

A written report of my experiences

Language

I studied abroad in Aruba at the University of Aruba and had a really nice time. The language spoken there was mainly Papiamentu, but the local people also spoke Spanish, Dutch and English. The courses were given in English and Dutch and if you speak basic English you can easily follow the courses. It was nice to have some English subjects for a change, because at the University of Groningen I only had Dutch courses, because I study Dutch law.

Finance

Aruba is an expensive country. What is mainly expensive is the food, because it's an island so all the food has to be imported from surrounding countries and they also import a lot of food from Holland. If you receive study finances from DUO this will not be sufficient to survive, because the rent for an apartment, the rental of a car and food are musts for your stay in Aruba. It was important to rent a car together with a few other girls, because the island does not have a system of public transportation that you can count on.

Preparation and contacts with the faculty before during and after my stay

The contact with the University went fluently. Before my stay they gave me a lot of information about housing, the courses etc. That was a relief for me. Also during and after my stay they always respond on my e-mails appropriately. Sometimes I had to wait a little longer because of the 'Antillean time' what means everybody takes their time and is 'relaxed'.

Housing

Housing is something that's smart to arrange a long time before your exchange period starts. With a long time I mean at least 4 months in advance. This is because it's an island so the housing possibilities aren't unlimited. Personally I stayed at a resort called Blue Village, and had a good time there. There were nice apartments, that you can share with other students or take or own studio. I shared an apartment with a girl from Belgium. They have two swimming pools and nice arrangements, for example you can get dinner at the bar with other students.

Culture

I really liked the Aruban culture. The Aruban people were really open and friendly. At school a girl handed me brownies for no reason and on the streets people greet you nicely even when they don't know you. It really opened my horizon to be more kind to people I don't know in general. Also the Aruban food is really nice and greasy. The music is Latin-American what I really liked and if you like to dance, they do it a lot there. You can for example take salsa lessons. Also there are a lot of water activities what I really liked.

Free time

There's a lot of free time when you study at the University of Aruba. I had a few courses a week, approximately 10 hours in total. Of course you have to study a bit in your free time, for example read the books and make some assignments, but there's plenty of time left to enjoy the beautiful weather.

Travelling

I can really recommend to travel a bit while your stay in Aruba, because there's a lot to see in the Caribbean. I went to Curacao, but wish I would have gone to more places around. Like Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic etc. It's cheaper to go to those places from there than from Holland, so if you can do that, you sure should. I also went to New York and Washington for ten days during my exchange period, when I did not have a lot of school work. I found a cheap ticket and can really recommend it, because of the energy of the cities and the broader view of the world you get.



university of
 groningen

2016 - 2017

MARCO POLO FUND

Study / Traineeship report

This form needs to be completed by every student who has received a scholarship from the Marco Polo Fund.

Last name* <i>Please write your name as shown in your passport</i>	Ighodaro
First name* <i>Please write your name as shown in your passport</i>	Isabel
RUG registration number (S)	S2520893
Start and end date of stay	01-09-2016 till 23-12-2016

Please enclose a 2 page report on your experiences abroad, using the following headings:

1. Your study programme or your internship programme
2. Language
3. Finance and other conditions
4. Preparation and contacts with the faculty before, during and after your stay
5. Housing
6. Culture
7. Free time
8. Travelling
9. Other

Signature Participant

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Date: 29-12-2016

Statement of No Objection

To: Law students who go abroad in the academic year 2016-2017 as part of the University or Faculty exchange programme.

The International Office is planning to put the experiences of law students who study abroad on the Faculty website (IESE) for the benefit of providing general information for law students about studying abroad. If you do not mind, we would like you to fill in the following statement, sign it and return it to the International Office (hand it in or send it in). Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

"Undersigned hereby declares that he/she has no objection to (partly) placing his/her report of his/her study period abroad on the website of the Faculty of Law (information for students/IESE), in order to provide general information to law students about their experiences of studying law abroad and for the purpose of providing information on the possibilities of studying law abroad.

The reports will be posted anonymously.

If the undersigned wants to modify or remove his/her report (or parts of it) after publishing it on the website, he / she may contact the International Office of the Faculty of Law, Ms. Manon Siemerink, Exchange Officer (email: exchangelaw@rug.nl)"

If you agree with the content of this statement, please sign it and return it to the International Office.

Name student: Isabel Ighodaro

Study period in (mention host university/city): Aruba, University of Aruba

Signature student:



Date: 29 december 2016

Remarks:

International Office, Faculty of Law
Ms. Manon Siemerink – Exchange Officer

P.O. Box 716
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