

kasiakaczynski

KASIA'S MAJOR(S): business-marketing

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2002

Maastricht,
The Netherlands

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: Since it was through the business school, it was easier to play around with credits and count on graduating on time. Maastricht was also centrally located, which allowed me to travel a lot.

FAVORITE CLASS: intercultural communications



— Kasia Kaczynski pauses for a moment in front of the old city wall in Maastricht. Kaczynski took classes through the Center of European Studies and the University of Maastricht during her semester abroad.

BEST MEMORY: After the program was over, the director invited everyone to his house, and wined and dined you with Dutch food and music. Also, what made the program for me was the people who went. They were fun and motivated people. And traveling, learning lessons on your own, seeing amazing things—I don't think you can sum it down to one memory.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: How laid back the Dutch were. Everything is slower there. No one worries about anything. On a sunny day, not that there's that many there, people don't go to work, they sit around in cafes all day. It just consistently shocked me.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I knew this, I just wish I would have processed it better, but don't overpack. I was told this over and over.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: Go abroad. I feel like I missed out on some things on campus—the basketball team going to the Final Four, Little 5—you miss out, but you gain so much more. Going abroad was a lifetime experience that you can never do again in that type of setting. It's just a perfect time to do it.

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ... even though going through the business school

was beneficial, it might have been interesting to go with a different group of people. The Maastricht program gave me peace of mind, but groups from other programs seemed to have more interaction with other people, not just those in your program.

“It teaches you a completely different lifestyle. I learned there's so much more to life than school or work; leisure time and friends are just as important. *Since I came back, I don't stress out as easily.*”

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: First of all, go. Take out loans, use credit cards, go in debt. This is the one time in your life when you should drop everything and go.