

GOOD EVENING.

OVER THE LAST 26 YEARS, ERASMUS HAS DEVELOPED BEYOND AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME - IT HAS ACQUIRED THE STATUS OF A SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PHENOMENON. IT IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE EACH YEAR.

YOU ARE ALL HERE BECAUSE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE, MEETING NEW PEOPLE, STUDYING IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT.

STUDENT EXCHANGES ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE FLEXIBLE AND WILLING TO TRY NEW THINGS; WHO ARE OPEN TO CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, AND WHO CAN SERVE AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

BY SHARING YOUR OWN CULTURE AND EMBRACING A NEW ONE, YOU HELP FOSTER GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING, AND LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME COUNTRY IN THE PROCESS.

SPENDING TIME ABROAD AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IS ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU. YOU ARE IN FOR AN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL AFFECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, AND PROVIDE YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN NEW WAYS AND GAIN LIFELONG ADVANTAGES THROUGH AN EXPANDED WORLD VIEW.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR CITY WILL BE ENRICHED BY YOUR PRESENCE HERE, AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT WHEN YOU RETURN HOME, YOU WILL FEEL EQUALLY ENRICHED NOT ONLY BY THE QUALITY OF YOUR UNIVERSITY COURSES, BUT ALSO BY THE VAST NUMBER OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES, PARKS, BEACHES, AND MUSICAL EVENTS WHICH OUR COMMUNITY HAS TO OFFER.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU.