

RSM



Testimonial

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Before Your Arrival

What you need to prepare before you arrive are your visa, course registration, and accommodation. Erasmus Staff will send instructions for everything to you one by one. So, do not worry about all the details now. You will find some useful general information here.

In order for the university to arrange for your visa, you will have to send some documents and some amount of money as a proof of solvency. The money will be transferred back to you once you get a Dutch bank account in the Netherlands. After that the staff will e-mail you when your visa is approved. Then, you will need to fill in MVV form, bring it to the Dutch embassy in Bangkok, and receive your visa there afterward.

RSM or Rotterdam School of Management is your faculty at Erasmus University and IBA is its international program name. You will receive an email containing RSM course lists and schedule for classes and exams. Each trimester, you will have to choose at least 3 courses from 7 or 8 available choices. After you have made your decision about your courses, you will have to mail the course form for your first trimester to the university. And you will receive **ERNA username and password** which will allow you to login to any Erasmus system. Then you can register for the courses online in the RSM website called **sin-online**.

If you want to stay in the university dormitory, you will have to book early. You can also rent a room somewhere in the center. Both choices are very convenient since they are only 5 kilometers apart and you can go everywhere by bicycle. Rotterdam is the safest place for cycling. A second hand bicycle cost 80-200 Euros. It can be cheaper from 60-80 Euros online.



First Week Survival Tips

What you need to survive are mobile phone, Wi-Fi, money, transportation, and food. I know that everyone has their own mobile phone but what you might need here is a SIM card. You will be given a free one with your welcoming package on your first day at Erasmus University. If you need it earlier, you can find one at [Albert Heijn](#) or other supermarket. You can find [Albert Heijn](#) everywhere and you can find almost everything there like our 7-



eleven. Wi-Fi is provided around the university area with the name 'eduroam'. You can login with the [ERNA password](#) I mentioned earlier.

Although the money you have to transfer in your visa process is intended to be enough for your whole stay, you should bring enough money to survive the first month including the first month rent. Credit card is not always accepted here. And the process of getting your visa money back can take a month.



Bicycle is the most beneficial way of traveling here. It is cheap and a good exercise. Public transportation is also very convenient but the price can be expensive without an [OV-Chipkaart](#). A tram ride usually cost about 4.5



euros per trip but with an [OV-Chipkaart](#) the cost will depend on how long you are on the tram. It cost only 4 Euros when you go to its end destination. From Erasmus to Rotterdam Center cost about 2 Euros.

You can also use [OV-Chipkaart](#) to get on a train to

any city in the Netherlands. It is highly recommended that you buy the card on your arrival at [Albert Heijn](#) or [Hema](#) in Rotterdam Centraal, the main train station.

An average price for a normal meal is 4 to 8 Euros. It is a lot cheaper if you do the cooking yourself. You can buy all ingredients at [Albert Heijn](#) or [Plus](#) which is just across the street from the university. In case you want some Asian things like fish source, MaMa Noodles, or Oishi Green tea, you can find them at Chinese Market which is a block away from the main train station in the center.

How to Prepare for Studying

You will be studying in IBA program with regular students and exchanged students. The class size here is quite big with about 200 students in one classroom. Erasmus University students know how to study while playing



hard. You might see many skip classes, attend every party yet get very good grades. You are undoubtedly advised to attend lectures but it is not required to do so. RSM professors always upload their slides and announce important things on '[Blackboard](#)' which is a webpage where you can login using your [ERNA](#)

[username and password](#). You might find that you have plenty of free time on your timetable and then plan your trip around Europe. Exploring Europe is of course recommended but please be aware that most courses only have final exam. It means you are required to study the whole books for your finals. So, arrange enough time for your study. Although Erasmus arranges re-sit exams for students who failed or wants better grades, I am sure no one wants to spend their summer here studying. **There are two ways you can study for your exam.**

One is to [study from textbooks and slides](#). You can buy your textbooks at [StudyStore](#) in the university which cost about 70 Euros each or you can borrow ones from the [library](#). The other way is to [buy summaries from Erasmus shop and study them](#). They will be available a week prior the exam. The summaries are cheaper and shorter but it does not always mean they are a better way to study. No choice is better than the other as long as you understand all the topics for your exam. Another suggestion is that **looking through past exam questions can always help**. Sometimes professors will upload them on [blackboard](#). Sometimes you will need to ask for outside link from your friends.

Life Style & Activity

Since **Amsterdam** is the most tourist visited city in the Netherlands, tourists learn that the Netherlands is a place for party. **Amsterdam** is known for its coffee shops, red light district, and fantastic canal views. When I said coffee shop I did not mean an ordinary coffee shop we know or a place like Starbucks. Coffee shops in the Netherlands legally sell soft drugs. You can find space cake, magic mushroom, weed lollipop, and so on in every coffee shop.



Rotterdam, on the other hand, is a quiet business area with stunning riverside view. Dutch people are famous for their passion in **cycling** and **ice skating**. Cycling across cities is very common for Dutch children. **Cycling** from your dorm to **Kinderdijk** where there are 19 windmills is highly recommended.

In winter **ice skating at Kinderdijk** is also a popular activity for Rotterdam people. Lastly, exploring Europe and trying local dishes are very vital activities for any exchanged student. I gained unforgettable experience from my exchange period in Europe and also learnt various cultures from my trips. I hope that you will enjoy your precious time in Rotterdam like I did.

