

What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

"Just be open to new experiences. Everything is a little weird at first, but it passes quickly. Just go up and talk to people would be my best advice. Locals can always give the best directions and advice on places to eat and things to do."

"Take chances and don't be afraid to lose sleep for unique experiences. Do things you wouldn't normally do; explore your surroundings as much as you can."

"Remember to represent yourself and your university well with your actions, inside and outside the classroom, for the entirety of the trip."

"Maintain a journal to make writing the blog easier!"

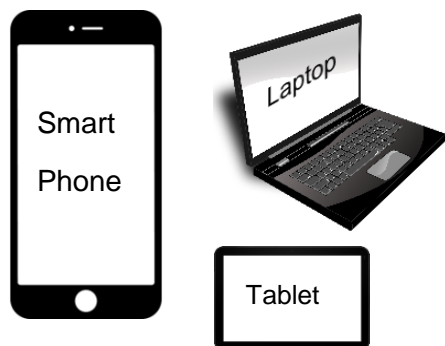
What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- Laptop
- Portable speaker
- Nicer clothes
- Warm clothes
- Water bottle

What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Hair dryer
- Too many shoes
- Extra duffle bag

Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

#1. International calling/text plan with U.S. cell phone

#2. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps

- Skype
- Whatsapp
- iMessage

Belgium Sustainability

"I wanted to learn about sustainability to experience a different culture. This program allowed me to do that! The excursions immersed us in the culture of Belgium."

"I feel like I got to know myself a lot better in this trip. I grew to be a lot more independent, which is something everyone needs to experience. I grew to not rely on others."

Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Food:	300.00	120.45
Going out/free time:	500.00	83.64
Lodging:	100.00	9.09
Personal travel/excursions:	60.00	7.27
Program related travel/excursions:	10.00	0.91
Souvenirs/gifts:	100.00	56.82

What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

"Keep track of what you have spent. Keep an allowance for each day. Let your group know your budget."

"Most meals are paid for so money isn't a huge issue withdraw cash from ATMs in small amounts so you get smaller bills."

"Buying food from a supermarket and cooking at the hostel can save a lot of money."

"Don't be afraid to spend a little extra money while you are abroad; take advantage of the unique time you have."

How might students best get to know the people and culture of your host country?

Just go up and talk to people. The Flemish people are very friendly but usually don't strike up conversations with strangers. However, they are always happy to talk to people when spoken to.

going out and experiencing the city, don't stay cooped up in the hotel. Go explore new places!

The best way to meet people would be to hangout next to the river by the hostel in the evenings.

Did this program deepen your interest in your academic field of study?

"It made me more interested in applying my degree to sustainability. I'm very eager to get involved in sustainability research now. I'm also very eager to see how this field changes over the coming years."

"This has given me a better idea of possible career fields to go into after graduation, and it has made me more interested in research."

"My eyes were open to the many different ways sustainability can be applied. I also was able to come up with a few business ideas from the classes we took."

What do you wish you had known more about before you left?

"The language barrier is also almost nonexistent. Everyone speaks some sort of English and are always glad to help out!"

"We had internet at school and the hostel!"

"Accommodations were great; the hostel was very nice and right in the midst of European culture."

How did you pay for things on a daily basis?

1. Cash (withdrawn from local ATM/bank from US bank account)
2. Credit Cards/Debit Cards
3. Cash (exchanged from US currency)

What credit cards were most accepted?

