

Studere i Oslo

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Sien went to Universitetet i Oslo, Oslo, Norway to study abroad with Erasmus+.

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I've been studying abroad in the first semester of the academic year 2016/2017. I did this instead of a minor in Utrecht. I decided to go abroad because I really wanted to live in another country for a while, and I wanted to find out how it was to figure everything out on my own. I decided to go to Norway because I love the country and I'd been learning some Norwegian. I got to go to my second choice of universities: the University of Oslo. Looking back on it, I am incredibly happy I ended up there. I am also very happy that I made the decision to go abroad, because of course I had my doubts beforehand. I was scared I would miss my friends and family too much to enjoy the time there. But that was not the case at all. I had so much fun in Oslo that there were very few moments when I wished I were be home. The University of Oslo wasn't specifically interesting for me as a linguistics student, but I really wanted to go to Norway, so I ended up taking some courses that just sounded interesting to me. I took a Norwegian language course, which improved my language skills greatly, Runology, which was very fun and interesting, and a course called Cognition, Emotion and Language, which was a Psychology course and very new to me. I enjoyed the latter course very much because I learned things about Linguistics that I hadn't heard before. That's a great thing about studying at another university; you really get a fresh perspective on your area of interest.

The whole Erasmus experience was great as well. I had a close group of friends consisting of ten people with whom I hung out a lot. You shouldn't be afraid of being alone and not making friends when you study abroad. Everyone is alone in the beginning, and doesn't know anyone. There were some Dutch student meet-ups which I avoided because I wanted to meet people from other cultures. I'm sure you've heard it many times already, but you really do learn a lot from other cultures and it helps you broaden your mind. I lived in

a student village with mainly international students, and when I walked around there I almost knew everyone I passed by. I still have contact with some of them and recently visited some friends when I went back to Oslo for a long weekend. I Skype with them sometimes, and we might meet up at one of our places soon. Erasmus is great for future vacations because now there are several places in Europe where I can stay!

Oslo is a great city to study in because it has several things that Utrecht doesn't have, like lots of nature and especially mountains. The quality of education is about the same as in The Netherlands. Everything is very well coordinated, for example information about courses and accommodation. As an international student there's a hundred percent chance you'll get a place to live. I lived with six roommates who were almost all from a different country, and I really liked that. I wasn't that busy with studying, so I had enough time to make trips to other parts of Norway, and I even went on an Erasmus trip to Iceland. There are lots of activities organized for international students, like trips abroad and a movie night every month.

I would recommend everyone to take this unique chance and study abroad; you won't regret it! ■