

Hello

1 SPEAKING In pairs, read the paragraph. Then answer the questions below.

Hundreds of years ago, travellers shared stories about strange animals from other parts of the world. But in most people's opinion, these stories were just myths: the animals were not real. However, in a few cases, they were wrong – the animals were real. And hundreds of years later, people proved it!

- 1 What is a 'myth'?
- 2 What were people wrong about?



Erasmus works by providing free movement and education exchange between registered universities and institutions for eligible students. Erasmus can go for 3 months to a year. It could be a requirement to do Erasmus as part of your course or degree, or you do it to experience another country.



- 1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Where would you like to study abroad for a year? Why would you choose that country? What would you study?

- 2 Read the text. How have the experiences of a 15th century student influenced university students in the 21st century?

4.14

The Erasmus programme

New friends, new experiences and the chance to learn a new language – that's what one young Dutch student from Rotterdam was hoping to find when he set off around Europe to study. He was keen to learn as much as he could. He started at the Collège
5 de Montaigu at the University of Paris before moving on to the University of Cambridge, where his work was so impressive that his professors even suggested that he should stay and teach. The Dutch student, however, was determined to continue with his journey and left for the University of Turin in Italy. Obviously, he
10 was a student from a wealthy family, you might think. Well, no, the student in question was a poor orphan called Erasmus, travelling between the years of 1495 and 1506.

between the years of 1453 and 1500.

Students in the 21st century aren't in a position to spend ten years of their lives touring European centres of learning. Nonetheless, 15 if someone really wants to fulfil their dream of studying abroad, there has never been more opportunity. One of the reasons for this is the European Union's education programme named after the Dutch student mentioned above. Erasmus is an ambitious educational programme which aims to promote cooperation 20 between European students and European institutions of higher education. Since its launch in 1987, over 5 million European students have taken advantage of it.


Students on the Erasmus programme can spend from three months to an academic year at a university in another European country. They 25 do not have to pay any extra fees to the host university, and they can apply for a grant to help them with the cost of accommodation.

The 250,000 Erasmus students that take part in the programme every year have a great time and return home not only with new skills, but also more mature, independent and confident. So if 30 you're dreaming of going to university in the future, why don't you include a year on the Erasmus programme in your plans?


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3 Read the text again. Answer the questions in your own words.

- 1 What three aims did the young student from Rotterdam have?
- 2 What happened to him in Cambridge?
- 3 What is the difference between students today and Erasmus?
- 4 How does the Erasmus programme work?
- 5 How does the Erasmus programme help students financially?
- 6 What benefits do students get from taking part in the Erasmus programme?

- 4  4.15 Listen to a radio report about sport scholarships in the USA. Which two sports do they talk about?



- 5  4.15 Listen again. Decide who the sentences refer to, Sean or Matt. Write S or M, or S/M for both.
- 1 He has already received financial help. ___
 - 2 His parents will pay \$40,000 a year for him to go to university. ___
 - 3 He doesn't think he knew enough about sport scholarships.

 - 4 He won't get any more money if he plays badly. ___
 - 5 His parents would like financial help to pay for university. ___
 - 6 He wins an important match. ___

- 6 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Imagine you are going to study abroad. Look at the list of things to do before leaving and decide which three are the most important. Compare your choice with your partner's. Do you agree? What ideas of your own can you add to the list?



Before you go ...

Learn a few essential phrases in the language of the country you are going to visit.

Search the internet for the best places for entertainment in your new home town.

Pack some drinks or food that you like in case you can't find them in your new country.

Find out where the embassy of your country is and how to contact them in case of an emergency.

Check they use the same electrical plugs in the country that you are going to.