



# EXCHANGE REPORT

## FALL 2018

ERASMUS UNIVERSITY  
ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

NADIA TSE  
MARK & MGMT



# 08 AUG

I arrived at Amsterdam on 22 Aug, which is around a week before the orientation day. Since I would be visiting Amsterdam before heading to Rotterdam, I did not need the pick-up service offered by RSM. However, if you need someone to pick you up at the airport, RSM has offered pick-up service to all exchange students. Detailed information will be sent to you through email or you can also contact your RSM ambassador, who will contact you in early August.



During the 8 days in Amsterdam, since I bought the IAMSTERDAM City Card, I have visited different museums, the Artis Royal Zoo, experienced the canal cruise tour, etc. I also went to the Albert Cuyp Market and tried the stroopwafels and the Dutch herring. I also visited Giethoorn, which is also known as the "Venice of the North". It

is a peaceful village, where you can enjoy a quiet and hustle-free day away from the city center.



## 09 SEP

Classes usually start in early September, I have enrolled 4 different courses during my exchange semester, which are Organisational Theory and Dynamics, Methodology, Corporate Communication and International and Global Communication. EUR organised Heartbeat Festival on campus every year, there would be food trucks, lounge areas, bars and music for students and staff members.



## 10 OCT

In early October, I had my first trip. I went to the Oktoberfest in Munich with my flatmates. Everywhere was filled with festive atmosphere, people dressed in traditional clothings, drink beer and sing together. After that, I also have a short trip to Brussels at the weekend. My friend and I visited many tourist spots and have really delicious Belgium waffles.





# 11 Nov

In early November, there are a few tasks to be completed, therefore I spent most of the time doing essays and presentations. Afterwards, I went to Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, Hallstatt, Cesky Krumlov, Prague and Berlin. These places were all really beautiful and it was a nice escape after the assignment deadlines. I then returned to Rotterdam to prepare for my exams and project in late November.



# 12 DEC

Before the finals, I went to the Northern part of Europe including Rovaniemi, Inari and Stockholm. I visited the Santa Claus Village and had the chance to meet the real Santa. I had my last exam on 10/12, afterwards I went to Portugal with my high school friend and had some of the best Pastel de Nata. I leave Rotterdam for London to visit my other friend for a week. Afterwards, I went to Dublin to visit my aunt and spent a lovely Christmas together. I returned to Hong Kong on 27 Dec. It was definitely a wonderful exchange experience.





# GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

## **Visa procedures**

You would receive emails from RSM regarding the procedures for visa application. Afterwards, you would need to make an appointment at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service office in Hong Kong and bring the letter of acceptance from RSM and the application form to the office for your visa application. The whole process would take around 2 weeks. You would need to pay ~3800 euros to the University, which include the immigration fee and a refundable living fee.

## **Orientation Activities**

There is a compulsory orientation day in late August for RSM exchange students and you would need to pay ~65 euros for that. On the orientation day, you would first have an introduction. Then, you would follow your exchange ambassador for the rest of the activities, including campus hunt and beach day, which is similar to the Odays held by clubs and societies in UST. This would be a great chance to get to know other RSM exchange students.

## **International Service & Activities**

Other than the pick-up service, EUR also provide a variety of activities and services for their exchange students, including Dutch language courses, One Stop Shops, where you can open your bank account, get your mobile sim card, apply for Sports pass, etc. There would also be welcoming ceremony organised by ESN for international students.

# GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

## **Accommodations**

You would receive emails sent from SSH regarding campus accommodations. However, since the campus housing have a very limited availabilities, it is better to apply as early as possible. Other than on-campus housing, there are still other choices, for instance, the student hotel which is around 15 minutes walk to school is also a popular choice among exchange students. For me, since I cannot get into the on-campus housing, therefore I rented the airbnb near the Central Station with 3 other exchange students. Although it is further away from the university, I think it is very convenient because there are many supermarkets and shops around and you can get there within walking distances.

## **Course Registration**

RSM would send you emails regarding course information and registration procedures between April and June and you would received the course confirmation emails around mid August. Other than courses offered by RSM, you can also register for courses from other faculties. You need to check if there are any timetable clashes, especially for exam dates because the registration system would not notify you about exam time clashes and there would not be make-up exams if there is a clash. Course registration dates and add drop period is different for different faculties, therefore make sure you check carefully not to miss any deadlines.



# GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

The background of the slide is a faded photograph of a European city square. In the center, there is a large, dark statue of a group of people. In the foreground, several musicians are playing brass instruments, including saxophones and a tuba. The background shows red-roofed buildings and a clear sky.

## Teaching & Assessing Methods

Lectures are not mandatory but highly encouraged, workshops and tutorials are mandatory. Attendance will be taken, but attendance taking varies across different courses, you may get a fail in some courses due to poor attendance. You can check these information on the course guide. You would be assessed likely through quizzes, finals, presentation and papers, which is very similar to those in UST.

## Sports & Recreation Facilities

You can get a Sport Pass for 65 euros for 3 months, which you can join different sports classes e.g. yoga, pilates, indoor cycling and more.

## Finance & Banking

Most of the students would open a student bank account at the ING Bank. You would need a bank account in order to get back the refundable living fee you previously pay to the university. It would take around 10 working days to get back the refund and it also take some time to open the bank account, therefore make sure to bring enough cash with yourself. You can almost pay with your debit card everywhere in the Netherlands, even within Europe, so it is very convenient.



# GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

## Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There is a student association called the ESN, which they would organise regular activities for students to join. For example, they have organised trips to the Oktoberfest in Munich every year. If you sign up as their member, you would get discount for ESN activities.

## Health and Safety

If you are not feeling well, there is a clinic 5 minutes away from the campus. The clinic can be quite busy sometimes, therefore, you may need to make an appointment. The Netherlands is quite safe, but of course it is always better to keep an eye on your own belongings.

## Food

I usually cook most of the time, Albert Heijn, Dirk and Jumbo are some of the popular supermarkets in Rotterdam. Since I also lived very close to Chinatown, I can also get many asian food and ingredients at the Chinese supermarkets. There are also many restaurants near Central Station if you want to dine out.



# GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

## Climate

The weather in the Netherlands during the Autumn and Winter is cool and dry. However, it is usually very windy, as you can tell there are windmills in many places in the Netherlands. The time when I arrived Rotterdam in September, the weather is still cool but it starts getting much colder towards late November. It is especially chilly because of the wind. Therefore, a down jacket is a must if you are afraid of the cold.

## Communication

The majority of dutch people speaks fluent English, so you do not have to worry about having any communication issues. For your mobile phones, there are quite a few mobile service providers to choose from. I used the sim card from lycamobile most of the time, however, KPN and Lebara are also some of the popular choices. The speed is more or less the same for all providers and only slight difference in price. You can get a free Lebara sim card from ESN but you need to top up the sim yourself.

## Transportation

There are mainly 3 types of transportation, tram, train and bus. You can apply an ov chipkaart and isic card for ard 250 hkd, you can get related information from the RSM exchange facebook group. With the isic card, you can enjoy various discounts from isic's partner like hotels.com, flixbus, etc



## ITEMS TO BRING

Since I lived in an airbnb, a lot of daily necessities e.g. kitchen utensils, hair dryer, bedsheets, pillows, etc are already provided. However, you can always get these necessities at HEMA, which is similar to IKEA. You can get almost everything from HEMA. Below are some other essentials to bring:

- personal documents e.g. letter of acceptance, visa, passport, etc
- chargers
- adapters
- down jacket
- gloves
- coat
- cash
- medicine

## USEFUL LINKS AND APPLICATIONS

- <https://www.eur.nl/en-9292>
- EUR Study Room
- NS Reisplanner Xtra

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk)