

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name?

My name is Alessandro Cosimo Manca and I'm a former student of MSc Finance & Banking, graduated in October 2024.

2. Where and when did you go during your Erasmus program?

During my Erasmus program I went to Maastricht (the Netherlands) from the end of January to the end of June 2024, i.e. during the second semester of my last year of university.

3. How did you like living there?

It was an unforgettable experience, I would say one of the best periods of my entire life. I met many people from all over the world, and some of them are still close friends of mine today; I visited beautiful places and had a lot of fun!

4. What about *the University*?

The Dutch academic system is completely different from the Italian one, making it rather difficult to compare the two. Indeed, at Maastricht University it was applied the so-called Problem Based Learning (PBL) approach, in which the student plays the central role in academic dynamics. This means, for instance, that lessons are often entirely led by the students and also that there are mandatory assignments which account for the majority of the final grade.

5. What is the level of the courses? Did you find similarities to those at Tor Vergata?

The level is quite high in terms of content and material made available to students. However, since the lessons are very often student-centered, the level also depends on how much effort each student puts into their studies. Regarding the professors, in my experience I encountered highly skilled and supportive professors who assisted students when they faced difficulties.

6. Is there any particular advice that you would like to give to another student who might go there in the future?

As regards the Netherlands, perhaps the only cons regard the weather and the relatively high cost of living. The good point is that you'll be forced to do physical activity because everyone is used to move by bike! A part of that, my final and general advice is to open your mind and enjoy every single moment of your experience!!

7. Would you mind being contacted for further information by interested students?

I would be happy to be contacted to help other students.