

## Christmas

At Fontys our Christmas break runs from around the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec to the 6<sup>th</sup> of Jan which is pretty similar to Metu if I remember well. During the break most people did go back home, especially those who live in Europe, but as for the rest of us who live in other parts of the world we decided to stay for the Christmas break. It was pretty fun actually, we had numerous Christmas dinners where we would come together and prepare dinner. Fontys also organised a couple events for those who remained in Tilburg such as dinners, ice skating and karaoke nights, so it was a pretty warm Christmas.



The Christmas atmosphere in Tilburg is similar to that of Budapest. There are a lot of decorations such as Christmas trees as well as some areas where you will find enclosed animals just to give it a more Christmassy vibe. There are also many deals during the Christmas. Throughout December Mc Donald's ran a calendar promotion for each day. So every day they had a different promotion and all you needed was their app. During the Christmas season in Tilburg, there is also an ice rink which they setup in the city centre, again it looks very Christmassy and pretty much everyone goes there. It costs 5 euros to skate and 4 euros to rent a pair of skates which isn't so bad I guess because there is no time limit. When I went skating it was pretty funny, because I really had no balance but surprisingly I never fell once. Apart from that, me and a couple of friends also played secret Santa, this was also really nice, but unfortunately I'm not so good when it comes to picking out gifts so I had to ask someone for help 😊.

During the Christmas break I also decided to visit Gdansk in Poland, because I have family who live there so I actually spent my new year's there and it was really nice. Gdansk is a must visit,

*it's a pretty old town with old architecture but very well maintained and I love places like these. The city is right by the Baltic sea, so it's pretty famous for its beaches and during the summer that's where everyone goes to relax. I also visited Sopot city which is right next to Gdansk and also very popular for its beaches, in fact even more popular but it looked really amazing*

*If you ever plan on visiting Poland from the Netherlands, it's only an hour and forty minutes by plane. On my way from Poland back to the Netherlands we did however face a weather issue. After the new year the Netherlands was too misty so as we were approaching the Eindhoven airport our flight was redirected to an airport in Maastricht which is close to the German and Belgian borders. Landing was actually pretty scary because we couldn't see a thing, then from nowhere we felt the plane touch down and I still thought we were way above the ground. The airline did however transport us back to the original airport by the use of buses, but this did make the duration of the entire journey a little longer, but at least we had managed to land safely.*

