

Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

1. Overall impression

It was a very pleasant year. Although I had to work hard due to the different system (6 periods, see below), it was very intriguing and I learned a lot and had some very interesting discussions during tutorials.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Administrative matters were a bit tedious, but the University of Zurich and Maastricht University have been very forthcoming and helpful in various matters. Finding information was generally easy.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

I was mainly in contact with Ms. Röschard, coordinator of the double degree program at UZH. At Maastricht University, one generally contacts the responsible person for the specific matter (e.g. professors, tutors). For more general matters, there is a student help desk and education desk at Maastricht University.

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

First, it was a bit hard to find accommodation in Maastricht since there are a lot of students trying to find one and people were cautioned against scammers. But I was in luck due to the fact that I could take over the accommodation of a previous double degree student. Generally, students find accommodation either via Facebook groups or on site.

5. Arrival

I arrived in Maastricht a bit before the end of August and had sufficient time to deal with administrative matters (telephone, bank account etc.) before the start of the academic year at the beginning of September.

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

First, I bought a prepaid sim-card that could be topped up monthly (1 GB for 10 Euros). Soon, I realized that it wasn't necessary. In Maastricht, almost everywhere you go there is free wi-fi you can use. Except for travelling, you're almost always connected. It may be a bit tedious during travel, but for me it was alright.

7. Bank account

I opened an account at ING which is free for students. Beware that at the beginning of September, you have to wait a long time to get an appointment since almost every student in the city wants to open an account. That is why it is more sensible to travel to Maastricht a bit earlier and deal with these administrative matters first.

8. Transport (e.g. from Switzerland, to the University)

From Switzerland to Maastricht and back, I travelled by train via Frankfurt a.M. and Aachen (approximately 8 hours). In Maastricht, the main transportation mode is the bike, although since almost everything was within walking distance, I enjoyed walking quite a lot.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

Maastricht is a student city with people from everywhere around the globe. Everywhere you go you see students and some MU building and you find many study places around the city.

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

Maastricht University has a different education system where the academic year is divided into 6 periods of 8 weeks. In each period, 2 modules are booked and during the first 7 weeks of one period, you have 2 hours of lectures and 2 hours of tutorials each. In the 8th week are the exams, followed by the first week of the next period. Due to this system, you are forced to constantly study and prepare the tutorials. Within the little tutorial groups, a seminar-like atmosphere prevails where an active discussion with everyone is dominant. Although you don't have any 'study break' between the lectures and exams, the exam itself is not aimed to trick students. Rather, the exam consists only of things discussed during tutorials.

11. City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

There are many bars and restaurants in Maastricht to hang out and eat. Aachen and Brussels are only an hour away and Amsterdam is 3 hours away.