Age: 21
Hometown and Country: San Diego, California, United States
Home University: San Diego State University
Study Program: Marketing

Getting Around
Amsterdam is a relatively small city, so it's easy to get around by bike, tram, or by foot. The Dutch people also make it feel extra cozy by being extremely welcoming and kind to foreign students. Yet Amsterdam still has all the benefits associated with living in a big city. There is always something to do. There are dozens of markets, hundreds of museums, and thousands of restaurants and cafés. It is really easy to travel by train to the surrounding cities in the Netherlands. I would recommend visiting Rotterdam and The Hague. If you want to get away for the weekend, then Schiphol Airport is easy to get to from anywhere in the city!

Studying at VU Amsterdam
Studying at VU Amsterdam involves more active discussion and less busy work. In my classes, the final exam was usually worth the vast majority of my grade which is different than back home, but I felt that professors prepared me well. Dutch culture in general is a straightforward and direct type of culture which translates to students being expected to clearly communicate, hold themselves accountable for their work, and be on time.

Some advice
Travel: If you plan to travel around Europe when you study abroad, make sure you save some weekends to experience Amsterdam!
Food: Try Dutch food! Bitterballen, poffertjes, stroopwaffels, and cheese are LIFE.
Good study cafés: Coffee & Coconuts, Back to Black, and Volkshotel
Music: I highly recommend attending a show at Paradiso! Hands down one of the city's most architecturally unique concert halls.