



## An exhausting but fruitful journey

### Before departure

From time to time, I found that new environments and challenges inspire me. So that's the main reason why I applied for an exchange study in the first place. I've travelled to the Netherlands once and was immediately drawn to the country. Tu Delft is the best technical school in the Netherlands and the courses fit with my programme well. Because I already had a Swedish VISA, I applied for Intra-EU Mobility instead of a Dutch VISA. A Nuffic certificate is needed if you are from China, but I also heard that it will be cancelled this year, check it out.

### Upon arrival

I arrived three weeks before the semester started. In Tu Delft, there is an Introduction Programme for all newly arriving students and it's a good opportunity to meet new people and get started with your study. The Introduction Programme involves a group project, some interesting activities such as a paper plane contest, and an introduction to all faculty buildings of the university. Since my group project was about waste classification, I would rather not post any pictures of the trash cans here :) But it was a good experience and I would strongly recommend you not to miss it.



### Financials

I applied for the Erasmus scholarship before the study. Generally the food is less expensive, and you also have more choices than in Sweden. But there are also more shopping places in the Netherlands such as De Bijenkorf or Ruermond. So it's really hard to say if it's really helpful in saving money. Unlike in Stockholm, public transportation is run by various companies in the Netherlands. Different companies have different subscriptions, so you can save some traffic fees with them.

## **Accommodation**

In Delft there are two housing companies running all student housing, like the SSSB. The university helped me to get an accommodation from one of the companies. Just make sure to pay the application fee as soon as possible to get in the queue early. I would strongly recommend the studio at Michiel de Ruyterweg if you can afford 650 Euros per month. It's really close to the campus and is newly renovated.

## **University and studies**

The first big difference here in Tu Delft is that the library does not close at 9 pm everyday :) Soon I realised that it was necessary because the workload in Tu Delft is much greater than KTH. There are usually three courses in one quarter, each with around 1.5 to 2 times the workload compared to a 7.5 ETSC course in KTH (at least compared with my experience). Get ready for it!

## **Courses**

As mentioned, courses in Tu Delft are usually with more workload compared with KTH. But for most of the courses it's worth the effort. For example, SEN1141 Managing Multi-actor Decision-making is really eye-opening for me. It provides a network perspective on management and a focus on actor interaction, deviating from a traditional perspective of hierarchical project management. I also find TPM409A Digital Technology Entrepreneurship and Management inspiring. It shows how digital technologies come to a mature business model from a technical niche with a lot of useful frameworks and real-life cases. I wouldn't recommend CME1201 Collaborative Design and Engineering though. We were assigned to a group of 25 people and tried to work on one complex project. If your group members are not cooperative this would become a true disaster.

## **City and country**

Compared with Stockholm, Delft is a small town full of students. It's more like Uppsala. The Netherlands is also much smaller than Sweden, with the train system you can easily travel around the whole country (If you can stand the constant delays and cancels). With a high density, the country is surprisingly clean and tidy.

## **Leisure and social activities**

As the home country of Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Gogh, Mondrian, de Kooning and so on, the Netherlands is famous for its various galleries and museums covering classicism to modernism. There are also several famous art schools and design schools, which you can also visit their graduation exhibition. Besides, the Netherlands also has a world-class concert hall and symphony orchestra, which you would find rather attractive if you are a fan of classical music.

## **Sustainability**

The Netherlands is famous for its fever to biking. During summer, it's really a pleasure to take your bike with friends and enjoy the bright sun and cosy wind. However, such pleasure will soon turn into torture during winter with constant rain and frozen wind. I really don't know how Dutch people keep riding their bikes under such weather. There are also sorting bins in at least the accommodation area, but the classification is not that strict compared with Sweden. All public buses in the Netherlands are electric. I can see sustainability is a big topic in the Netherlands; since it's under the threat of flooding from rising sea levels, it becomes a social problem.

## **Other recommendations and observations**

An important thing to mention, especially for the second-year master students who go exchange in the first semester, is that the academic calendar in Tu Delft is different from KTH. Usually, the first semester ends in early February, while in KTH, the second semester may start in mid-January. There might be a mismatch if you are going to start your degree thesis in the second semester. My suggestion

is to select courses with no final exam primarily in the second period, so you can go back to Sweden earlier, and also keep your supervisor on notice.