

Personal Report

Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB3 –Business Administration- Bachelor

Language

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

English was used and we only communicated in English amongst each other and with professors.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

The courses were held in English. However, many of the professors have a tendency to switch back to Turkish to explain things again for the local students. There were only few international students in the courses I chose. Almost all students were Turkish therefore I have improved my Turkish skills further.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, the university informs students ahead of time about the offers and how to apply.

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

650€

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

The accommodation is located between the different campus sites. It took around 20 minutes with the tram.

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

SSH

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

Around the middle of August. Since I arrived at the beginning of September I missed some events for exchange students but earlier would not be necessary either.

How did you organize your arrival? 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?

I was sufficiently informed about all necessary steps to take before or after arriving in the Netherlands. I arrived by car and later by train. I had to organize a general practitioner for health myself but I got lucky. The different transport options besides bikes and how to get different tickets for them were a bit confusing in the beginning. The orientation programs were well done by other students and you could make new contacts there.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

Lidl is a bit more affordable than Albert Heijn for example so go with that if you like. There are a lot of nice thrift stores in the city (can be found online).

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

There is no discount available for exchange students concerning public transport so it could get quite expensive but for me it was a better option than to rent a bike. The cafeteria was nice but it was only open for a brief time. I never bought anything (take my own lunch) but the variety seemed good. Wi-Fi was usually available but often it could not connect for many students. There were always rooms available to study in and with computers and tv screens as well. You could also book rooms for a specific time in advance. There is one fitness studio available but it is usually completely booked out and not free of charge.

Studying at the Host University

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

A bit easier than in Frankfurt.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

The teaching methods had much more variety: weekly assignments, two big group projects with coaching, and group presentations as well as in class group assignments and games. I only had to write two exams which made up around 60 percent for the specific module. The professors were mostly nice and understanding towards the exchange students and I felt well integrated.

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 was able to acquire new practical skills in my personal as well as professional life which in total broadened my horizon in many aspects. Besides other bureaucracy, just make sure to find a general practitioner and an accommodation well ahead of time because they are scarce. Other than that, go with the flow and don't worry!