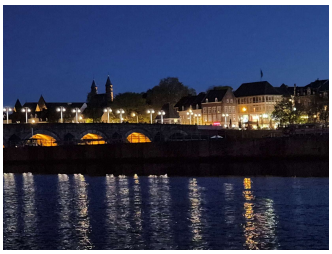
Maastricht University



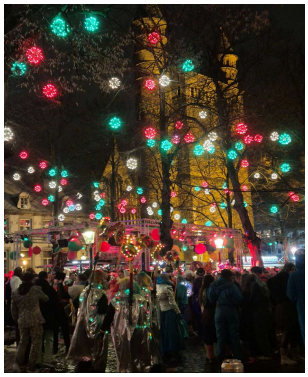
Ellis Knowles, ek856@bath.ac.uk

SYA 2025/26

The university:

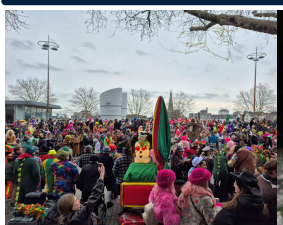
- Founded in 1976
- 23,000 students ~ 60% from outside NL
- 6 faculties and 17 bachelor programmes → Half of these taught fully in English
- Also offers masters and PHD courses
- City university, so faculties located in different parts of the city
- Science programme located on Paul Henri Spaaklan, a new building that teaches ~ 2000
- UM sports facility with a range of sports → All great for socialising

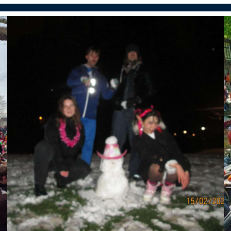




Maastricht (and my best bits):

- Beautiful European city with old, cultured architecture
- Any place you need is easily walkable, but…
- Cycling is so convenient and everyone does it → The roads and cycle paths are designed to make it the best mode of transport. (Fun fact I did fall off my bike on my last day but that was my fault and I'm okay)
- There are so many cafes and restaurants you probably couldn't go to all of them before you finish the year
- Regional dish (Zuurvlees, a stew like meal) has become one of my favourites to have
- Maybe I was just lucky, but the weather was kind of wild. 3 weeks of sunshine in March separated by snow in the middle. Virtually every day in May being sunny
- The city has such a high student population and so many student led events, it's easy to make buddies
- The Netherlands also has a lot of holidays in semester 2, where you would get days off from uni to celebrate:
  - Carnival (pictured lower left), where you get a week off to dress in a costume and drink – the locals go wild
  - King's Day (pictured lower right), is where everyone: dresses in orange, is allowed to street vend, and goes wild once again

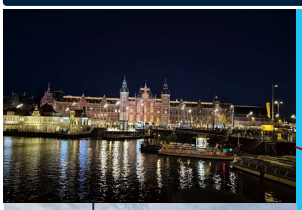






My studies:

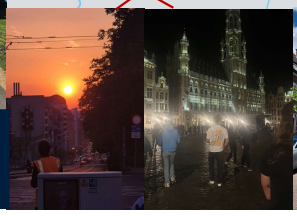
- Maastricht operates with a different system to Bath → 1.5 hour lectures/tutorials. 83% attendance requirement on tutorials
- Far fewer lectures → More focus on tutorials (PBL) → Better relationship with tutor/course coordinator (who are all lovely) and coursemates
- Each semester is split into two periods of 6 weeks (2 courses and 1 practical per period) and one project period of 3 weeks
- Weekly quizzes, homeworks and midterms can all contribute to your grade
- Midterms and exams come around very quickly
- I had 10 courses relating to physics and maths, with favourites being stellar astronomy and general relativity
- I had 2 courses outside of that scope in neuroscience and human anatomy/physiology
- The style of teaching helped retain more knowledge in some courses, but it could be hit or miss. It also helped a lot with socialising and making friends as the learning is far more peer based.













Top Tips:
Talk to everyone and go to Erasmus events

Travel:

- Between each 6 week period there would be 1 week off for reflection → perfect for travel
- 2.5 hour train to Amsterdam (or a very cheap flixbus!!)
- Can cycle into Belgium and Germany
- Easy flights to most of Europe from Amsterdam or Brussels
- Skiing in Germany, France or Switzerland
- So many centre parcs resorts around this region – most being much cheaper than the UK