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The University of Tulsa works to provide distinctive experiences for undergraduate students through service, research, and international engagement. We are especially interested in opportunities that combine these areas of engagement. I was excited to be offered the opportunity to represent the university on the EuroScholars site visit because it seemed like a great combination of research and international experiences for our students. Although I am not directly in charge of either undergraduate research or global education at TU, I am involved with interdisciplinary research across areas as diverse as psychology, mechanical engineering, computer science, and neuroscience. All of these disciplines actively include undergraduates in their research. So, I was curious to see what the research opportunities offered through EuroScholars would involve.

Through the visit, we got to experience what life would be like for students in Helsinki, Leiden, and Leuven and to learn about the quality of research and mentorship happening at the University of Helsinki, Leiden University, and KU Leuven. I came away from the trip very impressed with the variety and quality of research opportunities available to students through EuroScholars at all of these universities. Additionally, I would not hesitate to send any of my students to live and research in these great European cities.

In Leiden, we had the opportunity to listen to the current EuroScholars students talk about their research and to interact with them more informally at a dinner. These students are clearly getting an immersive experience in research and country culture. They are ambitious and bright, and I have no doubt that they will achieve great things. EuroScholars has the potential to serve as a strong statement of their current aspirations and as a clear marker that they should be selected for other opportunities in the future.

I will definitely be serving as an advocate for the EuroScholars program on my campus for excellent students who would benefit from combining an intensive research experience with a study abroad. I was only able to see 3 of the 9 EuroScholars locations, but I am confident that all of them would provide an excellent experience for students.