up for a sportclass where I met a lot of Italian people. Unibo has a big choir and orchestra for which you can sign up. Besides this, Bologna offers a lot of nice food places. I ate a lot of aperitivo's at different places. This means that you buy a drink for 6/7 euro's in which an all you can eat buffet is included. A lot of students have dinner like this. My favorite gelateria is la vecchia stalla, close to piazza Santo Stefano (which is also a very beautiful place). Then there are a lot of culture things to do in the city. Just look up the agenda of Bologna and you will find a lot of concerts, exhibitions, etc. Every wednesday evening a lot of Italian people gather at Labas. Which is a nice place to meet a lot of other Italian and international students. When you are in Bologna, you should do the walk to San Luca. You will have a beautiful view of Bologna from the hills. My last tip is to go on trips to other cities (Ravenna, Cinque Terre, Florence, Rome, Ferrara, Verona)! These are all beautiful cities and easy to go to by train or Flixbus.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I would really recommend to go to Bologna because it is a very beautiful city and a nice experience to study in Italy and learn Italian. However, don't expect too much from the support of the university since it is quite chaotic. Also the Italian lifestyle is quite relaxed (which can be an advantage or disadvantage).