



## EXCHANGE REPORT

### Name

Aleksandra Mladenovic

### Year and term for exchange

2018 autumn

### Exchange university

TU Delft

### Degree programme

Master programme in Architecture

## TU Delft Architecture Exchange studies

### Before departure

I believe that student exchange programme brings great benefits to a student's future career as well as knowledge and skills improvement. I applied for the TU Delft University considering it being on the top universities for architecture among the world according to QS World University Rankings. I am a student from Serbia studying my first year of masters in Sweden. I had my Swedish Residence Permit but I needed to apply for the Dutch one as well. I did not have any problems with my future travel, tickets from Sweden to the Netherlands had a reasonable price even with two bags of luggage. The flight length was approximately 2 h.

### Upon arrival

I arrived at Den Hague 15th of August. My accommodation was in Den Hague which was arranged with the assistance of DUWO. Late summer was beautiful, peaceful and colourful in the Netherlands. University organized an introduction programme for incoming students. TU Delft has many programs for students and organization on the campus. Initially, I attended many presentations as well as a small project involving people from all fields of technical and applied science.

### Financials

The cost of living in the Netherlands is similar to Swedish. To finance my stay I had a student scholarship from Erasmus+ organization (around €360 per month) and my own savings. The main tip for students is to use student discounts that are available in The Netherlands and to prepare their own meals at home than to bring to the university, cantinas are not usually cheap.

### Accommodation

The university has helped me to find accommodation through the DUWO agency. I lived in The Hague, a city next to Delft. The bicycle is a very popular means of transportation throughout the Netherlands, while in winter that is a train or a bus. I was satisfied with the accommodation. I shared an apartment with another 3 students from TU Delft. The cost of accommodation was, in my opinion, higher than expected, since I lived far from the campus and in a shared apartment.

### University and studies

The Faculty of Architecture at TU Delft is quite similar to the KTH faculty of Architecture. The courses were in English. The grading system is different considering the fact that they have grades from 1 to 10. In addition, their material includes a variety of building and technical knowledge (Building Technology is a mandatory part of each project for example). This system reminded me more about the University of Belgrade, where I completed my bachelor studies. I can clearly say that was one new, interesting, challenging experience.

## **Courses**

As I have already mentioned, the courses had a grading system from 1 to 10 that will be translated into the KTH pass/fail system. Moreover, my exchange studies were for six months, I applied and gained 30 credits as I would in my own sending University. The studio was the main course as it is a case in most of the Architectural programs. Dutch experimental housing was the studio I have chosen. In the first half of the semester, the focus was mainly on team-work and analysis, and the other month was for the design (which in my opinion was not enough time for the main design). Despite this, the project was located on one peninsula in Rotterdam it was social housing. It was very interesting and certainly a new experience. I believe that my practical knowledge enhanced as well as knowledge in the field of building technology, technical innovations and team-work. A course named Perspective was a new experience for all students. Linking the words, text with drawings, plans and architecture was the main idea of the course, a wonderful and unforgettable experience and knowledge.

## **City and country**

My experience with the Dutch citizens was, modestly speaking, very pleasant and fun. They are positive, very sociable and they always want to help, they are more open than I thought. Also, Delft is a student town that is very intimate and pleasant. And not far from The Hague and Delft, Amsterdam and Rotterdam are full of channels that have the spirit of the old city while Rotterdam is a picture of a modern metropolis. One beautiful and wonderful experience with friends from the Netherlands and all over the world with whom I will always be in touch.

## **Leisure and social activities**

Personally, I love working out in the gym and spend time with my friends. Within the faculty there is a gym where students have a discount as well as many other activities such as language learning courses, a variety of workshop programs, charity programmes and libraries. Moreover, considering leisure time, the parties, dinners and gatherings were sometimes organized in the campus by the university chapter and everyone was welcome from professors to students. Often after the midterm, we would go together with professors to celebrate in the student bar. These gatherings certainly help in a team building and better communication between the Studio members.

## **Other recommendations and observations**

I would recommend Exchange studies to each student since it will certainly be a good experience, new and unusual. It is very nice to meet new people from all over the world new culture and cities. Learn something new and help yourself build your own skills and tools, as well as make a variety of useful tips for leaving abroad, become resourceful and provide yourself with a better career in the future.