

THE STUDENT REPORT

You can write the report in English or Icelandic

Name of host University: Erasmus University Rotterdam
Department/school you studied within: RSM Erasmus University

Name (student): Gunnlaugur Karlsson

Exchange semester: 3rd

Fall / Spring, 2014_

School at RU: Yes

I GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1. Briefly describe the school and its surroundings: *It was a very big campus/school with the population of nearly 8.000 students at RSM alone; the total is nearly 29.000 students. The surroundings were very typical of a big university, lots of big buildings with several different divisions in a very clustered area. The area included everything that a student needs, large library, computer room, gym, hangout areas, theater, fancy restaurant, cafeterias, a grocery and a bookstore.*
2. Please list the current faculty divisions and special areas: *My faculty division involved RSM. However other faculty divisions included Erasmus school of economics, school of law, school of history, culture and communication, faculty of philosophy, faculty of social sciences, institute of psychology, institute of health policy and management and Erasmus MC. Each division was spread through the campus, were each building was marked with a capital letter/s representing the division.*
3. Number of exchange students: *As far I know there were about 800-1000 exchange students during my exchange period, which were connected to RSM.*
4. Study structure: *The overall study structure involves two teaching blocks each semester. First block is from the end of August to the mid of October with exams in between. The second block is from the end of October to the 18th of December, also with exams in between.*

II PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Pre – Departure: Quality of Information before you left

- When did you receive the information package from the University? *I received my final information package from EUR (Erasmus University Rotterdam) on the 18.07.2014.*
- Any difficulties, such as communication or late responses? *There were some difficulties connected to the course registration for the two teaching blocks, but that was sorted out very quickly. Other than that things were fine communication wise.*

Academic Calendar – important dates

- Arrival date – introductory week: *There was an integration trip in the week of between 25th of August to 30th of August.*
- First day of the semester: *The first day academically was the 1st of September.*
- Last day of classes: *12th of December.*
- Examination period: *Examination period in block one was between the 20th October till 23rd of October. The examination period in block two was between the 16th of December till 18th of December.*

Reception of incoming students – describe how you were welcomed

- Was the administration and faculty well prepared for your arrival? **Yes very much, they had all the information I needed ready for me when I went to see them for the first time.**
- Did the school's students participate in the reception of the exchange students? **Yes, that was connected to integration trip and the main reason why that event was planned.**

Housing

- Did you have housing at your disposal or did you have to find your own housing? **I found my own housing, called the student hotel, which is very near the campus and the city center, and is an amazing place.**
- What support did you receive from the school in locating housing? **Very little or more like non sad to say.**
- Any special issues or good ideas for prospective students? **Be aware of application deadlines and start flat searching early if you planned to live outside the school campus. I would also recommend the student hotel, it is expensive to live there, but the quality of service is excellent and a very fun place.**

Costs

- Describe the most important expenses such as rent, books, food, etc.: **Rent is cheap when living on the school campus area, but more expense when living outside the school campus. Books are very expensive, however, students usually combine to buying an electronic version where everybody share costs, which makes it much more cheaper. Food is relatively cheap if shopping is done in places such as ALDI, but it basically depends on what you eat and prefer. Cost of Food around campus is very expensive.**
- General cost of living: **Again it depends on the person. However I would say that Rotterdam is not an expensive place to live and support yourself.**

The International Office

- Who is responsible for incoming exchange students? **There were two persons, which were my contacts being Marinelle Rozendaal and Ellen Van Oeffelen.**
- Did you receive good service from the office? **Yes, very much so.**
- Do you receive all relevant information? **Yes and more so, being a lot of information about the city, interesting places, tips and things like that.**

Exchange promotion

- What kind of activity did you take part in to promote exchange studies at your host university? **I didn't take part in any special activity to promote exchange studies at my host university, this was my first exchange study so this was a new experience for me. I just talked about exchange studies in general with other students both at campus and where I lived, at the student hotel.**

Social Activities

- How was your relationship with other students? **From a personal point view, then I feel that the relationship with the other students was good.**
- How was the relationship among the exchange students? **It was actually much closer than with non-exchange students, because we were basically in the same position.**

- Is there a student organization, and if so, are the exchange student's part of it? ***There is a student organization at EUR (Erasmus University Rotterdam) called Star, but I don't believe that exchange students are a part of it.***
- Are there any special activities and gatherings for exchange students? ***Only the ones organized by the international office and ESN (Erasmus Student Network).***
- Did you participate actively in social activities? ***Yes I did, at least as best as I could.***

Culture and Language

- Did you have any language problems with the faculty or other students? ***No non at all, everybody spoke English and all the teaching is done in English.***
- How are the possibilities to experience the country and the culture? ***Well it's basically up to the person him/herself in travelling terms. However, there is much to see in Rotterdam connected to museums and tourists attractions, which tells the story of the country and its culture.***
- Any recommendations for students? ***Yes, just enjoy the time spent here to the fullest. Travel as much as you can and be around fellow students and the Dutch people, it will be a great and an unforgettable experience.***

Cultural and Social Effects from the Exchange Experience

- How do you think the exchange experience will affect you from a cultural and social point of view? ***From a cultural point of view, not so much as Icelandic people and Dutch people are very similar in nearly every way. From a social point of view, then this exchange period has made me more open, more active and more participative in meeting and working with other people no matter where they come from and what their cultural background is.***
- How do you think the exchange experience influences your future career possibilities? ***I hope that it will benefit me and I am sure it will. I believe that my future employers will see in my CV that I spent time in a county, city and an university that is very advanced in every capability in terms of giving the market what it needs and wants. Also that I have studied that a bit and have a little bit of knowledge of how they progress.***

III ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Teaching situation

- In which language are the courses taught? ***Everything is taught in English.***
- How would you evaluate the level of study in relationship to the level at RU? ***They are on an equal terms in my personal point of view, equally challenging and demanding.***
- Is the teaching primarily practical or theoretical? ***They try to combine it, a lot of the lectures are theoretical, but the professors bring in guest lectures from companies such as Unilever, Shell and ING to demonstrate how the theory is put into practice in real life.***
- Are the professors using cases, group work or lectures (or a mix)? ***Well it's basically a mix, but cases weight the most in my experience.***
- How is the workload compared to that at RU? ***Very similar, its basically up to the student and how much time he/she is willing to invest in the studies.***

- How is the relationship between faculty and students? ***It's basically as close as it can possibly be. However, nearly each course includes 150+ students, therefore getting some particular information from the professor does demand patience.***
- What is the relationship between the students in the classroom? ***It's just basically based on openness and tolerance towards each other. Also that everybody is equal and has an opinion and that is respected.***

Required reading

- Was all required reading in English? ***Yes it was.***
- Is the reading material used for detailed knowledge or a broad overview? ***Basically on a broad overview, most books are recommended but optional.***
- Were examinations based on the reading or on the lectures? ***Both, but its weighted on percentages, also cases are included in the examinations.***

Exams

- Please describe what types of exams were you given? ***All my exams were based on the lectures and the guest lectures taught, group work, books and the cases we reviewed during the courses. The exams were mixed with multiple choice questions, open question and essay questions.***

Other

- Do students have easy access to the library and its resources? ***Yes they do.***
- How is the access to the computers? ***There is a relatively easy access to the computers; you get a username before you arrive, which are your school e-mail and a password. After you log in using those you get the total of 5 hours online before you are logged out automatically, and then you have to start the process again.***
- How is IT used in the teaching or as a distributor of information? ***There is a school network called the blackboard, which is like an intranet for the students. All the teaching material is put in there by the professors for the students to prepare themselves for lectures, and also to get the necessary information for them to know, such as special announcements or about exams or field trips,***

Description of Courses

Please list all the courses you are taking in the form below:

- Name and code of the course
- Prerequisites, if any
- Exam form
- Comments: Relevance, Difficult/easy, Practical/theoretical, Enrolment problems

<i>Course name:</i>	<i>Prereq.</i>	<i>Exam</i>	<i>Major at EUR</i>	<i>Approved as</i> <i>(Common/elective/extra)</i>
<i>RSM01MM-14</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Written</i>	<i>Marketing</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>RSM03AC-14</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Written</i>	<i>Finance & Accounting</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>RSM01HRM-14</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Written</i>	<i>Human Resource</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>RSM04MM-14</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Written</i>	<i>Marketing</i>	<i>Elective</i>

These courses were very relevant for what I am studying at RU, and based on my BA background in marketing management. They were also very difficult and challenging and taught with practical and theoretical methods. There were no enrollment problems during my exchange process to EUR from RU, or in terms of the elective courses.

Names and e-mails:

The International Exchange Office will appreciate if you leave your e-mail address here, so that other students can contact you for more information.

- ***Gunnlaugurk13@ru.is***
- ***Gunnlaugur76@gmail.com***