

Tilburg my new favourite city?

I've now been in the Netherlands for approximately three weeks and I'm really loving it here. But let me role back a couple of weeks to the introduction week. Surprisingly we were many exchange students, ranging around fifty people so we had our own welcome week specifically tailored for us. First day just involved getting to know our way around the university and getting to know each other as students. The university campus was amazing and so youthful, I feel it's a place that everyone would love. We were also given free Purple festival tickets and that was fun, it was a great opportunity to meet the other students which were not on exchange. The music was great, and the vibe was beyond awesome.

The following day of the welcome week involved going to the City Hall for registration and visiting the bank to open bank accounts. If there is one thing I've observed about the Netherlands is that you cannot survive without a Dutch account, many stores don't accept visa and Mastercard, also if you want to rent a bike which is much more practical than buying one for a short duration then you will definitely need a Dutch bank account. I'm currently using Swapfiets for my bike and they deduct 13.50 Euros from me every month which I believe is very reasonable.

The third and last day of the welcome week was the most exhausting but also the most enjoyable day. We were put into groups and had to play a game that required us to find certain places around the city with clues from riddles. After that we all met up later for a final quiz game where the university bought way too much pizza for us. I always thought I was a complete foodie, but we all failed to finish the pizza! At least I didn't need to make dinner that day.



My three weeks here in Tilburg have been great, I love the vibe that the city has. It's not a big city and it's also not a small one which makes it easy to get from point A to point B. All my classes are being conducted in English but one thing I noticed is that exchange students are considered as 4th year students here, so sometimes some things tend to take longer for me to understand but luckily, I'm only experiencing this with one class. If there is one thing that I really love about Tilburg it's that many people speak English as a second language, so I barely face any communication barriers here.



For most people I know that the nightlife of a city is an important factor they consider before moving somewhere, and I can assure you that Tilburg has you covered on that. It's obviously not like Budapest where there's a million clubs, but there's an entire street full of them, we like to call it the party street. Fun fact, during the day most of the places are pubs then in the evening they remove the chairs and tables and turn them into clubs with dance floors. As exchange students we also have a lot of house parties which I find more exciting. The last one we had the theme was hippie, which was a little tough to dress up for, but we all had such a great time. At this point if I'm being honest, Tilburg is probably my new favourite city the only drawback is the weather. It tends to rain a lot in The Netherlands

and as you probably already know, bikes are the mode of transport here so on some occasions you will be really soaked after a bike ride.

Here's a few pictures of my university campus:

