Erasmus studies
academic year 2013/2014

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6 Months

I chose to participate in the Erasmus mobility programme because I couldn’t see any reasons not to. It was a chance to flip your life sideways in the middle of your studies and have an adventure. I imagined that moving to a new country would be a major experience of its own, allowing me to not only gain new insights about the world, but about how I interact with it in different situations, too.

My predictions were more than correct. Amsterdam was this quirky mix of all sorts of cultures, a thriving hub for activities of all kinds, and lots of bycicles...lots of bycicles. I had a great time. Surprisingly, one of the reasons for it was due to the quality of studies offered by the host university. I had the chance to take master’s courses which had a very different approach to the study of law, focusing a lot more on promoting discussion than teaching theory. I also had a chance to meet a whole range of different people, both exchange students and locals. The best part about that was that I got to reinvent myself a little bit – see if I could convince complete strangers and myself, that I was a certain way. It was a great time for self-reflection, without a doubt.

If I had to discuss certain gains, I would have to say that going on exchange was a huge lesson about independence. Of course, by now people might be living without parents and would qualify themselves as independent. The word takes up a completely new meaning when you have nobody at all in the country. I learned what my strengths and weaknesses were by being thrown into the deep end of the pool. I learned a lot academically, as well.

The most important advice I would give students considering the mobility programme is to stop considering and to do it. The world is a huge place, and there is so much you can learn by just having a different point of view. There probably won’t be a time in the future where you have as little responsibilities as now, so don’t think about it too much and apply. A practical piece of advice would be to bring some extra cash. I cannot stress this enough, I was living off rice and noodles – now I hate rice and noodles, which is unfortunate, because I used to really like the two. Don’t make the same mistake I did by trying to rock it as a hardcore student. Ask your parents for some lunch money.