



## UCC Erasmus Student experiences in Europe 2021/2022

Here is what they had to say!

### **Copenhagen Business School, Denmark**

I absolutely loved Copenhagen it's a stunning really fun and exciting city and I would highly recommend it to anyone even considering it! You won't regret it"

### **Copenhagen Business School, Denmark**

Very enriching, amazing experience, where I met a variety of different people from different cultures. Helped me become more independent. Very beautiful city with an amazing nightlife and is in close proximity to different cities. They have a great exchange program and are very inclusive, they provided different events for us so we could mingle and meet new people in our course

### **Universidad de Deusto, Spain**

I do think studying abroad has helped me mature and I feel like a different person, so I recommend it in that sense. There is a wide range of classes but UCC students should know that for international students, they can experience a lot of timetable clashes as it's dissimilar to UCC as normal degrees have 4-6 consecutive classes every day in Deusto

### **EM Strasbourg, France**

The highlight of my college experience with UCC. I would highly recommend going on Erasmus to anyone with the opportunity to do so. The best way to improve your language proficiency, and make international friends from all across the globe 🌐

### **University Rotterdam, Netherlands**

Although adjusting to a new way of learning can be difficult, it is definitely worth it. I have learned so much this year not only about myself academically but also personally. Studying abroad for a full year seems daunting, but after the first day here i knew it was going to be the best year, and it has been. My course is particularly challenging but the staff and students are are so so helpful so it's nothing to worry about. Also, international students love to become friends with one another, so don't fear the social aspect.

### **Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany**

"Gießen is a lovely city, with a lot of places for students to visit, such as theatres, cinemas, and if I remember correctly there are even a few swimming pools. Bus rides are essentially free when you get your student card, and with that student card, you can

also go to the city hall and receive a set of two free cinema tickets, two free small cinema drinks, and a small cinema snack. The educational facilities are in good shape, well maintained. There are quite a number of modules where speaking ability in German is necessary, as there are few modules taught partially in English, and even less that are fully in English. The University does offer an evening course in German, for those that want it."

### **La Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris, France**

Erasmus students are so well looked after but Erasmus groups. There are several Erasmus nights every week, both chill and ones in clubs. While it did take me the first semester to fully settle in, I am having the time of my life. College is very different here and is more similar to secondary school with not a lot of lectures, but like I said, you get used to it. It is also important to budget because, while the grant is great it is still not loads in the big scheme of things.

### **Leeds Trinity University, UK**

It's a really lonely college and it's very far out from the city but the city itself is lovely, there's loads to do, you'll just need to make friends and create experiences for yourself on campus and try make friends from other colleges because it's really isolating otherwise. I joined a sports team and they have socials every second week so that's what I'd recommend

### **Leiden University, Netherlands**

I've made friends for life here, and I'm enjoying every second of my exchange!

### **Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, Germany**

So far it hasn't been amazing because of covid but everyone I've met is really nice and the lectures are super attentive and Munich is a great city.

### **Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, Germany**

I'm having a wonderful time, pushing myself out of my comfort zone, making friends from around the globe, travelling to nearby cities with them and trying my best to speak more than just my coffee order in German! It's really been a wonderful experience so far, I feel so lucky I had the opportunity to do it.

### **Lyon 3, France**

"Studying abroad is one of the best decisions I've ever made, and I'm so happy I get to do it in Lyon. It's such a beautiful vibrant city and I've had the opportunity to see many surrounding cities and countries such as Italy and Switzerland. I've become much more independent and mature as I've had to adapt to « being an adult » without my parents close. However, the academic side of it can be quite challenging. French universities have a reputation for being administratively difficult, and Lyon is no different. It's one of

those things you just have to push through. That being said, the positives of Erasmus wholly outweigh the negatives and I would recommend it to anyone!"

### **Montpellier**

The city is amazing, as the language, culture, food and the whole experience. However, the university has very poor administration. So much so that I'm not sure if I can recommend Montpellier to prospective Erasmus students...

### **Paul Valery University, Montpellier, France**

I had many great experiences on my study abroad, but I also had some struggles. Overall, I think studying abroad forces you out of your comfort zone, and allows you to experience college life in a way that is new, exciting and unpredictable!

### **Université de Rennes 1, France**

Amazing city with great people and a large student and international population. The nightlife is great as well as many travel opportunities near the city which makes it a good base for travelling and visiting other parts of France. The people are very friendly and the college is really nice too with a not too busy schedule.

### **Université de Rennes 1, France**

Really enjoyed being abroad and attempting to learn the language. So many other international students and it's a brilliant way to meet people.

### **Université Rennes 2, France**

Having an amazing time, at first it was very daunting naturally enough being in a new country with a different language but I wasn't long settling and am dreading having to leave here to go home!! Would definitely recommend going on Erasmus, it is a fantastic way of meeting people from all over the world and traveling as well as many other benefits!

### **Université Rennes 2, France**

It felt overwhelming at the start, I even thought about going home at one point, but once I settled in and became more comfortable here I started to have all those exciting and eye-opening experiences that you hope for when you study abroad. I couldn't recommend it enough!

### **Université Rennes 2, France**

This university is very accommodating to foreign students and the city's public transport is superb.

### **Sciences po Paris, France**

It's amazing to be submerged in a different culture and living away from if you haven't had the chance to do that yet! Homesickness is nothing to be worried about you settle in almost immediately

### **Universität Konstanz, Germany**

Great experience and opportunity to travel and meet so many people from all parts of the world! Would highly recommend to anyone who is thinking about it!

### **Universität Konstanz, Germany**

I loved studying abroad this year. Konstanz is absolutely beautiful and it was really interesting to gain insight into the University system in Germany. It was also an amazing way to meet friends from all over Europe and travel around the mainland.

### **Universität Konstanz, Germany**

Erasmus city is great, lots of travelling opportunities. The university is well structured with a good variety of German language courses

### **Universidad de Barcelona, Spain**

I am studying in Barcelona for the year and have been here since mid-august until end of June. Choosing Barcelona and deciding to go on Erasmus is a decision I'll never regret and I am proud of myself for doing it. Universidad de Barcelona is a gorgeous university and I am enjoying the modules I chose which are new to me and I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do them back home. Apart from that I got to go on trips to places I will never forget and have many more to come while also meeting people from around the world and getting to know the Spanish culture personally. There are many activities and trips organised here for Erasmus students which I think is amazing, from meet ups, welcome parties, hiking trips and other activities. I am really looking forward to this semester.

### **Universidad de Barcelona, Spain**

Overall it's an amazing experience which I would 100% recommend to anyone considering doing an Erasmus. You make so many new friends, even if you think you won't or are scared you won't you will find people there who are Irish for example. (Just go down to the Irish pub with another friend;) You'll also meet people on orientation day or you can just text someone you might know going on Instagram and ask do they want to meet up. The weather in Spain is fabulous and way better than at home of course. The nightlife is amazing too, I've had such good nights out here. College is also very very rewarding. I had to do four modules through Spanish this semester and once I passed them I was honestly over the moon because doing business through Spanish is very challenging. I have so much more to say and would be willing to do a team's call with students if they want to know about Barcelona and have loads of tips now too.

### **Universidad De Santiago de Compostela, Spain**

It's a great experience really! I have learnt so much about myself the past few months! There has been difficult challenges to get through, of course, some I never imagined myself to ever do and I did and I just feel better in myself everyday all because of it!

### **Universidad de Sevilla, Spain**

It's been amazing. Administration in uni Sevilla is terrible and it's really hard to register, but that is literally the only downside. Sevilla is an amazing city for Erasmus and all my Erasmus friends who come to visit are always so jealous. There's a really great Erasmus club here called Erasmus Club Sevilla who organise so many events it's amazing. I would recommend staying with Viverasmus in the building Fraternidad. That's where I'm staying and it's really great

### **Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (USC), Spain**

While the university work is extremely challenging, and the language barrier is hard to break at first, being here has been the best thing I have ever done without a doubt. I have made lifelong friends who are from both here and from all corners around the world (other Erasmus students), and I have become so much more confident in speaking Spanish, as well as my confidence as a whole growing as a result.

### **Universität zu Köln, Germany**

Going abroad has been a great opportunity. It's been challenging but nonetheless brilliant to live somewhere where a language I study is spoken, as well as finally living out of home and doing so in a totally different country. While my Erasmus hasn't been all fun and games, I'm ultimately satisfied that it has been a life-changing year (and continues to be). German winter combined with getting used to a new university in a second language was difficult, but I look forward to a summer of exploring Europe, new and interesting classes, and spending long hot days hanging out with friends.

### **Université Clermont Auvergne, France**

I'm currently studying in the middle of France and it has been the best time of my life so far. I've travelled to over seven different cities so far, with more trips planned during the midterm breaks. Everything is easily accessible travel wise. I've made a lot of good friends from different countries all around the world, including Ireland. This is my first time ever living out of home and being away from my family for this amount of time and I'm enjoying it a lot more than I thought that I would. I've completely come out of my comfort zone and I've done things that I never expected myself to do. It is definitely a once in a lifetime experience.

### **Université de Caen, France**

Great community with other international students, (CROUS accommodations puts all European internationals in the same building)

### **Université de Lille III, France**

"I found the first few weeks tough, and learnt a lot about adjusting, but once I was settled I loved Lille and the time I spent there was very important for my development and learning. I found that the uni had some particularities that they weren't very clear about that I would like to share! (Where to get timetables, where the international office is etc.) I think everyone should participate in an international experience, whether is be for language or not! "

### **Université Grenoble Alpes , France**

At first I was very apprehensive in doing an Erasmus year but I went for it anyway and I 100% do not regret it! It's been such an amazing experience so far and I would do it all over again if I could!

### **Université Grenoble Alpes , France**

It's been absolutely amazing. I can say without a doubt that I've grown up more here in 4 months than I have, or ever would have if I stayed in UCC. Parts of Erasmus are difficult, you're constantly out of your comfort zone and the language barrier can be hard to get used to. The quality of life abroad is amazing. Particularly here in Grenoble, the winter just passes by without being depressing because there's skiing and it's always sunny.

### **Université Lyon 3 Jean Moulin, France**

Overall it has been a very enjoyable experience. It's an excellent chance to meet lots of new people and experience a different culture and country and meet people from all over the world. Studying through a second/third language is definitely challenging and the material can be difficult but overall it has been a good opportunity

### **Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 , France**

Probably the best experience I have had so far. I've learned so much about myself, French culture, and French people and in general people from all aspects of life. Erasmus gives you endless opportunities to visit new places, meet new people, and try new things. I can hands down say that it has been one of the best experiences of my life. I've made friends for life and just learned so much.

### **University of Copenhagen, Denmark**

"I have been studying in Copenhagen since September and I have enjoyed every second of it. It's a beautiful city, with so much to do and see. College is quite different here compared to UCC. We only do two modules per semester. It amounts to around 10 hours of seminars per week, so we have plenty of free time. The classes are small with an average of 20 students per class, and the seminars take place in small rooms (like tutorial rooms in UCC). It definitely took a while to get used to the style of teaching over here, which emphasises student participation. Last semester, I had oral exams for each module - I was nervous about this because we hadn't done anything like it before in UCC but it was actually fine in the end. With regards to accommodation, myself and the other UCC law students are staying in Signalhuset. There are 4 people in each apartment with a shared kitchen. The rooms are very basic and relatively small. The location is also quite far from the city. We have a big shopping centre across the road which is convenient for doing the food shop etc., but other than that there's not much to do in the area. It is definitely one of the cheaper options for accommodation but I'm not sure that I would recommend it. Copenhagen is a very expensive city so I would recommend having a good bit saved up before coming here. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!"

### **University of Copenhagen Denmark**

I have loved my experience so far in Copenhagen however, I would not recommend staying in Signalhuset, Orestad. I'm lucky that my flat mates are all nice people however the staff at Signal are not helpful at all and can be quite rude. Personally for the price to stay here I believe you could get better student accommodation or private accommodation. Otherwise the city is beautiful and it is quite easy to make friends in Copenhagen!

### **University of Agder, Norway**

It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Learning a new language and culture while travelling Norway was an unforgettable experience. I got to meet so many different people and made lifelong friends despite language barriers! Before going I was very scared that the language would be an issue as I don't study languages but there was no issue at all and I even got an opportunity to learn some through my friends and an optional beginner's course. I would highly recommend going on Erasmus with an open mind and an optimistic mind-set! Making friends was incredibly easy as everyone is in the same boat, I just mentioned to people that I want to travel and in an instant I had a group of like-minded people and we were off.

### **University of Alcalá, Spain**

So far amazing experience, very close to Madrid and would definitely recommend. I'd be happy to share my experience with students who are planning on going to the same host university.

### **University of Cologne, Germany**

"Much more confident in speaking the host language. This year is really all about your own self development and experiences. Meet so many new people from all over the world. A year abroad has been a challenge but a fun one. Dealing with landlords, maintenance, flatmates, banks, gyms etc in German was something i could never imagine myself doing. But now, it's much less daunting and i really find myself improving my German everyday. It's the best way to improve your language skills, especially translation and speaking skills. I'm having a blast! You definitely have to be strong and very self-aware as it is a huge leap to study abroad and live in country with a language that's not your own. A lot of mental preparation is needed, to make sure you can handle all the challenges a year abroad throws at you - homesickness, loneliness, confusion, financial stress. But i do think there are more pros than cons to studying abroad. "

### **University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany**

It was a good experience overall! The Erasmus Programme in this Uni was fantastic and I cannot praise the organisers more! Uni, however, was very old-fashioned!

### **University of Exeter, UK**

It is a really wonderful experience! From the first day I arrived I have encountered such friendly and helpful people. The campus is beautiful and the lectures are so interesting. It is a bit awkward to get to Exeter if you don't drive but public transport is easy to navigate and staff are great for answering questions. However, unfortunately living here is quite expensive, particularly with the conversion rate from pounds to euros. I did decide to take up a part time job while I'm here just to ease any financial stress. This also provided me with people who I could interact with and who helped me settle in when I first arrived. It is also easy to get to mainland Europe from here which is perfect for when I have time off from classes (we have the month of April off so I'm planning to do some travelling then). The university does push students to try their hardest however each person is assigned a tutor in order to assist them and seminar leaders are also there to help. I had an essay to do last semester and instead of leaving it for students to submit at the last moment students were required to submit a 700 word piece three times during the semester. This dramatically reduced stress regarding examinations. It is also the perfect place to study if you're nervous or simply don't want there to be a language barrier as there are plenty of opportunities to practice foreign languages but there is little pressure on English speaking students (very handy speaking the same language as the country you're studying in if you're like me and prone to getting lost!). Because Ireland is so close to England I never really thought about travelling there for my year abroad but I saw that Exeter has a great English course and couldn't resist. I'm so glad that I came here because it is such a beautiful place and there is so much to do. I am close to a beach which is lovely during warm weather and there are a lot of places to visit (such as Bath!). "

### **University of Genoa, Italy**

Meeting new people is one of the most amazing things about Erasmus . You meet so many people from different backgrounds. Learning about the place you study abroad' s culture food and traditions is also a highlight .Challenging yourself academically is rewarding especially in a different language. Being able to speak in a different language and improve in all ways"

### **University of Helsinki, Finland**

Loved it! A great student city, very easy to get by without knowing any Finnish! The University itself I felt was of a high standard albeit that brought a heavy workload for Erasmus students in comparison with other places. A safe city with its own charming personality.

### **University of Malta**

The Erasmus experience in Malta has been the best year so far, I have met so many people from all over the world and learned so much about different countries and cultures. It has definitely helped me grow as a person and showed how beneficial traveling is. Malta is a stunning country and discovering it has been amazing.

### **University of Strasbourg, France**

I would definitely recommend Strasbourg as a location for Erasmus. It is definitely a good city if you intend to travel since it is located on the border with Germany so it is easy to get a train/bus to many different cities.

### **University of Sussex, UK**

Before I arrived and the lead up to it, I was worried that I might not enjoy the experience and was quite nervous. But I was completely wrong, it is such a positive experience. I've met so many different people. Especially at the beginning, I was thrown into so many new things. I was excited, but also very nervous about this. But once I got here, it was just excitement, and I really immersed myself in these different experiences (which is new for me). I think I'm becoming a lot more independent and confident. I also really enjoy the opportunity to learn different topics from different subject's areas. And I've fallen in love with this city and its people. But especially with the sunset over Brighton Pier

### **University of Valencia, Spain**

It's been amazing I couldn't recommend it enough. Especially after covid being home for so long it's been an amazing experience to get out and live in a new country, however it cannot be overlooked how hard the standard abroad is