# Exchange Participant Questionnaire

## Student Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty:</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Major/Minor:</th>
<th>Early Learning, Counselling and Human Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host university:</td>
<td>University of Amsterdam</td>
<td>Host Country:</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates of your exchange: (month/year)</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>to (month/year)</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
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</tbody>
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## Travel

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? **$1300**

Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? ~$200 a month depending on how far out of the city you live/how often you use it

Do you have a recommended routing or airline?  
- No  
- Yes

If yes, please describe: ________________________________________________________________

## Visas

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information)  
- Canadian citizen

Did you need a student visa/permit?  
- No  
- Yes: What was the cost? **$275**

If yes, what documentation was needed?  
- Financial statement, copy of passport

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?  
- Online

How long did it take to procure your visa/permit?  
- 1 month

Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)?  
- No  
- Yes

If yes, please comment:  
- The student visa and residence permit are combined into one visa application

## 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:  
- Definitely recommend taking the free shuttle provided by the UvA.

What is the closest airport to the host university?  
- Schipol

## 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? **$100**

If yes, do you recommend that future students participate?  
- No  
- Yes

Please comment:  
- The 3 days of the intro “week” were pretty intense but highly recommend participating. Put you into groups with about 20 other exchange students where you explore the city and take part in different activities, meals, and club nights to get you familiar with campus, the city, and nightlife. It was where I met most of my friends who I spent the rest of my semester with!
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**
Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  □ No  ■ Yes
If yes, how long is it?  12 weeks
Is there an additional cost for language training?  □ No  ■ Yes: How much? 160 EUR
Please comment:

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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
Fraijlemaborg, Building is clean, modern, and RA's there to help if needed, had a really amazing experience here
If yes, please describe:

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  600 EUR
Is there a meal plan?  ■ No  □ 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? ~20 minutes by metro
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
Free wifi is provided.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  □ No  ■ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this? Everything is done online
Is off-campus housing easily available?  ■ No  □ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
Apparently it's extremely hard to find housing on your own.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? 600-800 EUR
Any other comments on accommodation:
**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?  

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)  

Take out a few hundred euros to begin with and after that withdraw cash from ATMs if your bank fees aren’t too high.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments?  [ ] Cash  [ ] Debit  [ ] Credit card  

Please comment:  Debit/credit is used more than I thought, and often preferred over cash. However, some places (mainly grocery stores) only take cash.

**ACADEMIC DETAILS**

Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted?  [ ] No  [ ] Yes  

Please describe the course registration procedure:  

Honestly more stressful than back home. Basically when registration opens you are immediately put on a waiting list and can see the amount of people able to register before it’s your turn (I refreshed the page at almost exactly the time of registration and was already ~2700th in line). Classes fill up really fast so make sure you have a bunch of back up courses you know you’ll be able to get into.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university?  Behavioural and Social Sciences  

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:  

About the same as in Vancouver. One teacher lectures students. Number of students in each class can vary. Grading is a lot different—there are fewer assignments worth way more %. For example, in most of my classes I had one paper (50%) and one final exam (50%). Apparently it is common to only have a final exam that determines your entire grade at the end of the course.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?  

Most likely would be the fact that it puts you out of your comfort zone (in a good way), forces you to meet new people, live on your own (if you don’t already back home), and experience different ways of living. It was so interesting to meet people from all over the world and realize that little things you experience back home can be completely different in places you wouldn’t necessarily consider that different from your own (Canada vs. US).