

(she/her)

SFU Student Undergraduate

Arts + Social Sciences

Initiative: Global Skills Opportunity

Home Country: Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Program: Study Abroad › Exchange

University: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Story Faculty: Arts + Social Sciences › International Studies

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I have always wanted to go on an exchange ever since my friends back in high school were participating in them. I was definitely envious, hearing their own stories of exploring new countries, cultures, meeting new people, and experiencing a different life altogether. So, the thought has always been in the back of my mind, but never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would actually make my dreams turn into a reality.

I think have always known I wanted to do my exchange in Europe somewhere. Mainly because I have never been to Europe prior to this experience, and choosing Amsterdam was an easy choice for me, as most people there speak English, there's a huge international community, and it's easy to travel to other European cities.

The first few weeks were a whirlwind of meeting so many new people, getting acquainted with how the bureaucratic system works in a foreign country, as well as participating in the host school's welcome activities. It is my first time being away from home and my parents for an extended period of time, but I appreciate the freedom and have already learned so much about myself. I know that I can do things that seem scary to me and I will be okay. So if you need a sign to make your dreams into a reality- this is it. If I can do it, I know you can :)

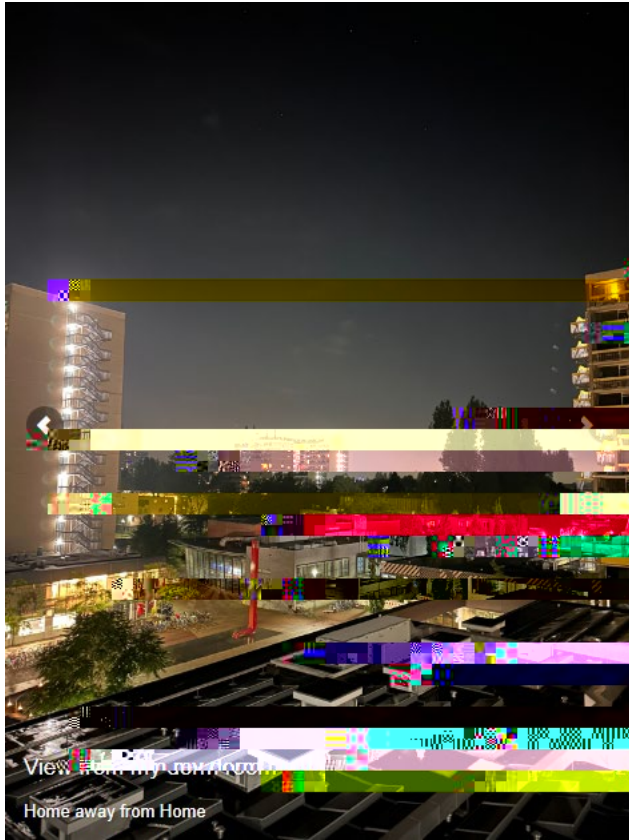
Semester: Fall

Year: 2023

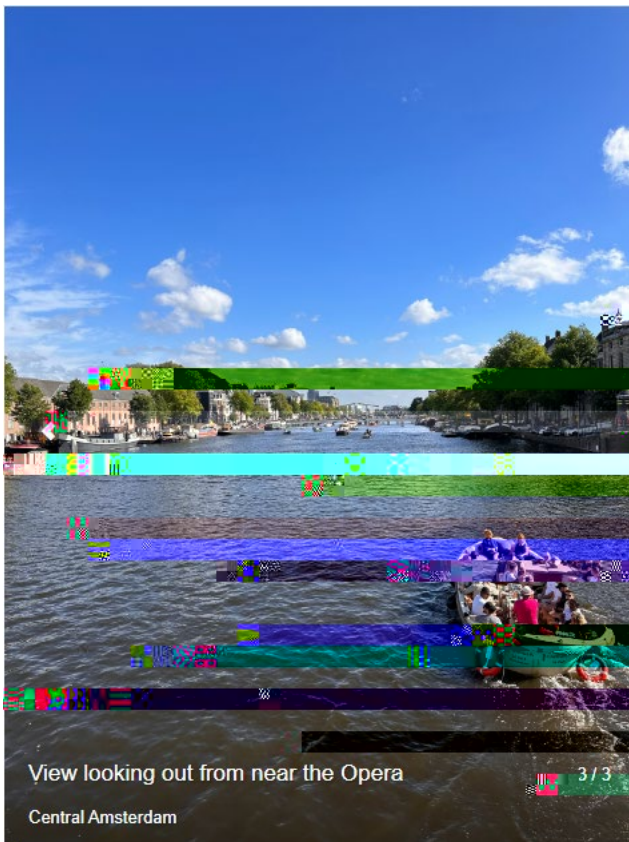


Walking by a Canal

Near Central Amsterdam



View from my tower
Home away from Home



View looking out from near the Opera
Central Amsterdam