



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: or <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 type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	MSc Sustainable Development

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne
start date	13 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 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 complicated, as the master does not have a specific time allocated for exchange. I had to talk and get the approval by multiple people, making the process quite complicated and discouraging.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	The International Office was quite supportive and helpful in the process. They shared useful information with the participants, and usually responded to emails very quickly when needed. One point of improvement I think



would be the contacts with the partner university, as sometimes there is a mismatch between what is asked for or expected on one end and at the other.

academic preparation

The preparation at Utrecht was good and prepared me to take courses at a different University. The study methods were quite different, but that is also the interesting part of an exchange. Note that the interdisciplinarity of courses at UU might not be reflected in the courses you take abroad.

language preparation

Before leaving I learnt french for about a year with a tandem partner and with a few private lessons. It was enough for me to reach a b2 level, which allowed me to take courses at the partner university and successfully pass courses in france.

finances

Paris is an expensive city, but also one with many options for different financial capabilities. The biggest hurdle is affordable housing, but you can try and get student housing to get a more affordable option. It is difficult to give an estimate because your total months expenses will vary depending on your housing.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I got to take some very interesting courses at more than one department (geography, economy, management). This was definitely very interesting, but it was difficult to organize. The department I was in (geography) did not have many courses available in the second semester for me to take, so I had to rely on external departments, which made it more complicated.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality varied depending on the departments. I found the quality of the department of geography very high, with very small classes, many fields trips, and much in class participation. In economics and management the courses were less interactive, with a more typically french approach of the teacher explaining and the students listening.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling and support at the receiving university was not very good. Getting responses to your emails takes a long time and everyone seems to shift responsibility to somebody else. I had an issue with my course selection, but I received no help from the people responsible for erasmus students at Sorbonne. Brace yourself because you will need quite some patience.

transfer of credits

It's July and I am still waiting, despite the various emails and reminders I have sent. So again, as the general bureaucracy of the University, not very efficient. Prepare yourself for many email exchanges and many visits to the office, you will need patience and a good command of french to get through this situations.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The University organized a French course at the start of the year, which was incredibly useful to get more comfortable with the language, as well as to meet other fellow Erasmus Students. They also organised a few intro events to give the possibility to people to meet up. Overall good experience in this regard.

accommodation

I was very lucky as I got accommodation from the University of Sorbonne. I simply asked to be informed about housing options, and they came back to me with the possibility of staying either in the CROUS or at the Cite



Internationale. I got a studio at the Crous for a very cheap price in the 5eme arrondissement, very central and close to the univeristy buildings.

leisure & culture

Paris has so much to offer. Despite the administrative difficulties I encountered at times, I would never trade this experience in this city for any other place in the world. If you speak french, people are very welcoming and easy to let you in. My classmates always invited me to dinners, picnics and parties outside of university. The city offers so many cultural events, from concerts, great exhibitions, music and dance events. You will never get bored as there is really something for everyone.

suggestions/tips

If I can give a tip, don't be too reliant on university services for having fun, this is not generally how french universities work. Get out and explore the city, you will have more than enough of that around you. Also, make sure to learn French before you go, it will make your life much more enjoyable as people will be much more welcoming and eager to show you around.

CONCLUSIONS

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

I would definitely recommend Paris as an exchange destination. You will definitely encounter some difficulties in terms of administration, or housing. However, it's such a rich cultural destination and a fantastic city to live in that it is definitely worth all the hussle.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Be open to explore. As a big city with many different activities, places, events, you will never get bored. Make sure to tap into all those opportunities and to be open to meet people.

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.