

2018-19 FALL

EXCHANGE REPORT

ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

ERASMUS
UNIVERSITY

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(ACCT & MARK)

SEP 2018



As I have submitted the course swapping request, I did not attend the lesson until I was confirmed my enrolment. Therefore, I visited my friend at **London** for 6 days. All I did was basically just eating, shopping and museum visiting.

On Mid-Autumn Festival, I went to the club event organised by the Chinese Students Association to taste the vibe of the traditional China culture in the Netherlands.

My property manager is a K-pop fan, so he invited us to his K-pop party "Strictly K-pop". It was fun to meet foreigners who were obsessed with the Korean wave.

OCT 2018

One of the bucket list items on my exchange journey is to visit the Oktoberfest in Munich. I went there with my roommates. It took me a 13 hours overnight bus ride to travel there. I was exhausted after the trip but felt excited for the festival. It was a bit similar to the AIA Carnival but in a much larger scale. Of course, I had the beer and some of the local German food like sausages. After visiting the Oktoberfest, we walked around Munich and briefly visited some churches, local markets and monuments. Before we took back the long bus ride again, we had a dinner at one of the largest cellar restaurants dating from the 19th century. (Remember to book everything including restaurant in advance during the Oktoberfest period, or else you may have to pay a lot more)

I finally travelled to Amsterdam for 3 days with my friends from Stockholm. We also went to A'dam Lookout, an over-the-edge swing facing the Amsterdam River. (Netherlands is a place full of museum, you may consider buying a museumkaart which cost around 70 Euro and you can have free entrance in almost every museum in Netherlands.)

The Netherlands is also famous for its music, many EDM music producers like Martin Garrix, Tiesto are Dutch, so if you are EDM music fans, don't miss the famous Amsterdam Dance Event that is held every October. I went to the Liquid Night which had my favorite DJ Alan Walker playing in house.

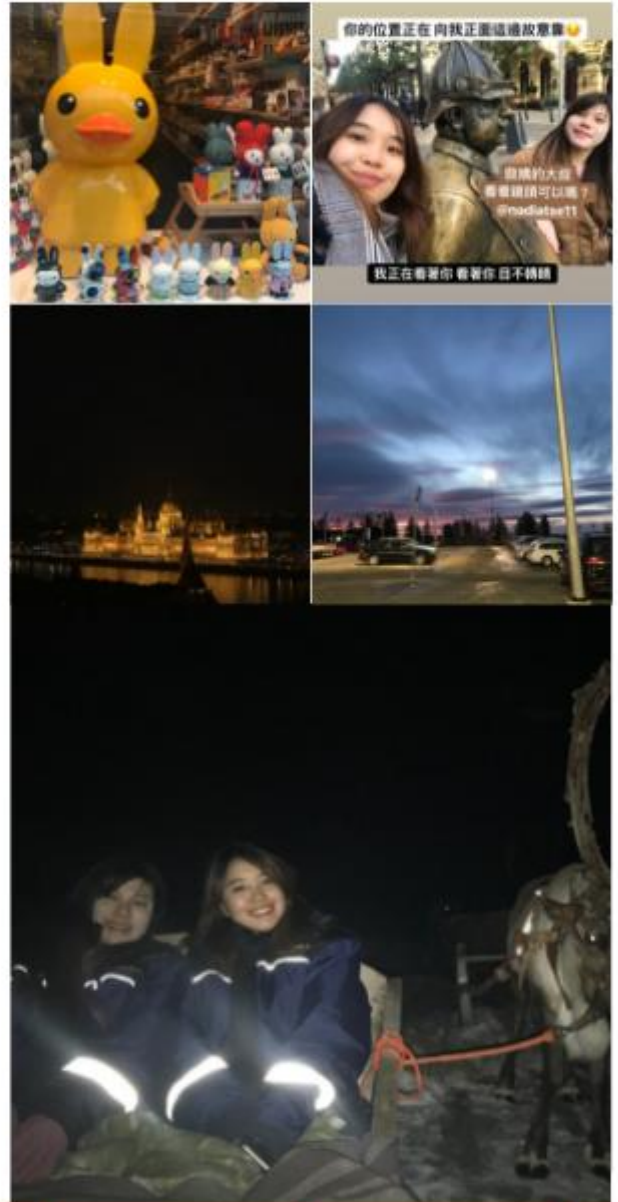
I visited Belgium during the weekend to taste all the delicious Belgium Waffles and Chocolates. Sadly, I had to carry my MacBook around to finish my assignment as there were multiple deadlines



2018 NOVEMBER

All of my lessons end in mid-November before the examination. On my day-off, I had a day-trip visiting Utrecht and The Hague. Before my 1st exam, I had a longer holiday so I visited Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, Hallstatt, Cesky Krumlov, The Prague and Berlin for an 11 days trip. Travelling through vibrant city to natural scenery filled with serendipity, we had some exciting moment looking at historical site and enjoyed peace of mind near the beautiful nature. Afterwards, I stayed home for a week to prepare for the exam and finished some project.

After my 1st exam, I had another 9 days trip to Finland to watch the Aurora and the Santa Claus Village. I took the reindeer ride and attempted to watch the Aurora. To be honest, the weather is so cold that you can't even stay outdoor for more than 10 minutes. My friend and I had so much fun enjoying a snowy birthday. Before returning to Rotterdam for my 2nd exam revision, we briefly visited Stockholm.



2018 DECEMBER

After some stressful revision, my exam has finally finished. Time passed so fast, my last exam marked my last day at EUR. On the same day, I went to Amsterdam again for the Anne Frank Huis (It was so hard to book online). I was travelling around Europe before I head back to Hong Kong. I went on a solo trip to the Switzerland as I really want to go to the Jungfrau and Matterhorn. Afterwards, I packed up all my luggage in Rotterdam and went to London for the 2nd time. I finally had time to enjoy some musicals, visited the Warner Studio. During Christmas, I travelled to Dublin and stayed at my friend's aunt home to have an Irish Style Christmas filled with warmth.



Part II. General Exchange Information

Visa Procedure

The visa application is pretty forward as long as you follow the instruction sent by the exchange office and submit all the required documents ASAP, then you should be fine in obtaining the visa before your departure. In the process, the immigration department (Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)) will ask you to go to the embassy in Hong Kong in person to submit your passport for making a temporary visa, please reserve the timeslot online as soon as you receive their email and do not make schedule change and be on time as they only handle visa related matter on specific weekday in the month. They also have strict requirement on photos and documents, if you failed to present any documents, you need to walk a long way to print and retake photos and rush back to the embassy before its lunch break. Double check before you go out.

Orientation Activities

The school have a mandatory orientation day before semester starts. Also, you can join the ESN orientation activities which I did not join. Check out their Facebook page for more details.

International Services & Activities

Their exchange in office will be responsible for all matters. If you need help, just walk in their office and tell them directly. Sending email to them may take a longer time to process as they have many exchange students each year.

Accommodations

Exchange students can apply for school housing but you need to act quick and confirm if they allocate you to their on campus accommodations as they are using a first-come first served basis. I missed the chance and it took me a very long time to search for house. If you are using housing anywhere, some tenant do prefer students who are renting for a whole year. In the end, I found my place through Just Apartment who specializes on expat and international student housing. At the same time, you should do property search on Facebook group like Rooms & Houses in Rotterdam, Housing Rotterdam, Rotterdam | Apartment, Room. Look carefully some can be scam. I am living near Rotterdam Central Station with 3 other girls for EUR 1815.5 per month and 1 month deposit and cleaning fee has to be sent to the property manager in advance. If the property is closer to campus (Kralingen district), it will range between EUR 550 to EUR 700. As I don't know how to ride a bicycle, I usually walk my way to school for an hour and taking the tram during exam or very early lesson. When you consider where to stay, remember it's cold in Rotterdam in the winter, see if you can manage to walk/ride under extreme cold and strong breeze.

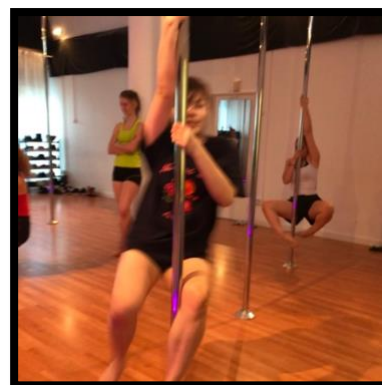


Courses

I took 4 courses at EUR, 2 from RSM 2 from Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication. As I went on exchange in fall semester (Trimester 1 of EUR) but not spring semester (Trimester 2 and 3), the course choice is pretty limited. Courses that I took was CM9001, CM9004, BAB21, BAP073. I tried to transfer communication courses for marketing major, but failed due to the fact that 5ECTs is only equivalent to 3 UST credits. BAP073 is a course about research method but it's pretty in-depth and difficult to understand. For 3 ECTS, the workload is huge including group assignments, mid-term and final. They assigned groupmates to us but mine was exchange students who dropped out in the middle of the semester, intensifying the workload.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

I joined the sports pass of Erasmus Sports, which have 2 kinds, one is sports class and another one includes sports class and gym membership. As I live far away from school, so I just picked the one with just sports class. They got a variety of classes daily from Boxing to Spinning. They even provide special class like ballet, Pole Dancing etc. If you are a sports lover, do join the sports pass.



Finance and Banking

I used ING Bank service in opening a student account, In Europe, shops mostly accept debit card instead of credit cards. The table below sum up all my spending during exchange.

Category	EUR	HKD
Living Expenses		
Food	575	
Transportation	110	
Rent	1815.5	
Entertainment	160	
Mobile Plan	45	
Personal Spending	500	
Sub-total	3205.5	~28579
Travel Expense		~51910
Total		80489



Food

I usually cook my own food at home. You can get grocery from AH (Bonus card is essential for a great bargain!), COOP, Dirk (usually cheaper), JUMBO. On every Tuesday and Saturday, there is a local market outside market hall where you can get fresh veggies and meat. If you miss local Chinese food, you can visit Amazing Oriental and Wah Nam Hong

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching method was basically similar to HKUST, mainly a professor discuss on a topic during plenary lecture and a tutorial session which the professor expected an in-depth discussion during class, with group presenting the ideas and share with each other. Communication school courses were very much alike of marketing lesson, which expect students to speak up to facilitate classes teaching.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There was all kinds of club in EUR, but they were pretty low key. You need to search online for the club information and then ask if you can join. Not much promotion on campus. For business related networking event, there was STAR Management Week which similar to mentorship program in HK. I didn't join any club so I can't comment on that.

Health & Safety

As long as you put on sufficient clothes when you are going out, you should be good to go to survive the winter without getting a cold. There is heater indoor all around in Europe. In general, be careful of your personal belongings and tourists scam when you travelling in tourist hotspots. In Netherlands, be careful on street as there are

Transportation

In Rotterdam, you basically travel around with Tram and Metro. You can get an ISIC-OV chipkaart for student discount for public transport in The Netherlands. If you want to go to cities within The Netherlands and nearby countries (like Belgium), you need to take the train. The transport system in Netherlands is pretty comprehensive, do a google map search will do the job and check the timetable from 9292 app.

Climate

The climate in The Netherlands is generally much dryer than HK with strong breeze. For summer weather, it is similar to autumn in HK. For winter, it is like 0-10 degree, a down jacket is a must with light clothes inside.

Communication

Almost everyone in The Netherlands speak really good English, feel free to talk to them in English. For other parts in Europe, they all maintain a basic level of English, so it's not hard to talk to them if you are willing to try.

Cautionary measures

Keep you \$ in different places when travel and make sure you open Worldwide ATM services for your card. You need to be familiar with the insurance that you were subscribed to and who to contact when emergency and let your family be informed of your travel plan.

Part III. Items to Bring

Down Jacket	Windbreaker
Heat tech	Leg Warmer
Winter Clothes	Autumn Clothes

Travel Adaptor	Electric Outlet
USB Outlet	Portable Charger
Contact Lenses	Earphone
Hair Dryer	Towel
Formal Clothes	Calculator
Water Bottles	Stationery
Personal Toiletry	Smaller Suitcase for travel
Flip Flop	Scarf, Hand Warmers

Useful Link and Contacts

Course Curriculum:

<https://courses.eur.nl/#/>

Housing Option

<http://www.juststayapartments.com/>

Mobile App for transport in Netherlands:

9292



Mobile App for bill splitting: Splitwise