

電子報2

School life- orientation day!

Hey guys, it's been a month, how's everyone?

Today I would like to share with you my school life.

In the first week, there's a two-day compulsory orientation which I thought pretty helpful and a good opportunity to make friends.



I got an orange bag and an envelope filling with all the useful information! In it, there are instructions of the ELeUM (Maastricht University's electronic learning environment), instructions of writing a paper, and presentation skills. I think it shows how UM warmly welcome the exchange students and put much effort on helping us to get used to the school life soon.



After the first day orientation, we all got lunch boxes (oh yes, and the cupcakes!) and had a pleasant time with all the new friends.



Since there're so many exchange students here, they split us up into several groups, each group had a assistant student helping and guiding. The assistant student was so nice , answering all kinds of questions regarding to school life (how to borrow books in the library, how to make copies, how to top up your UM card..), where to get a bike , recommendations of bars to hang out and basically all the things you ask, even if she didn't know, she'd ask someone to help. I think that is even helpful to have a student telling you how they usually do, don't you think? After lunch, we had a city tour, and it's nice to have someone who knows the town to show you around, we went to the library, and all the way to city center.

The next day of orientation was the PBL training!

In Maastricht University, they do the Problem Based Learning, and that's probably a very different way of learning from your universities.

The assistant student showed some learning steps of the PBL, we had a case study, everyone had to try to answer the questions regarding to the case, and show our opinions. I strongly recommend you must go to this PBL training!

You will learn more about it and do not freak out in your first tutorial.

Now, I would like to tell you how PBL work in my course.

Everyone in the tutorial has to study all the materials and bring your thoughts to class. There's a discussion leader every time, he or she has to lead the class to go through the materials and discuss all the possible questions. There will be a tutor as well, but he or she might not speak as much as you thought, the PBL is to make it possible for students to deliver thoughts and through discussion make everyone understand the material and have different points of view. So what the tutor do basically, is to make sure we don't go too far away from the topic, on the right track of understanding , and record our participation (the quality and quantity of your speak, and of course, the physical participation.)

It is crucial that you go through the materials before you attend class, because you only get more out of it if you did study beforehand. Through the discussion you'd see how your classmates think differently. It is always fun to have multiple perspectives, and fun to learn from your classmates from different countries!

Ok, enough serious PBL, let's go back to the orientation.

After two days of orientation, in second day afternoon, there's a welcome drink!



This really surprised me because I never thought students can ever drink publicly in school property. I guess that's another culture shock!

It had been a fun 2 -day orientation, I'm sure you will feel the same!

I hope this helps you more or less to know about the school life, and I'll see you next time :)