

# My Report

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## 1. Name (optional)

Text Response
Brian Gabbay
Todd Snyder
Adam Carmeli
Josh Rosenbaum
Elisabeth Symczak
Alexander Duong
Talya Ercag
John Robson
Jamie Di Rosario-Connor
Kocine Chen
Olivia Ulam

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	11

## 2. E-mail Address (optional)

Text Response
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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	11

### 3. Location

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
39	Aalto University School of Economics		0	0%
4	Australian National University		0	0%
6	Chinese University of Hong Kong		0	0%
5	Copenhagen Business School		0	0%
3	Corvinus University of Budapest		0	0%
37	Chulalongkorn University		0	0%
2	ESADE Business School		0	0%
40	ESCEM		0	0%
38	ESCP-EAP		0	0%
65	Fudan University		0	0%
13	HEC School of Management		0	0%
7	Hong Kong UNiversity of Science and Technology		0	0%
58	ICHEC Brussels		0	0%
63	IE School of Business		0	0%
15	Korea University Business School		0	0%
16	National University of Singapore		0	0%
18	National Taiwan University		0	0%
27	Peking University		0	0%
14	Rotterdam School of Management		13	100%
61	Seoul National University		0	0%
19	Singapore Management University		0	0%
1	Thammasat University		0	0%
57	Universidade de Nova de Lisbon		0	0%
64	Universiidad de Carlos Madrid III		0	0%
11	Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi		0	0%
62	University of Hong Kong		0	0%
9	University of Manchester, Manchester Business School		0	0%
10	University of Melbourne		0	0%
12	University of Navarra		0	0%
17	University of St. Gallen		0	0%
59	Vienna University of Economics and Business		0	0%
8	WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management		0	0%
	Total		13	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	14
Max Value	14
Mean	14.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	13

4. What is your academic status this semester?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Sophomore		0	0%
2	Junior		11	85%
3	Senior		2	15%
	Total		13	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	2
Max Value	3
Mean	2.15
Variance	0.14
Standard Deviation	0.38
Total Responses	13

5. What is your expected date of graduation from USC (Semester and year, eg Fall 2009)?

Text Response
Spring 2010
Fall 2009
Spring 2011
Spring 2010
May 2012
Spring 2012
Fall 2012
Spring 2012
Spring 2013
Spring 2013
Spring 2014
Spring 2013
Spring 2014

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

6. What is your major?

Text Response	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Admin	
Accounting, Business	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
Business Administration	
BUAD/EALC	
Business Administration	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

7. What is your concentration (Business majors only)?

Text Response	
International Business	
International Business	
Financial Analysis and Valuation	
International Business	
International Business	
International Business	
Entrepreneurship/International Business Management	
Intl Business	
International	
N/A	
International Business	
International Business	
none	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

8. Please indicate the term in which you were abroad (semester and year, eg Fall 2009).

Text Response	
Spring 2009	
Spring 2009	
Spring 2010	
Spring 2010	
Spring 2011	
Spring 2011	
Spring 2011	
Spring 2011	
Spring 2012	
Spring 2012	
Spring 2013	
Spring 2013	
Spring 2013	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13



9. I. GENERAL PROGRAM EVALUATION Please rate the following items:

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	1. Your overall satisfaction with the program.	0	0	1	5	7	13	4.46

Statistic	1. Your overall satisfaction with the program.
Min Value	3
Max Value	5
Mean	4.46
Variance	0.44
Standard Deviation	0.66
Total Responses	13

10.

#	Question	Not at all so	Somewhat so	Neutral	Mostly so	Very much so	Total Responses	Mean
1	2. To what extent did the program meet your expectations?	0	2	0	5	6	13	4.15
2	3. To what extent was your participation in the program a valuable learning experience?	0	0	0	1	12	13	4.92

Statistic	2. To what extent did the program meet your expectations?	3. To what extent was your participation in the program a valuable learning experience?
Min Value	2	4
Max Value	5	5
Mean	4.15	4.92
Variance	1.14	0.08
Standard Deviation	1.07	0.28
Total Responses	13	13

11.

#	Question	Would not recommend at all	May recommend with reservations	Neutral	Would surely recommend	Would recommend most strongly	Total Responses	Mean
1	4. To what extent would you recommend this program to other USC students?	0	1	2	3	7	13	4.23

Statistic	4. To what extent would you recommend this program to other USC students?
Min Value	2
Max Value	5
Mean	4.23
Variance	1.03
Standard Deviation	1.01
Total Responses	13

12. II. ACADEMIC PROGRAM

#	Question	Not at all so	Somewhat so	Neutral	Mostly so	Very much so	Total Responses	Mean
1	5. To what extent were your courses intellectually challenging?	0	5	5	1	2	13	3.00
2	6. How comparable was the quality of instruction and academic demand of classes to that of USC?	4	3	4	1	1	13	2.38

Statistic	5. To what extent were your courses intellectually challenging?	6. How comparable was the quality of instruction and academic demand of classes to that of USC?
Min Value	2	1
Max Value	5	5
Mean	3.00	2.38
Variance	1.17	1.59
Standard Deviation	1.08	1.26
Total Responses	13	13

13.

#	Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses	Mean
1	7. The grading system used in the courses was explained.	0	2	2	8	1	13	3.62
2	8. I was able to register for all the classes that I wanted.	0	3	0	2	8	13	4.15

Statistic	7. The grading system used in the courses was explained.	8. I was able to register for all the classes that I wanted.
Min Value	2	2
Max Value	5	5
Mean	3.62	4.15
Variance	0.76	1.64
Standard Deviation	0.87	1.28
Total Responses	13	13

14.

#	Question	Not at all so	Somewhat so	Neutral	Mostly so	Very much so	Total Responses	Mean
1	9. To what extent were you prepared for the coursework?	0	1	1	6	5	13	4.15
2	10. To what extent do you feel you were immersed in the culture of the host country?	0	2	1	6	4	13	3.92
3	11. To what extent did you gain a better appreciation of the host culture's perspectives?	0	0	2	5	6	13	4.31

Statistic	9. To what extent were you prepared for the coursework?	10. To what extent do you feel you were immersed in the culture of the host country?	11. To what extent did you gain a better appreciation of the host culture's perspectives?
Min Value	2	2	3
Max Value	5	5	5
Mean	4.15	3.92	4.31
Variance	0.81	1.08	0.56
Standard Deviation	0.90	1.04	0.75
Total Responses	13	13	13

15.

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	12. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the content of the courses you took.	0	4	4	4	1	13	3.15
2	13. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the quality of instruction.	1	3	4	4	1	13	3.08

Statistic	12. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the content of the courses you took.	13. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the quality of instruction.
Min Value	2	1
Max Value	5	5
Mean	3.15	3.08
Variance	0.97	1.24
Standard Deviation	0.99	1.12
Total Responses	13	13

16.

#	Question	Very low	Somewhat low	Average	Higher than average	Very high	Total Responses	Mean
1	14. Please rate the overall level of faculty interest in students.	1	3	6	3	0	13	2.85

Statistic	14. Please rate the overall level of faculty interest in students.
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.85
Variance	0.81
Standard Deviation	0.90
Total Responses	13



17.

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	15. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the academic program.	0	5	2	5	1	13	3.15

Statistic	15. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the academic program.
Min Value	2
Max Value	5
Mean	3.15
Variance	1.14
Standard Deviation	1.07
Total Responses	13

**18.** III. LANGUAGE PREPARATION If you did not take a foreign language class this semester, please choose "Not applicable" for each question.

#	Question	Not applicable	Poor	Needs improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent	Total Responses	Mean
1	16. How were your language skills before the program?	13	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.00
2	17. How were your language skills after the program?	13	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.00
3	18. Your living situation aided your language acquisition.	13	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.00

Statistic	16. How were your language skills before the program?	17. How were your language skills after the program?	18. Your living situation aided your language acquisition.
Min Value	1	1	1
Max Value	1	1	1
Mean	1.00	1.00	1.00
Variance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Responses	13	13	13

19.

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	19. If you studied a foreign language on the program, please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the language education component of the program.	3	0	10	0	0	13	2.54

Statistic	19. If you studied a foreign language on the program, please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the language education component of the program.
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.54
Variance	0.77
Standard Deviation	0.88
Total Responses	13

20. IV. SUPPORT SERVICES Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following categories:

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	20. On-site academic advising	0	0	7	3	3	13	3.69
2	21. On-site orientation	0	0	4	4	5	13	4.08
3	22. On-site academic facilities (e.g. classrooms, libraries, computer labs), excluding housing.	0	0	0	9	4	13	4.31
4	23. Communication with the USC Marshall office in Los Angeles	0	0	3	2	8	13	4.38
5	24. Overall impression of on-site support services	0	0	4	5	4	13	4.00

Statistic	20. On-site academic advising	21. On-site orientation	22. On-site academic facilities (e.g. classrooms, libraries, computer labs), excluding housing.	23. Communication with the USC Marshall office in Los Angeles	24. Overall impression of on-site support services
Min Value	3	3	4	3	3
Max Value	5	5	5	5	5
Mean	3.69	4.08	4.31	4.38	4.00
Variance	0.73	0.74	0.23	0.76	0.67
Standard Deviation	0.85	0.86	0.48	0.87	0.82
Total Responses	13	13	13	13	13

21. V. HOUSING Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following categories:

#	Question	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Mostly satisfied	Very satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	25. Housing coordination	1	3	2	3	4	13	3.46
2	26. Location of student housing	0	0	2	2	9	13	4.54
3	27. Quality of housing arrangements	0	3	2	4	4	13	3.69

Statistic	25. Housing coordination	26. Location of student housing	27. Quality of housing arrangements
Min Value	1	3	2
Max Value	5	5	5
Mean	3.46	4.54	3.69
Variance	1.94	0.60	1.40
Standard Deviation	1.39	0.78	1.18
Total Responses	13	13	13

22. VI. OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS 31. Why did you choose this program?

Text Response	
I did a good amount of research on the cities available and Rotterdam seemed like the best fit. It has a central location in Europe to make traveling easy, and also has a very high standard of living.	
It was my 3rd choice because I believed that I would enjoy Netherlands lifestyle.	
It was my second choice, after Manchester. I chose to come to Rotterdam because I thought I would be doing a lot of travelling (which I did not end up doing) and that its relatively central location within Europe would make that easier. I also had heard that most Dutch people speak English very well, which was appealing to me since I'm not fluent in any other languages.	
I had ranked it as third, and I was assigned to it. I chose to rank the location because the Netherlands seemed like an interesting and unique place to study abroad.	
Being my third choice, I honestly did not give much thought to this program when selecting my options. However, now that I have travelled to many of the other locations in Europe and talked to others, I am 100% confident that this was the best location for me and would strongly recommend it to any future students.	
The location of the program and the culture of the country as well as the	
Rotterdam was a unique location providing a "homey" feeling with few tourists around. While traveling you got to see remarkable European countries and when you came back it really felt like home. Rotterdam provided a unique perspective into Dutch culture and was definitely different from all other choices we had for IEP.	
Well-located, different culture, highly-ranked school	
Very good school, amazing country	
I wanted to be in Europe when I studied abroad, but more importantly, in a country that had applicable academic experiences that I could bring back to the United States.	
Honestly, Rotterdam was such a random option in my opinion. It was a city that had never crossed my mind before the IEP application process, but the idea of going somewhere that I knew absolutely nothing about was too hard to pass up. It turned out to be a complete 100% learning experience from the ground up. Also, its one of the longest programs at 6 months!	
Location / Most people speak English	
It was my fifth or sixth choice on my list. But I liked it because of it's relatively central location and proximity to Amsterdam.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

23. 32. Please compare these aspects of your program with study at USC.

#	Question	Equivalent	USC/Abroad Better	USC/in L.A. Better	Total Responses	Mean
1	1) Quality of instruction	1	1	11	13	2.77
2	2) Content of courses	1	1	11	13	2.77
3	3) Intellectual challenge of courses	4	1	8	13	2.31
4	4) Faculty interest in/support of students	1	0	12	13	2.85
5	5) Individual assistance provided	3	0	10	13	2.54

Statistic	1) Quality of instruction	2) Content of courses	3) Intellectual challenge of courses	4) Faculty interest in/support of students	5) Individual assistance provided
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3	3	3
Mean	2.77	2.77	2.31	2.85	2.54
Variance	0.36	0.36	0.90	0.31	0.77
Standard Deviation	0.60	0.60	0.95	0.55	0.88
Total Responses	13	13	13	13	13

24. 33. How much study time per week do you recommend in order to keep up with classes?

Text Response
A couple hours
just enough to turn in your assignments then cram for the finals
I couldn't put a number on it. Most people seem to get away with little to no studying prior to finals.
3
It is highly dependent on how much work is assigned for the week. The teachers each outline how many hours are recommended for the course. I would say to be 100% on top of everything, one should put in around 8 hours per week. This number is much higher during finals.
2-3 hours per week, increased amount more during the 2 weeks before finals.
2-4 Hrs
None and then 24/7 the week leading up to the exam... or like 10 hours a week
4 hours
4-6 hours a week
It really comes down to how much time you actually devote to classes. There are classes where you can spend the week leading up to your exam to study and read the textbook without going to a single lecture. There are other classes where if you only go to class, you'll be fine without reading or studying a lot. I kind of counted my time in the classroom as study time. Other than that, "studying" only consisted of the few homework assignments, group projects, and exam preparations. TLDR: maybe 3 hours a week.
6 hours
a few hours a week, more so if there are assignments due or if finals are approaching

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13



25. 34. How, if at all, does the structure of the courses differ from those at USC? Did you like or dislike these differences?

**Text Response**

The final counts for almost all of your grade, so all you really have to do is study for the final. The finals can be pretty hard though

Most finals are 80-100%. It is much harder to get excellent grades but if you are good at cramming then it is relatively easier to get mediocre grades.

The courses are structured very differently (as Sean explained prior to sending us abroad). Most classes don't have midterms or much homework, and 80% to 100% of your course grade is determined by a single, often multiple-choice final exam of less than 50 questions. I found this to be extraordinarily stressful because the lack of midterms means that you have no idea how well / poorly prepared you might be for the final until you actually sit down and take the test.

Yes. All of the weight of the courses are placed on one or two things. Little direction or insight is given as to what is expected of us.

It was extremely different from anything I was used to. Not only was having two trimesters a foreign experience, but the grading structure was unlike anything I have ever experienced. I managed to adjust to it well; however, I know many of my peers struggled with the new system. Having finals worth 90-100% of a final grade is a very intense transition. The most alarming realization was the grading scale at Erasmus. Although we are only required to get a 6 out of 10, this is a much more difficult grade to obtain than I initially thought. What makes the grade system so interesting is that many of the Dutch students here do not mind failing a course since they are not required to pay for their education. One class had a failure rate of 65%. I spoke to several MBA students who had taken the class; two, had failed the class twice while another failed it three times before succeeding. Overall, I think that transitioning to a new education system is a highly advantageous learning experience for a college student. I believe it will better prepare me for real life differences in work requirements. However, I think it would be beneficial for USC or even myself to let the future students know about how very real the failure rates are at Erasmus. This will help ensure that are better prepared to deal with the different learning style.

The courses at RSM are all structured around the final, which is usually 80-90% of your final grade. There is usually only one lecture a week, and not mandatory and well as very few, if any, regular assignments or midterms throughout the course. At USC, there is weekly assignments and lectures, especially in upper division classes, are smaller and really important to attend for the class. Although not having much school work during the semester is nice, a lot of study goes on intensely before the finals, and your grade is weighted heavily on it, which is more pressure to perform well without much security from other class work. At USC, the other class work helps monitor your progress and understanding of the material throughout the course, rather than waiting till the end to test it all.

Grade is heavily dependent on exams, almost no assignments. I didn't mind the openness, because the lack of assignments allowed for alot of free time and travel.

Final exam is 80%-100% of final grade. A LOT more reading, teachers barely teach (most of them anyway). It's much more independent. I disliked it.

Final accounts for 100% for most classes, some classes also have 2-4 assignments per semester

Only one lecture a week rather than multiple. While the lecture is also longer, there is only one professor teaching each individual subject (e.g. Business Law). The classes were much bigger (300+), but the quality of the instruction was fabulous. There was the obvious deterred intimacy between teacher and student, but I ended up adapting to being more self-reliant.

Generally, the textbook is the law. You can not go to class and just read the book and you will pass your class for sure--considering you put time in to learn that material. There is a lack of homework assignments, projects and participation. This culminates in your final grade being either 100% based on the final or some combination of a final and midterm. Also, there are sometimes multiple professors for each course, each one teaching a new block or subject--so continuity with your faculty is iffy here and there.

Finals account for most of the grade, attendance isn't mandatory. Only had presentations in one of my classes and very limited assignments. Exams are much more difficult here than at home but you're allowed to re-sit them over summer if you fail. Liked that you can travel for two months then the month before exams you have to study.

They are quite different. First of all, there are two trimesters here, and no spring break. The schedule of courses allows for a lot of time to travel and most classes are not mandatory, so that is good, but I did not like having two sets of final exams. Additionally, a lot of the classes are dependent almost entirely on the final exam, which can be stressful and they are pretty hard to pass.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

26. 35. Are there courses or professors that you would particular recommend? Please explain:

Text Response	
Business Law	
If you are looking for a useful class take Business Law. The finals is difficult but the classes are actually interesting and engaging. If you are looking for an easy class take Technology for managers and International Investment and Trade or International Marketing Reseach	
I would recommend Professor Helen Gubby for Foundations of Business Law. She's a very engaging lecturer and the subject matter of the course is interesting and useful.	
The Law class. That was the most interesting class we all took abroad, and the teacher (can't remember her name, she was British) was so engaging and interesting. I learned valuable things that I was genuinely enjoying learning.	
The Foundations of Business Law taught by Barrister H. Gubby. She was without a doubt one of the best professors I have ever had (ranked only behind Crisis of a Planet Professor Lawford Anderson). Every student who comes to Erasmus MUST take this class. Her lectures are highly engrossing and the reading material was quite interesting. It is a very unique experience to get an opinion of USA law from outside the USA.	
Business Law by Professor Helen Gubby-- one of the best and most interesting classes I have taken in college. really really interested and the professor is really engaging. challenging class, but well worth it, and unlike any business class you will take at USC. Also, Business Information Management professor is interesting but the course is really hard. International Investment and Trade only has a paper worth 100% of your grade due, and the course finishes before finals. Human Resource Management is also pretty easy and helpful as well.	
Business Law and International Investments and Trade, Business law professor is great, very effective lecturer, Investments and Trade you get a global perspective on trade and your grade is determined by a final paper.	
Business Law!	
Foundations of Business Law	
Yes: Business Law, Human Resources Management, and Business information Management.	
Dr. Helen Gubby -- Foundations of Business Law: She's wicked funny, a great time and a pretty awesome professor. For her class, you can learn everything from her lectures and the slides. Definitely recommend going to her lectures--always a hoot!	
Business Law: cool class with funny professor (Helen Gubby)	
Professor Helen Gubby for Foundations of Business Law. She is hilarious and a great teacher, but the class is definitely not easy.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

27. 36. Are there courses or professors that you would advise against taking?  
Please explain:

Text Response	
Business Information Management	
No	
I would advise against taking Business Information Management with Professor Borgman or Human Resource Management with Professor Dietz. These classes consisted mostly of rote memorization of terms from the book. Both Professors were incredibly boring and their lectures added little to no value to the course.	
Business Information Management and Supply Chain Management. While interesting, they are mostly just a ton of information to digest, and most of it is not engaging or relevant to many of our lives.	
No, there were no courses that I felt were a bad experience.	
The accounting and finance classes are the hardest at the university. Also, Business Information Management is hard, the midterm and final are difficult and harder to pass.	
Supply chain management- monotone, boring professor with just memorization needed for the class	
All the other ones	
Cross Cultural Management	
There is only one provided teacher, there are no options per class subject. Choose a course that interests you and has a strong following by other international abroad students. Coordination and team-work payed off.	
Its going to be hard to NOT take these classes, since your options are very limited when it comes down to the courses that will transfer back to USC, but if at all possible avoid Human Resource Management with Dr. Bart Dietz (just a bad communicator with poor teaching and attention-grabbing skills) and Cross Cultural Management with Dr. Magala (he's very detached from the real world and speaks only in academia. His lectures are boring and his exam was extremely hard to understand because of his use of high (and wrong) diction).	
See above	
Supply chain management, it is rather boring and is quite a challenging class that requires a lot of studying and focus.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

28. 37. Has participation in this program influenced your academic or career goals? How?

**Text Response**

Just meeting people from all around the world and learning their different cultures made me want to travel even more and maybe have a career in International Business

It showed me the importance of living a well balanced life and that school is not as important as I once thought.

My goals have remained pretty much the same.

I am more open to the concept of traveling for work. I am much more independent and capable of making my own decisions.

I am not entirely sure yet. I still have two more months. Perhaps I will know in the future. I do know that I have learned an enormous amount outside of the classroom; more so than I ever thought was possible. I now have a much better understanding of global economics and the social differences of the world.

I have become interested in international affairs and practices within business. Participation in the program has made me want to work for a company in Europe after I graduate to learn more about business practices on a global level. I have also found an interest in human resources as well.

Yes, I have considered other career alternatives because I will not be working a traditional internship this summer. I used to want to be an investment banker but with this new perspective and situation I am now pursuing more personal interests such as entrepreneurship, social responsibility and sustainability.

Made me happy I chose accounting over business

Yes

I am more appreciative of a smaller classroom, but also feel an intense direction toward what I want to learn.

Studying abroad at RSM has definitely affirmed my ambitions to somehow, in some way, work abroad. But otherwise, I feel on track--just bubbling over with new experiences, knowledge, memories and connections.

No

It has not changed my academic goals, but I have loved the international perspective that this program has provided for me. I would love to get the chance to travel for work in the future or possibly work with foreign companies.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

29. Please tell us about your experience with the foreign language of your host country: 38. Besides English, what is (are) the language(s) most prominently spoken on the campus of the university where you studied?

Text Response
Dutch, German
Dutch but everyoen speaks english
Dutch
Dutch
Dutch. But literally every single person in the Netherlands speaks flawless English. Many speak better than individuals I know back home.
Dutch
Dutch
Dutch
Dutch
German and Dutch
Dutch (but don't worry, literally every student in your program speaks English because all of the classes are taught in English. And, 90% of the Netherlands can speak English as well, so its a non-issue)
Dutch
Dutch, but almost everyone speaks english

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

30. 39. Did you speak the host language, or receive any language training in the host language prior to, or during your semester abroad? If yes, please explain:

Text Response
No
No
No
Almost everyone spoke English, though they spoke Dutch primarily. We had to learn some of it just to navigate the grocery store, but did not receive any training during or before. We made Dutch friends to help us.
No
No I don't know Dutch. There is a language program that is offered each trimester that is helpful to understand it better and pick it up a little, although it is a very hard language to learn. If you can find out about it, its helpful to take and helps with immersion into the Dutch culture.
No I did not receive any language training but it was not necessary. If you chose to you could attend language courses here for a fee and if you passed they would refund you your expenses.
No
No, was not necessary as everyone spoke English
No, and received very crude/no training
Can't speak a sentence of Dutch. They offer a course in Dutch, but I believe you have to pay for it in addition to what you're already paying.
No, mostly everyone here speaks English. Download the Google translator app to use when needed (eg, at the grocery store).
No

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

31. Then rate:

#	Question	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total Responses	Mean
1	1) Your language skills before the program:	0	0	0	13	13	4.00
2	2) Language training on the program:	0	0	0	13	13	4.00
3	3) Your proficiency after the program:	0	0	0	13	13	4.00

Statistic	1) Your language skills before the program:	2) Language training on the program:	3) Your proficiency after the program:
Min Value	4	4	4
Max Value	4	4	4
Mean	4.00	4.00	4.00
Variance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Responses	13	13	13

32. 40. Did cultural/social activities sponsored by the program assist you in language acquisition?

Text Response	
NO	
no	
I made no serious attempt to learn the local language	
No, because everyone already spoke English so learning Dutch wasn't necessary.	
Somewhat. Dutch is incredibly hard to learn though, which made things quite difficult. The Dutch would usually just talk to us in English only. I would only learn Dutch words when I asked.	
No, although there was a Dutch language program offered, it was not advertised or sponsored well by our program.	
No	
No	
No	
No	
Not really since everyone in the program, no matter where they are from, speaks fluent English.	
No	
No	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13



33. 41. Did outside/other activities help? Please explain.

Text Response	
NO	
no	
I made no serious attempt to learn the local language	
No, see #40.	
Reading signs while walking around Rotterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands allowed me to pick up a little bit more. It is hard to pronounce though since Dutch has different pronunciations than English.	
Going to stores, grocery shopping and reading signs helped pick up a few words and phrases.	
No	
No	
No	
No	
Not really.	
No	
No, everyone speaks English so there was no need to learn Dutch.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

34. 42. What percentage of students on the campus of your host country (would you estimate) actively speak English?

Text Response
99%
100
95%
100%
100%
probably almost 100%.
100%
100
100%
85-90%
100%
90
90%

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

35. 43. How would you recommend that students prepare for language differences abroad?

**Text Response**

If you go to the Netherlands you don't need to. Everyone here speaks fluent english.

dont worry at all.

No preparation is necessary if they're going to the Netherlands. Almost everyone here can speak at least some English, the IBA exchange students and faculty / administration are all fluent.

Learn certain words, especially food items. Some things are easy to pick up, but most of it is not. You rely a lot on pictures, but learning basic words would have been helpful.

Maybe learn 20 basic phrases. But honestly the Dutch are so fluent in English that they view trying to speak to someone who barely understands their language, a waste of time. Knowing basic words on signs and greetings is a good idea. Just pick up a Lets Go Europe or a Frommer's Guide.

look up Dutch phrases and important words, especially ones helpful to getting around and cooking. Buy a Dutch language book.

No need to.

Just avoid really old people and you'll be fine. Or learn dutch

No need at all.

Learning Dutch is useless (in the utility sense), but improve your ability to be patient, understanding and self-reliant.

It would be nice to brush up on some basic Dutch before you get here. It makes ordering at smaller restaurants and speaking with people who aren't from the cities a lot easier. But, if you can't find time for that, its not a problem!

Most Dutch people are willing and able to speak English



In the Netherlands, most people speak Dutch so it is not too difficult to get around. Just be patient and don't be afraid to ask for help if needed. I would suggest learning a few basic words before travelling to other countries, because it often helps to have a little bit of knowledge.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13





38. 44. Did you live in...

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Dorm		5	38%
2	Apartment		8	62%
3	Other		0	0%
	Total		13	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.62
Variance	0.26
Standard Deviation	0.51
Total Responses	13

39. 45. If you used STA Travel for transportation arrangements, were you satisfied? Please explain.

Text Response	
N/A	
NA	
I don't know what STA Travel is	
N/A	
Did not use STA.	
yes I did, and they were helpful in booking a cheap(ish), student flight. also, i received a student international card from them.	
Yes	
The price and company were good, but the travel agent was difficult. I'd book online to avoid that.	
N/A	
N/A	
N/A	
N/A	
Did not use.	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

40. 46. Is there any aspect of the program that you would like to see changed or different? (VERY IMPORTANT!)

**Text Response**

If Erasmus had more of a welcome week. There was just a one day orientation in a classroom and we had to figure out a lot of stuff on our own.

Ensure that all students stay at the International House. Every other housing opportunity is awful.

I would have liked a better selection of classes. I also would have liked better housing. The apartment that I got through Stadswonen (the University-recommended housing provider) was sub-standard, especially for it's price.

More courses need to be offered. We were so limited in classes that out of the 6 classes I took, I only enjoyed one (Law class). Another important thing is that because there is so much down time, something needs to be done to engage the students more (whether that be to allow us to take more classes or sponsor day trips or even weekend trips). The Annenberg program (though I know that is totally different) took students on day trips around London, and I would have really appreciated that. We are spending \$50,000+ per year to attend USC, and I feel as though the spproximate \$25,000 my family spent on abroad was a waste. We didn't even get free access to their gym, while it is my understanding that Dutch students can access ours even though their tuition is chump change compared to ours. It may sound greedy, but I expected a little more from USC to enhance the experience. Although it may be part of the program that we don't get our hands held, there are certain expectations my family and I had - including assisting us more in getting housing. There should have been more information given to us, especially since there is information on this since kids have gone there before. I paid an astronomical amount of money for crappy housing (albeit in a good location), but there was another dorm right across the street that I could have lived in for much cheaper. I just didn't choose it because I didn't know they were right next to each other. We received no information before actually getting there; there should be customized information for each location included in the orientation sessions. Or, even better, there should be location-based orientation sessions instead of the mass sessions. I know this requires more of the USC Abroad Office, but I would definitely help out for that so kids don't feel as lost and overwhelmed as we did when we got there. Even basic things like grocery stores and where credit cards will and won't work and where Target-like stores are would have been immensely helpful. Public transit information is available. I would have no problem helping out the Abroad office in compiling a cheat sheet for future students.

Not about the program necessarily, but the housing process while still at USC was a huge hassle. We all had extreme trouble getting accommodations through Stadswonen because it took too long for us to get approved at Erasmus and registered in Stadswonen's system. Also the accommodations are kind of a rip off. We have a friend staying at a penthouse apartment for less money than we are paying. I am also currently being hassled to pay for damage that was done in a previous year. Hopefully, everything works out.

Better orientation activities that helped you meet other exchange students. There was one dinner this first week, but no real activities arranged when we first got there to help us get used to the university and city and other exchange students. Although we made friends within the first few days, we still didn't know everyone going to RSM. Also, there was a introduction weekend provided, but it happened in the end of January, almost a month since students in RSM arrived and was mainly for the other exchange students. By that time, it was fun and you met a few people, but not super helpful. Also, dealing with the housing company and understanding the different accommodations and how to apply and get them could be better explained and run.

I would consider the possibility of opening up more class variety for exchange students.

Nothing that USC can control.

I think everything is perfect as it is.

Yes, my academic passing requirements. The courses were difficult, and the passing grade at my host-university was well above what would be the acceptable standards for passing at USC.

Using the housing company that they provide is a total rip off. It would be better if students checked housinganywhere.com for cheaper student housing that is in the heart of student neighborhoods. From what I've gathered, as an international student living in a property managed by Vestia (the housing company), I paid 1.5 to 2 times the amount of money that the 4-year RSM students paid.

Offer a wider variety of courses.

I would encourage students to look elsewhere for housing. A lot of people found nicer apartments for much cheaper than the International house. Vestia takes advantage of international students by charging a lot of money for dorm style apartments that are not that nice, although they are in a good location. Additionally, I would like to see the Rotterdam international faculty be more helpful and responsive to students. Some people were more helpful than others, but sometimes it would take weeks (if ever) for people to get back to us.




Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13



41. 47. Additional comments on services and coordination.

Text Response	
N/A	
Tell all the students going to Rotterdam to buy bikes as soon as possible!!! I know the Communication students in Amsterdam are assisted in getting bikes. We only got bikes half way through and it has opened up an entire new world to us! There are entire parts of the city we had no idea about which are absolutely amazing.	
Sometimes it was difficult to get in touch with the International Office because of hours and work schedules.	
I personally would recommend finding your own apartment. Student housing is easier, but its tough not having a full kitchen/fridge (you only get a stove and mini-fridge). Also, you get paired with random people, which can be good or bad. And the location is close to school but further from the city center. So, if you want to live with USC friends and be close to the city with a bigger kitchen and nice living room area, try to find your own place.	
N/A	
None	
Don't delay with your residency permit app. I had a little snafu and couldn't leave the Netherlands for about a month without it!	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

42. Please tell us about your travel experiences. 48. How did you find your arrangements to the host institution?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Travel Agent		2	15%
2	Online		9	69%
3	Other:		2	15%
	Total		13	

**Other:**  
 university provided them  
 Institution Recommendation

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.00
Variance	0.33
Standard Deviation	0.58
Total Responses	13

43. Would you recommend this method?

Text Response
Yes
Yes but book early.
Yes
Yes. Use kayak.com. Often buying a round trip is cheaper because paying the change fee is often cheaper than one-way purchases.
Yes!
yeah, they offered a free shuttle service that picked you up at the airport and dropped you off at your accommodations by campus.
Yes
No, book online
Yes
Yes, follow the school's instructions
Yeah. If you check studentuniverse.com in advance, they generally can find some good deals. Otherwise, just be smart and start looking for flights RIGHT when you find out where you're going.
Yes
Yes, but I would definitely encourage people to look at all options online and not just the international house.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

44. 49. What was the average cost for round-trip tickets to your host country?

Text Response	
\$1000	
2000	
I don't know, my one-way ticket home on Iceland Air Saga Class cost \$900~	
I paid about \$1100 with a \$250 change fee included.	
I am not sure. I used frequent flier miles which was actually the same amount as cashing in for a domestic flight. Good deal!	
approximately \$1200	
950	
\$700ish	
\$1200	
~ 3500 dollars or less	
\$500	
\$1,600	
\$1,100	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

45. 50. How often did you travel and to where?

Text Response	
<p>Because our program was 6 months we traveled about every two weeks. I went to Frankfurt, Florence, Cinque Terre, Milan, Venice, Paris, Marrakesh, Barcelona, Madrid, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Interlaken, Geneva, Dublin, and Croatia</p>	
<p>every other weekend. Went to France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Morocco, Spain, England</p>	
<p>With the exception of short day-trips around the Netherlands, I've only traveled twice in the last five months. I took one week-long trip to visit family in London, and another week-long trip to Athens and Santorini in Greece. I also plan to attend the 24 Hour of Le Mans auto race in Le Mans, France next week, but that will be a short trip.</p>	
<p>I traveled relatively often... London, Berlin, Prague, Paris, Amsterdam, Den Haag, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Austria</p>	
<p>I traveled outside of the Netherlands to Ireland (Dublin, Galway), London, Prague, Budapest, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Brussels. I also did a lot of traveling in the Netherlands. I would say I travelled an appropriate amount. I was able to enjoy traveling, but also able to concentrate on school.</p>	
<p>Approximately once a month for almost a week. There were people who traveled way more than me. For an exchange I traveled one of the least amounts, all by choice as I liked living in Rotterdam and spending time with friends. I went to Belgium, Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Barcelona, Seville and Munich. Also, a lot of cities around the Netherlands like Amsterdam etc.</p>	
<p>I travel extensively, I did a three week trip to Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. Also Barcelona and Madrid, Bruges, Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rome, London, Paris, Florence, Milan, Tolous, Valencia. I traveled basically in blocks, about once a month I took a weeklong trip.</p>	
<p>Every 2 weeks or so</p>	
<p>Twice a month - Czech Republic, Belgium (3 times), Austria, Portugal, Istanbul, Croatia, Sweden, Germany, travelled within the Netherlands</p>	
<p>I traveled on average 35-50% of the month. Flights and trains are readily and cheaply available. I spent 24 out of 30 days traveling in the month of April.</p>	
<p>I travelled at least 2 times a month--either internationally or domestically in The Netherlands. I went to the Austrian Alps, Basil in Switzerland, Frankfurt in Germany, London, and Barcelona in Spain. In The Netherlands, its really easy to get to all the big locations: Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Dodrecht, Leiden, Eindhoven, etc.</p>	
<p>Local and international trips every other week. All over Holland, Italy, Spain, UK, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Czech Republic, Portugal</p>	
<p>I travelled every other weekend, sometimes every two weeks. I went to London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Rome, Lisbon, Dublin, Mallorca, Barcelona, and the South of France (Nice, Marseille, etc.) As well as o ther day trips in the Netherlands.</p>	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

46. 51. Did the structure of the host institution's course schedule foster travel opportunity or prevent it? Why?

**Text Response**

It helped it because it was a 6 month program. Also if you miss class it isn't a big deal, so you can schedule a trip anytime.

Fostered, because going to class does not really help do well in the class so you have a lot of down time

I would say that it fostered travel opportunities because there were usually only two days of lectures per week, the lectures were generally not mandatory, and the material from the lectures was almost always posted online anyway.

Definitely fostered it - even though we were taking "full" course loads, that entailed a maximum of approximately 6 hours a week, and 95% of classes could be missed without feeling as though you were behind.

The first trimester was highly advantageous for traveling since we only had class on Monday and Tuesdays.

It fostered travel opportunities because lectures/classes were not mandatory and it was up to you to do independent study. Also, classes usually met once a week for a few hours, so there were many free days and long weekends to travel.

Yes, you have very extensive weekends, first trimester we had 5 day weekends and second we had 3 day. The class structure stacks classes so you can travel pretty much whenever you want

Foster since there was almost no homework and class only met once a week... Had 5 day weekends first quarter and 4 days off second quarter

Definitely, class attendance is not mandatory and all the lecture material including slides are put on blackboard

YES! I only had 1 class meeting a week per subject and they were centered around M-Wednesday. I typically had 4-5 day weekends.

Definitely fostered. If you're in Cross Cultural Management, you will have mandatory classes in the last trimester, but otherwise, lectures are optional and you can travel whenever you want! Also, the people you'll meet who are also studying internationally are there to travel as well, so the entire atmosphere is basically egging you on to travel as much as possible.

Fostered, attendance isn't mandatory and I usually only had class 3 days a week. The big party days were Tuesday and Thursday so most people were able to travel every weekend without missing out on much at home.

Yes, the class schedule was light (I only had class 2-3 days a week most of the time) and classes were not mandatory, so it allowed for lots of travelling.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

47. 52. Do you have any tips or information about traveling while abroad that you would like to share with upcoming exchange students preparing for their trip?

**Text Response**

If you are going to a city that has another USC abroad program, make sure you contact the people there. We did that when we were in Milan, and the guys there showed us around the city.

Be careful with connecting flights using cheap airlines such as RyanAir and Easy Jet. They will not reimburse you for delayed flights that make you miss later flights. Also bring a backpack that is carry on size.

If you stay in the Schengen area more than 90 days you need to get a residence permit which costs over 400 euros. The school will reimburse you for half of it, but it's still a major headache. As far as tips, I would say that trains are much more expensive than you might think (often more expensive than flying) and that RyanAir isn't as great as it might sound at first (the fares are cheap but they nickel and dime you with baggage charges and the cost of transportation to / from the tiny airports that they operate out of can make them more expensive than simply flying EasyJet out of Schipol.

1. Don't assume Ryanair is the cheapest option. For Rotterdam, both Ryanair and Wizzair (two discount airlines) fly out of Eindhoven, which is an hour away by train, and costs about 30 euro round trip, which you need to factor into the total cost. Also be aware of this on the other end. The cost and hassle is sometimes not worth it! I used Austrian air a TON and it was really easy and often cheaper!! Kayak.com is an awesome resource for finding the cheapest fares. 2. Sometimes look for different day departures...I found flights that gave me a few days in a location before flying to another place (i.e. I flew to Austria, then I had a flight out the next day to Italy, so I got a day in Vienna). Sometimes this is cheaper than taking separate flights. 3. Don't be afraid to travel alone! Just be aware of where you are and know that not everyone is as trustworthy as you would like to think they are. 4. Don't be afraid of sleeping in airports. I spent the night in London Stansted airport because the airport was an hour out of the city and my flight was early in the morning. About 100 other people did it too! But definitely do this only if you are with someone else. 5. Always be aware that sometimes airports are not located in the city itself (This is the case with Milan, London, and Spain). Especially be aware of this when you are flying on a discount airline.

Find the budget airlines. Trains are insanely overpriced (except in Hungary, Vienna). Make sure you talk to your friends studying abroad to stay at their places. If you are staying in a hostel, get ready for an experience!!! Most importantly go on the New Europe Tours in every city. Without a doubt the best way to see any city no matter how long your stay is. Also Munich is awesome!!!!

Look for accommodations in the best locations where you can meet young travelers. Some of the best parts are meeting people from all over the world and the stories you all can share about your travels in Europe. Also, go to places you never thought you would go, or would only go when you were young, and try new things and experiences. Some of the most different places and things you do may surprise you. Also, pack light, cause you have to lug your bag around everywhere you go and airlines like Ryanair have a weight agreement. Also, be aware of how much it costs to get to the airport and/or train station. Sometimes the most budget airlines fly out of random cities to save costs but can sometimes be more expensive or too much of a hassle to get to. Use skyscanner.com to help find the cheapest flights as well as the budget airlines.

I would say go into it with an open mind. Its not as cold as you think so don't worry about freezing. Also prepare some cooking skills because you wont be eating out alot here, there isn't too many places to go.

Use wikitravel to plan, small groups, don't worry about hostels, be efficient, see museums and historical stuff but also plan some relaxing stuff.

Use cheap websites such as ryanair.com, transavia.com, wizzair.com.. Consider taking a train to near by cities like Brussels to book cheaper flights. Stay at hostels. There is a 40% discount train card to use within the Netherlands. Get it IMMEDIATELY it will save you hundreds of dollars considering all your flights will be departing from Amsterdam, to which you have to take a train.

Skyscanner.com for finding cheap flights and comparative deals. Also invest time and energy into finding discounts for traveling abroad students in your host country. We found out in the last week that our rent could of been subsidized by 50%. I would of saved 275 euros per month!

Definitely use Ryan Air, Transavia, Vueling and all the cheap airlines. Traveling by bus is also an incredibly cheap option to get to London or Paris if you have 10 hours or so to spare for traveling (night time mostly). Always think ahead though. Prices get high really quickly. Also, most hostels I've stayed in were great, but couch surfing and AirBNB are also phenomenal alternatives to finding accommodations.

Trains aren't always cheaper than planes and they're a lot slower. If you're crossing over more than one country, it's probably better to fly. Rotterdam's location is great bc you have 2 airports really close by (Schipol and Rotterdam).

Use momondo, kayak, or skyscanner for booking flights. RyanAir often has the cheapest flights but Eindhoven is a bit far so make sure to factor that into your decision to book there. Transavia is also a great budget airline. If its not too expensive I would recommend booking flights to and from Schipol, because it is more convenient.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

48. 53. EXPENSES: How much spending money FOR THE ENTIRE SEMESTER would you recommend that the next participants budget for this program?

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation
1	General (including food, entertainment, local transportation)	0.00	4,500.00	2,338.46	1,261.97
2	Housing/rent	0.00	5,000.00	3,776.92	1,366.96
3	General travel during semester	0.00	5,000.00	2,788.46	1,343.53
4	Books & miscellaneous supplies	0.00	800.00	307.69	232.60
5	Other expenditures (please explain)	0.00	750.00	126.92	242.05

Other expenditures (please explain)	
Coffee Shops	
I really haven't kept track of my expenses at all. Any numbers I could provide would be wildly inaccurate.	
I have a whole excel spreadsheet if you are interested in using this as an example for future students	
Emergency travel situations	
Misc	
Government Fees	



49. 54. Did you experience any form of crime, or were you in danger at any time (such as the victim or witness of assault, robbery, etc.)? If yes, please explain:

Text Response
No
No, safest place on earth. The only crack heads you see are trying to sell you bikes.
Witnessed a mugging outside of out hostel in Athens.
No.
No none. Except for super shady people asking to talk to you about some random thing. But you would have to be really stupid to stop and talk to them.
The area we live in Rotterdam is very safe. I never felt in danger at anytime, even at night. Just as in any situation, do not walk alone at night, but I never saw any crime, except maybe bikes getting stolen, but hey, its Holland!
No
No, except once a cop grabbed me and "threw" me for trying to help my black out friend get home. No one got hurt though, just realize that you can't stand up to cops like you can in America. And also, once a guy tried to pickpocket me. We met him on the street and he was helping us with directions and i felt his hand reach into my back pocket (so maybe he was just coming on to me?). Anyway, i swatted his hand away and walked away
I lost my iPhone three times and my camera got stolen.
I felt safer than I have ever felt in my entire life.
Rotterdam is one of the safest cities in The Netherlands. I've known people who had their bikes stolen, but if you lock them properly that should never be an issue. I never personally experienced or witnessed anything.
No, I feel very safe. The school/city center are north of the river in the nice area. South of the river is quite seedy, though.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

50. 55. Before departure from USC, or upon immediate arrival to your host country, do you think you were adequately warned and/or prepared to deal with most incidents mentioned in the Health and Safety section of this evaluation?

Text Response
Yes
Yes
I don't understand the question
This may have been my own fault, but I didn't even know the international "911" emergency number.
Yes.
yes I believe so. Was not sure where the hospitals were but our program gave us a directory with most necessary information.
Yes
Yes
Yes
Well prepared!
Yes.
Yes

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

51. 56. If you did not feel adequately prepared (response to question #55), what do you think you needed to know or hear in advance? How could you have been better informed and/or prepared?

Text Response
N/A
Rotterdam seems fairly safe, I feel like I was well prepared.
Cheat sheet could have been helpful, including information about local hospitals and doctors offices. I also knew I had SOS insurance, but didn't know what that covered and where I was covered - a list of doctors and services would have been helpful.
N/A
n/a
N/A
Definitely sign up for an independent insurance such as <a href="http://collegestudentinsurance.com">collegestudentinsurance.com</a> or <a href="http://nssi.com">nssi.com</a> to cover for all the stolen items. You will be surprised how much you can lose while travelling for 6 months, it will save you a lot of money!
N/A
Just know that in The Netherlands, if you injure yourself, you have to go to a doctor's office first. They will decide if you need to go to a hospital. That's something they ingrained in our minds during orientation.
N/A

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

52. 57. Were you knowledgeable about your USC overseas insurance coverage policy?

Text Response
I was confused at first, but then understood.
yes
No, but I didn't get sick or hurt so it didn't end up making a difference. If I was ignorant of my insurance coverage it was my own fault for not reading the literature.
See #56. I needed to know more about what I was covered for, and where I was covered.
Kinda.
yes, pretty much.
Yes
No, but that was my fault for not listening. It's pretty easy to understand
Health insurance? Yes. If there is some kind of property insurance, I had no idea.
Yes
Yes.
Yes

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

53. 58. Did you experience any negative treatment that you feel was related to your ethnicity, race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religion? If yes, please explain:

Text Response
No
Yes Dutch girls don't give American guys any play.
Some people seemed to think of Americans as loud, ignorant, etc. These sentiments only really became apparent, however, when they were drunk or if they were already comfortable enough with us to express these feelings openly, so it wasn't a big deal. It's not very serious, it's not like anyone was getting heckled in the street for being American.
No.
I avoided anti-semitism by avoiding the skin-heads. I also avoided going back to Poland which I felt a lot of anti-Semitism in 2006,
No, the Dutch are very opened minded people. Yes, you are American so you might get some comments but nothing really at all, no negative treatment experienced.
Yes but mainly in countries where there is a extreme asian minority such as in Albania or Spain. Nothing terrible though, just stares and people attempting to speak Chinese to me or people in awe that I was asian and spoke English.
No
Not really, I mean no one's a huge fan of Americans but thats no flash news. I just went with Canadian.
No
No. In fact, most people are really excited to hear about Los Angeles and whatever city you are from in the US.
No

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

54. 59. What was the best part of the program?

Text Response
The people that you meet. We lived in an international dorm, so everyone in the building was a student from different parts of the world.
Meeting an eclectic group of people in the International House and enjoying the benefits of the relaxed Dutch policies
Meeting and spending time with students from all over the world, getting to hear their opinions, aspirations and life stories. The other students that I made friends with in this program were really its saving grace. The academics were sub-par in my opinion, but the people were great.
The amazing people I met.
Meeting extremely intelligent people from all over the world and sharing our opinions on economic and social issues of the world. Being thrown into a foreign environment and having to deal with it alone is the best way to grow. If I was to pinpoint a single event, it would definitely be Queen's Day in Amsterdam on April 30th. Coolest thing I have ever witnessed in my life.
All the amazing people and friends I have made from all over the world. Everyone is so interesting and unique and we became close to fast. My friends here made my time in Rotterdam unbeatable.
The people you meet and the time you have to really explore differences in cultures from around the world.
Travelling
Bonding with people from around the world. This experience made everyone really close.
The living arrangement that my University provided.
The people you meet. You are going to meet the most incredible people of your life so far. Its actually amazing--the people who go abroad are generally all open-minded, sociable, intelligent and awesome people. They help you learn a lot about yourself and open your mind to new experiences, ideas and ways of thinking about the world.
Meeting amazing people from all over the world and traveling everywhere with them.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

55. 60. What was the most difficult part?

Text Response	
Going there without knowing anyone in the program	
Getting the motivation to go to class when it rains	
Feeling lonely and homesick the first couple weeks. The sheer length of the exchange program in Rotterdam (6 months as opposed to 4 months for most other programs)	
The amount of down time I had. I didn't know what to do with all of the free time I had since I work during the school year in the times I'm not in class, and it was often very hard to spend so much time alone.	
The length of the trip ruined my relationship with my girl friend.	
Being thrown into the situation right at the beginning and not knowing anything and having to adjust to Dutch culture and language right away. Grocery shopping the first day was one of the biggest challenges because everything was different looking and in Dutch. Little things that seem easy at home were way more of a challenge than expected because there was no one there helping us out.	
Leaving, we've made so many friends and connections these last 6 months, its hard leaving that all behind to go home	
Rainy days	
Not being able to find products/food that I am used to.	
Balancing and managing expenses with the euro.	
I had a kind of bad location for a place to live. My apartment was a 20 minute bike ride from campus (1 hour walk). I'd say 99% of people live within a 15 minute walking distance of campus, so it was hard to coordinate sometimes.	
Having two rounds of exams (2nd and 3rd trimester)	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

56. 61. Describe a situation that you experienced as a result of culture shock or cultural misunderstanding. How did you resolve it?

**Text Response**

Almost nowhere in Rotterdam takes debit or credit card. You need a dutch pin card. I went to the supermarket with 80 euros worth of groceries and had no cash, only my card. The lady wouldn't let me buy anything, so I had to run to the ATM and withdraw money while holding up the line.

No one goes out for dinner so learn how to cook

Being one of the more culturally sensitive people on the exchange, I often found myself mediating disputes / misunderstandings between friends from different cultures. There isn't any one instance that really stands out, I feel like I was able to resolve most of the cultural misunderstandings with careful explanations and a little dose of humility.

Never really had a situation like this.

The hardest thing to do was learning how to shop in a foreign country. It is slightly alarming the first time you see that they don't refrigerate their eggs or hotdogs and that most produce goes bad in two days. But you learn how to make it work. Although "wall-food" in the metro stations should definitely be avoided for your digestive system's sake.

I cannot think of one specific incident but living in Europe you experience a lot of culture differences and challenges when trying to communicate and understand other culture. Its important to be open minded and patient, even if can be unnatural and difficult.

I had a very orderly German roommate who needed to follow a very strict schedule and regiment. On the other hand, I was very free flowing and open about everything so we clashed in personalities. We resolved it by talking out our differences and making our concerns known whenever we felt uncomfortable.

The cop situation described above. I resolved it by walking away and telling the cop he was a dick (not a good idea in hindsight)

Didn't experience any.

The academic curriculum is very different then in the USA. The manner that the material is taught and approached is also very different. I found myself needing to adapt to being more self-relient, focused and well-prepared for the few, very valuable creditable work and tests used to measured by academic achievement and understanding of the material.

No culture shock. No cultural misunderstanding. Everyone is in the same boat because the IBA program (which you may go to) at RSM is mostly international students. That includes people from South America, Asia, Australia, everywhere in Europe, and even some from the US and Canada. Everyone is open-minded and on the same page of trying to figure out minor cultural differences.

While people here do speak English, I have the feeling some people pretend to understand but don't actually comprehend you. Many times when I went into a shop and asked a question, and I got an answer completely unrelated to the question I was asking. That's when google translate and improvisation come in handy.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12



57. 62. Describe something that you are proud of having accomplished during your stay.

**Text Response**

I went skydiving. It is something I never though I would do, but the guys talked me into it.

Passed all of my classes

I'm proud of the new friends that I've made and that I can now say that I've lived outside the US.

Traveling so much alone. I felt so independent and capable navigating my way between countries and on public transit alone.

Completely mastering of the streets, metro, and tram system of Rotterdam as well as being able to give a flawless Frommer's Guide tour of Amsterdam.

I have become so much more opened minded about the world and current issues. I have met so many people with different backgrounds and interests and have wanted to push myself to learn more, and try new, different things and be more adventurous. I have learned how important it is to move beyond the USA and USC bubble and see the world from a more open viewpoint. I proud of how well I adjusted to living in a foreign country and how well I have made it my home and how appreciative, open minded and understanding I am of other people and cultures.

I attended SOCAPEurope which was the first social capital conference in Europe ever. I networked among many europeans and was proud to be the only American undergraduate representative at the conference.

Living on my own

Travelled a lot, was open to all kinds of traditional food at every country I visited, including weird stuff like "pig's knee"

Networking and meeting people on a global perspective.

I was able to work abroad! I spent time as a stage hand/production assistant for a small black box theatre that was located underneath my apartment. It was the best experience of my life thus far.

Learning how to cook. People here don't eat out often and it gets so cold in the winter months you won't want to leave the apartment. There's a huge flower/produce/fish/random item market every Tuesday and Saturday at Blaak. It's much less expensive to get groceries there vs the grocery store.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

58. 63. What do you wish you had known about before leaving?

Text Response	
The grading system of the university.	
How annoying the rain was.	
The full extent of the academic differences between USC and RSM. I knew that the testing format would be different, but the differences go much deeper than that.	
Oh gosh, so much. 1. More information about SOS insurance (see #55 and #56) 2. More information about Rotterdam itself - grocery stores and other conveniences. 3. More information on the best ways to travel. 4. Knowing what to expect when I got there 5. Public transit info in Rotterdam 6. Housing options - the website was terrible for Shortstay in Rotterdam and there were so many other cheaper options that I was not made aware of. 7. I wish I had been encouraged to learn more about the people I was traveling with - they turned out to be the most amazing people and I wish we could have coordinated housing more with them.	
Buy a bike ASAP!	
Pack what you really think you will need and be a smart packer. Also, try and look ahead to the other seasons (although I know its hard in the dead of winter) to see what you might need. Remember you can always buy stuff here but everything you have (and you somehow acquire a lot), you have to pack and take back home. Also, bring a little bit of home with you when you come. Photos or bedding or something is a nice comfort to have and can brighten up your room. Also, moving to Europe and a new school and culture is hard, and most people do not tell you how hard and homesick it can be. Do not feel bad if you are, talk to people, chances are they might be feeling the same way.	
I wish I had known how hard it is to go back to a traditional American school system after our 6 month "vacation"	
Dutch people are very blunt. It comes off as being rude, but they don't see it like that. Expect less customer service at places	
40% discount train card. And there is a 25min fast train to Amsterdam for only 2 euros extra, instead of 1h10mins.	
Tax rebates and other forms of reimbursements provided by my local government.	
How expensive your stay is going to be. I mean, I tried to eat, travel and play on a budget, but so many different factors come into play. When your traveling its hard to tell what a good deal is on food. Sometimes you make impromptu travel plans and flights are extremely expensive. Going out with people is going to cost a lot. Watch out for that alcohol cost... it will sneak up on you before you know it! BUT there are ways around these: make friends with someone who has 3G on their international phone so you are always connected to tripadvisor and lonelyplanet. Stay with AirBNBs and try out couch surfing; they're both super cheap. There are Museumpasses that you can get in The Netherlands for 50 euros that allow you to go into over 400 museums in the Netherlands for an entire year. GET IT.	
I wish I'd brought more things from home that I wasn't able to get here without paying tons on shipping/VAT bc online shopping isn't popular here. If the post man misses you for a delivery, he'll leave a letter in your box and you have to go to the nearest post office/station to pick up your package.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

59. 64. Do you have any travel tips to share?

Text Response	
<p>Try to go to a city when there is something big going on like St. Patrick's day, Queens Day or Carnivale. Also Go to as many places as you can while you are here, you will regret it if you don't. Don't participate in any of the street gambling. I lost 50 Euros.</p>	
<p>Book early and stay at hostels that are fun.</p>	
<p>Travelling with lots of friends can be fun, but it can also get really hectic with people arguing and disagreeing on what to go see / do. I would recommend travelling in groups of 5 or less, or even alone. Also, it's much nicer going places where you know someone who can give you a place to stay and show you around. Staying in hostels is a pain in the ass. My London trip wouldn't have been half as good if I didn't have my family there to give me a place to stay and drive me around.</p>	
<p>See my answers to the other questions.</p>	
<p>Learn how to budget on a different currency. The failing dollar absolutely ruined me. Not paying my rent up front probably cost me over \$1000.</p>	
<p>Ask locals and other students and international students around you questions about things and places and everything. Don't be shy, because they can usually give you tips and good advice. Also, make friends with the local students, because they can be a helpful resource as well. remember, you are gone 6 months. Its very common to be stingy and not want to buy a more expensive thing like a hair dryer, dishes, sheets, any sort of living thing etc but 6 months is a long time and you will use it everyday. Spring for the extra 10-15 euro, it will make a difference. this is your home, just like USC.</p>	
<p>Travel alone some time, its a completely different experience and gives you complete freedom. Also maintain a lowly presence no need to declare yourself to the world.</p>	
<p>Yes, refer to the section above where I give travel tips</p>	
<p>Same answer to 63</p>	
<p>Plan and prepare your trips well in advance. Have a small suitcase that fits the dimensions of the european discount airlines. Shrink-rap bags that take the air out of clothes (you can fit 2x as much in 1 suitcase!).</p>	
<p>Skiing in the alps was the craziest thing I have ever done. If you are an outdoorsy person, you must go skiing or snowboarding in the Alps. Isghl was a great ski resort. Also for those outdoorsy people, plan a biking trip around The Netherlands. Its a lot of fun so see the sights and be healthy at the same time! Finally, rent a car and tour Belgium to go to the Trappist Monasteries.</p>	
<p>Use travel websites like Kayak to get the best fares. Book fast trains, they're usually not much more expensive than the regular trains and they save tons of time. The Fyra speed train to Amsterdam only takes 45 min and if you buy your ticket online, it's only €9.50 vs €17 at the station (you'll probably go to Amsterdam a lot so it adds up). Also Amsterdam hostels are horrible so I'd recommend staying in the Victoria Hotel and splitting the room between 3 people, it'll end up costing about the same as a hostel.</p>	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

60. 65. What would you like to say to the students going after you?

Text Response	
Going abroad is what you make of it. If you go in with the right mindset you cannot have a bad time. Just be open to new experiences and get ready for the best semester of your life.	
Have a good time and try to go to Massilo. Also stay away for Concordia unless it is a wed or sun night	
Don't come here if you need the units. The grading here is pretty confusing and the classes aren't that great in my opinion. Come here for the people. The classes that I took were decent at best, my new global friend network is priceless.	
Remember it is the people, not the place that make it is amazing. Rotterdam is definitely not the most exciting place to be, but I feel that out of everyone I knew going abroad, I met the best and most diverse friends in Rotterdam. And, be prepared to be alone at times! And be prepared to freeze for the first few months if you go in January...	
Get a hold of me so that I can tell them what to do! Rotterdam is awesome!!! If you don't find the hugeeee lake, you are missing out on half of Rotterdam.	
Get a bike! Rotterdam is one of the best kept secrets of the IEP program. Maybe it is not the most popular or exciting city in Europe, but it is a great city to live in. It is very family and student oriented, and its not a tourist city. The university is well known and has activities and student groups that are always planning activities and social events for all students. It really feels like a home, and that it is your city. You really get to be an exchange student and live in Europe for 6 months rather than just visit. Its in a great location, less than an hour from Amsterdam as well as a good location for traveling, but it does not have the craziness and overwhelming feeling of a huge city. You really get to know it and feel more like a local, which is really special. And all the people you meet, especially on the exchange program are so so great!	
If you want to have the most amazing semester of your life while attending a prestigious European university, definitely go to Rotterdam. It's definitely lowkey, the best destination offered by IEP!	
Have fun and travel!	
Same answer to 63	
Prepare yourself to have one of the most intellectually stimulating, culturally shocking, memorable time of your life.	
You will have the best time of your life. But don't forget that you have exams and assignments that sometimes creep up on you! Take advantage of your time in Europe but stay extremely organized so that you don't fall into any traps.	
You're going to have so much fun! Make the most out of the first two months preceding your exams and then buckle down and study during the last month. Definitely attend the Welcome Days event organized by ESN, it's the best way to meet everyone in the program and it's tons of fun. The Dutch love bureaucracy, you'll notice when opening a bank account. I'd suggest going with Rabo or ABN instead of ING because all of the ING atm's/letters/online banking are in Dutch. The best way to get a bike is to buy one from a junkie for €15-20. If you live in the International House, they'll ring your bell about twice a day trying to sell you one. I bought one but never really rode it because we had a really long winter and I found the tram/walking perfectly adequate.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12

61. 66. Any final thoughts...

**Text Response**

When you study abroad you are not visiting the city, but instead living in it. Therefore, don't choose your country just because of the name of the city. There is a big difference in a city that is great to visit and one to live in. Rotterdam is not a place for tourists, but the perfect city to call home for six months. Tulip fields, parks, street cafes, canals, and coffee shops are just some of the things that make Rotterdam the ideal place to live.

Have a good time

I think I've said it all. I'd be happy to sit down with Sean when I get back and discuss things further.

I feel like I covered most of it!

Rotterdam is a hidden gem in Europe. It is extremely modern after its decimation in WWII; however, there is an older part of town which is absolutely gorgeous and quite similar to Amsterdam in aesthetics. No one can fully understand how amazing the city is until they have been here. After talking to all my other Marshall and non-Marshall friends abroad, I would say that this is probably the best program offered at USC.

Be open minded and live for the moment. This is 6 amazing months you will never get back and most people will never get to have. you are so lucky so embrace every opportunity you have. Enjoy!

Enjoy Rotterdam, attend Queensday, Carnival and most of all enjoy Europe!

Nope

This will be the BEST time of your life. You would be crazy not to go. I had never heard of Rotterdam before getting accepted into the program, and was reluctant. Now I know I made an amazing decision. I will never forget these 6 months, even though it is quite blurry.

I am approachable and willing to help anyone that would like assistance in planning and preparing to go or is currently abroad.

Study abroad. It will change your life.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask me :)

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12