

The Gezelligheid (coziness) of Amsterdam

“To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, to gain all while you give, to roam the roads of lands remote: to travel is to live.”

--Hans Christian Anderson.

Introduction

At the end of January

to SFU and were usually clearly laid out in the timetable of the semester. One thing I found was that there were a lot more guest lectures, which gave interesting insights but sometimes strayed from the point of the class. Grading was done on a ten point scale, with 10 being the highest. Professors were often fair markers and were usually willing to accommodate student needs. There was also a lot more participation in lectures and in tutorials or labs.

The city of Amsterdam is absolutely beautiful with lots to see and do. However it can get quite cold, and is often very windy (must be why there are so many windmills!). It is also rich in culture with endless winding streets lined with tiny stores, bars and cafes. There are also so many museums and if you buy a Museum Card you can get into a number of museums in Amsterdam as well as the rest of the Netherlands.



Reflection After Exchange

There were a number of challenges that I faced but I am extremely grateful to the amazing, open and accepting friends that I met. If it were not for these people my exchange would have been a lot different. I missed my home, family and significant other and it was hard to keep in touch because of the less than reliable internet connection. However, it was important to experience everything as it happened and not to dwell on being so far from home. My new friends helped me through all of that and it really made me be mindful of always being open to new experiences and to new people in my everyday life. It put into perspective how tough it is as an exchange student and should put in more effort to ensure international students feel welcome. Overall I want to make sure that I embrace the differences and maintain an open attitude towards everyone. I will miss the exposure to different languages and cultures and the feeling of a long history that each city has, as well as how easy it was to travel to another country. Truly take in the experience and make the most of your opportunity and try everything.

