



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>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: or <input checked="" 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: @
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Geosciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Earth Science

destination city & country	Leeds, England
how did you travel to your destination?	plane
name university abroad	University of Leeds
start date	15 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 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	<p>The University of Leeds was my first choice of host university. Personally I had a few requirements for a destination. I wanted to go to a country which was either a native english speaking country or a country where the inhabitants spoke english very well. So, this narrowed my options down to Scandanavia, UK, Ireland, USA, Canada and Australia. Secondly, I wanted to go to a destination where I would get an Ersamus grant. Because of Brexit, this year was the last year I believe that I could get an Erasmus grant when going to the UK. When looking for a host University I went on the uu site with possible destinations and soon came across the Univerity of</p>



Leeds. This Univeristy really spoke to me because it is really well acclaimed on the field of Earth Sciences which is my field of study. Also, the student experiences on the uu site were all really positive about the University of Leeds and the student life is really good at the Univeristy of Leeds.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The support at the university was good. However, I was supposed to go on exchange in the first semester instead of the second semester, but I was not allowed to go because of Covid. I then changed my exchnage to the second semester, but I found out very late if I was allowed to go on exchange and still with the caveat that if the travel advice changed on the day of departure I was not allowed to go. Because Utrecht University only confirmed that I was allowed to go very late before my departure this gave me a lot of stress. I think because Covid was a new situation for everyone Utrecht University still had to navigate their way through it.

academic preparation

I did do any academic prerparation for my exchange.

language preparation

I did not really do any language preperations before going to the UK because my level of english was already sufficient. The University of Leeds does ask for proof that your english level is sufficient so I did a TOEFL test but a high grade on your english high school exam is also sufficient.

finances

I was lucky enough to still get an Erasmus grant I am not sure how Brexit will change this for future students. But the Erasmus grant in combination with the student grant and compensation for travelling from the Dutch goverment was enough to cover my expenses in the UK. However, I lived in student accomodation of the University in Leeds and the rent was quite expensive compared to the rent in the Netherlands. I was lucky that my parents also supported my financially so they paid a part of the rent. The overall living expenses are similar to the Netherlands it is just that the rent is really expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

There were a lot of modules to chose from in the field of Earth Sciences. On the site of the University of Leeds you could click a box that said incoming abroad which meant you only saw the courses which you could pick as an exchange student. This made it very clear to see which modules you could pick. It was also really easy to search the different schools, so I predominantly looked at courses from the school of Earth and Enviroment. The only thing I could not really figure out was the timetable so when I got accepted to modules I had a clash in my timetable. However, the Univeristy of Leeds was very helpful in letting me switch modules after arriving in Leeds.

academic quality of education activities

I thought the academic quality in Leeds was very high. However, the teaching was quite different than in Utrecht. So, I followed 5 modules over the course of one semester (5 months). In Leeds most of the teaching is in the form of lectures and less so in the form of tutorials but this of course also differs per module. The teaching standard was very high and the professors were very helpful and always willing to answer questions. I thought the workload was a little lighter than in Utrecht. This was because a lot of the modules only had one or two intermittent assesments and some modules only had the final exam which is then your complete grade. The exams were on the same difficulty level I think as in Utrecht but one major difference is that a pass is 40% in Leeds so it is easier to pass your modules. Because of Covid all my exams were online and most of them were 48 hours which meant I had 48 hours to complete my exam which would normally take 2 hours. This meant that you had a lot of time to look over your answers which made it a lot less stressfull. I don't know what the exams are like in a non Covid situation.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling & support at Leeds is absolutely amazing. The University has a service that picks you up from the airport and drives you to your accommodation which relieved a lot of stress on the day of arrival. Also, you could order bedding, dishes and toiletries from the university so you don't have to take this with you. Before I left for Leeds there was a presentation for incoming abroad student explaining everything which was very helpful. The international office in Leeds was extremely helpful and answered all of my emails very quickly. Because I had a clash in my timetable I had to switch some modules. The international office was very helpful about this. Also a few weeks into the teaching I realised I wanted to drop a module because it was very different to what I had in mind and the international office was also very helpful in this process as well.

transfer of credits

At the moment of writing this (June) I haven't received my exam results yet so my credits are not yet transferred.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Because I went to the University of Leeds in the second semester there was not a traditional freshers week. However, the university union still had activities planned in the week that I arrived. There was a fair with all the societies (over 250) of the University Union so you can talk to all the different societies. There are societies for everyone from baking to quidditch to dance. In the beginning of the semester these societies give free give it a go sessions so you can see if the society is something for you. The university also organised this afternoon for all the exchange students in the first week so you could get to know each other.

accommodation

I lived in the accommodation of the University. As an exchange student you are guaranteed a university accommodation which really gives security. The only downside is that the rent is fairly expensive. You could technically also get private accommodation though I believe this is quite difficult for exchange students to find. I lived in the University accommodation called Montague Burton. This accommodation is one of the cheaper ones and I really recommend it. Montague is a 5 minute walk from campus which is really nice but to the city centre the walk is a little bit longer like a 20 minute walk. I personally didn't mind that it is a little further from the city centre and the close proximity to campus was a big positive especially if you have early lectures. I shared my flat with eight other people all of which were also exchange students in the second semester this made it very easy to bond with each other. All the university accommodation organise their own events so there was a night with free pizza for example, a dog petting day and for the Jubilee a bbq and ice cream van. So, I really recommend choosing to live in university accommodation although the rent is a little bit expensive because it is nice to live with other students and the sense of security is very nice.

leisure & culture

Leeds has a very good student life. The student Union is a building on campus where most of the societies are based. It has a cafeteria where you can get food it also has different food shops on the lower floor. There is a food stall called Humpit which has really nice falafel but also an ice cream shop and a Coop among other things. In the basement of the Union there is a big night club and every Friday there is a club night there called Fruity. Fruity has three different rooms all with different music genres. A lot of students go to Fruity and I myself have gone quite a few times as well since it's a really fun time. The Union also has venues where there are small concerts and shows for which you can buy tickets on the Leeds Union Events app. Me and my friends went to a drag show there on one of our first nights in Leeds and this was one of the best nights I had in Leeds.

Leeds itself is also a really nice city, there are a lot of shopping malls such as Trinity mall which are really nice to go to. Also there is a place called the corn exchange which has a lot of nice art shops. Leeds has a lot of bars and



places to go out and the nightlife is really good. There is also a pub run called the Otley Run. Most students do this pub run on Saturday. I have done this pub run twice and it is really fun. You start in headingly and go to 16 pubs and everyone who does the Otley Run goes dressed as something. So, there are guys going as cheerleaders or people dressed up as grandmothers and all in all it's just a really fun time. Another good thing about Leeds is the central location so I went on a lot of trips from Leeds. I went to London, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Knaresborough to name a few. All of these places are very accesible by train from Leeds.

But the best part of Leeds are all the societies. I myself joined KDS at the beginning of the second semester which is the Korean Dance Society which had a tutorial every Friday and Sunday so you could choose which one you would want to attend. In march all the dance societies had a showcase which meant that all the different dance societies from ballet to streetdance preformed in the Union theatre. I auditioned to preform with KDS so I had practice for a few weeks leading up to the performance. This was a really good way to meet new people and make new friends. Most of the friends I made in Leeds were people from my society. Later in the Semester I also joined the Salsa dance society.

suggestions/tips

A tip for people who are going on exhchange to Leeds is to defenitely join a society. There are over 250 different societies so there is something for everyone. Societies are not only really fun but also a really easy way to meet new people and make friends. Another tip I have is Leeds has a welcome buddy scheme. This means that you can sign up for a buddy who is also in Leeds on exchnage so you can explore the city together. They choose your buddy based on the hobbies you yourself fill in. Me and my buddy became really good friends over our time in Leeds and she is now even visiting my family in the Netherlands.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would 100% reccomend the university of Leeds as study abroad destination. Not only is the univeristy very well organised and good at communicating there are also a lot of activities put on by either the univeristy, your accommodation or the union. The fact that the student Union has so many societies is also really good because this means that everyone can find a society that suits their interests. Leeds is a very vibrant city with a lot of students and a lot of international students as well so there is a lot to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice when you go on exchange is to definitely sign up for a society and to really push yourself out of your comfort zone and to experience new things. My exchange has been the best time in my life thus far and I really reccomend it to everyone.

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.**