

EXCHANGE REPORT

MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



Maastricht University



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Marketing & Management | Fall 2016

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PART I - MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

September

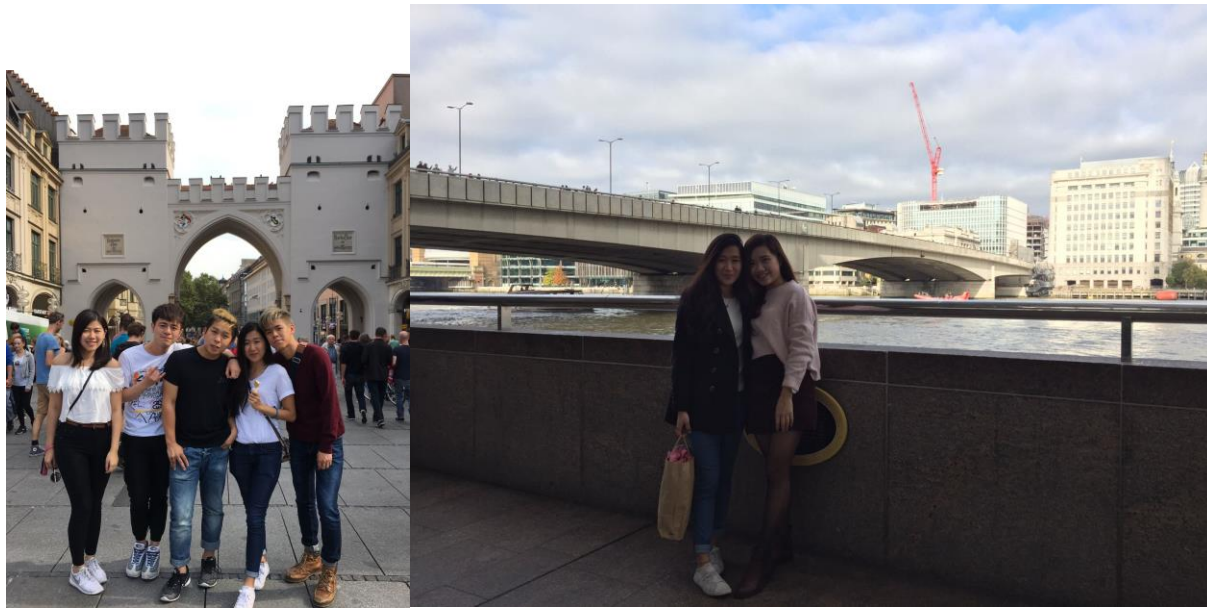
I arrived Maastricht on the last day of August and went to the orientation on the first two days of September. On the day of arrival the ISN which is a society organizing events for exchange students arranged pick up service in the Maastricht train station, so it was quite convenient. During September, I went to cities within the Netherlands like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Roermond and Utrecht. Also, I went to cities in Belgium like Antwerp, Ghent and Brussels.



October

On the first week I went to Munich, Germany for the Oktoberfest. And for the second and third week I traveled to Paris, France as well as Rome and Venice in Italy. After my trips, I need to study super hard for the upcoming exam in the last October. This university is a very strict one especially on attendance and participation. So I did bring my iPad around during all my travels to finish my

readings before lesson. After the exam, I traveled to the UK for a week to hang out with my friends.



November

New period starts and for the first three weeks I just stay in maastricht and do all readings and assignments before last week of November. The forth week of November I went to Iceland. It is a really amazing place which I highly recommend visiting. I also went to Manchester during the last few days of November. The Christmas market there does worth checking out. A lot of good food and different special flavour of mulled wine!



December

First week I went to Poland and Prague. Poland is not as dangerous as people commented. I met a local on train and I was invited to a local house party. It is a fantastic experience. I then went to Denmark before final exam. After exam, my Christmas holiday starts. I went to Milan, Sweden and Finland for Christmas. Then I head back to Hong Kong for count down.



PART II - GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Visa application

I hold a British passport so I do not need a visa for exchange.

Orientation activities

There are two days of orientation. The first day is to let us know more about the city by having a city tour, and knowing all other practical stuff like bank account and data roaming for mobiles. For the second day, we were given the chance to have a real practise for the PBL learning system which is a unique system that the university is using for all lessons. This orientation is quite useful actually, to let us have a real feel of how things works and how to gain high participation grade.

Student service and activities

ISN not only provide pick up service on the day of your arrival, but also all sorts of parties and events to let us get to know each other. Moreover, it provides us with free sim cards and we just need to top up for data roaming.

Accommodation

I live in building P of the guesthouse. There are C, P and M for us to choose. As I have my own kitchen and fridge in building p, I can have more chance to cook myself and buy a lot of stuff to store in the fridge without being stolen by the other floormates.

Course registration

We register course before the semester starts like the usual practice in UST. You will know the days of each course but not the time for class (quite different from the UST practice) And there would be a timetable stating the time and place for your class in your student portal after the registration deadline. As during the registration of course you already know the days that you have class, for example, Monday and Thursday, then you can plan your trip ahead (book your flight earlier, it would be much cheaper!!)

Teaching and assessment method

PBL is the unique learning method in Maastricht University. Students are required to do a lot of readings before class to get to know about the topic. During lesson some of the students would be pre-assigned as the facilitator (like a group leader) to facilitate the discussion. Facilitator would ask critical questions and all the others would discuss certain topic or find a solution to the problem statement that put forth by the facilitator. As the tutor would only be the observer, students are the main focus of each lesson. Through interaction, we learn from each other. And we need to make sure the participation of discussion is both quantitative and qualitative enough to get a good grade. Remember: don't skip class, usually the maximum number of class that we can skip is two, it would result in a fail of the course if we skip more than two lessons.

Sports and recreation facilities

On the orientation day, we can choose 5 sport lessons for free, you can pay to continue after those 5 lessons. For other exercise options, there is a gym near the guesthouse.

Health and safety

For health issue, my stomach don't feel well during the stay, but I didn't check out the doctor because it seems to be a quite clumsy process. You need to call and book a doctor before actually going. I did pack a wide range of medicine before

coming so I am still fine. For safety, it is quite safe in Maastricht, just make sure you lock your bike with a strong chain as there are quite a lot of bike thieves here.

Food

It is very convenient to find food. There are supermarkets near the guesthouse like jumbo and aldi. Cook is the best option to save money because food in supermarkets are quite cheap here. Dining outside is quite expensive usually around 20Euro for a decent meal.

Transportation

Almost everyone owns a bike as it is so convenient to cycle in Maastricht. For people who don't cycle, they can take bus using a OV card. And it is very convenient also as it has a lot of stops and one of the stops is right outside the guesthouse and one is right outside the train station.

Climate

The daily range of temperature is quite large. During September and October, in the early mornings and nights it is around 2 to 5 degrees Celsius, but during daytime, it is around 13 to 18 degrees Celsius. For November and December the usual temperature is around 0 to 5 degrees Celsius.

Communication

ISN gives us free sim card and it is very convenient to top up for data roaming. You can also check out Vodafone for international network.

PART III - ITEMS TO BRING

Checklist

Clothes both short and long sleeves (early September is actually quite hot so short sleeves are better option for such weather)

Shoes

Bags

Accessories

Skincare(lotion and cream)

Toiletries

Medicines

Stationeries

Hairdryer

Electronics(laptop, iPad,chargers, adaptors, cables)

PART IV - USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

Maastricht University websites:

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>

<https://login.maastrichtuniversity.nl/adfs/ls/>

Transportation:

<http://www.ns.nl/en>

<https://www.skyscanner.com>