

CIEE Study Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Business & Culture Newsletter 2, Fall semester, 2012

Students settling in Amsterdam

Halfway during the semester is *the* time that students start to see Amsterdam as their home. When they return from travels to other large European cities such as Madrid or Rome, they identify even more with the friendly European city they can call 'home'. We as resident staff are always excited when this moment comes, as it exemplifies a milestone in their personal growth abroad.

Special Interest Group activities

Special Interest Groups (SIG's) are small groups with up to ten students under the guidance of a Dutch CIEE staff member or a Dutch student. Each SIG has had an activity-packed semester thus far. The Multicultural Amsterdam group learned how to play the Djembé drum in the suburbs and enjoyed an Indonesian lunch in a museum with an exhibit about the Dutch East Indies Colonial history. The Culinary Amsterdam group had a cheese tasting and a Good Food Tour of Amsterdam. The Queer Amsterdam group visited Drag Queen Bingo and the Pride Photo Award; see here famous Drag Queen 'Windy Mills' who drew out the numbers at the bingo:



Miss Windy Mills – Bingo Queen

Students in the Amsterdam Education group have been teaching English at two primary schools and will attend a lecture by Madeline Albright as their final event later this month. Last but not least, the News & Media in Amsterdam group will publish the very first CIEE Amsterdam Magazine next week! This group featured the Dutch elections, the US elections and many of their experiences in the Netherlands. These aforementioned activities are just the tip of the iceberg as students have done so much more within their groups!

One-time-volunteering opportunities

Not only do we offer students the possibility to join interest groups and activities, we also try to introduce them to locals through one-time-volunteering opportunities. Two weeks ago seven CIEE students helped to organize a high tea at the nursing home down the street at the CIEE office.

A visit to the Zuidas, Amsterdam Business District

Recently, students in the CIEE internship seminar took went on a guided site visit to the Amsterdam business district; Zuidas. The Zuidas is located between the airport and the center city. This area has been the centre of real estate speculation over the past two decades. Our tour guide wrote his thesis about the financial constructions used in the development of this area, which gave us surprising insight in the Dutch world of real estate in the nineties.



Dutch Architecture, a famous Dutch export product

The Netherlands is famous for many things, and one of them is architecture. Last October 13th CIEE Amsterdam went on a daytrip to Rotterdam, to see the architecture museum Nai and to visit three of the most progressive buildings in the history of Dutch architecture, the *Sonneveld huis* dwelling, the 'cube houses' by Piet Blom and the *van Nelle* factory. For lunch we stopped at Hotel New York built in 1901 in Jugendstil style. This hotel used to be the head office of the Holland-Amerika line, where some of our students' ancestors departed for New York by boat.



Group picture at the place where American and Dutch history meet

Weekend Homestays

So far we have sent four CIEE students on a weekend homestay. This is part of our continuous effort to integrate CIEE students with the Dutch. These students stay with a Dutch family for one weekend, we hope to share one of their stories on our CIEE Amsterdam Blog soon!

For more information on what your students are up to, please visit the CIEE Amsterdam Program's Blog:

<http://study-amsterdam-ss.ciee.org/>

Business & Culture website:

<http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/netherlands/amsterdam/business-culture/>

Groeten uit Amsterdam,
Hannah, Renee, Annabel and Erik