

Traveling overseas to me was like a dream come true. However, after settling in Germany for almost three years, the same feeling chases me again that I want to change places, I want to experience something new and see a new culture, and new people. At the same time, excellence in academics was a must. Therefore the answer was Groningen. A very prestigious university that is highly ranked and in another country, i.e. new culture new experience.

Arriving at Groningen last week of August, I was amazed not only by the people and the culture but also by the Zernike campus (the campus for science and engineering faculty). The campus was huge and it looked impressive. I was shocked by the big difference between the two cities Groningen and Oldenburg, although only 130 km separates the two cities.

By arriving at Groningen, I found myself in a group of international students that all have something in common which is experiencing the unknown. With this common interest, we had an unforgettable experience. I got to meet students from Italy, Spain, Mexico, Egypt, France, and...etc. We made something very precious. We made good memories. A gift that I will carry my whole life. I got to know amazing human beings with great potential to make changes in their lives and back in their countries.

Academically this year was of great importance to me. From the many courses that I visited, I got to know what I really want to do afterward. One of the best courses I have visited in Groningen and I can simply say in the whole bachelor was Nuclear Energy by Dr. Catherine Rigollet. I think one of the reasons behind that was the professor who was really caring about the students and being really into her topic. She introduced us to one of the most mind-blowing ideas I have ever heard of in my field. That was the nuclear fusion reactor iter. It is simply a star on planet earth. A reactor that only needs water and of course high temperature to operate. It is way safer to operate than fission reactors and it can feed the whole continent with enough energy. I got to know that I need to participate in this big project. I already applied for master's degrees that are involved with nuclear fusion.

Another benefit I received academically was the experience of a new academic system. The Dutch educational system in the universities was completely different from the one in Germany. By having 4 semesters instead of 2 as well as midterms and assignments almost every 2 weeks, I found it very effective. It makes you focused on your studies and also makes you achieve more.

After my Erasmus experience, I found out that life is all about experiencing new things. You never know what is on the other side, until you go there. Life gets boring when we reside in the same place. You stop learning. It might be scary and uncomfortable about what is on the other side. That's true, but it could be also one of the most beautiful experiences that could ever happen to you. Exploring the unknown is what we are made for. When we are open to the unknown, we can find new solutions and be more creative to our current issues. This is how we can improve our lives and also create world peace. It is not in our DNA that we stay in the same place. I think this what might differ us also from trees!