Hi again!

So, this time I thought I would talk to you guys about something that caused me a lot of worry before I went abroad…social life.

Back home at the University of Denver, I am lucky enough to have a really tight-knit group of friends. My first fear, therefore, came from the fact that I was pretty much terrified at what would happen to us over the course of our semesters abroad. Would we stay in touch? Would we lose contact altogether? I had no idea what to expect, so when our semesters abroad were starting, I was scared. I did not want to lose the dear friendships that I had developed back home. As it turns out, though, not even thousands of miles of distance between us could deconstruct the love and trust between real friends. Frequent FaceTime calls and countless WhatsApp messages helped me (and my friends) to ensure that once we get back home, it will be as if nothing has changed…well, almost nothing, anyway.

On my flight to Amsterdam, I worried quite a bit about how (and if!) I would make friends here. It turns out, all that worrying was for nothing, because from my very first moments in Amsterdam, I was meeting people left and right! Immediately after my arrival, I met several fellow Semester in Amsterdam students from all over the USA in the shuttle that took us from the airport to our respective residences. Then, once I settled into my room at Hotel Jansen, I met several more people who lived on the same floor as I did (and, as it turns out, came from the same university back home). Though I ended the day remembering – at most – 10% of all the names I had learned that day, my fears about making friends disappeared entirely. After all, when you live and go to school with other study abroad students, you already have tons of things in common, since you are all living and experiencing a whole new life. Realizing that we all had the same goals and hopes, the same fears and worries for our Semesters in Amsterdam helped us to form immediate bonds and friendships.

Once I had a solid bunch of friends here in Amsterdam, the social shenanigans of study abroad could begin! We frequently explored cool clubs in Leidseplein, visited amazing museums, and simply hung out in Mama’s, sitting in our favorite booths while working on homework (or, more realistically, eating fries and chatting and getting absolutely nothing done). The friends I have made here have become fun and reliable travel companions, study buddies, and my Semester in Amsterdam family. With the wonderful friendships I have made here, I find myself feeling more at home here and missing my family and friends back in Denver just a little less than I did at first. After all, it is very hard to feel homesick or lonely when dancing at a club or biking through Vondelpark with friends.

Until next time,
    Julia :)

P.S. Here are my friends and I at the Amsterdam Ice Bar :) This is a must-go while you are here!!!