Hand-out Workshop How do I choose a destination?

Some criteria:
What is a “must have”? what is a “nice to have”?

1. Academics
   - Are there enough interesting courses available?
   - Are courses on offer that align with my potential Master’s programme?
   - Do I meet entrance requirements of the host university (GPA / average grade, prior knowledge / entrance requirements subjects)?
   - Ranking / reputation / level host university?
   - What leeway do I have within my programme to choose subjects?
   - Does the educational culture appeal to me?

2. Language
   - In what language is the education offered?
   - Do I speak the language of the country?
   - Do I (expect to) meet the language requirement?

3. Can I afford this destination?
   - What are the expected total costs?
   - What grants are available?
   - Can I or do I want to save / borrow extra?

4. Location
   - What appeals to me? A big city or a smaller one?
     - Big cities generally offer more possibilities (nightlife, culture), but it might be easier to meet people or to feel at home in a medium-sized or small city.
   - Close to nature or in an urban area?
   - Near public transport for travel options?
   - Distance to the Netherlands? Far away or closeby?

5. Size of the host university
   - Small universities have more room for personal attention, whereas big university have a broader selection of courses and facilities. What is important to me?
6. **Housing**
   - Through the university or self-regulated?
   - On-campus or in the city?
   - Shared room or single-room?
   - Costs?
   - Room regulations (think of: no guests; curfew)

7. **Academic Calendar**
   - Do semester dates match your planning?
   - Example Australia: reversed semesters

8. **Culture of host country**
   - What does / does not appeal to you in terms of the culture of the host country?

9. **International environment university**
   - How many international / exchange students does the university have?
   - Does the university offer welcome / orientation / introduction days for exchange students?
   - Are there buddies or international associations?

10. **Amount of available places**
    - Are there enough places in your top 3? (don't choose 3 destinations with 1 or 2 places)

11. **Where did other students from my programme go?**
    - What were their experiences?

12. **Available destinations**
    - Destinations faculty and/or study programme
    - Universitywide destinations