Fig. 1

"I think it will be difficult because I am not familiar with the structure and modus operandi of the country. Like I don't know how banks work" (163aEDR)

"It will be difficult to understand my university lectures" (168aEDR)

"I don't think it will be too different because I will be a student at university and I will live with other students like I do here. That's the same life, just in another language" (72aNTV) "I will be able to go out more. I will study in the morning and relax in the evening. Because it seems that here, I'm always working or studying" (166aEDR)

Fig. 2

"For the 17th and 18th Century Literature [course] it is a bit difficult. The tutor makes reference to Ronsard, and I have never studied Ronsard, I don't know who he is... and the tutor makes jokes [...] he says "Oh, Erasmus students never know anything" (112bLRR)

"One subject I find very difficult is syntax, but that's because I don't have enough knowledge of English grammar, so it's difficult to apply knowledge I don't have, and everyone else has a grammatical foundation I don't have... so it's a bit difficult" (152dNTV)

Fig. 3

[1] "It's difficult to participate in our lessons because, for example, my History course, is just the tutor [speaking], he speaks for two hours and there's no student participation, it's just him doing all the talking" (121bKMcM)

[2] "It was very disorganized [...] Sometimes I went to class and there was no teacher and I couldn't understand why..." (168bNTV)

[3] "It's just life at university, it's like being at school, it's very different to our university in England; here there are a lot of students in one class, for example, 40 students, but in my [home] university, there are no more than ten students in my French class!" (121cKMcM)

Fig. 4

"...It's not like what we have in England, but the quality of the content, the courses and the teachers is very high..."
(152cNTV)

Some Linguistic Challenges	
LISTENING	SPEAKING C
READING	WRITING

Brainstorm some strategies:



Before departure



Once abroad



Fig. 5

[4] "Tutors here are very different. They have a very different attitude; you can't say anything to them, you need to agree with them, and if you don't agree with them, you can be in trouble..." (163cNTV)

[6] "...there aren't lots of slides, so you need to write everything down, and that can be a bit difficult..."
(152cNTV)

[5] "In my German class, we have to work really hard, we have to write lots of things, study grammar, because we normally don't speak in class, it's not a class based on speaking like in England; here the tutor prepares the exercises and we do them, and if we have questions, we ask..." (165cNTV)

Fig. 6

"I found some courses that are really interesting, for example Sociology and the Environment. I'm very interested in environmental issues. And I also took some courses on the economies and politics of the developing countries... they were very informative for me ... I learned a lot" (108bKMcM)

"I love my new classes, especially semantics. I have been able to look for many more subjects and to go in much more depth than I ever did in [my home] university". (108bKMcM)

"I'm much more comfortable with my Spanish now, also because, now, especially after my lectures, I think in Spanish!" (165cNTV)