

Robert Hachmeister

Social management

I went to Amsterdam in the fall of 2008. It was the first semester as a 2nd year student. I chose Amsterdam/the Netherlands because I wanted to go to a “big” city and not a small town, turns out Amsterdam is quite a small town. I absolutely love it here anyways.

Since they don't have Social management at INHOLLAND I was put in the 'International Business and Management Studies' course. There wasn't really anything to prepare, you can't choose any classes unless you are 4th year student. So basically you have to follow the program.

The university has a partnership with DeKey, which is the housing company. They own the containers next to the university, the place I call my home. Accommodation is super expensive and not easy to find in Amsterdam. I would definitely recommend to live in the containers because all the other exchange students will live there as well. It's a bit like a class trip. I don't want to freak out anyone but it's possible that you see a mouse from time to time invading your container.

Well what can I say, I like the hogeschool INHOLLAND, the quality of the university and the program definitely contributed to my decision to stay here. They somehow try to organize everything in dept but don't realize that there is always something that doesn't work out according to their plans. It's safe to say that INHOLLAND has a bit of an organizational problem. Let's put that organizational stuff aside, the things you are being taught are highly practical and very compressed. It actually feels like you learn something useful, something you know how to apply. That is something I didn't really experience in Germany. It's less theory in Holland. You also have projects all the time, within the projects you will have to apply the newly gained knowledge. There is a cafeteria – not worth mentioning though, only disgusting fast food which could also be labeled as poison. There are computers everywhere. You can also borrow a laptop or digital camera or things like that from the service desk. They also have a library which is not worth mentioning either because you won't be able to borrow any books you need there anyways. There is also a student pub with moderate prices on the university's compound. In the summer they move it outside so you can have a beer outside after class.

In my free time I did all sorts of things. There are loads of bars, museums, clubs, parks, coffeshops and markets. I also have the feeling that there are sales all the time. There are certainly quite a lot of things you can do, trips to neighboring cities for example. Utrecht, Rotterdam and Den Haag are very close. But yeah you should know how to spend your free time. Amsterdam offers the same as any other European city. Something I should maybe also mention is that Amsterdam is very international, if you spend your evening on warmoestraat for example you will rarely encounter anyone speaking Dutch.

What can I say, I love the Netherlands. Everything is so peaceful here, everyone seems to get along very well. Everyone is extraordinary friendly and helpful. It's just the perfect place to be.

Whether you decide to go for an exchange to the Netherlands or not, the important thing is that you go somewhere. It definitely changed me a lot for the better and for that I am very grateful. I would recommend everyone to do an exchange semester, year or internship abroad.