Age: 21  
Hometown and Country: Singapore, Singapore  
Home University: Macalester College  
Study Program: Psychology

Location  
I choose to come to Amsterdam because of how bustling I knew the city would be and its central location in Europe. I also knew that everyone would speak English and I could easily communicate (of course, I did end up picking up some Dutch!).

The city  
Amsterdam might be small, but there's always so much going on. I've walked into cheese shops with the goal of tasting everything, biked through several parks, and explored every nook and cranny of the Rijksmuseum. It's busy and crowded and I love this about Amsterdam. There's never a dull moment.

Social program  
I love that there's a social aspect to the program. I've gotten to see places and take part in activities that might not have been possible without the program (like going to the Anne Frank Huis). I also really enjoy having the resources and support that the program offers.

Dutch culture  
You've probably already heard this one, but I'm going to confirm it: Dutch people are super direct. I go to school in Minnesota and we're known for having the most passive-aggressive people. So being here and having people just tell it to you straight is quite refreshing. I'm also a big fan of stroopwafels, cheese (preferably with truffle), and poffertjes! Lastly, I enjoy the bike culture so much. Getting around town has never been so easy!

Academic differences  
The VU is much bigger than my school back home. I'm taking a couple lecture-based classes here with a lot of students, which is different than what I'm used to. The campus buildings are also a lot taller. I must always remember to account for the time it takes to ride the elevator all the way to the 15th floor otherwise I'll be late for class.

Local tip  
I discovered an amazing cookie store in Amsterdam called 'Van Stapele Koekmakerij.' They only sell one kind of cookie, the shop is super small, and the line is generally long, but I promise you they are amazing cookies and a must try!