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Erasmus Exchange Program report

I went for exchange program on the Fall semester 2014/2015. It was a brilliant experience.

After application process, the final result on which University I would go came out in around April. Then I started to prepare documents in accordance with the requirement of Erasmus Program, with the assistance of the officers at International Office of faculty of Economics, namely Judit Striker, Hernyik Dora and Andras Tetenyi. They were all extremely supportive. I have received the support from officers at Corvinus International Office who are responsible for out-going Erasmus students as well.

I started to contact the host university in working with learning agreement, visa application, and other procedures relating to my studying at Rotterdam. The staffs from the host university side were also very helpful since they always provided me timely support.

The website of Erasmus University Rotterdam provides very detail information for incoming Erasmus students, including all matters such as visa application, accommodation, available curricular, student life and so on.

The accommodation provided by the university was too expensive (EUR 550/month) in the limit of the grant I was provided (EUR 400/month), therefore I had to look at several websites on housing in Rotterdam. Finally I found a flat re-rented by a student who was going to take part in exchange program as well during that semester. The flat costed me EUR 300/month. The student who re-rented the flat was also very enthusiastic in guiding me through preparing documents for my staying during the period.

In around June, I was looking for some international students organizations in Rotterdam to take part in so as to have a dynamic exchange semester. I applied and was offered to be board member of the International Students Rotterdam, which made my exchange period much more colorful. With the organization, I took part in organizing many cultural, workshops, and sport events for international students like me. In the same time I enjoyed all events held by the Erasmus University ESN (Erasmus Student Network) as well. They proved themselves to be a group of very talented, professional and open-minded students.

In study aspect, the learning system in Erasmus University is a bit different from Corvinus. One semester is divided into two blocks. The workload for each course is extremely heavy that each normal student would take only two or three courses per block. I didn't know that at the beginning, and the requirement of Erasmus Program was to take minimum 30 credits per semester, so I registered for 5 courses during the first block, and 3 for the second. I did enjoy the very high standard education system that Erasmus University provided. However due to taking too many courses, the results weren’t satisfying. And I actually was so disappointed because I believed the purpose of Erasmus exchange program was also to exchange culture, enjoy new social experience, but the fact was that I had to study too much. So I wrote an email to ask Judit and Dora about the 30 credit requirement. They let me know that for Erasmus University, which is a special case, only 24 credits are required. But by that time I already finished my first block. I hope those kinds of information would be delivered more accurately later on.

The most awesome feature of Erasmus University is that they provide a remarkably dynamic environment. Plenty of workshops were organized by different students and institutions at the beginning of the semester. During the period, the University organized very useful practical events to help students to gain better understanding and experience in a real working environment. They cooperate with all biggest investment banks of the world to hold the Banking Cycle event, which provide students the change to be hired by those banks by taking part in different workshops and assessment center. All Big4 firms were also invited to co-organize another event called Big4 Cycle focusing on Finance and Accounting students. All was extremely productive, professional, and appealing to all dynamic talented students.
Halloween party held by International Students Rotterdam
I went to different places in the Netherlands during the period. This is Zeeland.

Zeeland’s harbor
Seafood in Amsterdam’s market

The Rotterdam’s new market hall
Sinterklass (Netherlands’ traditional Christmas) party with my friend’s family
New friends from one event organized by ESN
Erasmus Bridge by night

Rotterdam’s Sunset
To sum up, although there were some minor issues in terms of administration, the experience was so valuable that I would recommend every other student to take part in at least once in your whole student life.