

Partner University	University of Amsterdam	Country	Netherlands
Major/ Faculty	Humanities	Dates of Exchange	Aug 2015 – Dec 2015

I just came back from my exchange in the Netherlands, which is a really awesome country to live and study. I did not expect to have this much fun before I actually went

world, and I want to actually live there to see how lives there would look like, since you wouldn't see the 'real' and 'authentic' aspects if you are just being a tourist. I am pretty sure there are lots of options besides the Netherlands, but when I first looked at it I felt so tempted because it sounds different and unknown for me. Another option of mine was Copenhagen, which is also a great city, but since University of Amsterdam has more potential courses that I can transfer back I picked it eventually.

Talking about the semester's ending time, it depends on which semester you are planning to go, and if you feel okay to 'lose' one or two semesters when you finish the program. In countries like Australia, New Zealand or England, for instance, school will not finish until late January or it starts from February to June, so you might want to take this under your consideration if you are planning your graduation or enrolment for next semester etc..

After I have decided to go to Amsterdam, I checked some information about this country and the city, getting some common sense about what you should do or what you should not. SFU will send you some emails about what to prepare, which I found really helpful. They have really detailed instructions about what you should do next and how you could contact the advisors in your host university. It is really important to check your emails regularly because you may get important guidelines about getting your visa and resident permit, applying accommodation and enrolling courses. Leave enough time for each of these stages just in case anything happened and you still can have extra time without being panic. If you need to apply for a visa, the consulate of the Netherlands is near Burrard station, and all the other consulates are located in that area too. Make sure you have brought all information to show the staff and book the appointment in advance.

Arrival

After I have arrived in Schipol Airport, there are people from UVA waiting for me and other exchange students from all over the world, so I did not feel very worried about finding my way to school and accommodation. They split us into groups and then they brought us to the main campus for registration. You can get your student card and keys for dorm there. I am staying with De Key (the other one is DUWO) and there are shuttles taking us to our dorms, which I think was really considerate. The place I lived was pretty close to my school buildings and to the city centre that it's convenient to go to anywhere else in town. There are a lot of canals in Amsterdam, which will really make your day when you go out in the morning with those beautiful views. Here is one photo that I took near where I lived:

cities in Europe, within two hours and flights are really cheap.



