

Jevgenija Gerdija – University of Groningen – Fall16.pdf

I have spent my fall exchange semester in the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. It was very tricky for me to choose where to go, but after mine exchange has ended, I can assure you that I have not mistaken by choosing this city and this university.

Groningen is one of the most amazing cities I have ever lived in my life. It is a student city which is full of young and interesting people of different nationalities and of locals who are extremely friendly. Therefore, I did not have any problems with communication. Everyone is very polite and always ready to help if you need a hand.

There are a lot of student housings in the city, but it is still very difficult to get a room, because the demand for the accommodation is extremely high. To book the room in the housing, you will have to pay around 900 euro at hand (first and last months of living, booking cost, kitchen and bed belongings). The amount was too high for me to pay at once, therefore, I have decided to search for the accommodation myself. I will repeat that it is tremendously difficult to get one, thus, recommend you to go for a housing office. Nevertheless, I got very lucky and found an amazing place to live through my relatives and their friends. I was living in the private house with a Dutch family (with 3 children), and had my own room while sharing the kitchen, bathroom and all the other necessary things with them in the house. The rent was 350 euro per month (all included) which I consider as a reasonable price.

Moreover, they gave me a bicycle for free what is an essential thing you have to care about when coming to Groningen. Bicycles are everywhere, and it is the fastest and the best transport vehicle in the city. There are a lot of places where you can hire a bike for several months. It is cheap and comfortable, so I recommend. Obviously, there are also buses, but they take more time than just riding a bike.

The university is very academic as well as modern and developed. Everything is explained to you, so I have never had any misunderstandings about all kind of things there. I was taking 6 courses and doing 3 courses per block (equal 1 usual semester in Stockholm university): Cross-Cultural Management, Public Finance, Global Business History, Purchasing and Supply Chain Management, Information System Management, and Financial Direct Investments and Trade. Teachers are very professional and helpful; all the questions are answered explicitly and quickly.

There are many canteens in the university. Normal lunch costs around 4.50 euro. Furthermore, there are a great many of cafes in the city and around 600 pubs! It means that even if you go to the new pub every day during your stay in Groningen, you will not visit every pub till the end of the semester abroad. There were people who tried, but nobody has succeeded yet.

Dutch people have rather high level of English. I cannot say if my English has improved, because I was speaking English since I was 6, and I do not usually have problems with this. But I have learned some Dutch which is a very interesting and fun language.

All in all, I am very happy that I had such an opportunity to go for the exchange semester what turned my life for 360 degrees. I am especially happy that it was exactly the Netherlands and this small, but unique city Groningen. I have made friends for life here and memories for the lifetime.