our 2023/24 study year abroad at

Maastricht University

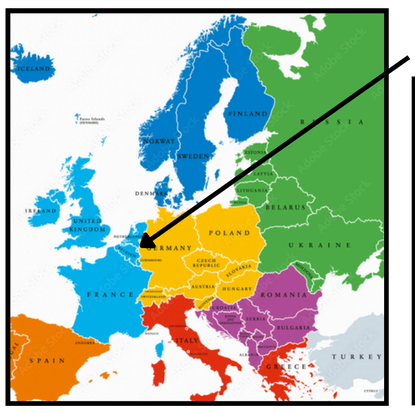
Isabel Murray & Bella Russell

Maastricht University

UNIVERSITY OF BATH



MAASTRICHT



- The oldest Dutch city, situated in the South of The Netherlands
- It is only 3km away from the Belgian border and around 30km from the German border
- Municipality population of 120,000
- It is the capital of the Dutch province Limburg
- The Maastricht Treaty was famously signed here in 1992, leading to the creation of the European Union and the Euro

THE UNIVERSITY (UM)





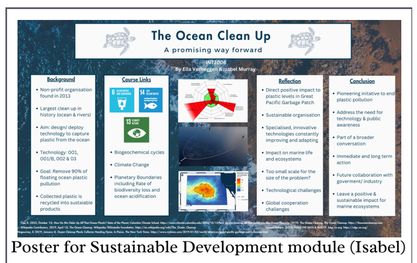
- Founded in 1976
- One of thirteen Dutch universities
- Nearly 23,000 students, of which nearly 60% are international
- City university, with faculties in different buildings across Maastricht



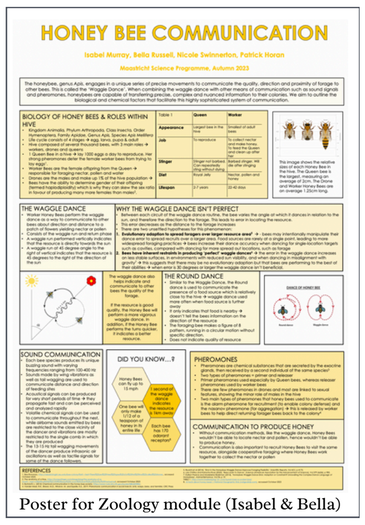




MAASTRICHT SCIENCE PROGRAMME (MSP)



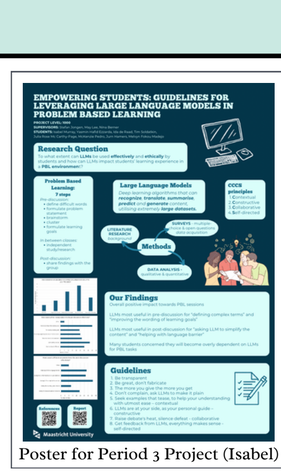
Poster for Sustainable Development module (Isabel)



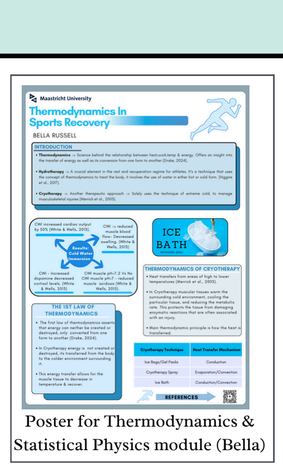
Poster for Zoology module (Isabel & Bella)

We were students at Maastricht Science Programme (MSP) 2023/24

- Part of Faculty of Science and Engineering at Maastricht University
- Combined Science degree programme, comparable to Natural Sciences at Bath
- Wide variety of science and interdisciplinary modules to choose from, including some from other faculties at the university
- Academic year split into 6 “periods” - period 1 & 2 before Christmas, and periods 4 & 5 after January for science modules. Period 3 in January and period 6 in June are for student projects



Poster for Period 3 Project (Isabel)



Poster for Thermodynamics & Statistical Physics module (Bella)

PROBLEM BASED LEARNING

- Main method of learning at MSP
- Differs from traditional lecture learning at university
- Work in small tutorial groups to learn through tackling challenging problems together
- 4 main learning principles: Constructive, Collaborative, Contextual, Self-directed

	ISABEL	BELLA
Favourite module and why	“Although very challenging, I loved the quantum chemistry module. It was quite different to the quantum chemistry I covered in second year at Bath, but I found it very interesting and enjoyed applying my maths knowledge to the chemistry in the topic. Science education was another module I loved because the assessment was teaching a class at the end of it!”	“I really enjoyed the Thermodynamic & Statistical physics module. It aligned with a lot I had previously learnt at bath within the physical side of chemistry, especially the focus on mathematical problem solving. As well as an exam we were also assessed on our individual posters, i think this is a far better approach as I preferred how the overall mark was split between both coursework and exam performance.”
Least favourite module and why	"Zoology! I was out of my comfort zone because it was a biology module. I did enjoy it but found it difficult as I didn’t have much prior biology knowledge to help me through the module!”	“Solar System Astronomy - I found it a very difficult module, mainly because most of the people who were in my tutor group had previously taken an astronomy course. For me It was like another language!”
Reflections of our academic year at MSP	“It was very interesting to learn through PBL’s - something completely new to me. Spending most of the time in tutorial groups, I was able to speak to a wide range of students at MSP which I loved!”	" I learnt alot from this year, mainly growing the confidence to speak up when in tutorials & voice my opnion with my peers. I enjoyed the variety of modules that i took throughout the year and how we were assesed as the year went on, not just at the end.”

LIFE IN MAASTRICHT

Cycling to university took us around 20 minutes.





Christmas market in Vrijhof Square



The Market in town every Friday & Wednesday.

Peter’s Irish pub every friday for karaoke.

DBSV Football - We trained twice a week with matches every Sunday.



Jazz Night at Cafe Forum every Monday.

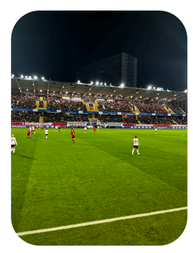
OUTSIDE OF LECTURES...

SEPTEMBER

Aachen (Germany)

OCTOBER

Leuven (Belgium)



NOVEMBER

Brussels (Belgium)







FEBRUARY

Rotterdam (NL)





Maastricht (NL)



Carnival happens every year in February in Maastricht and attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world!

MARCH

Barcelona (Spain)







APRIL

King’s day is a very famous national holiday in the Netherlands where everyone wears orange (national colour)! We decided to celebrate it in Amsterdam, and camped overnight!

Amsterdam (NL)

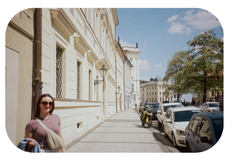


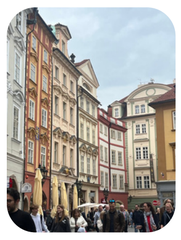


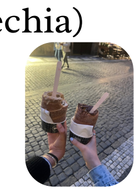


MAY

Prague (Czechia)







JUNE

Cologne (Germany)

