



## ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

family name*	
first name*	
student number*	
permission to publish contact details**  <i>See end note for * and **</i>	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> yes:      @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: <b>or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad:      @
faculty/college	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	Bergen, Norway
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	University of Bergen (UiB)
start date	11 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The exchange application process was easy to fulfill and the steps you have to take are clear and well explained as well on the site as from (online) meetings. For me this was in the middle of the COVID pandemic, so there were a lot of uncertainties with applying for me, but also for the university. Still, in the end everything worked out just fine.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	



If there were any problems, most of the times UU answered quick and with an extensive explanation with solutions.

Although, when I was selected for the exchange program for Bergen, the pandemic got worse and when more uncertainties and health regulations were introduced, UU did not had clear rules. Due to this, I did not know what to expect in regards to my exchange. Because of this, I had to cancel and postpone my exchange although in the end this was not necessary at all! I was really disappointed in the way UU handled these problems and I was not the only one. In my opinion other universities in The Netherlands handled these things way better and they paid more attention to the rules in every country on its own. UU followed the travel advice of the ministry of health, which did not make any sense. For instance for Norway, students were welcomed from all over the world and there were almost no regulations. But, because tourists were not welcome to Norway at that time the country was marked orange. The UU just easily took over this not accurate mark and did not let anyone go on their exchange there. I thought this was totally not fair and I was disappointed. At this point communication was bad and no one really knew what to expect. Ofcourse I totally understand the situation back then was hard for everyone, but I think UU handled it really bad, not thinking about the students with this kind of rules. After I postponed my exchange with 6 months, which also caused a delay in my studies, the rules were still not clear. Until the day I left to Norway, I still was not sure if I could go, I just assumed I could and thus I went.

academic preparation

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language preparation

I did not had to do any language preparation as everything was in English. My level of English was already good enough to go on an exchange, because almost all of my bachelor was in English. I did not had to do any tests before going, since UU had communicated with the university abroad that my level of English was already fine.

finances

Applying for the Erasmus grant was very easy and well explained and so I have done this. Furthermore, I have to say Norway is very expensive and having some extra money is almost a must have, so keep this in mind. Obviously the Erasmus grant did not cover all the costs I made abroad.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Personally I had a lot of issues applying for courses and contact with the host university was really hard. In the end everything worked out, but I did not do any courses I initially wanted to do. There were two kinds of courses, open and restricted. I had to apply for the restricted courses, but was not accepted for any of them. Later, I could apply for open courses as well, but most of these courses were already full when I tried to apply. In the end I took a Norwegian course, but I was lucky to get in. When signing up online openend, all classes were already full within a few minutes. Keep this in mind!

academic quality of education activities

The language courses I took were really interesting and there was a lot of information available. Also extra help and extra excercises were provided and the teachers were really helpful, supportive and motivated. I would really like taking the next, the second level, Norwegian course there as I really liked it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Contact with the host university was really hard sometimes. Fortunatally, someone at UU kept pushing them to answer my emails and calls as I really needed answers for multiple deadlines. Once I arrived at the university, everyone was eager to help and I could easily walk to their offices.

transfer of credits

I did ask for a transfer of ECTS, but this is not done yet.



STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
As I arrived in spring, there was no welcome and orientation programme at all. Although all other international students were really welcoming and excited to meet new people. Every start of the academic year, in august, there is a welcoming week.
accommodation
Housing is perfectly arranged and there is a broad choice throughout the whole city. As a start I lived at Fantoft, which is a huge student accomodation with a lot of internationals. Later I moved to closer to the city center, Alrek. This is less big and more isolated from the rest.
leisure & culture
There are a lot of options for sports (the housing company offers all kinds of sport at different locations when you take a (cheap) subscription). Also there are plenty of cultural activities to choose from. Norwegians are pretty introvert and sometimes it was hard to get into contact with them.
suggestions/tips
If you want to have instant friends and feel welcome to the city at once, please apply for housing in Fantoft. It is a huge place with a lot of internationals and there is always something to do. Second, really take in mind that Norway's costs of living are expensive.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would, but do not come for the city alone since its quite small, but for the Norwegian nature! (see next question).
do you have any additional advice or comments?
The city itself is quite small, so only come if you are an outdoor/adventurous person who likes to hike, ski, camp, do roadtrip. Also prepare for the weather, as it is not the best, and do not come if you do not like rain.

Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

**NOTE: Please upload in Word (.docx) so we can delete your \*personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students. \*\*Contact details will only be included if and where permission has been given.**