



Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

Exchange Final Report

Student Information

Faculty at UVic Social sciences
Major/Minor Geography
Host University Utrecht University
Host Country Netherlands
Dates of Exchange September 2018- June 2019

Overall Exchange Experience

Please Rate your Overall Exchange Experience

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? Please outline any highlights.

Falling in love with Utrecht, and all the great people I met from all over the world

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

Being away from home and having to restart from the beginning again

Travel

Cost of air travel \$800 (to get to the Netherlands, I did a lot of travel within the year)

Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass) \$300 in the year (train and bus pass)

Did host university representatives meet you at the airport? no

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? Yes

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

Yes there was a big orientation during the first week and my faculty also had orientation

How easy was it to find the info you needed to know upon arrival?

Yeah, I had other friends in the same boat as me so it made the registration and attaining information much easier

What assistance did you receive from your host institution upon arrival?

Emails from the international coordinator and one meeting

Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available? yes

If yes, did you live on campus? yes

Would you recommend this to future students? yes

If you lived off-campus, how did you find housing?

Its almost impossible to find housing in Utrecht if you don't get the campus housing

Approximately how much money would you budget per month for living, including accommodation and meals?

600 euros a month

Language Programs

Is there a language program available either before or during the semester?

Nope all dutch people speak english

Is there an additional cost for the language training?

They had free dutch lessons if you wanted to learn

Academics

Was it possible for you to get all the courses that you wanted?

yes

Please describe the course registration process

You sent the courses you wanted to do to the international coordinator for your faculty and she/he would check if you had the criteria to take the class, and then would sign you up

The professors are very involved, and attendance is always taken, the classes are smaller than the class size in Victoria

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

What do you feel is the greatest academic benefit you have gained personally from your exchange?

Being able to learn more about geography and other courses, taught from a different perspective

Personal and Cultural Connections

How easy was it to adjust to the local culture? What (if any) cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

Yea it was easy for me to slip into the dutch culture, everyone rides a bike like I do at home and everyone spoke English so I didn't really feel alienated at all. Utrecht is also very green which made it easier for me to adjust, but I really missed the ocean and the mountains

What kinds of cultural, athletic and social activities were available for students at your host institution?

All international students were very interested and keen to participate in activities, there was also an Erasmus student organisation that always hosted events for international students to meet new friends