



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Beta Science faculty
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Computer Science (Informatica)

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	07 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 12 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went quite smooth. I had no problems with uploading any documents. The only thing I had a bit of problems with was with the Learning Agreement (LA). I didn't really know what to fill in in certain boxes, but this was quickly solved by sending an email to our international office. Afterwards everything was done for me. The only thing I had to take action for after I got admitted to UCC was officially enrolling. UCC sent a very detailed email, with a link to a video explaining everything so it went smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The only thing I made use of was the international office mailbox. I sent a few mails regarding questions about the LA and they answered these in max one work-day which was extremely helpful.

academic preparation

Because I was on exchange for a University Wide spot, I did not need to do any academic preparation. I chose courses outside of my study subject, however they did not require any preknowledge.

language preparation

Ireland is an english speaking country, and seeing as my English was already pretty good I did not need to prepare anything. One thing to note though is that if you need to write an essay for a grade, this is of course expected to be written in English, therefore the level of English they expect is quite high.

finances

Cork is a very expensive city. I paid around 1100 euros per month for rent alone. Cheaper accomodations can of course be found, however the average price would be aroun 800 euros per month.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had a lovely time following courses outside of my subject. They were thaught well, although sometimes a bit boring but that is to be expected, and the quality of the education is top notch. Regarding orginasion it was also well done, there was a document with all the deadlines and every course needs to follow certain rules which can be found on the ucc website. Also they have different ways of grading, continual assesment and tests. I personally preffered the continual assessment and thus chose all my courses based on that.

academic quality of education activities



The quality of education is very high. They often offer different ways of education, such as fieldtrips and guest lectures.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
UCC had a good support for international students. They offer counselling for people in need of help and also have a campus doctor, where students can come if they have a problem with their health. A friend of mine went there for an infected eye and she got treated, the only thing she had to pay for was the medicine.
transfer of credits
At this moment, my credits have not been transferred yet. The only thing I can talk about is that all credits should be transferred, given the courses were accepted by the exam commission.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
UCC had a week dedicated to new students. Because the Irish high school had delay in the publication of results, this week became dedicated to international students. They offer a lot of activities, including trips and daytrips to other places in Ireland. Most of the activities came from an organisation for international students that is not from UCC. It is run by a man, called Michael, and he organises a lot of parties and trips to Galway, Belfast, etc. Especially the first week or two, a lot of people show up to these parties. This is where I met a lot of new people.
accommodation
I lived in Hatch, specifically Marsh's yard. This accomodation housed mainly international students, which was great because that meant I got to know a lot of new people. It is also situated close to the city centre, only 5-10 min walk away, and has a 20 min walk to UCC. It is on the more expensive side, however the location is great. An aldi is even situated 3-min walk away.
leisure & culture
I had a lot of free time, which allowed me to properly see the culture of Ireland. The stereotype that Irish people are nice, is definitely true in most cases. They often open the conversation with a "hey, how are you?" even for strangers. And if you choose your courses well, you will have enough time to do trips. I went on 5 trips throughout Ireland, seeing Dublin, Galway, Kinsale, etc.
suggestions/tips
I would recommend taking courses with continuous assessment, this means that the courses have no exams at the end of the period which gives you 2-3 weeks of free time. Exam period is almost a month in Cork. Also, Cork is a perfect city to walk through. Biking is in fact pretty dangerous, seeing as most roads have no biking lanes and everything is on the wrong side. It is perfectly doable to do everything on foot and with public transportation there.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the city isn't too big but big enough to have a fun student experience. It is also a student city and has a good connection with the rest of Ireland. The university has a good education program with a lot of choice in courses and a few alternative ways of education than the standard lecture test format.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
no.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

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

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process can seem a bit overwhelming and difficult but if you just follow the steps on the exchange website, nothing can go wrong. Just a tip: write all the deadlines already in your calendar so you have no chance of missing it and make a clear to do list.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

When I had trouble choosing between universities I reached out to the STIP. They helped me a lot by answering my questions and pointing out the differences and similarities of university hosts and what the options could be. I would recommend this a lot if you are also in doubt or have questions about the application process.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation. This was also not necessary in my opinion.

language preparation

I also did not do any language preparation.

finances

Make sure you look in time at the erasmus+ scholarship and the transportation funds, because I postponed this a little bit too much. I got the grant a little bit later than other students from Utrecht University. Also don't forget to stop your studenten-OV in time in the Netherlands because I accidentally brought mine with me to Cork and then I had to send it back home, otherwise the studentenproduct couldn't be stopped. Ireland is also quite expensive, especially the rent, so I would take some time to save some money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I did not follow a certain study programme because I chose all different kinds of courses. I would definitely recommend this, because it is a nice opportunity to broaden your knowledge outside of your own studies. For example, I followed greek mythology, two computer science courses and a criminology and psychology course, while I study education science here at UU.

academic quality of education activities



The academic quality is lower than at UU, I noticed that in the grading system but also in the way some teachers taught the lectures. I really think it depends on which courses you are taking. The passing grade is also lower than in NL, in Cork you already pass if you have 40% correct. I would say I found the courses more easy compared to UU, but because I had to take 6 courses instead of 2(at UU) I still felt like the working load was quite high. It was just not as difficult but still quite busy! I also found the way of assessment very different than at UU. For 2 courses I only had to do essays. For my other courses I had to write essay exams, which were different from what I was used to at UU. You really had to memorize a lot of theory instead of applying the knowledge.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not make use of this, but I heard from other students that when they had questions the International Office was very helpfull and responded quickly to their questions at UCC.

transfer of credits

30. 5ECT per course. But they were all introductory.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation program from the university itself was not very big, they organised some city trips in the beginnning. But my roommate adviced me to join the international facebook group/whatsapp chat. There was this guy named Michael who was organising parties and social events where everybody could go to, this is where I met most of my friends. He also organises weekendtrips to places in Ireland, which are a lot of fun! And next to that I would also advice to go to the society/sports markets in the beginning of the semester. You can look at the different societies the university has to offer. By this way you can meet more Irish students, so you don't stay in the international bubble, which can be difficult to get out off.

accommodation

I stayed at Hatch student accomodation in the city center. It is a really nice accomodation, I had 4 roommates and an own bathroom. I also got offered a room from UCC itself, at Edenhall, but I reclined the offer because it was quite far away from the center and made you reliable on the busses (which are never on time). You do pay less than other accomodations, but it is still quite expensive. I also didn't hear a lot of positive stories about Edenhall from other students, for example that there was no hot water at a certain point etc. I would definitely look into it very early so all your options are still open.

leisure & culture

Cork city is a lot of fun! The pubs are the most amazing part, they are beautiful and big. You also have some really nice food places. The university is also incredibly beautiful, it almost looks like hogwarts.

suggestions/tips

Tom Barry's was one of my favorite pubs. They have a beautiful outside terrace and a very good pizza and wine deal, you can also play some games inside. There is also a website with all the heritage pubs, these are in my opinion the best pubs in Cork. Look out that some places in the weekend are 21/23+. During the week usually not.

Another tip: Plan a lot of trips in the weekend to see other parts of Ireland. It has such a beautiful nature and other cool cities. Be aware that you are almost always reliable on busses, because the public transport is very different and more difficult compared to NL.

CONCLUSIONS

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



Yes! I had an amazing time in Cork at UCC. I met such amazing people, whom I still have contact with to this day. The whole exchange experience has been amazing and I look back at it with a lot of joy. Cork feels very small and cozy, that's why you feel at home very quickly. I do think it doesn't really matter where you go, you will probably always have a good time on exchange!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you look at accommodations in time, and join the international group from the beginning. Everybody there is very open to meet new people and that makes it more easy to find friends! And don't worry about studying, in the end you will only remember the fun events, not the stress from university.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	University College Roosevelt - Social Sciences (Law & Politics)
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Criminology

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane and bus
name university abroad	University Colle Cork - UCC
start date	12 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 05 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	the process of applying was easy to follow however it did take some preparation, in the sense you need to check if you qualify for all requirmenets, and when deadlines are. The process of getting notified of acceptnace and getting the next steps after does take a while, so expect to be patient.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	UU, does provide support however it does take a while to get an answer regarding an issue and or question.
academic preparation	
	Academically you have to follow the certain guidelines by both UU and your exchange university which in my case was UCC. Meaning that you not only have to qualify to go on exchange through UU but also through your university that you're applying to. Moreover I chose to do a subject that I was not studying so over the Christmas break I did do some reading on the basics of criminology so that I would have somewhat of a baseline understanding of what was going on in my courses. However the professors at UCC were very accomodating and explained everything during their courses very thoroughly so that even somebody coming in that does not study this was able to understand what was going on. When it comes to exam and essay season it is very important to time manage, as a lot of courses have similar deadlinjes. The way UCC was set up academically was very different from Utrecht University, and thus that did take some accustoming to do however UCC made sure to make all visiting students feel very comfortable and welcomed, by providing an introweek introduction that explained not only the culture and ways of Ireland but also how the university worked and who we needed to contact in the case of emergencies or questions.
language preparation	
	As an english speaker i did not have to do any language preparation because i was going to a country where english was the main speaking language.
finances	
	Ireland is not a cheap EU country, so as a visiting student you should prepare financially for the fact that it can get quite expensive. However there are ways to make sure that you are budgeting money correctly and as a student there are a lot of bargains. When it came to transportation Ireland has a card that is used to pay for transportation very similar to the NS card, and with this card as a student you get discounted fare for trains,the metro, buses and trams. Moreover as a student a lot of the museums and activities to do around Ireland come either at a discounted price, or for free. Going out and eating out can get expensive which is why I personally



did not do it that often however depending on which city you're in there are very budget friendly options. When it came to grocery shopping I found a couple of items in Ireland much less expensive in comparison to the Netherlands, like milk and eggs and meat. I would definitely recommend setting some savings aside and evaluating your financial situation before deciding on going on exchange to Ireland, as it can get expensive once everything is summed up together.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

personally I was very pleased with the content and organization, of my courses during my exchange. As a student who did not have a background in the subject that I was going in to study I was very eager to see the material that we would be discussing and what the content entailed. All of the courses which I took were extremely interesting and provided a very hands on experience. The courses at UCC were set up in a way that you had seminars also known as tutorials in which you had an hour to two hour period in a smaller group setting with a professor, in which you would go over the material that is covered in the main class and go more in depth into what was discussed as well as touch upon other aspects of the course, it was also during these tutorials that the essays and exams will be talked about and students were welcomed to ask questions about the content and the organization of the course. In addition you have the main lecture which would be an hour to two hours depending on the subject where you would over the main content for the week of that course. UCC uses canvas as a platform for their university which was very easy to navigate and was organized very well which allowed for me to be able to access not only the material that we discussed during class but also get additional readings and materials if I wanted to explore something more that the professor might have mentioned during their class period moreover all classes are recorded and asked such each student is able to access the recordings for the class so in the case of an absence a student can catch up by watching the recordings, and if a student is studying or did not understand something classic and go back to the recording and rewatch the lecture to either study for an exam or to better understand what they did during the lecture.

academic quality of education activities

the quality of the education is incredible, all the professors have in in depth background in the courses that they teach and are either actively still working within that field or are doing active research in that field. It was extremely interesting during my lectures to be able to hear about the different stories of my professors, and the experiences of their research and their jobs. In addition in my courses there were a lot of activities that we were able to do such as field trips to various locations, guest lectures and even online interviews with inmates.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

UCC, has an extensive counseling and support system provided for all of their students. A visiting student is treated just like a home student and can make an appointment through the UCC website, or just show up to one of the buildings where the counseling and support departments are located and go talk to an incredible team. Counseling and support services are provided free of cost which makes it extremely student budget friendly. Moreover UCC has various systems in place from student government, to various buildings depending on religious support as well as sports and so much more. The environment of the universities extremely welcoming, and there are various buildings for different activities scattered throughout the campus that are accessible for all students.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits was very easy as this is managed by the exchange/international office, in which there are departments based upon the geographical location of the student. As such the student is sent their transcript and then there's the students responsibility to upload it to their home university thus providing a proof of attendance and grades received at the institution which allows for a transfer of credits.



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation program was very interesting it took two days in which we were explained how the academic system worked at UCC, where each department was, given a tour of the campus as well as our ID cards and introduced to all the different kinds of programs that are available for us to do, from sports to arts to advocating and much more..

accommodation

The accommodation process was a very difficult one as Ireland is extremely expensive when it comes to accommodation even more so than the Netherlands. The university provides a lottery based accommodation system in which a student can put what their budget for the exchange in regards to accommodation and their preference to around which area they would like to live in. After a couple of weeks the student is given an offer for an accommodation and this is the only offer that they will receive if they accept it this becomes their accommodation however if they decline they will not receive another offer and it is up to the student to find their accommodation. Cork does have a lot of options ofr accomodation but, students should be mindful that it can get very expensive.

leisure & culture

the Irish culture is incredible there is something to do every single day. The university provides various clubs and programs which all students can partake in from sports to the arts to activism and so much more. In addition the university has a gym facility with a swimming pool a weight area and a cardio area as well as various other classes like spinning, yoga, pilates, boxing and more. All these clubs and programs at the gym facility are for free as they can all be accessed via the student ID card. When it comes to the culture of the city there are a lot of clubs and pubs students can go to as well as museums the opera and sports games. Cork city is a very lively student city with something going on every night.

suggestions/tips

for a student visiting Ireland for an exchange I really do recommend carving out a specific period of time where there is no studying to travel Ireland as there are so many beautiful things to see apart from just a major tourist attractions like the cliffs of mower. In addition to traveling from Ireland to other countries like Spain, Scotland and England can be very affordable so I would also recommend going to discover those places as well.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would 100% recommend this destination to others, UCC offers a wide range of subjects and courses to their visiting students in various levels. Ireland is a beautiful country with a lot of sights to see from nature to history to culture. The night life is very lively and there is always something to do. The Irish people are extremely welcoming and very helpful. However i would very much keep in mind that Ireland is more on the expensive side so a student should be very mindful of their budget and their financial situation before making a decision.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane too Dublin, bus to Cork
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	07 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Everyone warned me for excessive loads of paperwork, but this really was not that bad. UCC did not require that many documents, so the application process went very smoothly for me.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office was of great help. Of course email correspondence will always take a couple of days, but when there was a moment that I was in a giant rush, they were super quick too.

academic preparation

I didn't necessarily prepare on this front. They have a wide range of classes at UCC so I decided to follow any class that interested me, which created a very broad curriculum for me.

language preparation

I felt like I did not need any language preparation, I think everyone at UU will have a sufficient level of english to study in Ireland. One thing you could do is listen to some irish sources, since their accents can be quite difficult to understand.

finances

A few months before departure I started borrowing more DUO money. I didn't really know what to expect so I figured it would be best to have some extra money on hand that I wasn't gonna use than be short on cash whilst I'm there. Also, don't expect your Erasmus grant to be there right away. I only got my grant at the end of October which I had not counted on.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Since other countries are often not big on social sciences, I decided to take some classes from other faculties as well. For most of them there are no prerequisites, so you can just enroll. Something I hadn't realized was that the first digit of the course name refers to the year in which people would usually follow it. So AP1023 is a first year course, but PH3044 is a third year course. Keep this in mind as the third year classes can be a little more challenging if you are unfamiliar with the material. I enjoyed most of my classes and I experienced no issues or



whatsoever. The only thing I had to get used to was that you take 6 courses at the same time, whilst the workload of each course is still about 8 hours a week, so you have to step up your study game.

academic quality of education activities

I think the academic quality is quite comparable to UU. First year courses are not very indept, but second and third year courses are. Most classes required a lot of reading which took some getting used to. At UCC they are not extremely strict: the passing grade is 40% and plagiarism only leads to a reduction of your grade rather than a pass. Would not recommend of course, but it does show what I am trying to say.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office at UCC is great too, they are friendly people and they work very hard to give you the smoothest experience. They have a facebook page too where they post useful info. I personally feel like I didn't need to look for anything myself, as they were always there and making sure you were well prepared.

transfer of credits

I was warned about this process too, that it could take ages to get your transcript of records. Fact is, I did not even need to ask, they just emailed it like that.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was a two day orientation programme where we were taken on tours and got lectures on the basics of UCC and Cork overall. Normally, the societies fair would have been in the first week too, but this got postponed since the freshers started later. I would recommend going to the societies fair and enrolling for as many societies as you think you might like! It is very accesible (free) and even if you just visit one of their activities, it's already worth it.

accommodation

At first I was shocked with what I would have to pay for a room, but in the end I discovered I got a relatively cheap deal (€700 a month). Cork is just a very expensive place to live, but I would really recommend taking a proactive role in finding a place early on in the process. I booked my room through a private rent company (Viva Ireland) half a year before departure and it just gave me so much peace knowing that I had a place to live. The student accomodations such as Lee point are very nice and modern, but the rent is easily around €1000 a month and I believe it takes a long time before UCC appoints the rooms, so if you don't like the uncertainty I would recommend trying to find something on your own.

leisure & culture

UCC has a very active internationals society which has definitely had a big influence on my experience. This guy organizes weekly parties, daytrips and weekendtrips (for example to Galway) at rather affordable rates. This is also the easiest way to connect with other internationals, so I would definitely recommend joining their facebook & whatsapp group to not miss out on anything.

suggestions/tips

The gym (Mardyke Arena) is free for UCC students, so it is really worth it to sign up if you want to work out (or swim!) during your stay. Also many museums and galleries in Ireland have free admission, so take a look at that.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I think it is clear that I would definitely recommend going to UCC. I had such an amazing experience, UCC is so welcoming and helpful and with the big internationals society you never have to fear feeling alone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Do as much as you can! The prices in Ireland will shock you and make you think twice about whether you really want to go on that trip or join your friends for dinner. I just want to say: do it. Your time is going to fly by and as the cliché goes: you will only regret the things you did not do.



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	University College Cork (UCC)
start date	10 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 05 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a bit overwhelming due to all the information being given to you. However the website of the UU gives you a timeline and all the documents you need! Try to be on time with everything and keep track of all the documents you need, this will help you out massively.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Don't hesitate to ask questions or email the International Office, they are there to help you and are very nice.

academic preparation

UCC is not as difficult as Utrecht University so in my opinion you don't have to prepare anything academically. Just expect a lot of essays and try to keep up with your assignments.

language preparation

You don't need any language certification to go to UCC and I think you can easily understand everything if you have followed some courses in English here at UU, or have done havo or vwo at a Dutch highschool. The Irish accent is very nice and not that hard to understand.

finances

Ireland is around as expensive as the Netherlands, the only things that are way more expensive are housing and alcohol. The rent is mostly between 700 to 1000 euro's per month, although if you search for living with families or with elderly people it can be a bit cheaper. In January 2022 the Irish government installed the Minimum Unit Pricing, which made the alcohol way more expensive. I would recommend saving 6000 euro's for one semester. This way you also have money for some trips! Also, you can pay in stores and pubs with a debit card, but in the busses you need to pay with small change/cash or with your leapcard (similar to an ov-kaart) and online payments are only possible with a creditcard.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



At UCC you do not know your schedule/timeslots before hand, so choosing courses for your learning agreement is just a guessing game, because you don't know if they will overlap/clash. This will become clear in the first week of the semester, which is also a sort of 'try out' period in which you can follow different courses to see which ones you like. I would recommend to join some extra courses in this week to see what you like. You are allowed to change up until a few weeks into the semester. This helped me massively in choosing my courses, but it also caused for some clashes and last minute changes. Don't forget to ask the examination board at UU if your courses are sufficient, they have the final say.

academic quality of education activities

I really loved my courses and the professors were all very passionate about their research fields. They were all very enthusiastic and supportive and if you wanted some extra time for a deadline or needed help, they were happy to give it. I do have to say that UCC courses are a lot easier then in Utrecht, but you have to follow more courses at once. This is still very doable and most of the assignments were quite easy, a lot of mine were essays in which I just had to summarize the lectures and add to it with some literature (this also depends a bit on your field of study and the level of the course). Furthermore, I did not have any seminars or workinggroups, only lectures, in which they summarized and explained a lot of the readings, which was sometimes a bit repetitive, but also allowed you to spend less time reading and more time doing fun stuff!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not use any of the counselling options, but I heard you have to be quite early with this as many people need it. However I did make use of the on-campus Health Centre, which was free or had low prices and the people there were very nice and caring. The people from the Internation Office at UCC are very nice and always responded quickly to my questions.

transfer of credits

At the moment my credits haven't been transferred yet, as UCC hasn't given out the transcript of records, so I don't know yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I heard that the people in the fall semester had a week long welcome and orientation programme and way more activities. While the spring semester people had just three days. I did the spring semester, so these days were mostly about schedules, courses, societies and clubs etc. Another organisation that is not associated with UCC organised some parties and trips and some activities during this week and the rest of the semester. However I would be a bit careful with this group as it is not regulated by the university.

accommodation

Finding accomodation is quite hard in Ireland and Cork, try to start as early as possible. I would recommend looking at all the options. UCC provides you with one offer from their on campus accommodations, but you can also stay with families or in houses. The companies that rent out whole complexes are the most expensive, but also quite new and nice. I would also recommend staying as close as possible to the city centre or UCC as the busses are never on time, or just don't show up. Biking is an option, but it is more hilly and less safe then in the Netherlands. Another tip is to just email different companies and options, sometimes they have more (cheaper) offers that are not on the website yet or a waiting list. The website of UCC provides a list with options for housing.

leisure & culture

Make sure to visit all the pubs in Cork, there are so many and it's a lot of fun! Furthermore there are a lot of clubs and societies at UCC that are free for you to attend, I would highly recommend the Mountaineering club. If you want to learn more about the Irish culture you can also follow one of the Celtic Civilization, Folklore, or Modern Irish courses. These are very interesting and fun as well.



suggestions/tips

Just try to enjoy your study abroad as much as possible and say yes to all the fun trips and activities!

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would highly recommend going to UCC. The university is so welcoming to internationals and all the clubs and societies help you to find new friends and fun things to do. There is a lot of attention for mental health and work pressure, and academically it is not that hard, which is perfect for a semester abroad in which you want to have fun. Cork is a small but nice city due to it's many pubs. Ireland is a beautiful country that can be experienced with (day)trips and hikes. The people in Ireland are also very nice and welcoming and they are always interested in your story. You will meet so many amazing people. I am so glad I got to go and would never want to have missed it!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Bhí an-chraic agam (= I had a lot of fun in Irish)



faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences (major in Spatial Planning)

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to and from your destination?	By plane and bus (to get from the airport to the city centre)
name university abroad	University College Cork
start date	09 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	08 / 05 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process went pretty straight forward. The International Office from UU informed me about the things I had to hand in. Both universities responded quickly and were very helpful when I had any queries.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office from the Utrecht University helped me when I had questions and also updated me about the things I had to hand in. This made it clear of how I had to do things and when.

academic preparation

I did not have to prepare the courses I did at the UCC since I had chosen courses that fit into my major. Also, I had chosen some courses (which were outside my field) that did not expect me to have prior knowledge. The course descriptions from UCC were very clear.

language preparation

After making the English test, I found out that my English was at a sufficient level so I did not have to prepare the language. Also, I was confident I would be able to understand at least the biggest part of it. The first few days it was a bit difficult to understand the Irish accent of the Irish people, but I would not say it is necessary to prepare this since you will get used to it very quickly!

finances

To receive the Erasmus grant was quite nice since it made it possible to pay a part of the accomodation in Cork. The accommodation was quite expensive since there were also some additional costs for electricty of which I did not know in advance. I was lucky that I saved some money so I could go on some trips. A lot of fellow students could not go to all trips since they did not have enough money. I would advise to save some money because the drinks in pubs are a bit expensive too.

(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

welcome & orientation programme

study programme (content and organisational issues)

(since I could not add comments to the first part of this section, I will write it down here: The welcome and orientation programme was much fun. A lot of information was given through Facebook which I found out last



minute. By going to a lot of orientation activities, I met already a lot of other international students. I would therefore advice everybody to go to these.)

I had to choose the courses before I actually went to Ireland. The semester started at the beginning of January and we were still able to change courses within the beginning of the semester after you found at that the course was not really your thing.

academic quality of education activities

The lectures I got were very interesting and the professors were all very passionate about their field. This made it fun to go to the lectures. I think that the quality of the lectures is quite the same as the lectures on the UU. At UCC, there are not that many exams. For most of the courses there have to be written essays. The UCC namely believes that this is the best way to gain knowledge.

transfer of credits

Most of the courses that you could do at UCC are worth 5 ECTS so I took 6 courses since I wanted to earn 30 ECTS.

It takes quite long to receive credits since Erasmus students receive their grades at the end of June (so at least 1,5 month after the exams). The credits will be transfered a week after.

CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES

support guidance of host university

The host university updated me very well since they sent emails every day. One thing that was not communicated quite well was the last minute closure of the campus. They namely emailed it the same day, a few hours in advance.

support guidance of home university

I did not receive a lot of information from the home university according to the coronavirus. I only received one email that was saying that I was expected to go back home. When I replied to this email I did not receive any email back. This was very stressful. I thus had more support from the UCC at this point.

online offer and quality of digital courses

Since I only had two weeks of lectures left, I did not miss a lot of physical lectures. For one of the courses, I received online lectures which I could watch from home. These lectures were not given live since this would cause troubles with different time zones. So I could watch them whenever I wanted.

suggestions/tips on digital exchange

I do not have any suggestions since the UCC did update me very well and the digital lectures were quite nice. I would not expect better.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend this destination since there is a really nice atmosphere and people are very kind and helpfull. Also, the campus is very nice and makes you feel like a real student. The Utrecht Science Park is nothing compared to the campus of UCC. The old buildings and green infrastructure look very friendly and just from a fairy tale. The university offers a lot of interesting courses. Some of them are really nice to do as an international student since it gives you a better understanding of the Irish culture or history. Besides, the Irish landscape is beautiful and surprising since there are a lot of different landscapes. Also, the pubs are much fun since there is played a lot of traditional Irish music.



do you have any additional advice or comments?

Finding a room is hard. I would advice to start to look for a room early to find one that is at a good location and not that expensive. Also, I advice everybody to go on exchange since I am sure that this was the best experience of my life so far. I am sad that I had to go early because of the virus but I literally enjoyed every single moment in Ireland. From meeting new people, to going on trips/hikes/pubs.



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

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	Plain and bus
name university abroad	UCC Cork
start date	04 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application went fairly smoothly for me. However, after acceptance there is still a lot of paperwork you must deal with, mostly regarding the Erasmus+ scholarship. This may require sending multiple e-mails back and forth, but in the end the UU and UCC were fairly quick with their replies and support.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The internation office at the UU was super helpful during the whole process! I am that kind of person that stresses out a lot and double checks everyting, so I may have called them too many times. But in the end they always answered my questions, even though some were mentioned on the website multiple times.

academic preparation

I did not do any academic preparation as a third year student at the UU. I most followed courses in my major area and did not venture into completely new areas.

language preparation

I think that every UU student shouldn't worry about their english level. It is more than enough to follow all the courses over there. You do have to write a lot of essays, so keep that in mind, if that's something you are not particulary good at. Like in my case.

finances

I stayed in Cork for one semester, and I think the UU-website gives a good average of what you need per month. Housing is way more expensive than in Utrecht, but the other living costs are quite the same.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Don't focus too much on the admission requirements of all the courses in the science department. If you ask them directly, they almost always allow you to enter the course. This was mostly the case for the advanced courses, that I wanted to take but did not meet the exact requirements.

academic quality of education activities

At UCC, they have a broad selection of courses you can follow. As a third year student I followed a couple adadvanced courses and some introductory courses. The UCC course-website lists a lot of admission requirements for the courses. So with my first application, I got rejected two times. The thing is that they don't exactly know what your background knowledge is and if you explain to them that you could possibly do it, they



always allow it. In the end, I found the academic level quite a bit lower than at the UU. Even the advanced courses were fairly doable. I mostly followed computer-science courses and two philosophy courses

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The international office is well organized and always ready to help. They have a physical office which is open during office hours and is located next to the campus. For most of the documents that needed to be signed, a signing event was organized on multiple dates. So no problems in that department.

transfer of credits

The transfer went fairly smoothly. Don't forget to apply for the transfer of credits at the UU-exam board during your exchange. This was something that I forgot but still went well in the end. After you leave Cork, within a couple weeks they send your transcript over and the credit gets converted automatically.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The international student society at UCC Cork was one of the best things of my exchange. They organize an event almost everyday in the first two weeks. And during the whole semester multiple parties, board-game nights and a lot more. So don't worry about feeling bored.

accommodation

The quality of the accommodation was quite a bit lower than here in Utrecht. It is not the best but still acceptable. Always accept the housing the university offers, because finding a place on your own is very difficult. There were multiple students who had to stay in a hostel during the first weeks. The shortage is not exaggerated.

leisure & culture

Cork is a relatively small town compared to Utrecht and the people are very friendly and never had any issues during my stay. I would also highly recommend joining one of the clubs or societies. It is a great way to meet up with the local students and see the country.

suggestions/tips

Don't slack in the first two months with regards to your studies. You can easily end up doing this due to the exams being held in December.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Without a doubt! This was probably one of the best experiences I had during my studies. I was especially happy with the large international student community which made me some friends for life.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't worry too much about all the practicalities. In the end, it is all worth it.



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

destination city & country	Cork, Ireland
how did you travel to your destination?	By car and the way back by ferry and train
name university abroad	University College Cork, UCC
start date	26 / 08 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I did not have any problems with the application process. There are just a lot of forms to fill in and sign. But everything will get clear through all the emails you will receive, just keep on track. The international offices of both UU and UCC are very helpful, so don't hesitate if you have any questions.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The international office is very helpful if you need anything
academic preparation	I didn't need any academic preparation
language preparation	I also didn't need any language preparation. I have a Cambridge certificate, but that is not necessary. If you are fine by studying and writing in English you will be fine. I had to write a lot of essays at UCC. If you are not confident in writing in English you might want to do some extra preparation on that. The lectures at UCC said that international students sometimes are even better at writing in English than the Irish students.
finances	Ireland has similar prices as the Netherlands for groceries and beers. Accommodation is really expensive though. I paid €700 per month for accommodation. Next to that I think I spend 500 to 700 euro a month on food, going out and traveling. So, all with all it can be quite expensive, but you get some Erasmus money, so it will be kind of the same amount you will pay when you study at home, a bit more.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Online you can find the book of modules for visiting students. There is a lot possible. I choose a few that I found interesting. In the first week at UCC you have to apply for the modules. Sometimes it might not be possible to do all the modules you liked, because of timetable clashes. The semesters at UCC are pretty short, in 3,5 months you can get 30 ECTS. I did five modules, in Utrecht I have two at the same time, so that was a bit different. It was more work than I expected, but it was really doable
academic quality of education activities	



Most lecturers are interesting and good at their job. I only had lectures (hoorcolleges) and no tutorials (werkcolleges). I had to write a lot of essays, I did not get much feedback in between. the few exams that I had where quite easy.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

it is possible to get all kind of support. The library organises all kind of workshops to help write your essay or tips for studying. There is a welfare officer of the Student Union you can talk to.

transfer of credits

With 40% you pass your module, which is pretty easy, but it is harder to get higher grades. Between 60-70% is pretty good and higher than 70% is really good. But the grades do not really matter, since you only have to pass to get the credits at UU

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The international society organises a lot of activities to get to know new people. Like speedfriendship, walking tour through the city, day trips to Cobh and Kinsale and parties. There many many international students at UCC. There are enough opportunities to make new friends.

accommodation

I stayed at Victoria Lodge which is an accomodation of UCC, 10 minutes away from campus and 30 minutes walking to the city centre or 10 minutes by bike. The accomodation was clean, I had my own bathroom and shared kitchen with 4 people. The intertior of Victoria lodge is not really cosy. I would have preferred Brookfiels accomodations, a little bit like the IBB, with 4 to 10 roommates, you have to apply for this early though, just email them!

leisure & culture

Cork is a nice small city, with a lot of lovely pubs! At UCC you can play any sport for free! make sure you join a few clubs and societies, I joined the handbal and mountaineering club. The last one organises hikes somewhere arround cork on every Sunday, so don't forget your hiking boots!

The international society organises some weekend trips, I recommend to go on one or two of them and also organise weekend trips with your own friend group. Ireland has beautiful nature.

suggestions/tips

Cork has really a lot of cosy pubs, try one new one each week! I really liked the Oval, Abbey tavern, Fransican well, Oliver Plunket....

CONCLUSIONS

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

yes definitely. Irish people are so kind! And I really liked the atmosphere at the UCC campus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Get a second hand bike at the bike shed