

English Edition

EM.

#IV

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Cover story

06 | 'We skip Darwin in Saudi Arabia'

Psychologists from the Erasmus University have set up a bachelor programme in Clinical Psychology at the largest women's university in the world. So why are we in Saudi Arabia? And just how many concessions will the Rotterdammers make with regard to culturally sensitive issues?

Background

08 | Making money in your student digs

This year, the student investment society B&R Beurs will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. What once started as a group of ten people pooling together a few thousand guilders to buy stock is now the largest society of its kind in Europe.

10 | Where to apply for a scholarship

With higher education remaining a costly endeavour for many, receiving a scholarship would be dream come true for most students. For internationals who've moved abroad to study and those who receive little financial support during their student years, this is particularly true.

- 4 News
- 13 EMusic: Anna Bernard
- 14 Céline's Choice
- 15 Pub review and SG agenda
- 16 I am: Marlène Daffort
- 16 Column Kate Sytnik



Tuition fees

It was quite a shock to see that the tuition fees for the International Bachelor Economics and Business will be increasing by 23 percent for the coming year, and that the fees for IBCoM rose with a similar percentage a few years ago. This only applies for EUR bachelor students from outside the European Economic Area - EEA), but still hundreds of students are affected. New ESE-students will pay 8,500 euro for the coming year. RSM's IBA-students already pay a similar rate. Wisely enough, Erasmus School of Economics has decided to compensate current students: their fees will rise by a 'reasonable' percentage. Still, it is quite a large difference compared to the 2,000 euro fees that Dutch and European students pay for the same education. Added to that the fact that non-EEA students are limited in finding a side job, and you can imagine that such a discrepancy is hard to swallow. Luckily, there is such a thing as a scholarship. A lot of governments and charity institutions are prepared to pay for (a part) of your studies provided that you meet with their criteria. Read the story about scholarships in this edition and find out how to get your hands on some extra money to compensate the increased fees, at least a little bit.

Wieneke Gunneweg, Editor-in-chief EM
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P.S. This was the last EM International of this academic year, but we will be back next year. Do not forget to pick up a copy of our bilingual Summer Edition coming out on June 18th distributed all over campus. And of course follow us online: www.erasmusmagazine.nl

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Next edition EM
 The next EM International will be a special summer edition and will appear 18 June 2015.

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Multi-cultural fair marks official opening of ELS

Colourful stands lined the C-Hall for the official opening event of Erasmus Language Sharing or ELS. The student run initiative offers six language programs at present; Dutch, Spanish, German, Italian, French and Arabic. They 'hope to add Portuguese and Chinese' to that list in the coming year, co-founder Florine Groenen (21) explained. Enthusiastic student-teachers, or coaches as they're known at ELS, greeted curious visitors from behind their stands. Vitam had prepared tasting platters typical of nations linked to the languages to reflect the culture-sharing aims of ELS programs. German coach Judith Stein (24), draws inspiration from culture to teach the language. "For example, I'll use German words to speak about my birthday or Christmas in Germany during our class-

es," she said. The multi-cultural fair was more about 'raising awareness' than anything else, Florine explained. It seemed to do exactly that; curious students drawn by the performing musicians wandered over to browse the stands, chat with coaches and sample the food on offer. Enticed by the 'chill' music, Desislava Breycheva (20) said "I'd like to learn Portuguese, but they haven't got it yet," as she filled in her raffle entry for a free language course. "But they said they will next year!" she added. "I didn't know about [ELS] at all," said Karim El Mouttaki (19) as he waited to speak with coaches at the busy Arabic booth. "The LTC aren't offering Arabic this semester, so I'm really interested in this program. I want to discover my heritage," he added. HK

Café in de Smitse moves to new location

Café in de Smitse, or simply 'de Smitse' as it is affectionately referred by students, will move to a new location in March 2016. Although the final contracts are yet to be signed, the bar looks set to move to the Hatta Building.

Moving to the Hatta Building's 1st floor means more space and a larger terrace for the student bar. "The capacity will grow to around 350 people, our terrace will be on the [new] plaza in the sun, and will be much larger," explained Pasquale. Other plans include a room for private functions, and the 'option to do some hot snacks,' she said. De Smitse will continue to work with volunteers, however the new location will provide more flexibility

regarding opening hours, 'as the building won't close at 22:45,' as is the case now. The bar is working with architects and interior designers to create the new-look Smitse, but they want to retain the current atmosphere. "Right now, we have a very brown, traditional looking bar. We still want to keep the vibe that's in the Smitse now, but in a bit of a more modern industrial look," said Pasquale. HK

Non-EEA tuition fees to increase by up to 23 percent

The tuition fees for EUR bachelor students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) are rising sharply, with some bachelor programs' fees increasing by over 20 percent next year.

New students at the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE) will be paying 1,600 euro more than students who enrolled last year: 8,500 euro. Current ESE students will be offered some reprieve from the steep 23 percent rise through a 'transitional arrangement' put in place by the faculty. Ronald de Groot, ESE spokesperson, has confirmed this will mean an increase of only 300 euro for current students, taking their tuition to 7,200 euro in the coming academic year. The four hundred plus students affected by this were to be informed at the end of May. Only the new rate of 8,500 euro was published on the website at time of writing.

De Groot advised the decision to increase ESE Bachelor fees was 'based on a market and competition analysis, and the desire to align with the level of the fee Rotterdam School of Management is applying'. Adri Meijdam, Executive Director of IBA explained that IBA fees increased only slightly this year (3.7 percent) in order 'to allow ESE to catch up'. From next year, ESE and RSM rates for Non-EEA students will be equal: 8,500 euro per year. However, it is expected that both faculties will again increase their tuition in 2016. According to De Groot and Meijdam, the rates will be based on 'normal indexation', and due to the weak euro, will likely increase. In the case of IBA, Meijdam expects this to be at a slightly higher rate than in previous years.

Non-EEA students following the International Bachelor in Psychology will also see their tuition go up, although at a much smaller rate of 3.4 percent. ES-HCC will not increase Non-EEA fees in the coming year, however IBCoM tuition has increased by 25 percent since 2012. For Dutch students and those from within the EEA, tuition will increase next year by 2.4 percent, from 1,906 to 1,951 euro. HK

More lecturers are needed in higher education, says Bussemaker

Minister of Education, Culture and Science Jet Bussemaker strongly feels that “we need a lot more lecturers” in higher education. During an interview on TV, Ms Bussemaker said that these lecturers would be paid with the savings made from introducing the new student loan system.

‘And I’m not talking about tens or hundreds, I’m talking about serious numbers,’ she added. ‘This would mean that we could organise education on a smaller scale, students and lecturers would have much more contact again, and most importantly, connections with the outside world could be given more shape. We need a little more idealism in education.’

Ms Bussemaker did not say exactly how many more lecturers are needed. She will be elaborating on her plans in her strategic agenda and will send this agenda to the House of Representatives before the summer recess.

She intends to pay these new lecturers out of savings gained from introducing the student loan system. Thanks to this system, she said, ‘we now have plenty of extra funds to invest in the quality of education. And this has become an urgent necessity due to the large number of students in higher education over the past decades.’

However, savings generated by the student loan system will not materialise for a few years yet. Ms Bussemaker has agreed with universities and universities of applied sciences that they will have to advance 200 million Euros a year. **HOP**



Bracelet against sexual assaults developed by EUR-student wins Innovation Award

A bracelet designed to protect women against sexual violence won the Philips Innovation Award 2015. The *PearlTECT* bracelet was developed by a team of four people, including EUR-student Roel van der Kamp. When a rapist attacks the person wearing the device, the bracelet can release a pungent skunk-like smell. The idea is to scare away the attacker. The *PearlTECT* also releases a DNA marker-dye which can be used to track down the attacker. The jury applauded the *PearlTECT* team for being ‘very divers’, because Van der Kamp’s team consists of three women (Elske van der Ende, Heleen Bouma, Iris de Jong). They also awarded the defence bracelet because of its potential social impact.

The Philips Innovation Award is an award for entrepreneurial students. 150 teams participated in the 2015-edition, yet only five teams made it to the award finale. The defence bracelet defeated four other contestants: the Blue Battery, a product that can store electricity in a barrel of water and salt. The Homey, a voice-controlled home assistant used to operate all wireless equipment in your house, didn’t win either but was able to collect more than 200.000 euros in a Kickstarter-campaign. Other nominees were Smart Blocks, white, intelligent blocks that architects can use to build models and Printr, a product to simplify 3D-printing. The winning team won a prize worth 50.000 euros. **NB**



Student Juri Rosvetov (ESE) passed away unexpectedly after class

The 19 year old ESE-student Juri Rosvetov unexpectedly passed away after an Econometry class. Juri became ill during a class of Linear Programming. Staff trained for emergency situations tried to revive him. Despite their best efforts, he eventually passed away.

Fellow student Jovana Milanovic described Juri as a sweet, quiet and social young man: “Often he told me about his biggest passion in life: music. He loved to make music and perform live, together with his band”, Jovana remembers. Teacher dr. Emiel Caron of the Linear Programming class, experienced Juri as a ‘friendly and serious guy’. “Juri was passionate about programming. He always attended class well-prepared.”, Caron said. **ES**

Camping on the Campus Woudestein ‘beach’

Feel like having a camping adventure, but don’t have the dough for the trip? Why not pitch your tent on Erasmus Sport’s Beach? It’s all possible on the beach volleyball field between the F, G and Q building. Erasmus Sport has 20 tents available for your campus camping trip. The tents are available for

free, but only if you order a whole package at Erasmus Sport. ‘For that, you’ll get a barbecue, breakfast and the possibility to sleep over on the beach. There are some costs, because we have to hire somebody to keep an eye during the night’, Max van Dijk from Erasmus Sport explains. **ES**



We skip Darwin in Saudi Arabia

Psychologists from the Erasmus University have set up a bachelor programme in Clinical Psychology at the largest women's university in the world. So why are we in Saudi Arabia? And just how many concessions will the Rotterdammers make with regard to culturally sensitive issues? A profile of a relatively new programme in a country where female education has not been self-evident for very long **text** Tim Ficheroux

In the desert on the edge of the city of Riyadh lies an enormous, brand new university campus. Visitors feel as if they have stepped into a modern adaptation of *One Thousand and One Nights*. *No men from this point* say signs at the entrances.

Men are barred from the campus of Princess Nourah University (Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman University in full, named after the sister of the first king of Saudi Arabia). Lectures by men are given via a video link. It is the largest women's university in the world, with over 50,000 students.

A bachelor programme in Clinical Psychology was launched three years ago, the first in the country. It was developed by psychologists from Erasmus University based on the Rotterdam model. The first intake of students is now in their third year. Upon completion, they will still have to do a one year work placement. The idea is that some of the new women Saudi psychologists will go to Rotterdam for their master programme.

Karel became Achmed

"It was an enormous challenge to set up a new programme", says Benjamin de Boer, the coordinator of the Clinical Psychology Programme in Saudi Arabia. "Everything had to be built from the ground up, from the commas on the slides to consultations with the vice-chancellor." Henk van der Molen, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, oversees everything from Rotterdam. He was involved in the programme from the start, together with Henk Schmidt, the former vice-chancellor.

"We were able to translate most of the programme into English. And we were able to kill two birds with one stone, because we wanted to start an English language bachelor programme in psychology in Rotterdam too", says Van der Molen. But adapting the programme to the situation in Saudi Arabia required more than just translating readers into English and replacing the name Karel with the name Achmed. "It's important that examples used relate to the students' own world", Van der Molen explains. "In the Netherlands, many examples are about going to the cinema on a date or a meeting in a bar." That's out of the question in one of the most conservative countries in the Middle East, where cinemas and alcohol are

prohibited and pre-marital encounters between men and women are rare. "It's not only taboo to give these kinds of examples, they simply wouldn't be understood. The students can't imagine what a date to go to the cinema is all about."

Darwin is unmentionable

These are harmless changes, intended to relate to the students' everyday life. A few changes to allow for cultural and religious sensitivities are more fundamental. For example, evolutionary psychology has been scrapped as a subject, Van der Molen tells us. De Boer: "We can't mention Darwin or say that man descends from apes." The principles of the theory of evolution are nevertheless included. "I insisted on this", says De Boer. "Why are humans social animals? Why does a child cling to its mother? These are evolutionary principles. It's been removed as a separate subject, but the finer points are covered by biological psychology. We don't tell any lies; we just try to explain things in such a way that they are acceptable and understandable."

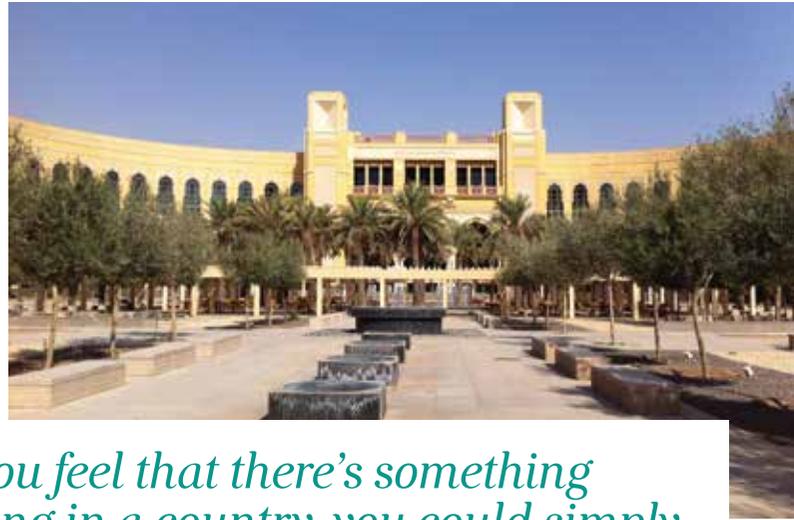
This also applies to homosexuality, for example, says Saskia Hofman, who was involved in the programme during the first two years as a lecturer. "There's little point in expecting students to regard and accept homosexuality as a fact. They know it exists, although they often don't understand it. However, you can broach the subject by having them discuss gender." If one of the students finds it objectionable, the lecturer can explain that she may still have to deal with it as a psychologist. "Students will then at least realise that gender can be considered in different ways."

Thickly applied make-up underneath a burka

Noor Buermans and Sara Veerman both studied Psychology at Erasmus University and now work as lecturers at Princess Nourah University. They give us a detailed account of their experiences via Skype. It is unique that westerners get to see Saudi women. Because the campus is off-limits to men, a long, dark skirt is the only prescribed item of clothing. The moment the students arrive on campus, they cast off their veils and abayas (long robes which fall from the shoulders to the floor and which all women are obliged to wear in public).



Sara Veerman (l) and Noor Buermans (photo left) on the campus of the Princess Nourah University (photo below)



“Sociable and trendy young women appear from under the veil”, Veerman tells us. “Usually heavily made up.” Buermans: “When you see someone walking around in a burka in Holland, it arouses a kind of subconscious fear. These veils deprive women of a face, literally and figuratively. Having seen that almost everyone here wears a veil in public, and having seen the individuals behind the veil, this image is more nuanced.” For Veerman and Buermans the women are given a face, a unique identity.

One of Veerman’s most remarkable experiences was when one of her female students had to leave a lecture early because she was going to be introduced to the man to whom she might be married. “The image we have of an arranged marriage is often that of a woman who is put in a room and introduced to the man she is being forced to marry. But this young woman was very nervous and looking forward to it, as though it were a first date. All the other female students wished her good luck. She later gave us a detailed account of the things she had talked about with the man, and that she was probably going to accept his proposal.”

Chop Chop Square

Despite the enthusiastic stories of the parties involved, one wonders why Erasmus University is working with a country which does not give priority to human rights. Although female education and employment are becoming increasingly accepted, equal rights have not yet been addressed. The legal system is based on a fairly literal interpretation of the sharia. The country still practises corporal and capital punishment, which is usually administered in public.

The most banal answer is money. The university sold the programme to Princess Nourah University as part of a 4 year contract. Van der Molen won’t say what the faculty will get out of it exactly. “That’s like a trade secret, in case we ever want to sell the programme again. But it has helped us to launch our own English language bachelor programme.” Still, money is not the main reason, Van der Molen tells us. A more important consideration is that there is very little knowledge of psychology in Saudi

‘If you feel that there’s something wrong in a country, you could simply look the other way. But you could also choose to make changes from within’

› Benjamin de Boer

Arabia. He considers it to be his mission to transfer knowledge of psychology and to ensure that mental health care is improved. “There aren’t very many psychologists in Saudi Arabia, although there’s a high incidence of depression, especially among women.”

Emancipation is De Boer’s main motive. “I’m not selling cigarettes or cars, but providing university education to women. Who could have a problem with that? Twenty or twenty-five years ago, it would have been inconceivable for a woman to study for a degree in Saudi Arabia.” De Boer thinks that cooperation is a more effective means of bringing about change than a boycott. “If you feel that there’s something wrong in a country, you could simply look the other way. But you could also choose to make changes from within.”

De Boer doesn’t think we should take the moral high ground as far as women’s rights and gay marriage are concerned. “It wasn’t that long ago that we acquired these rights in the Netherlands. When you look at the speed at which social changes are taking place in Saudi Arabia, things are going in the right direction.” Of course there are a lot of things wrong in the country, says De Boer. “Many women are still being oppressed. Corporal punishment is still being administered in public.” Some expats jokingly refer to the square where this corporal punishment is administered as Chop Chop Square. You can’t change all that single-handedly, he thinks. “I think it’s important to be aware of it, but there’s not much I can do about it. But I can make sure that a few women receive a proper education.” 

› For an extended version of this article, visit www.erasmusmagazine.nl/international



Making money in your student digs

This year, the student investment society B&R Beurs will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. What once started as a group of ten people pooling together a few thousand guilders to buy stock is now the largest society of its kind in Europe. And although most of today's members were still in secondary school when the most recent crisis broke out, their perspective on the vicissitudes of the world of finance seems to be somewhat different to that of previous generations of student investors.

text Gert van der Ende photography Levien Willemse

Students of Floryn Traders are discussing strategies during their fortnightly meeting

It's Thursday evening, and six people have gathered together in Jetze Schuurmans' room in the student complex on Struisenburgdwarstraat for the fortnightly meeting of the Floryn Traders investment 'family'. There's the soft pop of beer bottles opening. First order of the day: which take-away to get. The members eventually agree on Chinese. After this, Chairman Iwan Rikken presents his

investment proposals: three in total. He offers background details with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation on a wall-mounted computer monitor. However, the lads are in a rather jolly mood, meaning that Iwan is constantly required to call them to attention. However, the group eventually finds time between all the joking and goofing around to listen and engage in some pithy discussions. The first proposal concerns SBM Offshore: Iwan brings up the company's so-called 'fundamentals' – its key characteristics. The firm actually isn't doing that well – meaning that speculating on a further drop in its stock price could prove fruitful. Someone refers to a 'downward decline': cause for a new wave of laughter. Iwan, who will be going to London this summer to work in the City as an intern for financial services provider Credit Suisse, is trying to get the meeting back on track when Jesper drops in. Jesper, the winner of a poker tournament recently organised by B&R, is given a boisterous collegiate welcome. Once again, the group's at-

tention drifts elsewhere. Ultimately, proposal number one doesn't make the cut.

Internal education

The association's almanac – which is prefaced by the Dutch national anthem as well as forewords by both Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb and Rector Huib Pols – tells us that B&R Beurs was established in June 1985. Starting with ten members and a few thousand guilders, the small club has since waxed into an association of over 700 members (including a growing number of international students), with 32 *disputen* (families) with resounding names like Oculus Capital, Ad Infinitum and Borsa Valori. B&R Beurs is the largest student investment association in Europe and enjoys the support of sector players like ING, BNP Paribas, Black-

te, explains Sebastiaan. “We focus on internal education. For example, we organise workshops, advanced academies and fortnightly lectures. For basic subjects, we tend to rely on senior students; in the case of more specialist subjects, we usually invite an outside expert.” And they generally don't have trouble finding one, since B&R's alumni network teems with professionals working in the financial sector. And yes: the three board members assure us that after 2008, subjects like ethics, CSR and innovation have figured increasingly high on the association's agenda. “Business ethics has become increasingly important in the wake of the crisis, and we see that companies hold the same opinion,” says the association's President, Pim van der Wal. “Whereas in the past, B&R (which incidentally is an abbrevia-

PayPal, among other things, and the current CEO of Tesla Motors. Nevertheless, the group remains hesitant. While investing in SolarCity may well be an excellent idea in the longer term; it doesn't seem a realistic option for scoring a quick win in the final month of the contest. Iwan moves on to proposal number three – and once again, his suggestion is greeted with much hilarity. Because the company in question is Iwan's 'own' Credit Suisse.

Poker

Back to the board members, who hold office in three tiny rooms in Woudestein's N-Building. By now, the three have been joined by one of the members of the Investment Week committee, who explains that it was consciously decided to devote this year's event to companies that seek new ways to become sustainable and/or innovative. Or, as the Symposium website puts it: *'Many things have happened during the financial crisis, especially regarding the financial world. Nobody can argue that certain financial innovations went completely wrong in the run towards and during the financial crisis... Nevertheless, innovations are needed to address the future challenges of the society... Some examples are innovative process (or technical innovation), innovative products, innovative ideas and innovative markets (such as sustainability).'*

Still, we can't resist asking what the connection is between investing and playing poker. A number of B&R members turn out to be professional poker players: for example, last year, the association's yearbook mentioned that alumnus Ruben Visser had already chalked up some USD 2 million in poker winnings. And there's a reason why some companies in the financial sector actually comb the poker circuit in search of new talent for the trading floor. Secretary Ruben Boutens: “Both activities involve making the right risk analyses and subsequently not shying away from taking a decision.” However, he adds with a glint in his eye: “This goes well as long as everyone plays according to the same rules.”

Track record

Once the laughter has died down, the other members of Floryn listen attentively to Iwan's arguments for investing in Credit Suisse. The company recently appointed a new CEO with a good reputation, its focus is on emerging markets and – in contrast with other financial institutions – the chances of new skeletons emerging from the multinational's closet seem fairly slim. The gentlemen of Floryn appear convinced. Their take-away is getting cold, so they briskly move on to the voting round. And everyone turns out to be in favour. 

‘Business ethics has become increasingly important in the wake of the crisis, and we see that companies hold the same opinion’

› The association's President, Pim van der Wal

Rock, Deutsche Bank and Kempen & Co. Indeed, B&R President Pim van der Wal, Treasurer Sebastiaan Quint and Secretary Ruben Boutens (who is quite a decent kart driver, by the way – finishing as runner-up in the 2010 world championship in Phoenix) are duly proud of their association, and enjoy talking about their activities. The association's core business is its investment contest, which all the B&R families take part in, but the club also organises a wide range of other activities: workshops, social get-togethers, lectures, poker tournaments, company tours (including a trip to London for the happy few) and, the highlight of the annual calendar, the Investment Week in June. The programme includes a symposium in Rotterdam's leading conference centre De Doelen that always sells out. The theme of this year's event is *Innovate or Stagnate*.

It hardly comes as a surprise that most B&R Beurs members are enrolled at ESE or RSM. Although you may find the occasional philosopher among its ranks. The vast majority of its members are male – fewer than 20% of the B&R investors are women. The association does however boast an all-girl *dispuut*: Sigma Delta Phi Investments. New members are free to join one of the association's existing families or establish a new *dispuut* of their own. Investment expertise is by no means a prerequisi-

tion for *Beleggen & Rendement* - ‘Investment & Return’, eds.) was mainly about increasing your ROI, nowadays, the discussion regularly touches on ethical aspects. But of course, our members will always remain bound by an overriding passion: investing.”

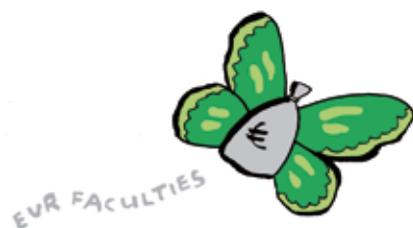
And it is only logical that after graduating, a substantial number of the B&R alumni find employment in sectors like private equity and investment banking. Sebastiaan: “Look: ESE is the Netherlands' foremost Economics faculty, and B&R specialises in investment issues. While I wouldn't go so far as to call B&R a ‘one-way ticket to London’, a number of our members undoubtedly choose that career path.”

SolarCity

In the meantime, everyone in Jetze's room has been handed a fresh beer, and it's time to discuss proposal number two. And by now, the discussion has become somewhat more structured. For good reason, because Floryn is currently at the head of the contest and the family's members intend to keep it that way. Iwan shows how SolarCity, a manufacturer of solar panels, has been doing recently. According to him, the firm can be characterised as a high-growth business with exposure to green energy. And what is definitely in the firm's favour, in his view, is that SolarCity CEO Elon Musk is a well-known innovator: the cofounder of

Where to apply for a scholarship

With higher education remaining a costly endeavour for many, receiving a scholarship would be a dream come true for most students. For internationals who've moved abroad to study and those who receive little financial support during their student years, this is particularly true. **text** Haylee Kelsall **illustrations** Bas van der Schot



Nevertheless, around 20% of the 12,000 grants offered throughout Europe fail to be awarded annually, with many programmes struggling to attract enough eligible candidates. According to Dr Mira Maier, Executive Director of european-funding-guide.eu, in Europe alone over 27 billion euros in funding is available each year. Even faced with the rising costs of higher education, many students still fail to explore the opportunities – something which makes little

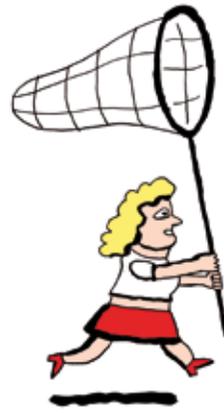
sense to grant beneficiaries. Speaking to recipients, they echo each other's responses: without their respective award(s), getting where they are now would have been almost impossible. But where exactly should you look for such programmes and just who are they looking for?

Faculties

The first port of call when looking for scholarship opportunities should be a student's own faculty. Although all EUR faculties offer



ERASMUS GRANTS



NATIONAL STUDENTGRANTS



their students some form of scholarship programme, exactly what is on offer varies between departments. Most offer high achieving Non-EEA students the chance to apply for a reduction in their fees, which comes in the form of a tuition waiver. Again, as it is up to each faculty to set their own criteria for eligibility, duration and amount, the awards on offer differ considerably. At RSM for example, only prospective students are able to apply for the RSM non-EEA Excellence scholarship, which waives the difference between the Non-EEA and EEA tuition fees. Even within this scholarship, the award's duration varies, with Bachelor students receiving it solely in the first year of study and Master's students for the duration of their programme (12 – 18 months).

The Erasmus University College (EUC) on the other hand, awards scholarships to students for the duration of their programme. The three types of scholarship offered are awarded to 'highly motivated' students from different backgrounds: those hailing from Rotterdam, the European Economic Area (EEA) and those from outside the EEA. Brazilian student André Mamede Soares Braga (20) receives the EUC Global Scholarship from the college, which reduces his tuition fee by 8,500 euros to the same amount as his European classmates. "We made our calculations before I applied, and I realised that without a scholarship it was simply unaffordable for me and my family. On top of that [tuition fee], you still need to think about your living costs," he explains. "I've heard a lot of Non-EU students complaining about our high fees, but when I ask if they applied for scholarships they're surprised – they didn't know about them. Often I think students don't seek out these opportunities."

Universities

Not all students are eligible for the scholarships within their faculties however, and in that case André advises 'starting with the University's website'. The reason, he adds, is that 'they have quite a few scholarships listed for both Dutch and non-Dutch students' – over 40 to be precise. Dutch student Kimberly van Aart (23), is completing a second EUR

'When I ask if they applied for scholarships they're surprised – they didn't know about them. Often I think students don't seek out these opportunities.'

› Brazilian student André Mamede Soares Braga (20)

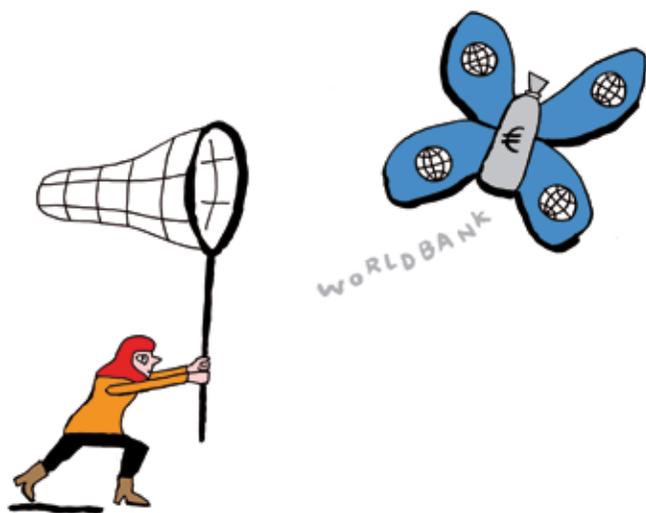
Master's programme with support from the EUR Excellence Scholarship, which she read about on the ESSC website after learning about it from her student advisor. Having already completed the Bachelor in Arts and Culture Studies and the Master of Arts, Culture and Society, she is now in the final stages of the Research Master in the Sociology of Culture, Media and the Arts. "I thought about applying for the Research Master after my Bachelor, but it's highly selective and the workload is huge. I decided to do a regular Master's programme first to see if I'd still like doing research – and I did," she laughs. For Kimberly, the decision to follow the second programme was easy, but financing it proved challenging. Much like André, she doubts whether she would have joined the programme without the scholarship, as 'it wouldn't have been financially possible' due to the higher fees charged to students studying second degrees. Keen to point out the additional benefits, Kimberly hopes being awarded the scholarship will work in her favour when it comes to achieving her future aspirations, including helping her to secure a PhD position. "In general they act as a sort of confirmation or validation of someone's capabilities, encouraging other selection committees to have faith in your abilities too."

Dutch government

It's also possible to seek support from the Dutch government and associated agencies. Nuffic offer scholarships to students from different backgrounds to study both in the

Netherlands and abroad. Many of the scholarships administered through Nuffic offer a monthly stipend alongside tuition coverage, with some also compensating travel costs to and from the Netherlands. The Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) is just one example, offering financial support to mid-career professionals from 51 countries to pursue higher education. On top of tuition and travel subsidies, the fellowships provide a monthly allowance to supplement the regular income of recipients, thus allowing fellows like Nepalese Sudeep Batadur Singh (50) the opportunity to study in the Netherlands.

Although Sudeep had been working in the development sector for a number of years, he wanted to broaden his theoretical knowledge and gain international insight into the field. He was inspired to study in the Netherlands due to the nation's 'citizen-friendly attitude and socially responsible' reputation. Additionally, a keen desire to study at a leading European institution to understand the 'European perspective' on development issues pushed him to apply. Reflecting on his experience thus far at the Institute of Social Sciences, he mentions several benefits of the opportunity afforded to him through the NFP. "This is an international institute, in terms of both the students and staff. One day we might be reading something theoretical about Uganda, while at the same time someone in your class is from Uganda. They're able to cite real life examples and experiences, which makes the theoretical content rele-



vant. As most of the students are doing their second Master's and have been working for at least three years, there's a wealth of practical knowledge being shared too. I also find it amazing that the professors who are teaching us have written the books and published the articles from which we're learning."

Home countries

Although several opportunities are offered by Dutch agencies like Nuffic, for international students their home governments may also be a viable place to turn. First year IBA student, Lena-Marie Pätzmann (20), receives a monthly stipend from her native Germany through The German National Academic Foundation, or Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. Suitable candidates are nominated by their high schools and the hopefuls are then invited to attend an assessment weekend where they're evaluated by selection committees. "Yes they're looking for good students during the selection, but really they want the students who will contribute something to society. You have to show that you're different and that you're special to be chosen," Lena-Marie advises. As a member of the exclusive community associated with the programme, she notes that 'it opens a lot of [other] doors for you'. Besides the monthly stipend, as a recipient she is also entitled to apply for her tuition fees to be covered and she gains access to a number of scholarships offered exclusively to the programme's alumni - including full scholarships to study at Harvard.

For students lucky enough to come from the Nordic countries (among others), it's relatively easy to continue receiving national student grants whilst studying here in the Netherlands. Grants from Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland (to name but a few) continue to be paid to students studying abroad. Although amounts vary between countries and depend on an individual's situation, entitle-

'They want the students who will contribute something to society. You have to show that you're different and that you're special to be chosen'

› Lena-Marie Pätzmann (20)

ments generally range from 400 to 500 euros or more per month, with the option to borrow additional funds as needed.

European Union

Unfortunately, not everybody comes from a country which allows students to take their national entitlements abroad. The prospect of leaving Rotterdam for an exchange semester in these cases often requires extra budgeting - a daunting task for many. Although such an adventure promises a great deal of fun, new friendships and that all-important CV addition of 'international experience', in reality it can prove pricey. But, as with the many funding options available whilst studying at Erasmus, a wealth of options are on offer for those keen to experience life in a foreign country. Perhaps the most well known, and indeed most widely awarded, comes from the European Union itself in the form of

the Erasmus+ Grant - a fund supporting student mobility throughout the continent. One such student to receive support from the EU's mobility programme is 21 year old Lithuanian student Gintarė Urbaitė. She's been away from her home base at Kingston University in London for two consecutive semesters - an opportunity she has hugely appreciated. "Before coming to Erasmus, I spent a semester studying at Istanbul's Bilgi University. I was too comfortable in London, and wanted to challenge myself to leave that comfort zone," she says of her decision to study abroad. "You really expand your horizons and learn to overcome challenges on your own, which has helped me to grow and mature. I've met a lot of people and made many contacts, which is great. Without the Erasmus grant though, I wouldn't have been able to take this opportunity as I had no savings of my own and my parents aren't able to support me either. In this case, the grant has paid for my plane tickets to move to each country as well as the monthly amounts," Gintarė explains.

Opportunities for everyone

These are just a few examples of the many scholarship opportunities out there. Others can be found through international organisations like UNESCO, the World Bank and Rotary Club to name but a few, yet these are often highly competitive due to the prestigious nature of the accolades on offer. Traditional essay-style scholarship competitions can be found with a quick Google search, which returns a plethora of these potentially overlooked opportunities. Such competitions should not be disregarded by students keen to find grants - many offer thousands of euros to winning authors. Of course, the digital era has brought with it changes to these competitions. Newer awards (check out 'Living the Dream' from uniplaces.com, and the 'Abroad with HousingAnywhere.com Grant') invite creative, digital applications from hopefuls and employ peer-based voting schemes to support the selection process. At the end of the day, there are opportunities out there for everyone - whether it's a university scholarship for academic excellence, a Jane Austen essay prize or grants from local businesses. So... what are you waiting for?

> EMusic

'I do believe I have something to tell'



Italian Anna Bernard (23) from Bolzano has been in Rotterdam since September last year as a master student Cultural Economics and Entrepreneurship. She's also a singer, and recently she took up playing the guitar as well.

text Gert van der Ende **photography** Michel de Groot

> If you want to hear Anna Bernard sing, go to www.erasmusmagazine.nl/EMuziek

whom she learned to sing all kinds of music, varying from jazz and classical to contemporary pop music. "I still remember the first song I sang there: 'Imagine' by John Lennon." More importantly, at the music school she discovered that her voice wasn't too bad, and that she could stay in tune pretty well.

After high-school she left Bolzano for Köln to do a bachelor. She stopped taking singing lessons, being unable to find a good teacher. Once, in Rotterdam she took up guitar lessons, and started writing her own songs. "Mostly songs about my own life. In English, though I would love to write in Italian one day. The style is a little bit of everything, R&B, jazz, even electronic sometimes. Over the years I discovered that jazz music is the root of all kinds of music I like today."

She just had her first big performance some weeks ago, at a talkshow in the Schouwburg, accompanied by Codart students Federico Castelli (guitar) and Jimmi Hueting (drums). Till then Anna Bernard, in Rotterdam, could only be seen on stage at private gigs and at the Guilty Pleasure Expo, in April in Rotterdam. Still, she wants to focus more on music than before, though for the time being she wants to combine her hobby with her studies and an eventual career. "Of course it would be fantastic to make a professional career out of music, but I have to reach a certain level to do that." It's all or nothing, in her eyes, that's why Anna – in her youth a skier of some distinction – gave up on sports and theatre, to be able to concentrate fully on music. "I do believe I have something to tell with my music, and that it is different from a lot of other music. Not for nothing, music is called a reflection of the soul. All the experiences I have had until now can be heard in my voice, I think."

"When I was a child, I used to sing quite a lot, but often by the evening my voice was gone completely. My parents sent me to a speech therapist who forbade me to sing and gave me all kinds of exercises to do. Well, actually I never stopped singing, but I didn't take up real singing till I was 16. Before that age I was part of a classical dance and theatre group, with which I even travelled to Japan several times. There I bought a compilation cd with jazz singers, like Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald. I liked that kind of music, and I felt I wanted to sing too."

She got herself a quite inspiring teacher at the music school in Bolzano, from



> CÉLINE'S CHOICE

Celine did her studies in Amsterdam but has been in the O10 region for the past eight years. In that time, she's become a familiar face at local catering establishments. For every EM International, she picks out the best performances, most interesting exhibitions and the coolest parties in the city to share with you.



Food trucks

Food truck rallies are really hot! We've already seen a number of festivals devoted to these mobile kitchens, and soon, Rotterdam will have its own edition: 'Rrrollend Rotterdam', held on Noordplein. No less than thirty food trucks will be gathering on the square to form one big open-air restaurant. Treat yourself to a gourmet hotdog, Black Angus burger, a pulled pork sandwich or organic crêpes. All lovingly prepared in a colourful mobile kitchen. In addition to gourmet delights, the festival offers live music and theatre. And be sure to stick around until dusk, when all the coloured lights go on and you momentarily imagine yourself in the film 'Chef' or a quaint French village.

> **When: Friday 12 to Sunday 14 June. Admission free.**
More information: www.rrrollend.nl



Metropolis

Metropolis is a free pop festival that aims to discover exciting new talent from the Netherlands and abroad. Held in Rotterdam's Zuiderpark, the event introduces today's festival-goers to the musical heroes of tomorrow. The programme offers a mix of indie, pop, rock, hip hop, world music and dance. Many of the acts who at one time performed as 'new talent' at Metropolis have since become household names: acts like Radiohead, The Black Keys and The Prodigy. This year's line-up once again includes promising acts like garage rocker Ezra Furman, blues rock band Vintage Trouble and the haunting, vulnerable tunes of the Dutch band Half Way Station. Another recommendation to go see is Glass Animals, who mix electro pop with psychedelic timbres and sounds.

> **Where: Sunday 5 July in Zuiderpark. Admission free.**
More information: www.metropolisfestival.nl



De Parade

De Parade is an annual travelling theatre festival that kicks off its tour every year at Rotterdam's Museumpark. On these occasions, the festival site turns into one big fairground, with brightly-coloured tents, a poeffertjes stand (traditional Dutch pancake puffs) and the famous swing carousel. Every year, the festival tents present some 70 different theatre and live music performances, which last a maximum of 30 minutes each. Meaning that you can visit several a day. In addition, De Parade offers tasty food and great opportunities for watching people and drinking rosé wine. But whatever you do, make sure not to head for home before taking a ride on that lovely old swing carousel!

> **When: 18 to 28 June at Museumpark. Tickets: € 7.50.**
Tent admission prices: € 2 to € 10 per performance.
More information: www.deparade.nl

Bluegrass Festival

The Bluegrass Festival is devoted to the American musical genre that came to the fore in the 1950s. This folk music has a jazz-like structure, and its most prominent instrument is the banjo. It combines infectious tunes with recognisable, 'slice of life' lyrics. The Bluegrass Festival has a very friendly atmosphere. It's held on Pijnackerplein, a relatively small square in Old North. This makes for a very intimate setting, and you can be sure there will be a lot of singing along and dancing. In



addition to performances by well-known international acts like the Henhouse Prowlers, Nadine Landry & Sammy Lind and Frank Fairfield, the Festival also organises open jam sessions that you are welcome to take part in.

> **When: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June.**
Tickets: admission free. More information: www.bluegrassfestival.nl



> PUB REVIEW

Tropical terrace on the banks of the Maas

Not so long ago, Rotterdam was mourning the closing of the swimming paradise *Tropicana*. Now, however, the city is enjoying the delights offered by the unique and summery *Aloha Bar* located on the same site.

Aloha Bar
Maasboulevard 100

Atmosphere 10
 Pulling opportunities 7
 Studenty 7
 Beer € 2.70

Once the main attraction was whizzing down the slide with your friends at kids' parties. Now you can drink, chill and dance. The legendary sub-tropical swimming pool *Tropicana* closed its doors in 2010 but luckily that didn't mean the end of the historic round building on the river Maas. Behind the scenes, a makeover was being planned for the old swimming paradise, resulting in the triumphant opening of the *Aloha Bar* two years ago. The crowning glory is the terrace laid out on a mix of wooden decking and the original tiles from the swimming pool. From here, you can enjoy the gorgeous view over the Maas bridges on a fine summer's day. As the Netherlands is not always blessed with tropical temperatures, the *Aloha Bar* also has a summery indoor area: the adventurous setting and fun interior ensure a unique atmosphere, providing Hawaiian climes even in less clement weather. Thanks to the big height differences and niches – with the reclaimed wild water rapids forming a central path – the building is very fragmented. However this feature has been cleverly used by creating different areas. For the *foodies*, for example, there are tables where they can try experimental snacks, and there's a living room with a Chesterfield sofa and a bookcase. Despite an overdose of cactuses, the lounge is the cosiest area of the *Aloha Bar*. Around the coffee bar, you can relax in the many luxurious designer chairs and spy on the gorgeous *baristas*, who prepare your espresso or cappuccino with love and artistry. When evening falls and something stronger than coffee is required, the cocktail bar – also run by lovely blond ladies – is well worth a visit. With an *aloha punch* or a *pineapple slush*, you can warm yourself up for the sultry party evenings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, like the two weekly *silent disco*, where you can raise the volume with your headphones on. Although the bar wasn't initially intended as a nightclub, it has recently been hosting lots of trendy parties. The transformed swimming paradise is rapidly gaining popularity which is no surprise, in view of its unique atmosphere, lovely location and versatile interior design: this summer the *Aloha Bar* is going to be *the place to be*. **Mvs (photo: MB)**

SG ERASMUS
UPCOMING EVENTS

ESK ROTTERDAMSCH SCHOON



The Erasmus Student Choir consisting of over 40 ladies will be conducted by Robert Verheul as they will show of their musical talents. They will sing mostly modern

songs, like: "I won't give up" by Jason Mraz and "The Cup Song" by Anna Kendrick.

Fri 5 June | 20.00 – 22.00 hrs

Erasmus Paviljoen | Entrance € 6,50

ROTTERDAM STUDENT ORCHESTRA



The Rotterdam Student Orchestra will bring you a passionate summer concert, full of heartwarming and erotic music! The concert will open with the fiery

Carmen Suites from Bizet that will take you on a journey of erotic flamenco scenes with handsome toreadors. It will finish with the romantic and warm Third Symphony by Schumann. The summer starter you cannot miss!

Wednesday 17 June | 20.00 hrs

Erasmus Paviljoen | Entrance € 2,50 / € 5,-

MARCOS SANTOS | JAZZ



Jazz International Rotterdam brings all kinds of jazz performances to different venues and stages in Rotterdam. Marco Santos and his band play jazz, highly influenced by classical music, melodic jazz and world music. He will perform on the terrace or grand-café stage of Erasmus Paviljoen.

Thursday 25 June | 17.00 hrs

Erasmus Paviljoen | Free entrance

> More information and latest updates?

www.eur.nl/sgerasmus or www.facebook.com/sgerasmus

Open for al land admission is free unless mentioned otherwise



KATE SYTNIK

SNAP AND CHECK

"The traveller sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see", G.K. Chesterton once noted with unmistakable English wit. As much as it is still true now, these days it seems more apt to say "the tourist sees the image on his screen of what he has come to take a photo of". It is a saddening spectacle, but when you come to see Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" or Botticelli's "La Primavera", you first need to make your way through the defence line of iPads and iPhones sticking out of the crowd. Standing in front of the masterpiece, people are more concerned with choosing the prettiest Instagram filter than with soaking in all the colour nuances and details that reproductions fail to capture.

Going out on the streets of the most popular tourist destinations and the story of compulsive button clicking continues. People are looking at one building, taking a photo of the other, whilst moving in the opposite direction. But how else can you manage to accomplish your mission? So little time and so many points of interest on the list. Who cares if you didn't get to feel the atmosphere and Rome and Paris felt equally like bland cardboard stage decorations as long as you have proof? Better still, now that the selfie sticks are sold every three metres at any respectable attraction, you can also get your lovely face into the picture. See, that's me and the Eiffel tower. Big Brother Coliseum and I. The benefit of being a traveller is that the best things you get are not fancy pictures to show at family gatherings to break the inevitable awkward silence around the table. Instead, you create priceless memories to teach you simple wisdoms and to return to when routine seems to eat away at your life. The most precious moments do not occur when you are racing through the points on the map from the Tourist Office or snapping photos perched on the roof of the hop-on hop-off bus. What is to be truly cherished comes when you let things happen to you. Whenever you go, just try to be where you are and let yourself be surprised.

Kate Sytnik is studying Liberal Arts & Sciences. She has a blog on www.erasmus-magazine.nl/international/

I AM

Marlène Daffort (22)
IBCoM student

Your style? "My clothing style is primarily influenced by my taste in music. I started listening to rock when I was 14; after this, I went through a variety of phases – Emo for example. My mother never allowed me to dye my hair, but fortunately it's not up to her anymore. I've got piercings and tattoos, which both come from the rock scene. Nevertheless, I try not to make my style too extreme – really heavy make-up around the eyes, for example. Because at the end of the day, I still want to look *pretty*."

Punk. "My dream job would be 'something' in the music industry. I'd like to be in charge of organising concerts for a record label. I've already worked as an intern for a small record label in France, but what I'd like even better is to work in the UK. I really love punk and rock music, *Green Day*, for instance, or *Muse*, *Blink 182* or *All Time Low*. Last week, I went to an All Time Low concert in Utrecht; and tomorrow, I'm leaving for London to see them again in Wembley Arena. I'm a huge fan and I enjoy travelling around to see concerts. This past summer, I went to Germany to see a *Blitz Kids* concert."

World citizen. "I was born in France, which is also where I grew up. Right now, I'm studying in Rotterdam, and after this, I'd like to live in London. I can't picture



myself living in my hometown of Lyon, with a house and a hubby. If you can go anywhere, why would you stay in one spot when there are so many cultures to explore? Although I'm lucky in this respect, because my grandma pays for my study – on top of which I get a grant from France. I can spend all this money on music and travelling."

Harry Potter. "I've got four tattoos. The first tattoo is the title of a song by *Tokyo Hotel*, a band of which I was a fan at the time. I don't regret getting it: it was a period during which I really loved their music. On my arm, I've got a Harry Potter symbol. Any serious Harry Potter fan will recognise that symbol: it stands for the Master of Death. I grew up with those books, and I'm still a big fan. In the future, I'd like to get even more tattoos, including a big pirate ship on my back." **CM (photography: RvdH)**

Marlène is wearing
Dress: H&M
Shoes: ASOS



"I've been dyeing my hair for years now, in all sorts of colours. Right now it's purple. My real hair colour is dark brown, so I need to bleach it really well beforehand, to get the right colour."



"This is a ticket for a concert by a Scottish band that played in Haarlem, *Twin Atlantic*."



"I bought this red lipstick from my very first pay check. Red lipstick improves everything. Even when you've got a bad hair day, everything works out when your lips are red."



"I love travelling – if it was up to me, I'd spend my whole life living in different places around the world."