



## Semester Exchange Programme 2018/2019



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CAMPUS ID: JCBLEE005

UCT PROGRAMME PLAN: BA (EXTENDED DEGREE)

YEAR OF STUDY AT UCT FOR 2019: 3RD

PARTNER INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM (UVA)

STUDY PERIOD AT PARTNER UNIVERSITY: SEPTEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

### PRE-DEPARTURE COSTS

What was your experience with managing the following costs prior to your departure to your host institution?

- Flight Ticket and UCT Vendor Management
  - this was actually easy to manage and I got a quick response regarding which flight to book.
- Visa Costs
  - I think it cost 220 euros, however I was not informed beforehand that I would be required to pay for health insurance before I could apply for the visa and that was an additional 300 euros that I wasn't prepared for. Students should be warned about this cost beforehand to manage their finances accordingly.
- Health Insurance
  - Roughly 300 euros for the duration from August until the end of January
- UCT housing

- I didn't have any UCT housing that I had to cancel or suspend before I left.
- Ensuring that UCT tuition is paid before your departure
  - Easy enough to manage
- Financial Aid/Sponsorships
  - N/A

## LIVING COST SCHOLARSHIP

- Date/period of disbursement by partner
  - Receiving the money was a problem. The first issue is that the amount we were going to receive was not confirmed before we left. Secondly, only some students received the first payment on arrival through a cash card while the rest of us had to scramble and received no assistance from anyone. Thirdly, I was under the impression that the first stipend would be double (1800 euros) but I only received the standard 900 and when I tried to follow up on this with UVA and UCT I received no response.
- Total sum of scholarship disbursed by partner
  - 900 euros for 5 months
- Meals
  - I rarely ate fast food and my monthly grocery shopping came to under 300 euros a month
- Housing
  - 309 euros a month for a shared room at Prinsengracht which was in an ideal location - set in the center of the city (two doors down from the Anne Frank House)
- Transport
  - I didn't get a bike as my location was so central to everything. I did get a OV chip card (for the trams, buses and trains) and that was 7 euros to buy and travelling by tram is cheaper than people think so it was worthwhile to buy. Also, you can't really use the public transport without an OV chip card.

- Books
  - I only had to purchase one book for my classes. If your courses have required reading try to order them online before you leave as most books are cheaper in South Africa than in Amsterdam. Alternatively the UVA library is great.
- Travel
  - Travelling around Europe is amazingly easy and quite cheap. There are a number of companies that specialize in cheap trips for students.
- Participation Funds (orientation, clubs, societies)
  - UVA has a great system for international students to get together and arranges a lot of activities that take place in and around Amsterdam. The Prinsengracht dorms also arranged a few get togethers (such as pot luck dinners or club nights) throughout the semester that was quite cheap.

#### COSTS INCURRED RELATED TO YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD UPON YOUR RETURN TO UCT

- Costs incurred for enrolling for additional courses at UCT
  - I didn't have to enrol for additional courses. I took enough classes at UVA to ensure that I wouldn't be short of credits.
- Alerting your sponsors/financial aid upon your return
  - N/A
- Ensuring housing at UCT student residences.
  - N/A