

Exchange Report

During the Fall 2014 sem1.6h6 TJ6.967 0 Td(d)-0.7(i)-3.2(n)-0.6t)-6(h)10.2(e)-6()10.6N)0.7(e)-6(t)-6(h)-0.7(e)-6

mandatory "Introduction to Dutch Culture and Society" class that is intended to give students an experience of Dutch Culture beyond their classes, and includes lectures, field trips and independent cultural activities.

One of the most iconic things about Dutch culture is biking. Biking is one of the most efficient ways to get around and the infrastructure is fully supportive of this with clearly designated bike paths on almost every street. My university offered a bike rental service that I found to be much easier than having to independently find a bike then sell it when the semester was over. It was also useful because the rental organization also took care of any necessary maintenance for free. Another benefit of studying in the Netherlands is that the country has one of the highest rates of non-native English speakers in Europe, so essentially everyone who is Dutch also speaks and understands English. This makes it easy to communicate with people, but also hard to learn Dutch as the Dutch will usually respond to you in English even if you speak to them in their own language. The Hague is known as the International City of Peace and Justice, and because it is such an international city there are many institutions to visit, such as the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Dutch Parliament and many museums. The city is also very well located for day-trips to other parts of the Netherlands including Leiden, Delft or Utrecht, and is only a 40 minute train ride from Amsterdam and is close to the beach. One cultural difference is that the Netherlands is a very





