

Knightly Adventures Abroad

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If I could do it over, I would travel more, worry less and learn Dutch

Major(s): Psychology

Years/Term Abroad: Spring 2014

Name of program and why you chose it: Tilburg University. I had previously been to the Netherlands and after talking with two students from Tilburg, I was sold!

Describe the Housing Situation: I lived in an international building with the other students on my exchange program; no Dutch students. There were 18 single rooms per floor, but my floor only had nine people. We shared a common room, kitchen and bathroom areas.

Best Memory: When Mary Johnson and Jeff Hyzer were able to visit and celebrate Carnival in Tilburg with me! We also visited Antwerp, Belgium and went to Amsterdam! It was great to see some familiar faces!

How has this experience enriched your Bellarmine educational experience? I appreciate the one-on-one education I receive at Bellarmine more now; the Netherlands was very detached.

My advice to future study abroad participants would be to plan your traveling ahead of time. There are so many cool places to see and explore; be organized.

Greatest Challenge: Grocery shopping. Although nearly everyone in the Netherlands can speak English, almost all food products are still in Dutch.

Experiences with Culture Shock or Reverse Culture Shock: We had to ride bikes everywhere we went and on the second day of orientation we rode seven miles (one way) to an event. Everywhere you went in the NL, there were bikes.

What you know now that you didn't know before going abroad: I am amazing at riding a bike with flat tires! Also, food is almost always better in its place of origin (i.e. chocolate!)



No matter what, just keep moving