



## Big models! Architecture at TU Delft!

### Before departure

I applied for an exchange at TU Delft because of the reputation of the architecture masters programme. I was interested in seeking out and learning from a more technical angle of architecture than I had experienced in my time at KTH, and experiencing a different approach to architectural education.

As a non-european myself, I needed a 'residency permit for study' in order to live in the country, but this was all organised very smoothly by TU Delft, and there was not much I needed to prepare.

### Upon arrival

I arrived in Delft the day before the semester started so missed the organised arrival events set up for international students. But, this was not a problem as the school is very lively and social and so as soon as courses started there was lots of opportunity to meet people and make friends. There were a few official admin things I had to arrange on arrival such as registering with the municipality, but this was easy to fit around my studying timetable in the first few weeks.

### Financials

I was able to get an Erasmus+ grant from KTH to study abroad which helped with finances, and the cost of living was noticeably less than in Sweden, as groceries and the price of eating and drinking out is a lot less.

### Accommodation

I got accommodation through a university platform called DUWO, which all exchange students are given the option to get a room through. I had to pay a admin/registration fee first, and though it felt like a lot, it is difficult to find a room privately in Delft/Rotterdam - especially if you do not know anyone and are staying for a short time! - so the DUWO room was an easy option and they had lots of choice. I chose a room in a shared apartment, in a large building of 400+ apartments. It was very standard student accommodation, reasonably priced and close to campus.

### University and studies

In my experience the Architecture department at TU Delft is much bigger and more active than at KTH. There are lots of design studios to choose from, and the experience of the school is very shaped through the specific studio you take.

I took Interiors Buildings Cities, MSc1 course in my semester here - which was my first choice. It was a very 'real' kind of design studio, and the Architecture studio and the Engineering studio elements were really integrated and worked smoothly together which I appreciated a lot. Also, the studio course only lasted one semester and so I was there for the full duration and it didn't feel like I was joining or leaving something half way through.

The teaching was very structured, and we worked a lot through modelling and working things out through making - mostly large scale 1:33 foam models. If you choose this studio be prepared to make a lot! There was also a lot of pair and group work so it was an easy way to meet people as a new student. The teaching was more prescriptive and 'schooly' than I was used to, but this meant I learnt a process and a way of working from my tutors. This worked really well for me for one semester.

Everything was taught in English and there were also theory courses c. 1 day a week. For the first half of the semester ("Positions") this was a stand alone course, but for the second half ("History and

Theory”) it was a ‘build up’ course to the thesis work happening in second semester (which I was not doing). Therefore, I would recommend anyone going for an exchange in the future having a look if there is a different course they could take instead during that time.

### **City and country**

There are a lot of international students studying at TU Delft, both on exchange and enrolled on the full programme. This makes it a very easy environment to be international in as everyone is very comfortable speaking English and very open to cultural differences. But, this also didn’t stop me getting to know lots of Dutch students too and feeling integrated in the school.

Delft is a small city with a very big student population. It is nice to walk around and there are many nice bars, but there is not much else to do so there is a risk that it can feel very small if you only stay in Delft. However, it is a very short and easy train ride (10-15mins) to both Rotterdam and Den Haag and lots of students live in these cities while studying in Delft, which has a lot to offer in terms of cultural events, nights out, beaches and a bigger city feeling.

Overall, I had a really good time on exchange at TU Delft and would highly recommend it as an exchange choice in Architecture.