CEMS exchange in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

I spent my CEMS MiM exchange semester at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University in the Netherlands. The CEMS MiM is a global Master’s in International Management program and an alliance of 32 top business schools, around 70 corporate partners and 7 NGOs.

Living costs and Campus Mundi

As the living costs are quite high in Rotterdam, I applied for the Campus Mundi Scholarship and that is what I would advise for everyone who is going to spend their exchange semester in the Netherlands. The total living expenses were around 1000-1100 EUR/month. The Campus Mundi covers about 60% of the costs, so be prepared that you’ll need to find other financial sources to cover your costs.

Accommodation, transportation

Finding accommodation can be quite difficult in the Netherlands, therefore it is important to start searching for it 3-4 months before arrival. One of the most comfortable options is to register for a Short Stay accommodation which is provided by the SSH Student Housing corporation. These rooms cost around 450-550 EUR/month. The registration for these types of accommodations already starts in April for the Autumn semester and they fill up very quickly!

Another option is to look for a room/flat on the private market. I found my room this way, I rented a flat with three other international girls in Kralingen. I believe Kralingen is one of the best areas to live in Rotterdam, as it is very close to the city centre (Cool district) and to the university as well. It can be worth to check out Housing Anywhere and Roomplaza too, both offer accommodation for international students. The prices can vary a lot on the private market, but most of the rooms cost 500-600 EUR/month.

As for the transportation, the most popular way to get around in Rotterdam is by bike. The cheapest option is probably to rent a bike from Swapfiets, they provide a good quality bike, which costs 12 EUR/month with a student card. It takes about 15-20 minutes from the city centre to get to the Erasmus University by bike. Public transportation and trains on the other hand are quite expensive.

Studying at RSM

The Rotterdam School of Management has a block system, which means that the semester is divides into two blocks, both involve a seven-week long study period with courses and then one exam week after each block. Students usually take two courses per block which is more than enough. The university can be quite demanding at times as you need to prepare for the courses weekly. There are usually a lot of academic papers you need to read for the classes, there’s a lot of groupwork involved as well and the classes are more interactive in most cases than at Hungarian universities. If someone is ready to learn about new perspectives, immerse themselves in a new topic or challenge themselves, then I highly recommend choosing RSM, because the quality of education is high, and it provides a lot of opportunities to grow professionally and personally as well.
Social life and travelling

There are several student organizations at the university, the interests range from sports through fashion to travelling. As I was studying CEMS, I took part in a lot of programs organized by CEMS Club Rotterdam. We had many social events and gatherings like picnic, biking dinner, karaoke nights, Sinterklaas and parties at Witte de Withstraat. We also took a bike trip to Delft and did some sightseeing there together. Moreover, the CEMS Club often organised events with the Alumni or with corporate partners of CEMS like case-solving, consulting day or Alumni drinks. During the semester I made some very good friends, we often cooked together and celebrated birthdays with each other.

In my free time I discovered the beautiful cities of the Netherlands. I visited Amsterdam, The Hague and Maastricht. Fortunately, the train connections are very good in this country, so you can reach any of these destinations easily. However, be careful, as the trains are often late or cancelled to due to weather conditions or repairs. I also travelled to London by train through the Channel Tunnel to visit a friend. When I had the time, I often biked around the beautiful Lake of Kralingen (Kralingse Bos) in Rotterdam as well. Altogether, I made friendships, lived beautiful moments and gained amazing experiences through this semester.

Advice to future Campus Mundi students

I would advise you to take the opportunity to get to know new people and new cultures, be open-minded and get out of your comfort zone! And one more thing: travel as much as you can in your free time, because that’s the best way to gain memories that will last forever! :)

![Image of Amsterdam](image1)
![Image of friends](image2)
![Image of Kralingen Lake](image3)