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"During the spring semester of 2024 I had the honor to participated in the Erasmus+ exchange program at Inholland University of Applied Sciences in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where I studied the international law.

Studying abroad has always been a dream of mine and this experience turned out to be more than I could have ever imagined—it was truly a life-changing.

As a Law student, studying international law in the Netherlands offered me unique and enriching academic environment. The courses were intellectually stimulating and provided me with not only new perspectives on global legal issues but practical knowledge as well. I was able to engage in thought-provoking discussions, EU modeling sessions and practice-based assignments with professors and fellow students from all over the world, which broadened my network and my understanding of international law in ways that would not have been possible back home.

One of the most memorable aspects of my time in the Netherlands was the sense of community I found within my university. Beyond the classroom, my semester was filled with unforgettable adventures. I traveled to five new countries, each trip offering its own unique experiences and lessons, because each of them enriched my understanding of different cultures and legal systems. These travels were not just about sightseeing, they were about immersing myself in new environments, meeting new people and expanding my worldview and network all over the world. Which made me realize that it's not about what you know, but WHO you know.

Reflecting on my time in the Netherlands, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences that have shaped me as a new version of myself. I found myself growing not only academically but also personally, as I navigated through the challenges and triumphs of studying and living in a foreign country. I have made lifelong friends, created cherished memories, and gained a deeper appreciation for the world around me. The lessons I learned, both inside and outside of the classroom, have left an indelible mark on my life. And that's the beauty of this journey—it teaches you that you're capable of so much more than you imagine. You learn how to clap for yourself and celebrate every small accomplishment in your life.

We should know that the journey to our dreams is worth every step and It's not just about the destination, but the transformation that happens along the way. That's why my story is bit different because my dream destination has never been Netherlands on a first place, that's why I almost said no to this opportunity, but please for once turn off your heart and turn on your brain and just trust the universe cause it knows exactly where to take you!

To anyone considering studying abroad, I can not recommend it enough. Studying abroad has been a pivotal chapter in my educational journey. I am grateful for the memories, the friendships, and the invaluable lessons I have learned along the way. It's okay to feel scared. It's okay to feel unsure. But it's never okay to let those feelings stop you from pursuing what sets your heart on fire. The best decisions you'll ever make are the ones where you take a leap into the unknown.

During my exchange there was one song in my mind – "End of beginning" reminding me that my Erasmus city forever would be my "Chicago. This experience has not only fulfilled my academic aspirations but has also touched my heart in ways I will forever cherish.

And finally, Success isn't just about accomplishments, it's about becoming the person who can achieve those accomplishments and our dreams don't come true by staying safe, so step out of your comfort zone, submit your application and "Just trust me you'll be fine!"