



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
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	Msida, Malta
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	01 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	I do not remember the whole process well, however I remember it was quite chaotic in terms of getting all the right documents signed before the deadline and checking all the different university websites with different layouts and systems. I was first selected for a different destination, but later received an email that there was a spot free in Malta, which was my first choice and I was really excited about that. It would have been a totally different exchange otherwise. After you are selected, you mostly need to keep checking your email and if you have received everything in time, but the most stressfull part is the application.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	As usual with the university, it depends on your own iniciativa how much support you receive. You can always ask for help, and the help I received was good and attentive for my situation even when it was a little last minute, which when later compared to my visiting university is not always standard. However, the full reponisibility of meeting deadlines and figuring out the right documents is in your own hands, which can be a challenge so keep in mind to check your email and different checklists on the Erasmus, UU and vitsiting university's websites.
academic preparation	I did not really prepare academically to be quite honest. At UU my major is Urban & Development Geography, while at University of Malta I did mostly Sociology courses and some random other classes, and the standard of education was in comparison easy to catch up with.
language preparation	I tested C2 in the Language test, and I already spoke English quite well before going to Malta, so for me this was not an issue. It is not necessary to learn the Maltese language as English is also the official language. You could follow a course at the university of Malta to learn Maltese, however, as it is a mix of italian and arabic and something unique, it is quite hard to become fluent in such a short period.
finances	Malta is definitely not a cheap country, especially in terms of groceries. I also did not have any savings left as me and another girl from Utrecht were scammed with an apartment that turned out not to exist in real life. I borrowed money from my parents multiple times, however, if you have a savings account this could be helpful. You could also try to get a job, however, I am not sure if this is allowed in combination with Erasmus and compared to dutch standards, the salaries are low. The best place to do your groceries are the Lidl, which really saves a lot of money. Also, Happy hours are amazing in comparison to NL :)



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Sociology
academic quality of education activities
It was definitely lower than the standard we have at Utrecht university, which was nice because I was not there just for the study experience. The only thing was that the first three months you basically did not do much besides readings and one or two presentations, and the fourth month was all the papers and presentations at once which was very stressful. So if you can, try to work ahead, but it is still manageable.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I got scammed in the beginning with the other girl from Utrecht, and the international office at University of Malta was very attentive in this process. However, the response time is Mediterranean style, so not very fast.
transfer of credits
I have not received my grades yet so I cannot answer this question yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
We had our first introduction day, but as me and my friend had to handle our accommodation arrangements after we got scammed, I missed the tour. It was not so impressive, just a presentation with all the things we need to remember know about Malta University. There are a lot of ESN activities you can attend which I would recommend going to more when it comes to wanting to meet people.
accommodation
As I got scammed on the first day, me and my friend from Utrecht shared a room in the Campus Hub for the first week, which I highly recommend. There was a heavy storm the first week, so every night a lot of other students from campus hub got together on the 6 <sup>th</sup> floor and that way I met a lot of people I ended up becoming friends with. Do not worry about making friends though, everyone is so eager to meet new people that you can hang out with everyone, there is a very open community environment, especially in the beginning. After the first week in Campus hub, I moved to an apartment I got through asking people about accommodations in the ESN Whatsapp group, which was really nice. I lived on the edge of Birkirkara, and it was only a 10-15 minute walk to the Campus for me. I would recommend if you live in an apartment, DON'T JUST TRANSFER MONEY even if they seem trustworthy. There are a lot of scammers. I would recommend staying in campus hub for the first week and looking from Malta at apartments. This might feel too stressful, but for me it could have saved me 1100 euro.
leisure & culture
Malta has a lot to offer in terms of partying and beautiful water. However, it is also quite small. My friends and I joked about it being one big rock. I did really have a wonderful time, and it has a lot to offer if you like to party, but also for people who prefer to go on hikes/ explore nature/ culture. I think 5 months is perfect amount of time to stay in Malta to explore everything and not get bored.
suggestions/tips
My favorite places in Malta: swimming: Manoel island (not too far with the bus/ you can do campfires) Ghar Lapsi (go snorkel here!!) Rievera beach (more touristy but better view than Golden Bay)



Paradise bay: Nice restaurant, bathrooms, little less touristy

Exile beach in sliema was our favorite hang out spot on the rocks

of course surfside, not only on Mondays but also on Wednesdays! (little crush )

Café del mar is really nice on Sundays if its opened already

Valetta is small but has a good vide, go to straigh street for cute little bars, or my favorite Café Society (LGBTQ+)

Marsaxlokk fisher's market was so nice on a Sunday morning, go to eat seafood pasta as lunch, I recommend the place near the ATM where they make fresh pasta (owned by an italian)

Birgu secondhand market on Sunday, very early tho

Paceville of courseee

But also go to Gianpula, they have really nice parties if they are open near the summer

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would wholeheartedly recommend Malta, I made great friends and the weather was amazing. Also the Maltese people can seem rude but I also met a lot of really open, friendly Maltese people. Because the native language is English, you can feel like you are truly integrated in stead of only being in your international bubble. The island is small, but it really has its charm, it starts to feel like home as you can get to know the place well.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

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

destination city & country	Universita Malta (Msida), Malta
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	L'Università ta Malta
start date	13 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	<p>The application process for this exchange was easy as it was my second time I applied for an exchange. I remember that, during the first time, I felt really stressed as I did not really understand what I had to do for my application. This was during COVID-times. However, that was not the case here!</p> <p>This time I knew what I had to do for my application. I attended the orientation 'day' which was just a presentation on what an exchange entails, what you could expect, what to keep in mind, etc. Important to say here is that this was specifically focused on my Bachelor degree (Cultural Anthropology), so I do not know how it is for other studies. Moreover, I attended a workshop (maybe two, but I'm not sure anymore) about finances. It showed how you could make a financial plan as it is obligatory for some universities abroad.</p> <p>If I had questions, I emailed the International Office or my tutor to see if they could answer them. Most of the time they could and it didn't take a lot of days to receive a response.</p> <p>Then, it was time to choose for three destinations. I chose for destinations where English was the official language as I was a bit lazy to learn a whole new language with such pressure. I chose for Malta, Ireland, and Denmark in this specific order. Another reason why I chose them is because it is in Europe and I could try to get an Erasmus. Going on an exchange is quite expensive and an Erasmus Grant could help lift the expenses a little bit. I highly recommend to choose three destinations as sometimes you get 'send' to your second or third choice. If you do not fill them in, there is a higher chance that you have to choose from leftover countries where you do not want to go to.</p> <p>Since this was the second time I applied for an exchange, I already had my studyplan and motivation letter from the first time. I made sure to look if they were still updated and retouched them where it was needed. When you make your study plan, make sure that you meet the requirements within your Bachelor program. I made sure that I had enough ECT's and that I completed all my first year courses. As for the motivation letter, I changed some information, such as the destination, the university, and why I wanted to study in Malta. Other parts of the motivation letter were centred towards myself (qualities, skills, etc.) and I didn't have to change any of that.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	



Once I got to know that I would go to Malta, I received a specific email adress where I could send my questions etc. to. I knew that I had to send them emails regarding some questions, but more specifically regarding documents that needed to be signed.

The email adress sends an automatic response stating that it might take up five workdays to receive an answer, but most of the time I received an answer very quick! Sometimes even as fast as the next day! So, there was a lot of support coming from the International Office.

Other than that, I don't think I used other conselling & support at Utrecht University.

#### academic preparation

As I said earlier in this document, it is very important to know which requirements you are supposed to meet regarding an exchange. This can be different for each studyprogram! For Cultural Anthropology there are three major requirements that you have to meet.

1. Have 60 ECT's
2. Completed all the first year courses, KOM, and TOE (the last two are courses about statistics)
3. Having a studyplan in which your planned courses are enough mandatory, optional, and in the right academic level.

I couldn't go on an exchange the first time as I did not have enough ECT's and I did not complete one of my required first year courses. So, I decided to take another year to make up for those little 'mistakes'. In my second year I did 8 courses to get 60 ECT's. All of them in 'profilering'. I did get those 60 ECT's. Moreover, in that year I retake my first year course and completed it. Within this extra study year, I made sure to look at the requirements stating the mandatory and academic level part to make sure that I would not get into trouble after coming back. Then in the first semester of my third year, I took two classes only (one in each 'block') to have enough time to get all the documents etc. ready for my exchange. I did not want to stress about that.

Other academic preparation I took, was specifically focused on the University in Malta. I had to choose courses that interest me, but that did not overlap with the courses at Utrecht University. So, I made a Word document in which I compared courses in Malta that interested me to the courses that I already took in Utrecht.

#### language preparation

Malta is a country with two official langauges, namely Maltese and English. The university, as far as I know, teaches all the courses in English, except for the languages courses.

I took Cambridge during my high school and got a certificate for it. Therefore, I did not really prepare my linguistic skills for Malta. However, if you want to go to Malta, you need to do an OLS language test, unless you can confirm your language skill with another certificate such as Cambridge. I did the OLS test just to be sure and I got the same result as I have on my Cambridge certificate.

So, other than taking the OLS language test as an extra, I did not do any preparations.

#### finances

Going on an exchange is quite expensive. So, I knew I had to save money. Also, seeing that I would be living on my own for the first time in my life, I decided that I would need to save as much money as possible.

I worked at my part time job and took extra hours where possible to earn extra money. During the summer, I 'over'worked and got quite some money. I made several saving account in my bank account to have an organized 'wallet'. I distributed my money (from work, but also other incomes) into the different savings. I also created one for Malta in which I would put most of my money in.

I also attended the finance workshop given by Utrecht University to make an organized finance plan if you go on an exchange. This really helped me to set a money goal. Moreover, it really helped me to know how much I would approximately would pay for each thing (housing, groceries, etc.).



Lastly, I applied for the Erasmus Grant. There are several requirements you have to meet in order to get the Erasmus Grant, but that information is on the website of Utrecht University. This year they also introduced a new part of the Erasmus Grant; TopUps. I also applied for the financial TopUp opportunities as I believed I had a chance to receive it.

Malta is in most parts pretty similar to the Netherlands with prices. Malta is part of the European Union and also pays in Euro, so you do not have to keep in mind that you need to change into another valuta. Somethings are more expensive, while others are less expensive. For example, going to a museum is cheaper in Malta. And if you apply for a buscard, then the public transport is also less expensive in Malta than in the Netherlands as they are free for weekdays, the weekend, and the nights. As for the more serious things, such as housing or groceries... the prices are pretty similar. Rent is just as high as in the Netherlands and for the cheapest groceries you should go to Lidl. It is also important for me to tell you that in Malta there is not a big supermarket on every corner of the street. There are a lot of convenience stores, but they do not have everything and it is more expensive. I recommend doing weekly groceries and only go to the convenience stores for small things like water.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was on a Erasmus in Malta, so I had to take enough courses to receive at least 22,5 ECT's. In Malta, most of the courses give 2, 4, or 6 ECT's. I chose six courses that in total gave me 26 ECT's.

- The first course is 'Locating the Anthropology in the Mediterranean'.
- The second is 'History, Memory, and Identity'.
- The third is 'Sociology of Emotions'.
- The fourth is 'Economic Anthropology'.
- The fifth is 'Anthropology of Islam'.
- And the last one is 'Media, Culture, and Society'.

Usually you have each class 1 day a week. Most of the lectures are two hours long. Here, the lecture rooms are smaller than what we are used to at UU. My biggest class was maybe 40 people maximum. Every other class was smaller. It is normal here if you have classes that contain 10 people. Depending on which class you follow, you either have to make an assignment at the end of the course (essay), or do an exam. However, for some classes you have to do a small assignment half way through the course (most of the time a presentation). June is the examination month here and if you have your tests / assignments spread out over June, then you have to stay in Malta until the end of June.

They also have a student portal / site here that is called 'VLE'. This is a sort of BlackBoard where you can find assignments, powerpoints, articles of your literature list. They use TurnItIn to check the plagiarism of the assignments.

#### academic quality of education activities

As mentioned before, the lectures are around two / three hours long. Most of the time it is the teacher talking about the topic, but sometimes they use powerpoint presentations or use the lectures more as seminars. The style of powerpoint depends on the professor. Some only use bulletpoints, whereas others put the whole text on there.

I am not really sure what is meant by 'education activities', but there was a lecture in a museum once. This contained of a 15 minute explanation and then the signal to explore the museum (for an assignment). Other than that, I did not do any 'educational activities'.



The educational quality here lays a bit lower compared to the Netherlands. Most lectures are relaxed or even shortened in time. There is a lot of lecture "cancelations" as well, even for things that are not sickness. There are no seminars here, so I feel that students do not read all the literature, or show up to class. It is also quite 'easy'. It feels for me that the student workload / academic pressure is much higher. However, they are strict on attendance (still more relaxed than in UU). Here, you can miss 4 lectures max. per course.

June is the month used for exams / assignments for semester 2. As for exams, I just had one multiple choice exam and 5 essays. I would say that the essays are a bit easier here in Malta as they don't have much requirements and you're pretty free to write about what you want if it is within the course topic.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The University of Malta offers various counselling and support, but I have not used them. I am, therefore, not exactly sure what they have.

There is the Chaplaincy which is a religious organization / community which offers free lunches on Wednesday from 13.00 till 14.00. They also offer activities, study rooms, prayer rooms, and a support bunny. I believe their building also functions as a church.

UM promoted their counselling and support options at the orientation day, which mostly consisted of mental health options, such as psychologist, meditation, etc. So, it is not a bad thing to go to the orientation day. I believe it is mandatory.

#### transfer of credits

As far as I know the transfer of credits is done online and kind of 'automatically'. I have not received my credits yet, so I cannot say anything for certain.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

Orientation programme was split into two parts; general information and a campus tour. The day started at 08.30 and would end after the campus tour.

We first got information about the International Office in Malta, how their schoolsystem works, the services, and some behavioural tips (drugs, alcohol, etc.) Then, we got several presentations from different institutions within University, such as the library, the Chaplaincy, ESN, and mental health services. Everything was very interesting, but it was also very long as we did not get a break and got all information thrown at us.

After all the information, we were split into six groups (we were with many) to get a tour from local student who are in their second or last year of university. My tour was very short. We were only shown the library and the main 'square'. That was it. I was a bit unsure about it all, so I asked a Maltese friend of mine to show me around later in the week. That was a better option as she showed me all that I had to see!

That was the orientation day. There were no other activities or etc. planned for the welcome of the internationals. All in all, it was short, overwhelming, and a bit chaotic.

#### accommodation

There are different options to choose from when you are looking for an accomodation in Malta.

The first option is CampusHub where you live on campus in a private or shared room. There are some rules about the payment, but it costs around 400-600 euro's I think. This is included with electricity, water, and wifi. But I am not too sure as I did not choose this option. Look at their site for more information.



The second option is to rent a room in a shared house. This can be difficult as you do not know people in Malta, but looking around on the internet is always helpful. Just be careful of scammers!!

There is also the option to live in an AirBnB, but this could be hard to reserve as some data might already be reserved by others for the holidays. Malta is a popular country for the holidays.

Lastly, there is the option to collaborate with an agent / agency. I did this. I came in contact with a Dutch-Maltese agent who helped me get an apartment. Keep in mind that this might be a bit more expensive as you probably pay higher rent, pay a deposit (that you get back if you leave everything nice and clean), and pay a percentage of the rent to your agent for his services. Moreover, you can still get scammed if you do not do your research properly!

The university is really accesible with different forms of traffic; walking, bus, car. So, you do not necessarily need to live really close to the University. However, if you are going with the bus, then you have to keep in mind that the busses do not show up in time or at all. As for walking, be careful where you walk because sometimes there are no sidewalks and you just have to walk along the side of the road where cars etc. ride.

In Malta there is also a shortage of housing, just as in the Netherlands. However, I feel it is a little bit less than in the Netherlands. So, it might take you a while before finding accomodation. Start in time!

If you do not live in CampusHub, than keep in mind that you have to pay for other bills than just rent. Electricity, water, wifi, and gas come on top of it! Also good to know is that Malta uses gastanks that need to be refilled. With this system, you can decide how high or low your gasbill is going to be. The best wifi for just a semester is the Plug&Go from GOMalta. It is 31 euro's per month and you have to pay a deposit of 75 euro's once, but once you'll finish your semester than you can bring the device back and get 50 euro's back.

You can drink water from the tap in Malta, however, it is recommended to just buy bottles of water! I did that as well and they have a return-bottle-policy (just as in the Netherlands), so you receive a bit of money back.

A tip! IF it is possible, then try to find accomodation before you go to Malta. If not, then try to go there at least a few day before the orientation or starting day at University to look for accomodation.

#### leisure & culture

Malta is an island with lots of things to discover. For museums, tours, and other activities such as going into caves or elites their house, you should check out 'Heritage Malta'! There are also a lot of activities where they offer discount for students. There are also a lot of (historical) gardens, monuments, and cliffs that you can look at for free! There are also a lot of 'old' cities (e.g. Mdina) that are worth a visit! Malta has over 300+ churches, so you can always check out the churches if they are open.

A lot of the things you can do here are accessible by bus, so i recommend taking the bus. Also, Malta is a small Island and therefore the longest bus trip is only 1,5-2 hours if it is directly. If you have to change busses or directions, then ofcourse it can be longer.

University itself does not really organize any activities other than some major ones. If you want to participate in activities and get to know new peole, then you should become part of the ESN network (whatsapp group). They organize activities each week, basically for everyday. They organize parties at Surfside on Monday's and Cuba on Friday's. Moreover, they organize sport activities for each day of the week and during the weekends they try to come up with larger activities such a trips to cities, lasergaming, hikes, etc.

Then, there is the Chaplaincy / Chaplancy at the university. This is a place / organization which organizes activities once in a while, and on Wednesday's there is free lunch. They are a religious organization and their space is mostly used for religious things. However, even if you're not religious, you're welcome there! And, I believe they have some spare rooms that can be used as study rooms.





There also a lot of cultural things to experience. In the second semester there are multiple festivities to experience, such as the national holiday "Feast of Saint Paul", Easter, the firework festival! The Maltest, or at least the student love to go out in Paceville. This is like a city purposely 'only' with restaurants, foodspots, clubs, and bars! They most of the time go on Friday and Saturday, but there are some who are die hard and almost go everyday.

The food in Malta is very influenced by its 'colonial' past and neighbours from the Mediterranean sea. There is a lot of pasta, pizza, fries, hamburger, etc. There is also a lot of asain cuisine, and more importantly some restaurants are authentic Maltese or Meditteranean serving dishes such as rabbit. Normal groceries, and bread, etc. is pretty much the same as in the Netherlands.

Another tip is to take the ferries sometimes!

suggestions/tips

Join the buddy program at Utrecht University! They try to match you with a student of your exchange destination. So, when you go there, you do have a person who you can rely on for the first few weeks.

Also, make a list of things you really want to see and / or do before you get back! There is lots to see, so a bit of organization is not weird to do! I made one as I am a bit of a culture / museum / activity lover and organized mine into foodspots, churches, sights, activities, museums.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I do recommend the University of Malta as a destination / university to others, as it has lot to offer even if it is a small island. It has lots of cultural sights which is easy accessible with the (free!) public transport. There are various party villages on the island for the party people. You can basically swim everywhere as you are surrounded by the Mediterranean sea. The university is English-based, so you do not have to learn another language.

Moreover, if you really do your research on activities in Malta, then you find lots of stuff to do!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or send me a message on Instagram!



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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	Communication and Information Sciences

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	L-Università ta' Malta
start date	08 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I had to apply in december 2021 to go study abroad. I had quite a lot of choice where I could go, so I picked three of my favourite destinations and ended up with my first choice Malta. I had to hand in different documents, like motivation letters etc. At that time it seemed like I had to do quite a lot to prepare, especially with gathering signatures, but it worked out all fine.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University



Utrecht University organized an online meeting and told us the things we had to prepare. It was nice that we got the phone numbers of other students who were going to Malta, so that we could prepare together and look for apartments together.

academic preparation

I did not prepare anything on academic level, since this was not required or necessary.

language preparation

Since Malta is a country where (almost) everyone speaks English, and I could already speak English, it was for me not necessary to practice this further. I only had to do a language test to prove I could speak English on the minimum level the university required.

finances

I did not really save so much money before I went to Malta, but I did have a sublet for my room in Utrecht and secured that I got money from my Erasmus Grant, DUO and for not using my OV-chipkaart.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took various courses, but mainly at the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MAKS), because my major is in communication. I changed some courses while I was in Malta, which was really easy to do. They allow you to take different courses than your major, as long as you take the required percentage of courses in the department you're in.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality of education activities would I consider to be higher in the Netherlands, but the level of quality is not bad in Malta. I did do less for courses than I would in the Netherlands, but I think that depends on which courses you take. I definitely learned a lot of new things.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

You get a mentor beforehand, who helps you with the things you need to do. If there is a problem with anything, they are always there. You can email them or go to the international office. I did hear from some students some problems with their mentor not responding, but that definitely depends on the mentor. Mine was really helpful.

transfer of credits

In Malta they also use ETCS, so it is the same system as in the Netherlands. What differs is that in the Netherlands you usually take 4 courses per semester with 7.5 credits, while in Malta the courses overall have a lower amount of credits, so you need to take more courses if you want to get 30 credits.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Before the semester starts, there is an introduction where the mentors tell you everything important you need to know, which was really nice. You also get to meet new exchange students immediately, because they put you in groups.

accommodation

I started looking for apartments while I was in the Netherlands, which was kind of hard because I did not really know where to look. I had contact with a girl who went in exchange in Malta before, but the places she stayed were already booked. So I tried via Facebook and got an apartment with another student from Utrecht University, but once I was in Malta this turned out to be a scam. That is why you should really make sure the



apartment is legit and never pay money beforehand.  
I recommend staying at the campus, it is really nice and you make friends real easily, but it is also expensive. I found an apartment with other exchange students once I was in Malta through Whatsapp groups of Erasmus in Malta, by asking if anyone was looking for a roommate. This apartment turned out to be super nice, my housemates found it through Facebook. So you can find something good through Facebook, but you should be really careful. It is more legit if there is an agency involved. Definitely look at the apartment in real life first!

leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Malta, I was never bored and I still haven't seen everything. There are really beautiful places in Malta, like the beaches and cliffs, but the truth is also that in the cities the buildings can be quite decayed. Nevertheless there is quite some culture, like they celebrate carnival and have a lot of public holidays, and history, like temples and churches.

suggestions/tips

The busses in Malta are pretty unreliable, so it would be smart to get an accommodation close to the University, so you don't have to rely on the bus. You should buy a Tallinja Card in the beginning, so you can travel with the bus for free.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes! I loved staying in Malta, there is a lot to do and the university is good, not too hard. The ESN (Erasmus network) also organizes a lot of activities, which are nice to join.  
The supermarkets in Malta are around the same price as in the Netherlands and in my opinion sometimes a little too expensive but going out for dinner or drinks is not so expensive. Especially if you go happy hour ;)

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I say just go to Malta and have fun ;)  
Send me an email if you want more information! I can also send my map of Malta with all the good places to go to.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Social Sciences
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

destination city & country	Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	01 / 10 / 2021
end date	14 / 02 / 2022

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	The application process wasn't always smooth but in the end it works out. Sometimes it took a long time before the International Office of Malta responded. My advice is to actively pursue this, then they will eventually respond. Furthermore, the International office of Utrecht helped me a lot when I had questions.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	International office of Utrecht is always available by e-mail and they help you as good as possible! I also used MS Teams sometimes when I had several questions.
academic preparation	
	I did not prepare anything specific.
language preparation	
	Before I went to Malta, I had to take an OLS test. Don't worry about it, it is very doable.
finances	
	Malta is comparable to the Netherlands in terms of costs. Rent is about the same, only groceries are generally a bit more expensive. You also spend a bit more than usual because you party a lot and go on trips. I managed with DUO and the Erasmus grant, I didn't need a side job.



## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Most of my ECTS had to be within the faculty of psychology. I also took two courses that I found interesting outside my faculty, which were Spanish and a history course. In hindsight, I had a lot of trouble with the history course because I had no background knowledge of it. The ECTS in Malta per subject are less than in Utrecht, so you have to take more subjects. I had 5 courses in total. At the beginning, I experienced this as a lot, but in the end it is quite doable. In the end I passed everything, even the history course.

### academic quality of education activities

I had expected that the quality of education in the South would be easier, but I have come back from that prejudice. Due to the relatively large number of subjects you follow, it is quite busy. Besides that, I experienced the quality of education as equal. The only difference is that you only have to attend lectures and there are no study groups. Furthermore, you still have enough free time to do all the other things that come with an exchange! So don't worry too much about study.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The contact with the teachers is good. You can always email them or ask questions during class. In addition, the app of the University of Malta is very useful and you can look up a lot of things there.

### transfer of credits

At the end of the semester, you have to mail the University of Malta if they want to forward the credits to the examination board at the University of Utrecht.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

When I went, there was not really a welcome programme from the university. They had planned 1 zoom meeting for introduction, but at that very moment I flew to Malta, so I missed it. However, there are ESN whatsapp groups that organise many activities for Erasmus students. Make sure you are in that whatsapp group so you don't miss anything. I met a lot of Erasmus students through ESN. I was also in a whatsapp group for Dutch people who go to Malta for an internship or study. Before I came to Malta, this whatsapp group was very useful to me. You can always ask questions there or meet new people.

### accommodation

Most students live either on the campus of the University or close to the party area (Paceville, San Giljan, Sliema). I've lived in San Giljan and Sliema and I enjoyed it a lot. It's relatively easy to find a room via Facebook (but you have to watch out for scammers!). I first lived in The Studenthouse for a while, which I found through Airbnb. This is an international student house and I had a great time there. Later on, I went looking for an apartment in Sliema with my friends because it was cheaper and more centrally located. Students who live on the campus are very close to each other, you form a kind of community there. Living on campus is expensive though, and you really don't need it to make friends.

### leisure & culture

There is plenty to do in Malta! Going out, surfing, swimming, hiking, visiting cities, eating in nice restaurants you name it! The culture in Malta is very nice. People are very open towards internationals and everyone speaks English as it is their native language. Furthermore, I have found Malta to be a very safe country, the crime rate is very low and I never felt unsafe. The island atmosphere is very chill, I liked that instead of the "busy" Dutch society.

### suggestions/tips



Go to many ESN activities in the beginning, that way you will meet many people. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes 100%! I had the best time of my life there. I have had many new adventures and met many people and I am very grateful for that. I made friends for life. Malta is the perfect combination of nice weather, beach, nice people, partying and of course studying 😊.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just do it and enjoy the ride!



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelingssociologie

Destination city & country	Msida, Malta
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of Malta
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/02/2019
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/07/2019

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The placement and application process at University of Malta was a bit unclear and it took a long time for us to figure out what information exactly we had to send to the University of Malta. The application process in Malta and the application for the Erasmus grant at Utrecht University also did not go very well together. This was confusing and we had to send a lot of e-mails to the international office in Malta, but in the end everything worked out fine.

Counselling/support at home university:

The support at home from the International Office was very helpful as my coordinator sent a lot of e-mails to the coordinators in Malta to get me the right signatures in time.

Academic preparation:

I am currently still following the course 'Intercultureel leren'. This is an optional course that helps you academically prepare for your exchange and helps evaluate and reflect during and after the exchange. The preparation was useful to a certain extent. However, it had a lot of overlap with introductory Cultural Anthropology courses so I would not necessarily recommend to follow this course to Anthropology students.

Language preparation:

University of Malta's official language is English. I did not need a lot of language preparation.

Finances:

Living in Malta is not necessarily cheap. Especially rent is rather expensive if you are looking for a good apartment. Groceries are about the same prices as in The Netherlands or sometimes even a bit more expensive since everything has to be imported to the Island. The Erasmus Grant doesn't





come close to covering the costs. For me it was maybe enough for one and a half month. However, it was surely helpful.

**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took Cultural Anthropology courses, since University of Malta required me to acquire at least half of my credits within my main area of study. The other courses I took were in the field of International Relations and I took one Maltese language course.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The level of education in Malta is definitely of less academic quality then I was used to at Utrecht University. The lecturers were sometimes rather biased and expressed their personal opinions as being an objective truth. On the other hand I also really enjoyed some courses and I definitely learned new things especially in the area of International Relations. Keep in mind that you often don't have to hand in a lot of assignments during the semester except at the end during the examination period, so this period might be ten times as busy as the rest of the semester.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The international office in Malta is the university's official support for foreign students. They don't always respond to e-mails etc. If you want to get something done you really need to go down there and hope that your coordinator is present to help you. Other than the international office, there is also a university wide student organisation that might offer help with certain things and there always is ESN where the leaders are always ready to help when they can and make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

Transfer of credits:

At the moment of writing I am still in the process of transferring my credits. Like most things in Malta this takes quiet a bit of time and pressuring.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

There was an orientation day at the beginning of the semester we were required to attend. This day was helpful as all the basics of studying at university of Malta were explained to us. ESN Malta is also a very active organisation that does a lot to give every international student the best time of his or her life in Malta.

Accommodation:

Accommodation in Malta is rather hard to find. There is the university residence, which is not to cheap if you don't want to share a room with another person. However there are always other international students or interns there that make living there a lot of fun. The conditions of the accommodation are not the best though. I visited the residence a lot, but I am still happy I didn't choose to live there myself. Via facebook I got an apartment in Msida for a very reasonable price. It might be tricky to get an apartment for a good price since renters are not very well protected in Malta and landlords sometimes really try to profit as much as they can from foreign renters. My apartment as not too big, but it had everything I needed and the best part was the location. It was a ten minute walk from the university and in addition there were busses to every part of the island within walking distance.



Leisure/culture:

Malta is an amazing Island to explore. The city area is beautiful and full of life, it is always very busy though since Malta is very overpopulated. The nature is amazing as well. There are a lot of place to do hikes, to watch great views and of course to swim. The other island, Gozo and Comino are also both really worth a visit. There is a lot to experience and explore in Malta and studying there for half a year has really enabled me to see and experience every little part of Malta.

Suggestions/tips:

If you are going to study in Malta (or considering to) always keep in mind it might take a little extra effort getting things done, for example getting signatures from the international office took me a long time and I had to go there a few times to finally get it done. Considering housing, if you don't go to the residence, I would be careful and not just accept anything. There are a lot of helpful Facebook pages though to get you in touch with landlords renting out property or other renters.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend an exchange semester or year in Malta. The Maltese culture is definitely different than the Dutch culture on a lot of aspects. At times this might get frustrating, but I also experienced it as very enriching. Besides studying, which was bit easier than at home for me (I only really had to do a lot during the examination period) there is so much to explore on this amazing island. Besides, Malta with its Mediterranean culture is a bit more relaxed and this is a very nice change from the busy life in The Netherlands.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

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## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

faculty/college	Cultural Anthropology and Social Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Bachelor of Arts

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	01 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

Terrible. Please begin early with the application process, because the International office at the University of Malta does not respond at all! I began very early with my preparations, but International office of Malta ignored to sign my Learning Agreement despite the many emails I wrote. It is very important to keep the International office in Utrecht updated about this, because they can help you when the University of Malta does not respond.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Like I said here above, I was very happy with the counselling and support at Utrecht University, because they helped me with the signature of my Learning agreement.

#### academic preparation

My main courses were anthropological courses, because I was not allowed to choose a lot of courses that were not Anthropological. I also follow the course Intercultureel Leren (2,5 ECTS) at Utrecht University. It is not a big course and easy to follow next to your courses at the University of Malta.

#### language preparation

I didn't have to do much language preparation, because in Malta they speak Maltese and English. At the University they only speak English as the first language for teaching. The only preparation you have to do is the OLS test.

#### finances

The prices in Malta are the same as in the Netherlands. The rent for an apartment is around 300/400 euro. If you look well, it is cheaper to live in an apartment (near the University) than in the residence. If you want to do groceries in Malta, I recommend the Lidl (there are many in Malta), because other supermarkets are more expensive. The only things that are cheaper in Malta are alcohol and spices.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Despite I wanted to take courses from other areas in Bachelor of Arts, I had to take mostly Cultural Anthropology courses from the University of Malta. Besides my Cultural Anthropology courses, I had courses from the Spanish department and the Maltese language department.

#### academic quality of education activities



The academic quality was definitely less than the academic quality of the Utrecht University. In classes there was not much interaction with the teacher. Most of the time you were listening and making notes. The classes I went to were most of the time also a bit boring, because every teacher talked about the Maltese culture and the catholic religion (I didn't matter which course you were following). The only course I really enjoyed and made me feel I was learning something was learning the Maltese language (survival level).

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Like I said before, the International office of Malta is not good. They don't respond to emails, which means you have to go to their office to get something done. Most of the time their office is also closed, which makes it more hard to reach them. ESN in Malta can help you and give you advice what to do when it is difficult to reach the International office.

transfer of credits

Not done yet

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

ESN in Malta is very active. I recommend to join ESN activities, because it is more easy to meet people and the ESN leaders are very nice. There is an orientation day in the beginning of Erasmus where you get a lot of information and a tour around the University, which can be handy to know more about the University rules and to meet new people.

accommodation

The University of Malta offers you an accommodation at the residence. It is not bad to live there, but I would recommend to search for an own place near the University, because it is more expensive to live at the residence and it is not that clean. There are a lot of Erasmus students that live near the University so you do not have to live at the residence to meet a lot of people and, even when I was living near the University, I visited the residence a lot of time and used their pool for free.

leisure & culture

Malta is a very interesting country. There is not a lot of nature, but there are a lot of (mostly rocky) beaches you can go to. Also, everything is close in Malta, which means that you do not spend many time traveling and seeing things around the Island. I would recommend going to the other Islands: Gozo and Comino. Comino is better to go when there is warm weater, because you can swim there in the blue lagoon. Also, I recommend visiting the important places like Valletta, Mdina, Marsaxxlok, etc. It won't take you a whole day to visit these places, so you can visit more places or do more things in one day. What is important to know is that the Maltese people are very relaxed with time. This means that teachers, the bus, etc will be late.

suggestions/tips

Join the ESN events, because they are fun and are really handy to meet new people.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Definitely, despite that the Anthropology courses where not that interesting and very old-fashioned, I really had an amazing time in Malta.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to get your student Tallinjacard (a bustcard in Malta) before going to malta (so register for it very early), because I had to wait a month before I finally got it. Because of this, I wasted a lot of money with the bus (students are free, but I had to pay 1,50 everytime I took the bus). To go somewhere in Malta, I would not recommend the bycicle and the Maltese people drive like crazy so the best option to move around Malta is the



bus.



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Language and Culture Studies

destination city & country	Malta,
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	02 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

The exchange application process was fairly straightforward in the basis: there is a structured International Office page on the university website explaining in steps what you will have to do when. It clearly enlists the required documents. It took me quite some time to figure out the Learning Agreement (in which you have to set out the study programme you're planning to take part in), since finding the relevant courses within your field is a little challenging. Getting in touch by email with the International Office was also difficult at times, so you might want to start this process early.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU counselling service has in my experience always been quick and clear. I did have some complex struggles to do with replacing study units so if you are unsure that it'll all fit, be sure to get in touch in time.

#### academic preparation

No specific academic preparation was required from the University of Malta.

#### language preparation



As part of the enrollment, I had to take part in an online "OLS" test to determine my CEFR level of English. The students need to have a B2 level in the English language cause it is the instruction language in all classes and lectures. Those students who select study-units from the English Department, need to have a C1 level in the English Language.

finances

Malta is relatively expensive for housing and groceries. Public transport isn't free, but cheaper (0,75 cents per journey if you get the student tallinja card) I had some savings and other incomes that could cover my personal life spendings. Some people took trips to Gozo and Sicily, which are easy to reach, which of course will cost you more.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I took English and Communication study-units. Some of the English ones I found rather boring (literature) but that personal taste. Others were really interesting with overall passionate teachers, just as the Communication ones which I personally liked better. Instead of the two study-units of 7,5 ECTS per block at the UU, most of the UoM study-units were only about 2-4 ECTS, which made me have to follow 8 courses. All courses only had lectures of one hour a week, so I had a pretty wide range of topics covered all over the weeks. I didn't really like this organisational situation but it might be different once you get to follow higher level study-units. I also did an extra course of karate which was a lot of fun, I would highly recommend following one of the Degree Plus courses. They only ask for a small fee and they're all very interesting.

academic quality of education activities

All lectures were of good academic quality, requiring the right level of academic skills.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Although there wasn't a big team of counsellors, the people present were always very helpful. There is also a free counselling team if you have issues with anything at all (mentally).

transfer of credits

Not received yet. Grades are given in A - F.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Organised from the university itself, there was only one activity of introduction just before the start of the semester. It wasn't really a get-to-know but rather a long informative lecture with regards to univeristy rules and procedures (it was clear but very long and a lot of info). I would highly recommend to engage in the KSU (international student committee) activities that take place after. They are fun and you will easily get to know other international students and the activities are also often related to the Maltese culture. Another way to meet people is via the ESN group, which also includes people that for example are doing their internship on Malta.

accommodation

There's different ways of finding accomodation. Make sure to get in touch in time: a lot of people are looking for places and the most cheap ones will naturally be gone the fastest. The university has a Residence for international students, but this is rather expensive and you'll often be sharing the room with others, which might on the other hand be a good way to meet people. The ESN facebook groups are perfect for finding dorms too, lots of people share their search for roommates. I found mine this way. It is beneficial if other exchange



people have stayed in places before cause they can share the pros and cons of flats/accomodations with you. Be careful with using real estate agents. They are known to be very unreliable, especially with regards to getting deposits back.

leisure & culture

The period I stayed in Malta was full of festivities. Check out local feasts before you go, like the carnival, and make sure you know whats going on when. Also, don't stop at the things recommended in your travel guide: the most fun swim spots are not the ones on the busy beaches but on the shores of Sliema. The best food is not at the promenades but tucked away in small alleys. There's good online malta guides that are much more helpful. Lonely Planet also has good recommendations. Maltese people are also very friendly and will give you all the info if you ask for it.

suggestions/tips

Stroll! All of Malta's highlights have much more to them then the main roads. Take the side roads to see the cute local streets and their people. Just walk around with no plan and you'll find so much more.Oh and definitely visit Gozo and Comino as well.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

Yes, I would definitely recommend to go to Malta. The island has so many layers and has such a rich history. The people are so very friendly and used to internationals, the food is good and the nature is astonishing. It's easy to visit places nearby so can explore the island very well. The university is something you might need to get used to but once you're in it's really good.. There's culture, sun, sea, beaches, and also enough possibilities to party

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure you choose your courses wisely. Some might seem like they are easy or not so time consuming but once you read closely it will say that there's plenty of work over the whole of the course. It all says it on the website so take enough time to sort that out. Also notice that on the end, when you have exams, some of them might take place in the weekend, on Saturday. It happened to me as well while I had planned a get away so be sure to keep that in mind.





## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report 2014-2015

e-mail address	
faculty/college	Faculty of Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Information Science

destination city & country	Msida, Malta
name university abroad	University of Malta
start date	1 / 10 / 2014 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2015 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I was quite late with the application process but I still managed in time to fill in all the paper work. I recommend to start early with the paper work, especially because you need some time to sort out the courses and the website is not the clearest one I know.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

There is an information sheet about counseling you get at the orientation day and I've heard from other people that they do that very well.

#### academic preparation

I needed no academic preparation for my credits.

#### language preparation

I didn't do a specific preparation for the language, because Maltese & English are the official languages so it was not necessary. My English was sufficient enough.

#### finances



I needed to borrow some money from my parents and I worked in summer to finance my trip.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose different courses from the faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences, Digital Arts and Psychology. Even though I chose courses of different faculties, I had no problems with clashing exams/lectures.

academic quality of education activities

I think the quality was very different depending on faculties, but in general I found the quality quite okay. I had some lectures in very small groups where you get a very good support. The lectures with more people were also good.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't receive counseling but the support from the international office was nice. They helped me with some questions.

transfer of credits

I didn't receive all of the credits yet, it should arrive after 1 month when you leave. I don't know how they transfer it.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation day is very nice, you get a nice group and they introduced the buddy system the second semester. They make the most of the practical matters very clear that day.

accommodation

I find this one tricky on Malta. I found a flat on AIRBNB but then I had a fifty year old flatmate and a couple who were only in their rooms. I was alone for one week but after the orientation day I made many friends where I could have chosen to live with them, but I already booked the university residence. The location of the residence is horrible! Everybody says it is nice to live there because they didn't try another place. What else you can do is find the pages on facebook "shared flat in Malta" and "Rent a flat in Malta" and more. The best place to live (between the university and paceville where you always go out) is Sliema/Gzira/Tas-Sliema/StJulians. It is beautiful because you live by the sea and you will make friends anyway, don't worry! And it is cheaper ;)

But if you want friends from the first day, you don't care about throwing away money and you want to meet 200 friends but no privacy and nothing close to you, you can go to the residence. I was so happy that I lived in the flat the first month and had so many experiences and met such different people.

leisure & culture

There is so much to do, especially around summer it's amazing! Festivals, culture, everything. The university also organizes a lot and the ESN as well. We had 2 parties a week for international students and a lot of trips were organized. On facebook they also post about festivals, like the chocolate festival in Hamrun. The people are so nice, it's great if you find some locals to spent time with and see the real Maltese culture. There are so many bonfires, beachnights, parties, festivals. No lack of leisure! The culture is also great, because you see so many influences from the different nations that tried to conquer Malta. There are a lot of museums which are free on certain days.

suggestions/tips



## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes ofcourse! I can't speak about all credits, but if you go for the quality of university that should not be the main reason to come here because the university is not the best of Europe. It is very small and everybody knows eachother. You always find some other students you know on campus, which has a very nice vibe. My overall experience was so amazing, I did so many new things, met so much different people from different countries with extraordinary stories. Also it's very nice that they can all speak very well in English, which is unique for mediterranean countries. There is so much to do like ziplining, watersports, museums, parties, and so on.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't forget the plugs for the british electricity sockets ;) If you want to live outside of the residence, don't hesitate to contact me, I still have friends in Malta who maybe know a nice flat!