



Overall evaluation of the organization by students

2010

To:	Ha	Ha.rt	Ei	Be	Be.rt	Ip	Ip.rt	Du	Tu	Ma	Co	Bf	Bf.rt	Bd	At	Po	Po.rt	Lu	Br	Lj	total	
From:																						
Haarlem				4				1		5	3								1			14
Eindhoven							2														2	4
Bergen			2					2									2					6
Ipswich	3			2				2		3												10
Dublin			3	3						4	2				3					2	2	19
Turku																						
Malta	5						3				2	5							2	2		19
Coimbra										3										1		4
Belfast	3	3								3										2		11
Budejovice																						
Athens		3																				3
Porto RD																						
Porto RT							2						2									4
Lund																						
Brussels								1		2										1		4
Ljubljana	1						2				2											5
	12	6	5	9		5	4	6		20	9	5	2		3		2	4	7	4		103

1: Information received in advance on:

Rating: 1. Very poor 2. Below average 3. Satisfactory 4. Good 5. Excellent

Rating	HA	BE	IP	DU	TU	MA	CO	BF	AT	PO	LU	CB	Total
1	3						1						
2	2		1							2			
3	2	3	1							3	1	1	
4	4	4				8	5				2	1	
5	10	2				7						1	

Host institution

Rating	HA	BE	IP	DU	TU	MA	CO	BF	AT	PO	LU	CB	Total
1							1						
2	5		1							1			
3	3	1	1			2	1			2		2	
4	6	7				8	4			2	3	1	
5	5	5				5							

Living Accommodation

Rating	HA	BE	IP	DU	TU	MA	CO	BF	AT	PO	LU	CB	Total
1	1						1						
2	3		2							2			
3	5	2				3				3			
4	4	4				7	5				1	2	
5	8	3				5					2	1	

Travel Arrangements

Rating	HA	BE	IP	DU	TU	MA	CO	BF	AT	PO	LU	CB	Total
1	6		1										
2	3	1				1	1			1			
3	9	5	1			6				4	2		
4	3	3				5	2				1	2	
5						5	3					1	

Cost of living

Rating	HA	BE	IP	DU	TU	MA	CO	BF	AT	PO	LU	CB	Total
1	1												
2	1	1	2				1						
3	3	1				2	1			1		1	
4	3	3				8	2			4		1	
5	13	5				5	2				3	1	

Host country

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf 1.6 : Belfast home institution left everything to the last minute, and Haarlem was excellent at arranging things for us as we were let down by home institute!
- Belfast home institution was poor (at best) with sorting out the arrangements and providing any information. The host institution was very nice and helpful, however they were unable to offer us accommodation with the other students this was unfair and made the experience very hard
- The cost of living was expensive due to the exchange rate
- The country and public transport are excellent. Accommodation was very expensive.
- I received very little information from University of Ulster about what lay ahead. Any information I did have was gained from my own independent research and exchanging information with my peers.

- The main issue of concern regarding the exchange programme was the information provided by the home institution. The majority of the students left for the exchange programme ignorant of a lot of vital information regarding the programme.
- M: the Netherlands is very expensive for students.
- I loved both the university and the country in general!!!
- I: Not all info on accommodation was given i.e. additional costs
- I love Holland, it is super cool!
- The house was alright, very nice location.
- Travel was fine, Dutch trains are top notch and always on time.
- Cost of living was fairly expensive.
- It was not made totally clear the cost of the Erasmus exchange, especially how much Erasmus grant would be available to each student.
- didn't really have any idea of the accommodation and other possible alternatives.

Bergen:

- Br: The costs were high but that's how it is in Norway. The only thing that annoys me is the deposit of 1000 NOK that we have to pay for only three months and we don't get back

Ipswich

- M: I don't think that the same package of information was given to me as a student going to this country as compared to my home country and other countries. I think that there should be more information given before students apply to go in a country. Updating the course program for this period is important.

Malta:

- H: All information was very clear and it was easy to contact people for further detail
- I: I found the amount of information received very helpful and I felt well informed about Malta and the university.
- Bf: The IHC provided us with a brilliant information pack which assisted us with our accommodation, medical forms, cost of living, travel arrangements and study information.
- I found the information on the Erasmus programme in Malta very useful

Coimbra:

- H: I really like the fact that Portugal is so cheap!
- Some information on living accommodation a bit sooner would be nice
- One week before the exchange I get all the information about accommodation and so on. For me is that very short. Especially for financial things. I had to reserved money for this exchange. In so short time I cant make a plan how to do that.

Lund:

- Enjoyed it a lot
- Initially I have had some problems about the accommodation because Lund House Office take very long time give me the right information about that. But after the problem was solved

Ceske Budejovice:

- Be: The cost of accommodation was a little higher than costs given in document supplied, but all other information was excellent.

2: TRAVEL from home to host country

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf: Home institute failed to inform us of deadlines, when I specifically asked what needed to be done! had to search by myself to find accommodation.
- yes the hoist country could not provide us with accommodation with the other students. we had to arrange our own accommodation was very hard given we were not familiar with the country. We only got accommodation sorted 2 weeks before attending.
- the accommodation was pretty expensive for what it was and there was not really any kitchen facilities that we had access to
- We experienced problems in trying to find the accommodation but this was quickly solved with help from fellow exchange students.
- M: we were accompanied by the Dutch students but they did not know exactly the way to get us to the accommodation.. we spend 45minutes walking with our luggages and it was reallllly tiring!!!!
- I: The students didn't know where the accommodation was...it took ages to find the guesthouse
- The comfort isn't as important as cost when using Easyjet!
- the Dutch students were clueless!
- the Dutch students had no idea where they were going, however they did bring stroop waffles, which is always nice!!!

Bergen:

- H: this was organised by the students of our education.
- We where picked by car by Norwegian students, very nice not to have to travel by bus.
- CB: It was organized by Norwegian students.
- I: Norwegian students where excellent and picked us up from the airport

Malta:

- H: The flight to Malta was cheap and there was a taxi waiting for us at the airport to take us to the accommodation.
- the accommodation itself was satisfactory, but the internet service within the accommodation was bad. it is expensive and a lot of times no connection.
- I : taxi service from airport was prompt and comfortable.
- Bf: the taxi service was excellent
- the travel arrangements was very well organised and we encountered no difficulties what so ever.

Coimbra:

- H: We got picked up from the station and brought to our apartment

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: The information about the travel was pretty clear and the public transport is well arranged, but it was pretty tough to travel from the airport to Ceske Budejovice with the big amount of luggage.
- The journey was long and tough, but we got good instructions. And we were picked up from the last train station.
- Bf: Marian met us at the train and showed us to accommodation, and showed us around the campus and town centre.

3. Language study

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf: No language classes provided prior to trip, also had no time to learn any language before as I only found out where I was going 6 weeks prior to trip! Received onbe language class whilst here.
- Didn't have any courses at home, then the course in the Netherlands was very brief, and it wasn't reinforced so I feel like I did not learn very much!
- We only had one Dutch lesson for just under a hour which was unfortunate and even the information they provided us was not what we could use in daily life
- We weren't given enough classes to teach us Dutch properly
- I felt that although the Dutch students tried to help us learn the basics of their language by hosting a class, while the innumeracy was helpful, other irrelevant topics should have been replaced with information on train tickets and other methods of travel so that if we needed to communicate with Dutch people about this, in their language, then we could have done so successfully.
- I feel that the language provisions were poor, receiving only one Dutch lesson which covered a small conversation between two people. I feel students would benefit from a weekly Dutch lesson, encompassing grammatical structures and self study for future students would be beneficial.
- I: no Dutch taught before we came, only one brief lesson given to us whilst we were here.
- Only one Dutch lesson for the entire Erasmus exchange!!
- we didn't have any lessons in our home national, however I think it would of been hard for this to happen anyways. in Holland we only had one lesson, which was poorly organised and structured poorly also. very little effort shown by duct student organising that. was a shame!!

Bergen:

- Br: no language study in Belgium but the language study in Norway was really bad. the way of teaching should be changed. In the first week we should have all the lessons and not during 6 weeks. it was clear that the teacher wasn't prepared for it. especially not for beginners
- H: there was no language study in my home country it would have been nice to know a little bit before I came.
- The lessons here were chaotic but interesting and I learn for it.
- The teacher had no idea what to teach us. She had no experience with people who don't speak Norwegian at all.
- I: No guidance was given before exchange, and lessons of Norwegian where often unstructured and teacher was inexperienced

Ipswich:

- M: The language of my host institution was English and this is my second language. This question does not apply.
- Be: I did not do a language study, as English is my second language.

Malta:

- H: no language study
- I: No language study was carried out prior to the exchange.
- we received lessons in Maltese language which were very interesting and enjoyable.
- Bf: I am a native English speaker so I found no difficulty with language and I also enjoyed learning Maltese
- because everyone in Malta speaks English it was very easy to understand the lectures

Coimbra:

- H: No language study in my own country but in the host country... We got lessons from a radiology teacher and his method was like... bad.
- His Dutch was better than our Portuguese, no way.
- It would have been better that we had lessons from a certificated teacher in Portuguese lessons
- we had a few lessons Portuguese but not from a language teacher. He missed the experience to learn a language to a beginner.
- There was no language course at the home institution

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: We haven't had a language study, the one in the Czech republic was starting in Ceske Budjovice at the moment we were in Prague. It would be nice to arrange something else for this, especially because Czech is a pretty difficult language.
- We did receive a book with grammar and a dictionary. But since the Czech language is very difficult and we didn't have a teacher, I still don't speak Czech. I think it would be a great addition to the program to put in a language course in the first two weeks of the exchange or in Prague. We did receive information about a language study in Ceske budejovice, but by that time we were already in Prague.
- Bf: We were offered a Czech language course in Ceske Budejovice in March but we could not attend as we were in Prague at the time. Language was a little difficult in general but fine in tutorials and the hospital.

4. Living accommodation

Comments:

Haarlem:

- T: it was very small and I had no cooking plates.
- Bf: accommodation was very good. private accommodation was found. great location.
- I had to live in a very small room with 2 other girls for 3 months. The kitchen was a small area of the room. The cost was 350 which meant that cumulatively 3 students were paying 1050 euros a month for one room, which is ridiculous.
- Cost was a major issue.
- I feel the expenditure for the accommodation, given its size and provisions were inept. I don't think the economic support is sufficient for the programme
- M: I came here thinking I would spend much less on accommodation. changes in the accommodation prices were made at the very end...
- I: very expensive for what we got. Cleaning to be done every week but we had to supply our own products. Noisy.
- Very expensive accommodation, with no other options for alternative accommodation on offer!! Plus hidden costs! No proper cooking facilities so microwave was only source of cooking available....limiting the range of food available!!
- for the money we were paying the accommodation was very poor. very poor facilities. no washing machine as promised. lived for three months with only a microwave to cook with. no area that was designated as communal. kitchen and living room where locked by other students. not granting access to cooking facilities.

Bergen:

- Br : almost the same price. no complaints
- H: It was more expensive than I thought because the 1000NOK we thought was a deposit was not a deposit but because of the short contract. That made it more expensive.
- They charged us 1000 kronen extra because we were there for only 3 months. We didn't know that in advance. For us that is a lot of money!
- I: I felt that it was cheap for Norwegian, however it was not made clear before we came that we would have to pay 1000 KON on top

Ipswich:

- M: More expensive than in Malta but this was expected.
- The accommodation provided by the university cost me 90 pounds a week.

Malta:

- I: The living accommodation was below expectations prior to travel. The website information given from the accommodation did not seem to match reality.
- Garden View was not as comfortable as I had expected it to be - although all the basics were there, it was not particularly clean, it was drab.
- Bf: Garden View accommodation was fantastic place to stay its location is excellent and the other guests were very friendly
- our accommodation was very basic
- there was a lot of ants in the complex and the beds were infested with them also

Coimbra:

- H: I missed the opportunity to wash clothes.

Porto:

- We had trouble with the electrical system
- Bf: After speaking to other students we discovered we were paying more rent than anyone else – this did not includes electric – v. expensive

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: The rooms were small, but we had everything we needed. The kitchens were a bit below average.
- Bf: Cheap and central- we even had a view of Prague Castle from our balcony in Kajetanka.

5. Domestic travel**Comments:****Haarlem:**

- Bf: hospital was far away from accommodation. so travel was more expensive than home
- the trains were regular and handy for travelling. No problems with this area.
- I had one of the further hospitals, but didn't mind the additional cost as I was very impressed by the hospital.
- Trains always run on time, but they are expensive.
- the trains here are amazing in the fact that they are always on time and they seem clean which is good
- I had to pay 150 euros for one weeks travel to my placement hospital. This was relatively high in comparison to other students who were placed in a hospital quite close Zandvoort. I think this should have been taken into account and I should have been reimbursed in some way.
- Transport in general is very expensive
- I: Went to Alkmaar, so it was fairly expensive as it was a long way to go!
- Expensive travel to clinical site, but varied between students as clinical site could be based anywhere in the Netherlands!!
- 5.5 : although my travel was expensive, I was unlucky. my placement was very far away. had to spend 40 euros for two days travel. just luck of the draw unfortunately. was worth the money in the end!!!

Bergen:

- H: I was lucky with my placement at the hospitals because I had the same placement.
- We lived next to the school and the hospital.
- CB: Buses in Bergen are always late and very expensive.
- Travelling to International office. School was in contact with internat.
- I: School and hospital placements where very close with was good. within walking distance

Ipswich:

- M: I walked to school so was very cheap! Bus was a bit expensive as an every day thing to go to hospital.
- Be: The university is just a two minute walk from the accommodation, and about 30 minutes from the hospital. I walked every day.

Malta:

- H: Busses are very cheap and it was also easy to walk to school and the hospital
- I: Buses were easy to use and walking was also possible.
- The buses were very cheap and reliable.
- Bf: The public transport was very efficient but to observe the driving in Malta was an experience
- the buses in Malta are very cheap, some of the old buses are slightly uncomfortable
- It was within walking distance, and the bus only cost 47 cent and it came regularly so that was a bonus.
- the 47cent bus fare was very cheap in comparison with bus travel back home however the drivers are a little erratic.

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: The public transport here is cheap and the busses and trams go often. The public transport here is better than in Holland and it is easy to understand.
- Bf: Very reliable and cheap.

6. Cost of living**Comments:****Haarlem:**

- Bf: accommodation over in the hoist country is at least double of back home.
- Since the train is only real way of travel, accumulatively it was very expensive!
- We weren't given any information on anything other than trains so we weren't able to explore the city using buses etc.
- I: The food was slightly more expensive than home. The trains were far better than England. The social life was more expensive, a medium beer costing about the same as a pint!
- Biggest surprise was the cost of food and social life activates!! the money, with the poor exchange rate, did not last long!!
- no cheap bar, however that may be due to the fact that we were left on our own to find places to go as the Dutch students didn't show us any.
- when you are constantly eating microwavable meals it does get pricey!!!

Bergen:

- CB: Norway is rich and very expensive country.
- I: I did not think Norway is expensive, but was unaware that how much. I think that the money available is not enough as it did not even cover the cost of my accommodation. Students who go to Norway should receive more money, as it is not enough to live on.

Malta:

- H: The costs of food and drinks are below home level
- I: Malta was more expensive for me as coming from England, the pound-euro exchange rate was not in my favour and consequently the cost of every day living - food, clothes, toiletries, accommodation, etc, was quite a bit more expensive than in England.
- Bf: transport and the cost of going out for a night are very cheap. the night life in Malta is excellent
- travel and social aspects were reasonable however with the exchange rate it was a little more expensive than we expected.

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: In Ceske Budejovice was everything certain below home level, in Prague it was a bit more expensive, but if you don't go to the tourist places and look for something smaller, the prices were still below home level.
- Bf: Most costs were cheaper than at home, especially in Ceske Budejovice.

7. Activities

7.1 Were there activities organized in which you could take part?

Social

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
20	1	8	1	1	1					8	7	6		5		3		3	

7.2 Did these activities meet your needs?

Social

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
18	3	9		1	1					10	5	6		5		2		1	2

7.3 Were there activities organized in which you could take part?

Cultural

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
14	7	8	1		2					15		6		5		3		3	

7.4 Did these activities meet your needs?

Cultural

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
13	8	9		2						15		6		5		1		1	2

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf: I was unable to attend the trip to the museum as I had to go to Rotterdam to have MRSA mad TB tests. I really would have enjoyed going to this.
- the Dutch students put on a wide variety of social networking activities. these ranged from a wide range of activities and were very enjoyable.
- Would have enjoyed more organised trips, e.g. to Rotterdam zoo, or more trips to Amsterdam!
- it would have been nice to have been shown around some of the typical Dutch places by the Dutch students but we understood that they had exams etc to be getting on with
- I think there should have been more cultural activities so that we could get a real insight into traditional Dutch life.
- This was good!
- The majority of social activities were organised by fellow exchange students from UK, N.Ireland.

- I: We could have done more if we had more money. I ran out near the end, so didn't get to see as much as I could have!
- Very very limited organised activities by the Dutch students....only a couple of times something was organised socially, and on our first few days a brief tour of Haarlem! no real effort shown by Dutch students to show us interesting parts of Holland. again left to us to explore etc!! we located facilities on our own, but by the time that had occurred it was a bit late!!

Bergen:

- H: I was a bit late organised and I would have liked a bit more activities but it was ok.
- I: Was very impressed with what was organised for the students. however, there is no leaving party for us organised which would of been a nice final thing

Ipswich:

- Be: There was just one event organized, and that was a trip to an exhibition called "Body Worlds".

Malta:

- H: The cultural trips with Mr. Zammit were very nice!
- Social activities were not really organized, but that is not necessary. It's better this way, than you can make your own social plan.
- I: The cultural lectures and tours were very informative and enjoyable.
- No social activities arranged but we all did our own socialising anyway and arranged it ourselves. Cultural activities were trips to places of historical and cultural interest in Malta which were all enjoyable and informative.
- Bf: I really enjoyed the cultural aspect of my stay and the cultural activities arranged by the IHC were great and very interesting also the lecturer was fantastic.
- we didn't have any social activities organised but the culture trips that were organised were excellent and I found them very interesting
- the cultural trips were actually really enjoyable and mr zammit was very helpful and informative.

Coimbra:

- H: We made very nice trips!!

Porto:

- The students invited us out for dinner and to show us around, but this was more towards the end of our stay. In the beginning the students were busy with their exams
- Be: It was very little activities during the first weeks. The school should aim to have more activities in order to mix the ERASMUS and Portuguese students
- At the beginning when the Portuguese students were having exams the school should aim to arrange activities for the students until the Portuguese students have finished studying.

Ceske Budejovice:

- H : We did get some emails with information about activities, but not everyone did get the information. The activities were in Ceske Budejovice while we were most of the time in Prague, so we couldn't join them. We asked if there was something similar in Prague, but we didn't get a response.
- We got information about Erasmus activities in Ceske Budejovice, but since we were in Prague we weren't able to go. It would have been nice if we were informed about the Erasmus activities in Prague.
- Bf: We met up with Martina, a Czech student for drinks, went to Temelin, Hlouboka, Cesky Krumlov, and various sights in Prague- this made us feel very welcome.

8. Problems

8.1 Were you informed from the start where you where you could find help in case of problems?

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
18	3	9		2						13	2	6		5		3		3	

8.2 Were you informed from the start about arrangements in case of illness?

HA		BE		IP		D U		TU		MA		C O		P O		LU		C B	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
18	5	4	5	2						13	2	6		4	1	3		3	

8.3 Did you experience any serious problems during the exchange?

HA		BE		IP		DU		TU		MA		CO		PO		LU		CB	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
7	14		9		2					3	12	2	4		5		3	2	1

8.4 If yes, was the problem adequately solved?

HA		BE		IP		DU		TU		MA		CO		PO		LU		CB	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
17	4	9		1	2					14	1	5	1		2			3	

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf: The lecture Geert was very helpful and friendly.
- The main problem was with living expenditure.
- I: Geert was very good at explaining everything.

Malta:

- H: Probably if you wanted to know this information you could have easily find it.
- I: We were told to contact the Erasmus co-ordinator at the IHC/Unl of Malta in case of any problems/ illness. They were always very helpful.
- Bf: we could always go to Paul or Jonathan if we needed help, I personally never experience any problems.

Porto:

- Be: we were told to contact the teachers if anything should happen

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: In the first week of our placement, there were some difficulties, because the people in the hospital didn't knew we were coming, so they wouldn't let us in, which ended in two hours waiting in the waiting room, without someone to arrange something. We also didn't know what the plans were for the other weeks. The problem was adequately solved. When we sent an email to Zuzana (in Ceske Budejovice), she had a conversation with our coordinator in the hospital to clear things up.
- We didn't have a lot of problems, but the people from the university gave you the feeling that they would always help you if you ran into problems.
- We did have some problems in the hospital the first week, that we couldn't sort out ourselves. But after an e-mail to the university the problems were solved.
- I had no problems during the exchange, and information given was excellent in case of problems/illness.

9. Funding

9.1 Did you receive ERASMUS funding?

HA		BE		IP		DU		TU		MA		CO		PO		LU		CB	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
21		9		2						15		6		3	2		3		3

9.2 Did you receive additional funding from home or host institution?

HA		BE		IP		DU		TU		MA		CO		PO		LU		CB	
y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n	y	n
2	19	3	6	1	1					2	13		6	2	3		3		3

9.3 Which costs of the exchange could you cover with your funding?

Comments:

Haarlem:

- Bf: funding was insufficient as home institution made funding to be more significant than it was.
- Funding was inadequate to even cover accommodation costs.

- these funding was inadequate to even cover half of the cost of the accommodation alone let alone living costs or uni related costs such as transport. This is an area that would require more attention in the immediate future.
- most Food and some travel
- most food and some travel
- Half of the accommodation each month
- some of the rent but not all of it and by the time that we got to the last month we all had very little money which prevented us from enjoying the last few weeks in the Netherlands
- The cost of the experience was extremely high. The grant given by university back home, only just covered the accommodation costs. A lot of money was needed for food with transport being the main economic burden.
- More funding necessary in future
- funding was minimal
- M: Not even the accommodation was covered.
- the flight and part of accommodation
- 1/3 of flight and 1/3 accommodation
- the funding wasn't even enough for the accommodation expenses!!!
- The flight and 1/3 of the accommodation
- The accommodation was a little bit expensive for us compared to the funding we received
- I: Our funding did not cover the cost of the living accommodation and extra personal funds had to be found in order to complete the rent charged..of which was very expensive.
- It didn't really cover that much of anything. It didn't cover all the accommodation costs, so I had to pay for some of that myself, then pay for everything else myself. So I ran out of cash towards the end.
- The Erasmus grant did not even cover the cost of rent for accommodation, even when we were re-assured that the money would be enough for the rent! We all had to constantly use personal funding like student loans and financial support from relatives...if this was viable!
- the money that was supplied from ERASMUS was no were near enough to even cover the accommodation. I couldn't really enjoy and make the most of the time here because I couldn't afford to go out anywhere. have to have a lot of financial backing to take full advantage of the experience!!

Bergen:

- Br: flight and about 75% of my housing for three months
- H: No!! Norway is more expensive than most of the exchange countries. And we in the Netherlands got less than any other of the exchange students. I find this unfair and it should more based on the living expanses in the host country.
- Not much, not even the rent. Norway is to expensive I don't think everyone will be able to afford it with this amount of funding.
- We could not even cover our living accommodation. I also don't think it's fair that other countries get more money then we do. It should be the same for everyone.
- I only could pay the rent of the accommodation with the funding
- CB: Funds covered 50-60%.
- It covered about 50%
- I: I fell that the amount of money given to go to Norway in not adequate. Norway is the most expensive country in Europe and this is not taken into consideration. I found it very expensive to live and had to use allot of my own funds.

Ipswich:

- M: In my case I paid all my accommodation and my flight back home!
- B: The ERASMUS funding in itself covered about eight weeks rent at the accommodation.

Malta:

- H: 2/3 of the rent of the accommodation
- 2/3 rent of accommodation
- We received 600,- So we could cover about 2 months of accommodation
- just the costs of accommodation
- I: Some of the accommodation costs.
- Bf: The funding I received was less than we were initially told and was not even enough to cover our accommodation I was very disappointed with the funding
- I received an Erasmus grant from the university of Ulster
- we could possibly cover all accommodation costs with the funding we received.
- barely covered accommodation. definitely not an adequate amount for the cost of living.
- just about covered accommodation!

Coimbra:

- H: the rent for the apartment, the cost for the bus card each month and some food. It didn't cover the flight ticket
- The airplane tickets and the rent for the apartment
- Flights and accommodation was fully covered

Porto:

- Be: Housing in Porto
- Be: Rent for my apartment in Norway (for 2 months)

- Bf: Only part of the rent
- We could only cover \$630 of the 750 rent while we were here, the rest came from my own saving or student loan.

Lund:

- H: Housing
- Only rent

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: The rent of the accommodation for the three months
- I got about 200 euro per month from my home institution, which is about enough to cover the rent of the accommodations.
- Bf: Accommodation, and some travelling and living costs.

10: Please give us your overall impression of this exchange and let us know what you think to have gained from this 'Erasmus experience':

Haarlem:

- Bf : Holland was great. the course was very beneficial and experience was something I would not have received at home. I learnt a lot about both the practical and physics side of the ultrasound program. it was a great insight into other cultures and how their medical programs are run. it was very interesting to learn about similarities and differences from home hospitals
- I really enjoyed my time in Haarlem. The institute had excellent facilities and I was very impressed with the teaching! Feedback sessions and assignments prior to lessons really helped me learn and at the end of this placement I feel I have gained a skill! I would love to continue studying ultrasound after I qualify. Having an enthusiastic teacher who interacted with the students was a welcome breath of fresh air!
- Overall a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. The host institute was very friendly. I found the course to be highly challenging and rewarding. I feel I have learned a lot from my time at the host university. The Dutch students were very helpful and friendly and provided us with a lot of activities that helped make my stay more enjoyable. Perhaps in future it would have been nicer to have a more pro-active involvement on hospital placement in the host lands. Furthermore, I feel that it would be strongly advisable for accommodation with the other students to be offered to all the students as opposed to students living in different towns. This caused a lot of problems with regards to mixing and getting to know other students and for me personally tainted the enjoyment of my Erasmus experience. However, despite this I would encourage others to visit this very friendly, challenging and rewarding host institute Erasmus experience.
- The overall experience that I gained at in-holland university in Haarlem was amazing. The people were great, the tutor was great, and the country was great.
- I loved every minute of my time here.
- My stay at INHOLLAND has been excellent and we have got the opportunity to experience the Netherlands culture and develop ultrasound skills and I would recommend it to everyone.
- Had an amazing time in the Netherlands, really enjoyed the experience and will keep with me many memories!
Found the whole trip very fulfilling, exciting and would love to do it all over again!!
Found the staff working in the school very helpful (especially Frank!), and they were willing to help us anytime we were in need of assistance!!
Thank-you very much for the experience, and I am sure all of the students studying here in the years to come will have as much fun as I had!! :)
- The Erasmus experience was amazing and I have really enjoyed it!! In hindsight I would definitely have a room of my own but all in all it has been great and I will be able to take a lot away with me and hopefully it will help me in my future career!! Frank was a really good teacher and helped to organise meetings with hospitals to see treatments that we would never see at home so a big thank you to him
- I really really enjoyed my time in the Netherlands. I feel that I have developed both academically and personally. My tutor in university Frank was really helpful and enthusiastic about radiotherapy.
My clinical placement in Utrecht has made me more enthusiastic about radiotherapy as I got to see so many treatment advances which are not yet implemented in Northern Ireland. This experience made me realise and appreciate that radiotherapy is an expanding profession. I would strongly encourage anyone to come on this experience as it's something that you will never forget. Thank you
- Had a fantastic experience!!! placement was wonderful as the staff made me feel very welcome and made me feel like a valued member of the team. Frank was extremely helpful and offered not only valuable radiotherapy advice but also tourism advice which was very welcome!
- I thoroughly enjoyed the experience in spite of the problems. Frank the lecturer was specifically mentionable
- M: Overall, it was a very positive experience, from which a lot was learned.
- It was a great experience. The only downside is that it was much more expensive than our country. I got to meet a lot of people and it was a good learning experience.

- the stay in Holland was a great experience and I really liked it here!! the inholland is a really nice place. The host students were really helpful and friendly!! I think that the accommodation is a bit too expensive for students!!
- as regard to studies... I like the fact that we had a lot of time to practice. I was able to communicate properly with our lecturers so there wasn't any problems in following lectures. I would have liked it if we had been given more feedback on the work we done during the 3 month course.
overall it was a nice experience in which I managed to widen my knowledge on ultrasound, actually I think it was a very good introduction to ultrasound since we rarely practice US in the B.Sc. Radiography course in Malta.
- Overall it was a very good and fun experience..have never before lived in a foreign country for this long and found it surprisingly great and adapted with the situations very well..
The only disadvantage is that the country is a lot more expensive than my home country and that however I would never have done this if it wasn't with the help of my parents who supported me financially.
- I must say that I had a great time here!! I enjoyed every place I visited.. I wanted to travel to some more places especially in the south of Holland but the transport is a little bit expensive.
Overall Impression: Very Good!!!
- I: The exchange programme was very well organised and the course content was great. The university is nice with an impressively equipped skills lab.
All staff and the majority of students at the university are very friendly and helpful. I have enjoyed the experience as a whole and feel it has been a valuable experience.
- Overall I enjoyed Holland very much. It was very friendly and everyone was helpful. I would certainly advise anyone in future to come here. The quality of lectures were excellent, with Geert Plug being very very good!
- The Erasmus course was very enjoyable and has greatly increased my knowledge of abdominal anatomy through the practice of ultrasound and ultrasound imaging. The staff were very friendly and the a few of the Dutch students were helpful! It was a shame that it was overshadowed by living on a very small amount of money for the duration of the exchange, sometimes living purely on cup-a-soups and bread for weeks on end!!
If the costs were clearer from the beginning then I may have made a different decision about Erasmus exchange from the outset, although to have missed out on the ultrasound course would have been a great shame!
On a final point the living accommodation was very limited, with confined spaces for two people with no adequate cooking facilities and no social or communal living areas like a TV room or kitchen! There should be more choice and assistance from either the host country or home institution in looking into acceptable accommodation. We ended up with holiday accommodation which is acceptable for short term living but for three months stay is not acceptable!
Then there was a tourist tax that we were unaware of, and had to pay on our departure...in excess of 100euros!
- I had a great time in Holland and have learnt a lot. I do feel that it could of been better, with a little more effort from some of the duct students. two students were very good with us. they helped with ultrasound scanning and getting us out and about. others however seemed very uninterested. the course was very well structured and was exactly what I wanted from the course. wish I could of found my own accommodation. bit more choice would of been great. there are lots of places to stay in Zandfoort. all though there are a lot of bad points, I am glad I came and would recommend it to anyone. if you have lots of money would be better. made lots of good friend from here that I will hopefully see again!! overall great experience

Bergen:

- Br: it was a sensational experience. best three months of my life. thanks a lot.
- H : Had a great time!
was a very good experience organisation could be a little bit better and a bit more activities. greetings!!!
- Good.
- I: Had the time of my life, but feel that the guidance with school and the money available to go to Norway inadequate. Think that it is very well organised program and would recommended for every student.

Ipswich:

- M: This was a very good experience as part of my Radiography course. I was working in Norwich and Norfolk University Hospital during my stay. This was the best time I had in the whole exchange. I had good support from clinical lecturers and staff and also from students. I would recommend students to gain experience in this hospital. However I think that from the academic point of view the course program was very basic. What I had to do was to choose a topic, research it, write 2000 words about it and present it. I expected more to be offered for ERASMUS students since this kind of study/assignment is done at my home institution. All the staff of the academic was very helpful and informative. Unfortunately it was only me and another student on this exchange. We didn't really get to meet and spend time with students and this was a bit disappointing. Enjoyed it and I would do it again!!!
- Be: I enjoyed being here, and I would do it again. I liked the clinical placements at the local hospital in Ipswich, and the lectures at the university were of high quality.

However, when it came to organizing, much could be done to improve the three months in Ipswich.

The information was hard to get, and came late. I repeatedly sent emails and tried to contact the university in order to get information about when I should arrive in Ipswich, what kind of clinical placements I would get, where the accommodation was, and how much it cost. Luckily, the manager of the accommodation e-mailed me a few days before I went to Ipswich, so I knew where it was. Nobody picked me up at the train station, and when I arrived at the accommodation I still did not know when I should go to the university, or what was going to happen, but the next day the radiography teacher responsible for the ERASMUS-programme contacted me and I got the information I should have received a long time ago.

No social events were organized. The university was not able to enrol us (me and another student from Malta), until two weeks before we were finished. The lectures were good, but was not in any way organized in consideration that they had ERASMUS students.

Basically, I did not feel the university made an effort in doing anything special for us. We were just kicked in to it.

The location is good, close to London, Cambridge and other "sights".

Malta:

- H: I really enjoyed my exchange. Malta is a very nice country, nice people and a lot of social possibilities! Overall it felt like a party that lasted for 3 months!
- the overall impression of my Erasmus experience was very good. it gave me a good impression of the Maltese profession in the mater dei. besides that the cultural and social experiences were extraordinary.
- Very good time!!!
- Malta is a very nice place to stay for the Erasmus exchange. At the placements you can do a lot if you want. The language and cultural courses were interesting. It is nice to learn something about a country.
It was a very good and nice experience.
- My overall impression of ERASMUS in Malta was very good. Although the accommodation was a little disappointing in terms of comfort it was in a very good location in terms of being possible to walk to the hospital and university and close to the nightlife.
The university lectures and placements at the hospital were well organised. It was particularly good to have the opportunity to study the language and the culture, which I feel made the ERASMUS experience what it is.
- I found my Erasmus experience in Malta very enjoyable and worthwhile. I think the best thing about it was meeting lots of other exchange students from different countries and also the experience of living in another country for 3 months. There was 15 of us on the radiography programme and we all bonded really well and had a great time together. The work at the hospital was not as difficult as I thought it would be and I was really nervous about it to begin with but there was actually no reason to be! the radiographers were all really nice although it was hard to join in the conversations a lot of the time as they would speak Maltese a lot. we socialised with them a few times too and they were always keen to join in e.g. st Patrick's day celebrations! I enjoyed most of the lectures at the uni too, although the pharmacology was not as in depth as I thought it would be. my favourites lectures were the Maltese language ones which I really enjoyed and were a good laugh as well as being educational! The social life was very good, as I met loads of other Erasmus students at the accommodation and the main bars were just down the road (Paceville) and are open till really late too so lots of late nights were had. Overall Malta is a much more laidback country than England and so that's where the main differences were, as well as the weather.
- Bf: Overall I had a fantastic experience. I have really enjoyed my stay in Malta, everyone in the IHC and Mater Dei Hospital were very welcoming and friendly particularly Jonathan and Paul. Also during my stay I have made fantastic friends and have a life changing experience.
- I really enjoyed by time in Malta. I found by Erasmus experience very enjoyable and I was glad I did the Erasmus programme has it is an once in a life time opportunity.
meeting new people from different countries and living in a n=different country was an enjoyable experience, we all really bonded and became friends really quickly.
working in the hospital in the radiography was an enjoyable experience and the staff are all really friendly. 10 : Overall Malta was amazing I met people from all over Europe and it was amazing. I would definitely recommend Malta as a Erasmus placement to everyone as I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here.
- Malta was the best choice of exchange for me I thoroughly enjoyed my stay here and will encourage others from my home institution to come here. I am really grateful for the opportunity to have this experience.
- loved it. was very interesting both educationally, culturally and socially. would do it again.
- Had an amazing time and it was everything that I expected.

Coimbra:

- H: Portugal is a nice country to stay, the weather is nice in the beginning of January. I learned a lot so... Coimbra should stay in the exchange (just change the language teacher!!)
- It was a good experience and I learned a lot. Not just about radiology or Portuguese culture, but about life and about myself and other people. I will never be the same person again.

Portuguese people are very nice, helpful and generous. The only thing they are really not good at, is listening.

- It was a great experience. The people are all very kind and want to share all the information they have with you. The social life in Coimbra is good. You have enough time to see the country, what makes it for me I have a very good time in Coimbra. I hoped I learned more from the language. Three months is enough to get a basic level. If I knew before, I booked a language course for myself.
- Portugal is a nice land, and lucky we got the chance to travel and see a lot. The clinical placements were sometimes a little boring, because we could not do a lot. That was also because our Portuguese wasn't that good for talking with the patients. But I had a great time!
- Great experience!
The courses were very interesting
I would recommend Coimbra to other students.
We were well taken care of.
The nightlife in Coimbra is unique and fantastic
Portugal is a beautiful country.
- I had a really good time in Coimbra!
It was a very good experience!
Maybe the language lessons could be better. Then is the contact with the patients also better.

Porto:

- I have enjoyed my stay in Porto very much. We have been received well by the hospitals and by the school. One thing is that the information we received from the home and the host institutions about our stay was 8-9 years old. This really should be up-dated. We were told that we would get a Portuguese language course by our home institution and it also stood on the Erasmus page about the school. Although we never received this course. It would be better, and it would improve our stay if we had learned some Portuguese.
- My Erasmus experience has been very good and I have enjoyed my time in Portugal. I had a good learning experience in the hospitals. I was disappointed that there was no language course for us as we had been expecting this. I feel that Erasmus should start in February not January as all the students have exams and we did not have much contact with anyone until after this period. Overall I found everyone very friendly and welcoming to us.
- Overall I really enjoyed my Erasmus experience in Porto. The only negative aspect of it was the difficulty in communication with some of the staff working in the hospitals. I feel a language course would be beneficial for students coming here in the future. I found all students and teachers to be very helpful if we had any problems they would help us overcome them. I would recommend students to choose Porto for their Erasmus exchange.
- I have really enjoyed my time here in Porto. The hospital staff are really friendly and welcoming. The students made an effort to arrange activities with us and were very friendly. Porto is a really beautiful city which has a lot to offer an Erasmus student
- My impression of Porto and the students here is really good and I have really enjoyed my stay here. I experienced some problems in the hospital with staff that didn't speak English, but I think that if we were given a language course during our first two weeks in school it would have been a lot easier, or I think the school should tell the hospitals that if they have available personnel that speak English, they should put them to work with the Erasmus students. When I looked at the Radiography Erasmus web page about Porto it said we would be given a course in Portuguese language and history, but since we haven't been given this, maybe you should up-date the information on that page.

Lund:

- H: Good organised Much help if needed
Friendly people
Good organised program
Very nice student town
- Sweden is a very nice country and Lund is .. city is perfect for international students
Everything was arranged for us, so this made ... easy
I enjoyed my stay very much and thank you for all
- Really good, nice/helpful people
Student friendly town

Ceske Budejovice:

- H: Overall I had a great time in the Czech Republic. The accommodation were well arranged and okay. In the beginning we did have some problems in the hospital, but they were adequately solved. After that we did have a good time in the hospital. We changed every week to another part of the department, so we were able to see a lot. Also we had the opportunity to have a look at some other departments as the gamma knife. Only it would have been nice to see something more about the PET, also because it is mentioned in the ERASMUS program. The lectures were interesting, only it was a pity that pretty often we were just with the three of us, especially in the first two weeks. It would have been a nice way to meet some people. Next to the school and hospital activities we have had plenty of time to see a lot of the Czech Republic, which was great! We got some tips from the international office and there was enough to do and to see. Even in the last weeks in Prague we still hadn't seen everything and had things we wanted to see before we left. It was nice to be in two places and see something

more of the country, but it was quite a trip to go four times from Prague to Ceske Budejovice (and back) by public transport with all the luggage.

The communication was sometimes a bit difficult, but we didn't have big problems with it. It was an advantage that we also spoke some German and sometimes we needed some hand signs to make ourselves clear, but most of the time we did manage to make ourselves clear. Still it would be nice to have some Czech lessons, especially to learn something about the grammar, so you will be able to form some sentences.

But overall it was a great time and I really enjoyed it!

- I had a great time in the Czech Republic and I would definitely recommend this placement to other students. However I do think that there are some things that could be improved. Mainly I would recommend adding a language course to the program, that would be a real advantage. I had the advantage of speaking more languages, including English and German, which made communication a little bit easier, but still I often had to use hand-signs to make myself clear. The only real problem we encountered was the first week in the hospital. The staff there didn't know who we were and why we were there. Although this problem was solved in a couple of days, I did lose some of my enthusiasm that I had in the beginning.
The placement itself in the hospital was good, we got the chance to see a lot of different examinations and departments. I do think it was a pity that we only had one day of PET, which was one of the topics of this exchange.
Furthermore the help we got from the university was good. And we got enough free time to see a lot of the country itself. We even went away for two weekends, one weekend to Vienna and one to Brno. Prague is a really great city, with lots of things to see and do. However it is hard to make contact with Czech people, who are quite closed. Once you get to know them they are very nice, but it can be difficult to get to know them in the first place.
Overall I had a great time here and it is a pity that I have to go back already.
- Bf: I thoroughly enjoyed my exchange to the Czech Republic and would recommend it to students in my home institution.
Everything was organised for us and information received was very helpful in ensuring that we got the most from our stay.
Marian was very good to meet us from the train on the first day, and showed us around campus and the town, and places of interest.
I enjoyed the trip to Temelin with Andrea and the tutorials and hospital visits in Ceske Budejovice and Motol were informative and covered topics I had not done before- I was impressed by the equipment seen and the staff were very helpful and approachable.
Na Homolce hospital placement was excellent- I enjoyed seeing how radiographers work in this country, and got a new perspective on patient care and examinations, as we had a lot of guidance from doctors- whereas at home we would not have much time to talk with doctors. The radiographers were very friendly and welcoming, even when there were language barriers. I had never visited a PET centre before so it was great to see the equipment and department, and how the scans are carried out. We made good use of our free time in Czech Republic by seeing sights and visiting new places- Karlstejn, Kutna Hora, Hluboka, Lipno, Cesky Krumlov, Prague and even Vienna for the weekend.
I hope to return to the country soon for a holiday, as does my mother and friend who visited me when in Prague!