



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

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	25 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	<p>In december I had to decide on a top 3 of destinations and I had to apply in Osiris. In January I heard that I got the spot at the University of Tartu.</p> <p>In april I had to apply to the University of Tartu. On the website of the University of Tartu instructions were provided and the instructions were quite clear. In july I heard that I was accepted.</p> <p>In august I applied for the Erasmus grant. Utrecht University provided instructions for this.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>The counselling and support at Utrecht University was good.</p> <p>The international office organized a pre-departure meeting in which you got information about applying and in which you could ask all your questions. Next to this, they provided students a document (guide for the exchange) and you could find a lot of information in this document (about applying, grants etc.).</p> <p>If you had questions you could always contact the international office, and they responded quite fast (mostly within a week).</p>
academic preparation	<p>Before the semester started I looked up the courses that are thought in English and I made a list of all the courses that seemed interesting. I put some of those courses in my learning agreement. However, I didn't make a definitive choice yet, I only did this when I arrived in Estonia.</p>
language preparation	<p>Because I took all my courses in English, I did not need to do language preparation.</p>
finances	<p>I used the money of the Erasmus grant. Next to this, in the year before my Erasmus I worked and saved some money.</p> <p>I would say that Estonia is not super expensive. Some expenses are the same as in the Netherlands , for example groceries. However, other things are very cheap, for example: rent and travel expenses (bus tickets, hostels). On workdays, a lot of restaurants have lunch offers and when you take the lunch offer you can have lunch for around 5 euro's. You can find the lunch offers on: <a href="https://päevapakkumised.ee/tartu">https://päevapakkumised.ee/tartu</a> (you only need to translate the webpage)</p>



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
<p>I had to sign up for the courses in the Student Information System (SIS). A few days before you could sign up for courses I received my username and password for this system. I tried to sign up for the courses as soon as the registration opened. However, because a lot of students were trying to pick courses at the same time, the system did not work for me. I had to pick my courses the next day, and some courses that I wanted to take were already full.</p> <p>In the first two weeks you can (if the course is not full) change your courses. This is very nice because, in this way, you can check if you like the course.</p> <p>I followed 5 courses of 24 ECTS in total. The courses were 3 ECTS or 6 ECTS. I had to take at least 12 ECTS in the department of political studies. Although I am not a political science student, the political science courses were not too hard to pass. The I would recommend taking the following courses: Estonian for Beginners I, on the Basis of English (6 ECTS) and Estonia and Estonians (on the Basis of English) (3 ECTS). I really enjoyed this courses. Moreover, I heard from other students that the course Insights to Estonian Culture, Film and Museum Course on the Basis of English (3 ECTS) was also a nice course.</p>
academic quality of education activities
<p>I thought the quality of the education was fine. It was, in my opinion, a bit lower than the quality of the education in the Netherlands. The courses I took were not really interactive (except for the language course). Moreover, it was easy to pass the courses. I mostly had to write papers or give presentations, and those were not strictly graded.</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
<p>If I had questions I could always send an email to a contact person of the University of Tartu. They always responded quite fast, I would say within a week.</p>
transfer of credits
<p>When all my grades were in the student information system, I had to send an e-mail to the University of Tartu to request my transcript of records, and I had to ask if the university of Tartu could send the transcript to the international office. The international office put the grades in Osiris. After they did this I had to send the Board of Examiners of my faculty an e-mail and they checked my grades and transferred the credits.</p>

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
<p>The university did not really have an welcome &amp; orientation programme. There was only one online lecture in which the university provided information about studying in Tartu.</p> <p>However, I don't think that an welcome &amp; orientation programme is necessary in Tartu. Tartu is quite small and it is easy to meet other students. There were Facebook and WhatsApp groups for international students, and in the first days people met through those groups.</p>
accommodation
<p>I lived in the dorms for exchange students: Raatuse 22. I had a dorm room for two people for myself and I shared the apartment with two other people. The room itself was quite big, but the rest of the apartment was not. However, I think that the dorms are the best place to live during your exchange, because most exchange students live there. Because of this, it was easy to meet other students.</p>



I paid 330 euros for my room, and this included weekly cleaning. Also, bed linen and basics (pans, pots, cutlery, water cooker, mugs) were included. You can apply for the dorms online on the following website <https://www.studenthostel.ee/> . It is important to apply for a room in time, because they have limited spaces.

#### leisure & culture

Tartu is a small city, however there are a lot of international student and there is a lot to do. The ESN organizes a lot of activities where you can go to. Moreover, there are a lot of nice café's (Krempel, Reval café, Werner & Säde), bars (Möku & Kivi) and restaurants (La Dolce Vita). Moreover in Estonia there are a lot of cool (art) museums and the Estonian nature is very nice.

#### suggestions/tips

Try to see more of Estonia. Go on a (day)trip to different places in Estonia (for example to Saaremaa, Parnü, Tallinn, Narva or Viljandi) or go hiking in Estonian nature (for example to Elva or Otepää). Moreover, try to learn more about the Estonian language, history and culture, because it's very interesting. You can do this by taking university courses, but also by attending events.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Tartu as an exchange destination. It is a city that is not too big, because of this it is very easy to meet other (international) students. However, Tartu is not a boring city. There are a lot of other international students and there are a lot of events organized by for example the ESN. Moreover, Tartu has cool bars, cafés and restaurants.

Tartu is also a very good destination for people who like to travel. You can reach a lot of places by bus and ferry and this is very cheap. In Estonia I went to a lot of different places (Parnü, Tallinn, Saaremaa, Viljandi, Võru, Otepää, Elva and Narva and a roadtrip along lake Peipus). Also, it is very easy to go to places outside of Estonia (for example Helsinki, Stockholm, Riga, Vilnius, Kaunas, Lapland, Götheburg and Oslo)

#### do you have any additional advice or comments?

Take language and/or language courses in university.

Try to go to a lot of events / parties in the beginning, because that is how you will meet other students.

Travel within and outside of Estonia. Go on the ESN trip to lapland, because it is very cool! And if it is possible (if the borders are not closed because of Covid) try to visit Russia, because it is supposed to be very cool.



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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	Tartu, Estonia
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	Tartu University
start date	07 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	25 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	You have to start pretty early with the application process. I think I started preparing around November 2021, while the actual exchange only started in February 2022. UU has a lot of partneruniversities so there are a lot of options.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	It mostly took some time before I got responses to emails. You will probably have to sent a lot of emails because you have to gather a lot of documents. My advice would be to make sure to email with sufficient time to spare. Once I got responds I was helped really well.
academic preparation	none in particular
language preparation	I didn't do any language preparations because I already have C2 in English.
finances	I worked and saved up to go here. Because that wasn't enough I also continued to get studentloans during my time in Tartu. An important reason why I chose Tartu was also because it is one of the cheaper Erasmus destinations.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	There is a very broad range of studytopics to choose from. I had to cover 30 ECTS so I took five courses all worth 6 ECT. Most courses were either 3 of 6 ECT. I am content about the courses I took, they were interesting and enganging and I learned a lot of new things about international politics mostly. I took some courses on Russia and Russian history, it was interesting to learn about this from the perspetive of a country that was not so long ago still part of the Soviet Union and that is so geographically close. My exchange was also during the time when Russia invaded Ukraine, after the war began it became a very big topic of discussion in several courses. I



also took an Estonian language course. I would really recommend to take the beginners course. The language is complex and has a very different grammatical structure then for example English or Dutch. It was however very fun to learn for me and I also learned a lot about Estonian customs and culture through it. It is nice because you can see your progress after some time. Also, it feels really good to have basic conversations with for example the cashier in the supermarket.

#### academic quality of education activities

I mostly took MA courses, the quality was not the same for all courses. For some you had to work quite hard; take small tests every week, do a lot of assignments like presentations, debates and a lot of readings. For others you didn't even really have to show up and just hand in a paper at the end of the semester. It really depended on the professor. I would say that the academic environment is overall good, the professors were all helpful, friendly and very passionate about their field of study. The environment is somewhat different from in the Netherlands I would say. The lectures were mostly the professors explaining the material to the class, you could remain more passive as a student in the normal lectures. In the Netherlands I am used to the professors asking you to participate more actively. They also organised some seminars for all students about several topics. For example there was an expertpanel that had a discussion about the war, but also other relevant interesting topics. I went to some of them.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It mostly took very long to get responses to emails and I sometimes had to ask several times to get something done.

#### transfer of credits

I am still in the process of doing this. But again, it takes some time to get responses to my emails.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The first two weeks you can take courses and see if you like them. After this time the registration closes and you have to decide which courses you take and which you drop. It was good for me because through this time I decided that I didn't like a course and still had the possibility to drop it.

#### accommodation

I lived in Raatuse, it is known as the studentflat where all the international students in Tartu go. It was nice to live there, the apartments are very spacious and it was really easy and convenient to live in the same building as my international friends. Raatuse has the reputation of being a partyflat, but I would not say that you can never sleep because there is always too much noise or anything. It is true that there are parties in the early evening (and it's very nice and easy to have them since the apartments are so spacious), but after 23:00 it has to be quiet. The security will come to the door and you have to knock it off, if you don't, you get fined. So people usually stop then and go out to the city. There is also a spacious lobby downstairs where we met oftentimes for playing pingpong, I met many friends there. The accommodation is also very close to the inner town, but to be fair, Tartu is quite small anyway.

#### leisure & culture

There are plenty of nice museums to visit in Tartu. I went to the national museum (which is built in an old airplanebase and is impressively big) the art museum and the university museum. There is a bar/nightclub where almost everyone goes, it's called Möku. There are also plenty of other nice cafes and bars. I also really enjoyed the atmosphere and the architecture, everything is very colourful. A lot of students study in Delta, it is a study centre close to the centre of the city, I think it only recently opened. It is a very good place to study, spacious studyplaces, comfortable chairs and bean bags and very interesting architecture. It's better than anything I've ever seen in the Netherlands honestly. It is also next to the river, in front of the building there are these big



stairs. When it became a little warmer we would often go there for studybreaks with my friends, for me it was one the best places in Tartu.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend the going to the national museum, the botanical gardens in Tartu and going to different national parks within Estonia during your stay. The Baltic sea is also nice, especially in summer. For coffeecafes I'd recommend Werner and Sade. Additionally, Estonia is a great starting point to travel to other places in the northern regions, there are good buses that you can take to for example visit the capital cities in the Baltics states (defenitely go to Vilnius!) It's good to know that a lot of restaurants offer daily offers for lunch for around 3-6 euros (google: päevapakkumised and you find the list) it is a nice and affordable way to try different places. Also, in the first weeks the ESN will organise a lot of activities like parties, karaoke and pubcrawls but also game night and cultural evenings. I would really recommend you go to there as much as you can, especially in the first weeks. It is the best way to meet new people.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, I definitely would recommend going to Tartu. I had the best time and really grew to love the city and the people I met there. The university is also good and there is a lot to choose from. Tartu is a studentcity, there is a nice studentatmosphere and it really livens up the city. A nice bonus is that a lot of things are cheaper than in Western Europe, for example public transport and basic groceries.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

While Tartu is lovely, it is also quite small, if you are looking for a big city this probably wouldn't be the place for you. Also, you shouldn't be afraid of the cold. During my stay, spring took its sweet time to really break through and it could sometimes be quite cold (around 10 degrees) even in the beginning May. Additionally, it is very dark in winter (it get's dark around 3/4 pm). In summer on the other hand it is very light, it actually never gets completely dark. I liked that during the time I was there the days gradually grew lighter and lighter. It seems like a trivial thing but for it was really something I had to get used to.



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	Tartu Ülikool
start date	30 / 08 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
Was straightforward, no difficulties in regards to Tartu
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Responses were on time
academic preparation
Unnecessary
language preparation
I downloaded an app to learn some estonian words in advance but as it is one of the hardest languages in the world and this was not my purpose of staying (though you will meet quite some linguistics and languages students), I ended up using only the words for 'thank you' 'hello' and 'goodbye' during my whole stay.
finances
Expenses are similar to the Netherlands, some things are more expensive, and some are cheaper. In general I would say groceries are slightly more expensive in Estonia, especially if you're a vegetarian or vegan (€2,50 for soy milk), but vegetables and fruits, especially local stuff like carrots, cabbages, potatoes, are very, very cheap, so you can also definitely spend less. It's possible to spend very little on rent (€300 for a whole apartment) but it is hard to find such a cheap place for less than a year. Going out is a little less expensive than in the Netherlands, especially for food. Because you will also want to make more trips, you'll spend about the same as you would in the Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I was assigned to the institute of Social Sciences but ended up taking most of my courses at the master's programme Geoinformatics. They were not too happy about that, I was supposed to take more credits in the political sciences department, but many were full or too difficult for me (masters courses whereas I have no background in political sciences whatsoever), and so they were quite understanding. of my taking less credits The registering can be quite stressful as some courses (Estonian language for example) were full quickly after



the opening. Also finding out what courses don't overlap with others / some trips you may want to make, it can feel quite overwhelming. In Tartu you are a bit on your own with this whole process, also because they have courses ranging from 3ects to 15 ects, and some only last 2 weeks, etc. But you'll figure out a great set of courses because Tartu has a lot of great courses to offer.

#### academic quality of education activities

With Tartu you can really make it as hard and as fun as you'd like; they allow you to take master's courses if they don't have prerequisites so I ended up taking a really good 15 credit masters course about GIS, which was a lot of fun and very informative. Some friends were sometimes taking really easy courses so if you want to chill a bit then that's possible too. In Tartu they are a bit more 'high school-ish' than they are in the Netherlands in the sense that they are very instructive in what you're supposed to do. Overall the academic quality is quite good especially if you take masters courses as a bachelor student.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was easy to get in touch and they were always understanding.

#### transfer of credits

I think this should be no problem

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

There was none because of covid but they did do a welcome tour

#### accommodation

I stayed at Hugo. Stay, because I was late signing up for the dorms. Please do this on time!!! I made most of my friends at Hugo so in the end I'm happy I stayed there but because I was so late (August) and many people were looking for a room at the time I was looking for one, so they just randomly changed the rent at Hugo.Stay, pretty shitty. Studios were nice and comfortable, but way too expensive for Tartu (€600). Don't make this mistake and start looking for a room in June or just sign up for the dorms (where you can stay on your own in a room for €300 or with two for €150), then it's really doable to find a good place.

#### leisure & culture

Tartu is a small city where you will feel at home within a week and find friends easily. It is also really the intellectual capital of Estonia, with many statues and stories about its history, which is infinitely interesting. Because of its size you may find yourself coming back to the same bar over and over again after you've checked out all others in town. In that sense I find coming back to Utrecht right now quite overwhelming, so many places to go, so many things to do! If you are a big city person, Tartu is not for you. But Tartu is a student city with some real nice cinemas, thrift stores, bars, cafes and restaurants, and an everlasting studentcommunity who are always happy to meet you. And don't underestimate Estonia's nature! The colours of the city are breathtaking in autumn and the forests and bogs have something magical too them. Their sauna-culture is amazing and the city has a very scandinavian vibe to it, if you ask me, but just a whole lot less expensive.

#### suggestions/tips

When visiting in the autumn semester, go out in nature soon! I recommend Laheema (Kasmu, Viru bog), and heard great stories about Sooma, nature near Tartu is also worth visiting. Weather will become colder and more rainy quickly once you are approaching winter and you may miss your opportunity to visit these magical places.

## CONCLUSIONS

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





Definitely, Estonia is a very interesting place in the world that I am very happy I have gotten to know a little better. It's history is incredible, of which you can still feel some recent scars. Estonians may come off as cold, but they are also practical and efficient, to the point, and in these characteristics you will over time derive their caring. I have grown to love its nature and have made special friends, who will make an abroad experience for you. Furthermore, I am a big fan of snow and ice and am very happy to have experienced two full months of wintry conditions this year.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Have fun!



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

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

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	28 / 08 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

It is quite some work to go through the application process, but most time I spend on deciding where I wanted to go. My main advice would be to start early with thinking about it, since the deadline is already the first of December for the autumn semester.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support from Utrecht University was always fast. I preferred to communicate over email and this was always possible. They were always willing to scan in the documents I needed or receive them as a PDF.

#### academic preparation

Academically I prepared by choosing some course, however I didn't make any final decisions, because I knew that a lot would probably change when I got there. This was a good idea, because in the end I think I only did two of the courses I originally chose.

#### language preparation

I didn't do any specific language preparation, since I already had the C2 level in English. I did learn some basic Estonian words, like hello, just for fun, but this was not necessary.

#### finances

I made a financial plan to make sure I'd have enough money. I had saved more than enough money before, so I didn't worry about this too much.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

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

They said they had the requirement that I'd take 50% of my credits within the faculty they put me in (Social Sciences), but after talking with the study abroad center they were okay with it as long as I took one course in Social Sciences, which was fine for me. In the first two week everyone could still enroll in courses and drop them, which was really useful. I just went to a lot of courses in the first week and chose the ones I liked best. So I suggest not to worry too much about choosing courses before you get there, it is a lot easier to do it when you are there and have access to the Study Information System. Although as soon as you have your login for the system (a few days before you get there) it is smart to enroll for popular courses. You can always drop those in



the next weeks, but enrolling fast ensures you a spot if you want it. Also, I recommend taking the course 'Insights into Estonian Culture through film and museum', it is a lot of fun!
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality of the courses at the University of Tartu is great.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
They were always quick to respond.
transfer of credits
Getting a Transcript of Records is easy. Just email your faculty and they will send it to you by email or post.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
The orientation program was great. Not too long, but enough opportunities to meet many new people.
accommodation
I lived in the student dormitory for exchange students Raatuse 22. It is a nice new building, but it has a bit of problems. The kitchen is a bit small and has only two stoves, and it is a bit expensive. Either way, I think it is nearly impossible to find something cheaper for half a year and it is an awesome place to meet people and have fun with other exchange students. So I would absolutely recommend staying there.
leisure & culture
Tartu is a small city, but has a lot to do. You can have a great lunch at most restaurants for about 4 euros. There are a lot of great bars and a few good clubs.
suggestions/tips
I would suggest making a lot of trips, there is a lot to explore in and around Estonia. I would particularly recommend visiting the islands of Estonia, Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, and cities like Saint Petersburg, Helsinki, Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn and Stockholm.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Absolutely! Tartu is a lovely city and Estonia is a really interesting country. The university is great as well, you won't regret going here!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
After you get a password for the study information system you can see feedback other students gave on courses last time, this can be very useful for choosing courses!



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	xxx
first name	xxx
student number	xxx
e-mail address	
faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name university abroad	University of Tartu
start date	1 / 09 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	4 / 02 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
The application process was fairly smooth, though Tartu's online application was a bit confusing in the beginning. Just be aware of Tartu's own deadlines as well after applying/getting accepted by the UU already.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Didn't feel that I needed any in particular, but the support I am getting with my Erasmus grant during and after my semester is really great!
academic preparation
Didn't do any specific preparation.
language preparation
Didn't need to do any language preparation as I decided only to take courses in English.
finances
I prepared by having savings already from working before going, but Estonia is a very cheap country for most things so that was fantastic! Traveling around the area is fairly cheap, with excellent & affordable bus



connections throughout the country, and the trains are pretty good too. Even renting cars is totally doable. Groceries are also practically dirt cheap as long as you don't buy special items from far away places (potatoes at 20-40c/kilo and bananas at 45-90c/kilo yes please). There are also a lot of student/youth (under 26 usually) discounts for tickets/travel/etc.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme itself was fantastic, I basically pretended to be a part of the Semiotics MA for a semester and was welcomed openly. There is such a fantastic wide array of course options in all kinds of fields, and a rather large part of them are taught in English, so very accessible to international and exchange students.

academic quality of education activities

I thought the academic quality was really good, with some classes being more challenging than others, as always. I did get the impression though that the professors didn't necessarily expect so much of us in assignments as at UCU and so grading was quite soft. I also had great experiences with professors being willing to take into account my academic background when I had difficulties with something.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

support was great all around, from professors and the international office as well as locals

transfer of credits

nice and easy because UT also uses ECTS and letter grades.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

it was really useful and nice and concise

accommodation

great, it was pretty easy just to rent your own apartment in town because there is a lot available and really cheap (you can literally find apartments for yourself from as little as around 150e and quite luxurious places for around 3-400); most places wanted min. 1 year contracts though so you have to search a little harder for the places that don't mind short term (airbnb works too) but there were still plenty around. The university accommodation in the city was plentiful and even cheaper, however as an exchange student you can only apply for one of the buildings which was 210e for sharing a room, 420e for a whole room (i.e. really expensive for Estonian standards). There are 3 rooms per apartment so you're essentially living with 5 other people, and the facilities in the building are relatively minimal and it looks a bit like a prison with infinite corridors inside, and the management can be a bit nasty with silly rules like that no one who doesn't live there isn't allowed in after 10pm, etc.. Great community though since most exchange students live all on the same floor. In terms of location, everything is close to town basically because Tartu is so adorably tiny!

leisure & culture

Lots of interesting things to explore! Loads of museums, beautiful nature areas, interesting culture and history. You can also do things like canoe rides in the river.

suggestions/tips

Definitely take the time to learn about the culture and history of Estonia and visit around the country as much as you find time for! Hiking is also absolutely amazing there.



## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes definitely! I absolutely loved the atmosphere of the university and the town and all the people there (internationals and locals alike). It was also incredibly interesting to explore this corner of Europe that is so different from our western corner here.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

have fun!



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES UU Report

family name	
first name	
student number	
e-mail address	
faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Liberal Arts

destination city & country	Tartu, Estonia
name university abroad	Tartu University
start date	29 / 08 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	29 / 1 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION
exchange application process
It all went well.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Fast and useful answers as well as general information on exchange procedures.
academic preparation
Not necessary.
language preparation
Not necessary.
finances
Rent in Estonia is much cheaper than in the Netherlands; it can easily be covered by the Erasmus grant. As for the rest, is also less expensive but the difference is not that big.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took 7 courses since I had to cover 30ECTS, and most courses there are worth either 3 or 6 credits. Be aware that if you go on exchange to a specific department, they will require you to take at least half of your courses from that department. That was my case with Social Sciences, so I took 3 courses on Politics and International Relations. Good courses; they were MA level, the professors were highly competent and the standards were high. The other 4 courses I took were on philosophy and literature; I also enjoyed them, especially 2 of them which were seminar based so we were very few people in the classroom and had a lot of space to discuss the materials. As I said, the academic level is good and some teachers are excellent. I recommend to sign up for as many courses as you are interested in at the beginning of the semester and try them for one day, because there are many, and the good ones might be hard to find. I personally recommend Prof. Marling and Prof. Vaher from the English literature department. And one more tip: careful with the method of assessment of the courses you choose, some courses are just pass/fail and UCR will not transfer credits from those!
academic quality of education activities
Explained above.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Good, they have an entire department for international students.
transfer of credits
Don't know yet.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
I skipped introduction week, but in Tartu exchange and international students in general is a big deal, so I guess they did plenty of stuff.
accommodation
I lived in one of the student accommodations for 3 weeks (Narva 27), and then I moved out because I found a room in a family's house. The first one wasn't a great experience; you share the room and the dorm in general is very quiet and distant among students, which I found weird. The dorm where exchange students usually go is Raatuse, where people are partying non-stop. I recommend to find some local people to host you, for me it was one of the highlights of my experience in Estonia. It is difficult to find, since there are no ads or anything where people are offering rooms. Just go and talk to people, meet the Estonians, they are not as cold as they say (especially after a drink or two).
leisure & culture
There's a street plenty of bars where you will find yourself very often if you go to Tartu. As in "non-student culture" wise, I think there were quite some museums in Tartu, one of them opened recently and supposedly very impressive, but I didn't go to any. For me what was interesting was the communist legacy and the fact that is in their very recent history. Tartu is small, a bit like Middelburg but more alive, so you can get an idea of what will you find there. I personally like it that way; if you stay a bit away from the student life, as I did, you can easily be comfortable in the city and hang out with people you just repeatedly meet at bars or wherever. I think each experience is a lot different and it depends a lot on what you are looking for; you can do it the way I did, but I also met people who were living in the dorm and hanging out with exchange students, which are many, and had the time of their life.
suggestions/tips





You can really adapt what you do in Tartu with what you are looking for. If you don't really feel like studying on your semester abroad, there are plenty of courses which didn't seem very demanding. But you can also do the opposite and will find good academic level and more choices than at UCR. Same goes for accomodation and people you meet.

I strongly recommend though to take some time to travel around Estonia. I did so during 3 weeks before starting the semester, it was August and the weather was great. I volunteered in a couple of farms and it was the best way to get a better sense of where I was. If you like to go trekking, the whole country is plenty of signalled routes with wooden huts and camping sites along the way. A huge part of Estonia is just forest and swamps, so take advantage of it:) Also, most people, specially the young ones, speak fluent English!

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, of course. I personally enjoyed my time in Estonia very much. I had a good balance between university and personal life, and I could meet many people, from Estonia and from abroad. Of course, there is one issue with the weather being extremely cold, specially for my Spanish standards. The snow started to fall in October, and in January/February they reach about -20/30°.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

That's all.