

March 26, 2018

Administrative Board of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues,

Exchange Program between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

The College of Arts and Sciences and the Study Abroad Office are seeking your approval for a new exchange program in Rotterdam, Netherlands to be available to UNC-Chapel Hill students commencing Fall 2019 and every semester thereafter.

Rationale

In 2016, the Erasmus University Rotterdam contacted us and we have met a couple of times since then to discuss a possible partnership between our two universities. Faculty in the Department of Economics were also contacted and have remarked on the quality of this University and they support this proposal. Although this exchange is of great interest to the Department of Economics, it would also be open to students wishing to take courses in English in the areas of History and Arts and Cultural Studies. The exchange would be for undergraduate students.

More information on the Erasmus University Rotterdam is available here:

https://www.eur.nl/en/education?utm_campaign=Experience&utm_medium=Link&utm_source=Experience%20website

Description

The University is located in the city of Rotterdam, about 50 miles south of Amsterdam and 20 miles southeast from The Hague. The University is one of the biggest universities of the Netherlands with a student population of 23,000 and about 1200 international students from over 100 countries. The latest **QS World University Ranking by Subject 2017** ranked the Erasmus University Rotterdam as #1 in the Netherlands for Economics, Business, Management, Social Sciences, and #32 in the world for Economics. Rotterdam is a smaller city and the home of Europe's largest port; it is known as a hub for international business and for its diverse population and ever changing skyline.

Courses and Faculty

As in many universities in the Netherlands, Erasmus University Rotterdam, English is the

language of instruction. Students will be able to take courses in these two Schools: Erasmus School of Economics, Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication; interdisciplinary study is encouraged.

Academic Requirements and Credit

UNC-Chapel Hill students participating in this program will need to have a 2.75 GPA to be eligible and at least second year status. There is no language pre-requisite since students may take all of their courses in English.

TREQ credit will be awarded as long as the student receives a C or better in each course taken. The Erasmus University Rotterdam will send an official transcript once the students have gathered all the information from their courses.

Logistics, Health and Safety

Facilities

The Erasmus University Rotterdam has its main campus near the city center. The campus itself is a modern campus with a number of amenities, including a glass-walled building which houses classrooms and study spaces and a recently renovated library. It is like a mini-city where one can find anything and of course, a statue of Erasmus, considered as the first international student.

Housing and Transportation

Students live near the campus in bike-able distances either in student housing or shared apartments in the city. Although students need to arrange their own housing, they can access a link on the University website that provides them with links to various housing options available and a lot of information related to their arrival on campus,

There are plenty of transportation options from bikes to trams and metros, and also water taxis since there is a river which flows through the city. Rotterdam has its own main train station and an airport.

Other activities

Students receive an International Handbook which guides them through the different steps both pre-arrival and during their stay. The International Office offers a mandatory Take-Off orientation at the beginning of each semester with various orientations sessions and plans a number of activities, including cultural trips, during the semester. International students receive help to complete paperwork, register for residency, open a bank account, and also register for courses. The Erasmus University Rotterdam has a very active Erasmus Network as well as a number of different student groups who reach out to international students, and actively plan cultural events throughout the year. International students can also request a “buddy” to help them navigate the first few weeks on campus. The campus also has a number of social, sport, study, political and cultural clubs from which to choose. There are on campus sport facilities and over 30 clubs that offer intramural and competition-level athletics. The International Student Welcome Guide provides good information for incoming students and has the names of contacts in the International Office who welcome student questions.

Health and Safety

The Netherlands in general has excellent medical care and facilities and quite often medical doctors speak English. Students will be covered by the GEOBlue health insurance.

Staff in the Study Abroad Office have reviewed the current U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for Germany, which is currently listed at a Level 1: Exercise normal precautions. Staff will continue to monitor events in Germany and the U.S. State Department Travel Advisories in accordance with the UNC *Policy Concerning Global Study, Travel, and Research*.

Travel Advisory information can be found online:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html>.

Conclusion

We hope this proposal has given a clear representation of the exchange program with the Erasmus University Rotterdam. We are happy to provide you with any additional information you might need to aid in your evaluations of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Gilleskie, Interim Chair, Department of Economics

Date

Jason Kinnear, Interim Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges

Date