EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: FCAT
Major/Minor: Communications major, Business
Host university: Maastricht University
Host Country: Netherlands
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 09/2014 to (month/year) 12/2014

TRAVEL
Approximately how much did air transportation cost?: $1000 CAD
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost?: $35 CAD
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please describe: KLM has direct flights to Amsterdam.

VISAS
What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? $500 CAD
If yes, what documentation was needed? I chose to get the Working Holiday visa as it was cheaper ($80 CAD
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost?
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed? At the immigration office in Eindhoven
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 2 weeks. I had to call to set up an appointment.
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please comment: A copy of your health insurance, and return ticket.

AIRPORT RECEPTION
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? □ No □ Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: There is a train you can take from Schipol airport to Maastricht. At the Maastricht train station, students from ESN (Erasmus Student Network) picked and dropped us off at our dorms at no cost (you'll need to arrange this ahead of time).
What is the closest airport to the host university? Brussels (2 hours) and Amsterdam (2.5 hours)

ORIENTATION
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? □ No □ Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session? □ No □ Yes, how much?
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: Orientation was really well organized. We learned a great deal about the university and the city. I would definitely recommend to attend the orientation sessions.
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, how long is it? 2 weeks

Is there an additional cost for language training?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes: How much?

Please comment: I did not take the language program, so I can’t fully comment on it.

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**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, please describe: You can choose different dorms throughout the city.

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  $500 - $800 CAD

Is there a meal plan?  ☑ Yes: How much is it?

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus?  15 minute walk or 5 minute bike ride

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

You are able to get internet in the dorms using the eduroam log-in system. If you have a unlocked cellphone, you can easily get a SIM Card for free and only pay for what you use (pay as you go plan).

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this?  I paid my deposit online using a credit card.

Is off-campus housing easily available?  
☐ No  ☑ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:

You can definitely find cheaper off-campus housing. However, you might miss out on the full international student experience living in the campus dorms.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  $1000 CA

Any other comments on accommodation:

It’s a great way to meet other students and everything is included in the cost (laundry, showers, kitchen, mail, security, etc.).
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country?  ■ No  □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?
I'm not too familiar with the process of opening a bank in the Netherlands. It is recommended that if you plan to stay for a year, you should open an account.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)
Bring (in the following order of importance) cash, debit card and credit card. In the Netherlands, they do not like to buy anything on credit, so credit-card use has not picked up yet.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments?  ■ Cash  ■ Debit  □ Credit card
Please comment: See above.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted?  ■ No  □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:
All I had to do was to send a list of courses I wanted to take (this was before I left for Maastricht). After that point, I did not have to do anything as the International coordinators enrolled me into my classes.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university?  Minor Program: India in a Globalizing World
What is the language of instruction in your courses?  English
If not English, are English-taught courses available?  

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
Quality of instruction is very similar to SFU. The two big differences were (1) that the courses are only 7 weeks long, followed by an exam week and (2) the courses use a teaching method called Problem-Based Learning (PBL) which encourages self learning and discussions amongst peers.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
Discussion amongst your peers and the tutor is a huge part of the teaching style in Maastricht. This allows for one to learn more from each others than simply from reading the textbook. It's quite interesting hearing different perspectives on issues which allows for a greater understanding of the content.

Submission Instructions:
1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.