



Maastricht University

2018-2019 Spring

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Marketing (MARK)



Part I: Monthly Activity Log

January

Without a doubt, I arrived at Schiphol Airport after 13 hours of flight and everything was completely new to me. With 2.5 hours of train, I finally arrived at Maastricht and got myself ready for my exchange life in The Netherlands. Maastricht was also a beautiful city with stunning views and amazing vibes around the neighborhood. Also, if you are a coffee lover like me, you would definitely love there since there were cafes and coffeeshops everywhere :)



February

The study period began on 4/2. As you may know there were 2 study periods for 1 semester in Maastricht University and per period lasted for 6 weeks. I took 2 courses this period with Marketing and Supply Chain Management, and Cognition, Learning and Human Performance. The PBL learning was totally different from all kinds of lectures or even tutorials that we used to have in UST. Everybody had to prepare for each lesson and some of them may need to lead the session. I was surprised and not feeling comfortable about the workload by the PBL's, but then I got used to it very quickly. And the good thing was, I could learn DJing after i had met a

couple DJs at school and that was just a moment of dream-come-true. In late February, me and my friend shared great moments during the Carnival week.



March

The study was going fine and I got a 2-week break before my exams and final presentations. I travelled to Germany for 1 week with my wonderful friends from CUHK and Dubai that i met here and we had been to a lot of cities. From Cologne to Bremen then to Hamburg, we had a good time in Germany and I got to say the REAL pork knuckle was much more delicious than I thought. Personally, I would recommend you guys go visit Bremen since there were a lot of places that you could take good photos with. But a tip for travelling in Germany was ALWAYS being careful to the notorious trainline company --- DB. Honestly, this company would never launch their



trains on time so make sure you got enough things to do during the waiting time on the platform. You may download their app to keep tracking on their schedule.



April

The last period of study was not bad even though I thought I would probably fail all my courses, but things turned out I got a very good grade on both of them. For celebration, I travelled to Malta with my wonderful friends again and Italy with my friend Terry from UST. Malta was perfect for travelling since everything was cheaper than other European countries and it was not far away from The Netherlands. I mean the views from the beach and their islands were absolutely astonishing. They also got better Gelato than the ones that I had in Italy (which I am not KIDDING!). For my second trip, I went to Italy, a place that I dreamed to be there since I was a little kid which it did not let me down. Together, me and Terry visited Rome, Napoli, Palermo, and Catania in 9 days. People always say the south of every country is the real part of the country, and I must agree with that. Palermo and Catania which were in Sicily were the most amazing cities in Italy. Cool dudes, good vibes and local friends that we met during our trip were the

best part of our Italian experience. Honestly, pasta outside Italy was never real PASTA!





May

After a 3-week break I finally got back to school to start off my final study period. Although most of our exchange students just took 1 course, I took 2 courses again to transfer more credit back UST. This period I took Ethics, Organizations and Society, and Service Marketing. The first course was equivalent to MGMT2130 which was also teaching ethics. My tutor, Nick, was the best tutor I ever had since he would not just sit there and teach things directly from the learning materials but asking us to share a lot of ethical problems in our countries and

to give solutions. It really helped us to have more engagement during the session and reminded me of the problems that we had in mainland China. My whole focus was highlighting the human rights issues in China which I ended up a very good grade. But for the second course it was just a bad experience since we all felt like we had learned nothing from the course. From the exam to the project there were no clear guidelines so everyone of us was frustrated about how the course was designed and even sometimes our tutor seemed to be skeptical about the course. I almost failed the course but still nailed it with scoring 56/100 in the finals (which below 55 was a fail).





June

My last month in Maastricht was my unforgettable memory in my life since we all had to leave and go back to our country very soon. I spent most of the time with my best friends from Brazil, Spain, Ireland, and Dubai and all of them were super amazing people. Meeting new friends from different countries was just a wonderful experience. We talked and learned a lot about our countries and our personal

things. I still remembered the good times that we cooked, hang out to drink, went clubbing to dance etc. And those were things that we would never have if we weren't going out for an exchange. After saying goodbye to my treasured friends, I went travelling with my family in the last week before coming back to Hong Kong.



Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa procedure

Among all exchange information that you may need to know, applying for a Visa is THE MOST ESSENTIAL and THE MOST ANNOYING part for your exchange. Since the application procedure could be lasted more than a month, it is the best for you to start ASAP once you can act. You would first need to hand in all the required documents and submit those online, then send those by mail to The Netherlands AGAIN. So do not think it is over until you pick up your VISA in the consulate. Please note that you would have to visit the consulate TWICE for picking up your VISA after all the documents were confirmed.

Orientation Activity

There will be a 2-day orientation before your study begins. Both days are chill and during the orientation you will get the information about the city, the university, also some important reminders (such as opening a bank account) in the Netherlands.

International Service and Activities

I mean it really depends on which type of person you are when we are talking about international activities. ISN and SCOPE are the two main student organization that provide international service and holding activities that you may consider joining them. But after receiving their spamming emails about telling me to join their activities every day, I decided to just join their parties sometimes but not their membership.

Accommodations

For most of the exchange students we all lived in the UM Guest House. There are 3 buildings in total which are M-building, P-building, and C-building. Personally, I would recommend M-building since they have a big private room with toilet. P-building got private kitchen but a shared room and the smell of cooking could go everywhere. C-building is similar to M-

building but a smaller room. For monthly rent of a private room with toilet in the M-building like mine would cost 545 euros per month.

Course Registration

For course registration, it is very easy to do it just follow by what they said in the email. Unlike UST, they don't have a waiting list or add-drop period. Good thing is you would not need to wait and be worried about the limited quota for their lessons like how we are during our add-drop period every time. Just make sure the courses you took are equivalent to our courses in UST so you can complete your credit transfer.

Teaching and Assessment method

Same as HKU, Maastricht University is famous for their PBL learning. Unlike any kinds of lectures or tutorials, each session will last for 2 hours and students would hold the session instead of the tutors! Normally, we will be separated into groups and each group have to hold the session one by one. Tutors are just there to help you out during the session if anything goes wrong or the presenting group are not doing a good job. So make sure you did your preparation EVERY TIME since you may need to ask or answer some of the questions during the tutorials.

Some courses also would need a final exam. Interesting thing is no matter how good you are, once you failed the exam, you WON'T pass the course. So Strive your best to pass the final exam or all your effort would be neglected.

Sports and Recreational Facilities

If you are living at the guesthouse, congratulations since there is a wonderful gym called Il Fiore with just 5 minutes of walking. The gym is built inside a CHURCH and yes they got everything that is perfect for your workout. Also, the monthly membership is just 27 euros which is much cheaper than the HK's!

Finance & Banking

It is better for everyone to have a local bank account in The Netherlands. Most of us chose the ING Bank to open an account but the debit you would have is only a maestro card. Make sure that you have a credit card that could do the payment in Europe when dealing with flight ticket and hotel booking for your travel.

Also, some of our friends complained that the ING Bank did not give them the right to use the online banking. So make sure you keep in contact with them for using their finance and banking service.

Social clubs & Networking opportunities

Most of my friends I met them in the accommodation or university. It was easy to meet new friends from different countries so no worries for this part.

Health & Safety

Maastricht, or The Netherlands in general, is the safest place in Europe in my opinion. The people has high self-discipline and are very kind to the other. Instead, you should be careful when you are travelling to other countries. Like a couple of my friends got their wallets stolen in Barcelona, Spain.

Transportation

OK so the first thing is you need to deal with the transportation within The Netherlands. Get yourself an OV Chipkaart which is important for you to get on buses and trains. And for travelling, usually there are 3 choices: Flight, Train, Flixbus. You can buy a flight ticket through different websites. And for train, surprisingly it could be expensive in Europe in general. You can download the NS App which is from the national train company in The Netherlands to check the price and schedule. Last but not least, i heard people use Flixbus which is a bus company for travelling. The ticket is cheap but personally I hate travelling by bus since i felt trapped when I got on the bus.

In Maastricht, I recommend you rent a bike so you can go anywhere in a convenient way.

Food

The average cost of dining in a restaurant is pretty expensive. I cooked almost every day when I was staying in Maastricht because I loved to cook. There is a local market every Friday in the city centre that you can always pick up fresh yet cheap food :)



Climate

It rains a lot. The temperature could go up and down during spring semester. In late January and early February, it would snow sometimes. But during May and June it could go up to 20 something degrees.

Communication

Even the national language is Dutch, people speak perfect English in The Netherlands. So no worries.

Cautionary measures

Always be careful and keep an eye on your pockets and your passport. My friend lost her wallet with her ID card in Hong Kong which could be a problem when you finish your studies and got back.

Part III: Items to bring

Passport

Cash

Laptop

Jackets

Charger

Umbrella

Daily Clothing

*P.S. Personally, I would just bring my laptop, clothing, and essentials with me because you don't really need so many things and you can always buy them here.

Part IV: Useful Links and Contacts

Maastricht University: <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>

Student Portal: <http://studentportal.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>

Printing Services: <https://myprint.maastrichtuniversity.nl/>

Study Drive: <https://www.studydrive.net/universities/maastricht-university/>