



## 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: <b>or</b> <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	Human Geography and Spatial Planning

destination city & country	Toulouse, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	University Toulouse Jean Jaures
start date	06 / 09 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 01 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	For me it went quite smooth. I didn't have major problems, you just need to fill in a lot of forms and information, so sometimes you lose track. Make a special erasmus to do list would be my advise. One thing i found quite difficult was the application for student residence in Toulouse, The crouse ( agency) gives a lot of information in french and you need to use french sites to apply. It was quite challenging to navigate this and it took a lot of time. I heard the same complaints from other erasmus students.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	



If you lost track during the application process you could always ask for help which was very nice. I didn't feel any barrier to contact the support. It was kind of enoying that communication was very slow in the summer period, but you cant blame the support team for that.

academic preparation

I feel like the french way of teaching and grading was totally different from that at the UU. So i had to adapt the acadamic skills i had. At jean jaures the amount information send during lectures was way more, you had to make a lot of notes compared to the uu. UU is more discussion based, so reading at home and discussing information at the uni. I was not prepared for this. Other than that, i felt like i could use my geographical analysing skills quite good. The methods and theories which were discusses are quite similar.

language preparation

Doing the OLS test helped to indicate your language proficiency. I didn't do any further test or training, just duolingo.. I did see a offer for language training but decided not to use it. I felt like I had enough french experience to start, your language prficiency improves very quick when french is the only language you hear around you. But i think this is really personal preference.

finances

I had to make a list with my expected expenses which helped myself to get an idea of the costs. It was nice that UU introduced the Travel Green Grand, train travel is quite expensive this helped to stimulate that dicision. on my stay i spend 350 on housing and about 300 on living, but there are added expenses for traveling and seing the region of toulouse (which is worth it). I felt like life in France was a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. Quite a lot of erasmusstudents i met took a side job in restaurants.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The topics discussed in the geosciences departend where almost exclusively based on france. Or a comparison between france and other countries. I liked this as i could learn a lot about economy, ecology and demographics in france. However somethimes it felt a bit narrow minded as we live in a interconnected global economy. Mostly limiting study to france is not the best way to look at the world in my opinion, but still interesting.

There where quite a lot of problems with the organisation at toulouse jean jaures. signing up for courses was difficult, some where already full when you had the chance to sign up. futhermore the timetable for courses was unclear in the beginning, making it unclear which courses would fit together. the university just shifted around the program they used to manage enrolment and communication, they admitted themselves it was mess.

academic quality of education activities

I feel like University in france in different than the netherlands, in the netherlands critical thinking and group reflection are quite important. In france it felt a bit more like highschool as it was mostly about receiving information and memorizing it. However the acadamic quality was good in my opinion, teachers where specialized in the topics they taught. They where able to give interesting comparisons beteen french departements and explain historical/geographical transformations in a way i never heard at the UU.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Like i mentionned the system they used to organise courses was quite bad, their was limited support on how to manage those problems. Other than that there you could e-mail someone who was responsible for acadamic activities for erasmus students or the head of geosciences. Both where happy to help if they could. We started of with a course on the french grading system and the types of assignments they use. This helped to get an idea of what was expected from you.



transfer of credits

This was wel organised, i revieved a file with the achieved credits in toulouse. All i had to do is send it to the uu examboard. Credits gained in france are worth less in the netherlands which is important to keep in mind.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

I met most of my friends during the orientation programme, EIMA (erasmus activity organisor) did a great job in organising fun activities. Picknicks, walks, vollyball are the types of activities you can expect. People are very open and happy to meet others, i felt very welcome.

accommodation

The student (crous) accomodation i had was very well placed. In the city centre and close to the metro. in general the city is quite well connected so there are many good neighbourhoods to live. A big bonus for living in crous residence is that there is a university cafeteria closeby. The cafeteria is a nice place to eat with friends and its cheap. Furthermore housing in Toulouse is quite cheap compared to other big cities in france. Erasmus friends i made had little trouble finding residents using Leboncoin, a website for housing and other stuff. The crous residents where kind of old, for me that was no problem.

leisure & culture

Toulouse is a historical city with many old churches an museums. I had a lot of fun exploring those. Furthermore there are many nice historical towns to visit in the region such as Albi and Carcassonne, by train these are easy to reach.

The university had a sports department called the SUAPS, you could sign up for many sport activities. I made a lot of use of it, playing football, hiking, windsurfing. Close to Toulouse is a lake called Lac du Ramé which was a nice place to swim. You can also go to the pacific (6 hours train) or mediterranian (2,5 hours train), great places to surf aswell. I did many hikes in the pyrnees which is only 1 hour by train, i winter there villages where you can go skiing. The region of toulouse is amazing for sports and culture, really something you should check out when you are there.

Nighlife in toulouse is very good, a lot of nice bars and clubs where you can enjoy yourself. Atmosphere in this student city has something unique. Especially the Garonne (River in city centre) is a great place to start your evening and see the sunset.

suggestions/tips

Sports and culture options are amazing in the region of toulouse. Furthermore i would suggest visiting other cities in the south of france, Bordeaux and Marseille for example. Spain isnt far away either, visiting Barcelona and St Sebastian is a lot of fun. Make use of the central position of Toulouse to visit the area. Go to pech david to see a sunset in toulouse, you will see the pyrnees in the background.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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

I think toulouse is a great Erasmus destination. The city itself is vibrant and full of students and the university organizes great sports activities. For me the city is just the right size, with 450 000 inhabitants it will feel like you know the city in about 1,5 month. For me that's important to feel like home. The quality of education in the university itself was not amazing, but i was very happy i could improve my french and find other perspective on geoscinces. The organisation at the university was not amazing, but they acknowledged this and will surely make improvements. All in all i would definetly recommend Toulouse as a Erasmus destination.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



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.