

Personal Report

Rotterdam UAS, Wintersemester 2018/19, 1 Semester Business Administration, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

The classes that I attended were all in English. I chose an elective course for the Dutch language, where I learned the basis. Also with the other students, we all communicated in English, and this helped me to improve my English language even more.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

No, unfortunately not.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

625€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very good.

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

My apartment was not far from the university. I could reach the metro within 5 min walk, and then I needed around 20-25 min to get to the university. The accommodation was situated very well; it was also close with the city center.

Which web sites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

I looked mostly in two websites while I was looking for accommodation. The first one was housinganywhere.com and the second kamernet.nl. They were both very helpful.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)

My apartment was located in Coolhaven. And it was a good location. Within 5 min walk, I could reach there everything. There were shopping facilities close to where I lived, but the city center was also close, with metro it took like 5 min, and walking it took around 15 min. The nightlife was mostly focused in the city center so it was very close too.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I arrived there a bit late, 1 day before my program started, because I already had found accommodation and I had a friend, who explained me everything I needed to know, before I arrived there. But I would recommend, being there 1-2 weeks before the university starts.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

The orientation program was sufficient. I got all the important information, which I needed for my stay there. They explained us everything, about the public transportation, shopping facilities, insurances etc. My program was focused on the first week in the Introduction and getting everyone to know each other, so I got my first contacts in the first days that I was there. The services for exchange students were very helpful.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Higher, it cost around 150%

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the menses/student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

The transportation costs in Rotterdam are quite expensive, as there are no discounts for exchange students. I made a lot of friends so I enjoyed my life off-campus a lot. Rotterdam is a student city. There are a lot of activities for students. Inside the building of the university there were 3 - 4 canteens, the food was good but very expensive. In these canteens, mostly you could eat fast food, like sandwiches, wraps, pasta etc. The cost of sandwiches was 3-4 euros and pasta costed 7-9 euros. The university provided computer pools and available Wi-Fi. We also had the chance to use separate study rooms for studying and working in groups.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A little bit more challenging.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

The teaching methods were totally different from my home university. But this was because the program I chose wasn't a traditional university program, but something different. We used to work in groups all the time, and even some exams were group exams. The teachers were considered as our coaches, and they were there to train us for our next projects. For me, personally this was a very effective way of learning, because we turned into actions everything we learnt. This resulted to be for me a faster way of learning. A part of the program, were Dutch students as well, so we were considered all the same.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

I would recommend to the entire future exchange student to start looking for accommodation as soon as possible, because it's very difficult to find a place in a short time. And also, to be aware of scammers, while looking for accommodation. I would rate my exchange Semester with the highest grade, because it was one of the best experiences of my life. As I mentioned above, this program helped me to feel more prepared for the real business world, so it was definitely an important step to my future career.