

STUDIUM GENERALE

Our Campus – Our Stories

What does Erasmus University Rotterdam look like through the eyes of its students?

For this exhibition, students were invited to capture the people, places, moments and details that shape their experience of campus life. Together, these photographs offer a collection of personal perspectives on what it means to study, meet, pause, connect and belong at EUR. From everyday moments to unexpected details, these images tell stories of campus life — seen through the eyes of the students who experience it every day.

This Photo exhibition is organized by Studium Generale in collaboration with student association PHOS

An overview of the photographers and their submissions and explanations:

Barnabas Torzsok:



Foto 1: 'Campus at Night': This picture was taken after a long day of studying at the library. I like this picture because it captures the atmosphere on campus when only a handful of people are still there, cramming for those December exams. It also reminds me of Hopper's Nighthawks a bit.



Foto 2: 'Stairs': I appreciate the architecture of our campus, this is one of many pictures I took of all the buildings here.

Christopher de Blaay:



Photo 1: Overview



Photo 2: Langeveld building

Dzhesika Yaneva:



Photo: '9 AM': Capturing the calm and warmth of the September morning on the EUR campus, this picture was taken to show the morning calm and content, despite commute and sleepless nights.

Ella Marcus Dupont:



Photo 1: 'When the red leaves have fallen down': This picture was taken on a cold autumn morning, when students are on their way to class and motivations have started to dissipate with the upcoming winter and early classes. The fallen red leaves represent the changing seasons, and to some students this may be their first time experiencing such natural phenomenon. The trees surrounding Erasmus Plaza remind us how motivations can fluctuate, but when everything seems to be falling down, a new season will bring the most beautiful greenness back to our lives and we will bloom into who we are meant to be.



Photo 2: 'A quiet staircase into the future': Polak captured in the early morning seems like just an empty building. However, behind closed doors, even in the quiet hours, students work and learn, building their futures. Dreams are taken and made reality, objectives are achieved, and even with an empty-looking building, minds are focused and sharpened to fulfill this path through university and succeed in everything one sets to do.

Jason lee:



Photo: ‘The Calm Before The Storm’: Allow me to preface: By “storm”, I do not connote negativity. I use the word “storm” to analogize the incoming ‘tide’ of Erasmians back to Woudestein, and thus wish to both visually and literally illustrate the transition between the summer lull and the academic year. “The Calm Before The Storm” is the saying that is often used to describe the liminality and thus the foreboding of calamity. Back in May, I visited the Woudestein campus. There was not a single person in sight (except for the biker in one of the photos). I had the freedom to explore campus to myself. Fast forward to now. The academic year has begun. The Erasmus Plaza is full of students and faculty all day, everyday, and it is now difficult to find areas where nobody is present. It is in this contrast between the voidness and liveliness, just a few months apart, I drew parallels between the calm before the storm and the Woudestein Campus.

Julian Flinkweert:



Kathlina Görisch:



Photo 1: 'Colours of an Autumn Morning': It's the end of September and the first month has flown by. The trees are glowing a bright autumn red outside Polak, the study associations have set up their recruitment stalls, and the campus is bustling with students.



Photo 2: 'The Artificial Forest(s)': There may be trees on the screen and in the background of the Langeveld Building, but being stuck inside studying for exams on a December evening changes the perspective. The digital and indoor trees compensate for the lack of true biodiversity immersion, but could never truly replace the feeling of being in a real forest...

Kazimierz Kozluk:



Photo: 'Resit': July, resit week. An empty campus, a loud construction site next door, and a heron with the pond to itself - captured from the silent library.

Lies Bervoets



Photo 1: 'A different Perspective' : A passing movement, reflected in the water. Students cross the bridge while the flags dance in the wind, offering a different perspective on everyday campus life.



Photo 2: 'The Way Up': Every day, students climb the stairs of the Polak Building, heading to class or looking for a quiet space to study. A simple everyday moment that captures the constant movement, ambition, and energy of student life.

Mayela Ntoouz:



Photo 1: 'Still becoming' : When I started at Erasmus, I thought the Tinbergen Building would be finished by now. Day to day, it can feel like nothing is changing, but over time, the progress becomes visible. I think university is much the same: every day we build on something, strengthening our foundations, even when we cannot see the change yet.



Photo 2: 'FGQNV': Five buildings reduced to letters, around 200 study spaces reduced to a number. Budget cuts can be expressed neatly in figures, but their impact is experienced personally. These were places where students studied, worked together and found community. When spaces disappear, more than just a place to study is lost.

Melihanur Havutcu:



Photo 1: 'A Study Break': After long study sessions, I often find my eyes wandering out through the big windows of the Polak Building. Just zoning out for a moment and letting my eyes rest. Hail, autumn, snow, winter, rain, spring, sun, summer, there is always something to look at. Sometimes, all it takes is a short study break and a nice view to recharge.



Photo 2: 'Through the Vintage Lens': It may look like a typical campus photo. But this one was taken on a Canon A-1. A 50-year-old film camera, older than most of our current students. An old camera, a modern campus and a lot going on in between. This contrast makes this a layered photo, with plenty of details to discover.

Melissa Villalon



Photo 1: 'A bike just like mine'

Thousands of students arrive at school by biking and the most shared experience is to see the ghost of a stolen bicycle.



Photo 2: 'Sunny Rotterdam from IHS'

The view from the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) as we watch how the city transforms us as much as we seek to transform it.

Minh Khanh Lé



Photo: 'A fellow Erasmian': Our fellow colleague stands majestically in the sunset, taking a breath after a long day on campus.

Nihal Nair:



Photo: 'Erasmus at twilight': The campus captured at the brink of nightfall, as the last of the daylight lingers over the horizon, creating a contrast between the fiery trees and the cold, dark lake.

Roy Borghouts:



Photo: 'PGMB Graduation 2025': Diploma uitreiking online masterprogramma PGMB (Public Governance, Management and Policy).

Rhalda Jansen:



Photo: 'GMD Graduation 2025': Diploma uitreiking GMD: Governance of Migration and Diversity. Dit is een samenwerking tussen Leiden Universiteit, TU Delft en de EUR.

Savio van de Wolfshaar:



Photo 1: 'The collective endeavor': A real snapshot of shared academic resilience. Captured during a bustling exam session in the large exam hall, this photo highlights the striking industrial yellow beams framing hundreds of individual journeys. It captures the intense energy of EUR students navigating their academic milestones individually yet in a way always together under one vast roof and therefore is a collective experience.



Photo 2: 'The Human Side of Diplomacy': While chairing the Security Council at the Erasmus Model United Nations, the atmosphere was defined by strict formality, serious debate, and the heavy weight of simulated global crises. This photo, taken during a lunch break, captures the humanity behind all the delegates in the committee. It strips away the rigidity of diplomacy, as we collapsed onto the benches outside Theil and it becomes a collective exhale of exhaustion and camaraderie after many hours of debates. It is also quite a contrast between the imposing architecture of our campus, the sharp tailoring of our formal wear, and the beautifully human vulnerability of simply being tired together under a clear blue sky.



Photo 3: 'Illuminated Brutalism': When the paths between buildings empty, the soul of campus takes on a different breath. Bathed in the deep blues of the Rotterdam night, the glowing windows and illuminated pathways of the university create a stark contrast against the dark, modernist architecture. Taken back in January of this year all the different photographed elements evoke a sense of peacefulness yet also the enduring spirit of EUR after dark.

Stefanos Vavakos

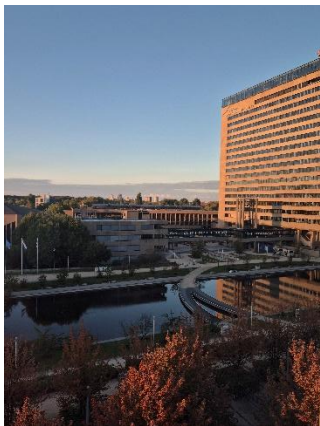


Photo 1: 'Golden Hour EUR from Above':

As the sun sets, the grandeur of the university rises, Whether from below or above,
The light unveils the campus like a treasure trove. For the leaves turn gold, and the walls, too,
Allowing you, soon, to make all your goals come true.

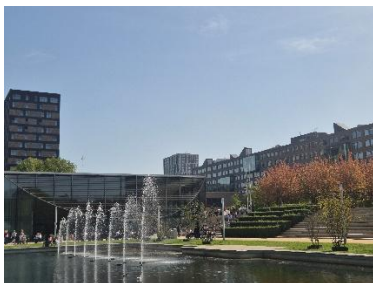


Photo 2: 'The Shortcut': First time taking the shortcut above the pond, taking-in what "life" means on this campus. A new feeling, a new sensation, on this campus of the city we get to call our home.

Photo submitted by Nadia Scholte:



Photo: Graduation Master Aansprakelijkheid & Verzekering (Erasmus School of Law).
From left to right: Anna Biewenga, Bente Borst, Nadia Scholte, Lisa Verheij, Amira Hoevenaars en Annika Tanis

Abenaa Quednau:



I took these two pictures on campus last year with my analog camera that my grandma passed down to me. They are one of my best pictures taken and encapsulated a very dreamy, foggy atmosphere I associated with the darker season here in Europe.