



EXCHANGE REPORT

Name

Year and term for exchange

Viktor Peterson

2019 Autumn

Exchange university

TU Delft

Degree programme

Civil and Architectural Engineering

As fun as it is challenging

Before departure

Going for exchange studies was an easy decision for me. You get to take part of another culture, improve your language skills and befriend and make contacts with people from all over the world. Furthermore, you get the freedom to choose courses from dozens of universities all over the world and can as such study something you're passionate about.

The application process is simple as an EU student. Did not have to do more than signing a few documents. The effort was worth it.

Upon arrival

Two weeks before classes started, they had a classic university introduction programme. This is where the different student unions had their events. I did unfortunately miss this due to some problems finding accommodation, but my friends told me it was worth going if you have the time.

One week before classes start, they had the introduction days to the school and faculty. This was mandatory, and a good way to meet other international students.

Financials

KTH provides an Erasmus scholarship for studying at TU Delft. This is of significant amount, about 300 euros a month if I'm not mistaken. This was for me needed as living in Rotterdam is not as cheap as living in Stockholm. The rent is in general higher here, and if you don't find something close by, the travelling cost is about three to four times as high as that of Stockholm.

Accommodation

Finding accommodation in Delft is something that should be on your priority list from the beginning. During the registration process you're offered to pay 228 euros to retrieve help from the school finding accommodation of a first come first served basis. This is something I did not do, and something I regret not doing. Everyone that I've talked to found accommodation with a cheaper rent that, furthermore, was closer to the campus. Within a few months you will have made the 228 Euro back just in travel costs.

University and studies

TU Delft is high in the rankings when it comes to the most STEM subjects and after coming here it is easy to see why. The facilities and the lecturers are of high quality. I spent most of my time in the Civil Engineering and Geosciences faculty, but within walking distance you can find faculties for Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical, Maritime and Material Engineering, Architecture and Applied Physics among others. As a student you have access to these faculties, and you can even partake in their courses if spots are available.

Courses

One of my favourite parts about TU Delft, and the reason I went there, is the amount and variety of courses they offer. I tended to focus on taking courses related to the Structural Mechanics specialization for Civil Engineering, but they also offer courses for specialization in Concrete Construction, Steel and Timber Construction, Materials and Environment, Road and Railway, Building Engineering and Hydraulic Structures.

The courses I did were of very high quality, and I learnt a lot from all of them. They were: Deep Excavations, Analysis of Slender Structures, Computational Modelling of Structures, Continuum Mechanics, Plates and Slabs, Capita Selecta Steel and Aluminium Structures and Building Structures II. I recommend every single course I did, but if I could change something, I would have done the Prestressed Concrete course as well. The courses are extremely demanding looking at them individually, and when you combine four of them at the same time it becomes quite the challenge.

I chose these courses based on what seemed interesting and challenging, and I had a lot of options since doing your masters at KTH means courses worth 30 ECTS can be chosen freely. I recommend not using these in beforehand to simplify the credit transfer later and have full freedom.

City and country

Netherlands is a very beautiful country with a lot to do in it. The culture is in general very similar to that of Sweden. The main difference is that Delft is a much smaller city compared to Stockholm which has its advantages and disadvantages. But if you enjoy larger cities, you have Rotterdam within a twenty-minute reach by train.

Leisure and social activities

A lot of your time will be spent on your studies by doing exchange there. The workload and level are higher than anything I've experienced before. This is something you really need to consider when choosing course. You're going to have to be spending a lot of time with your course material, therefore, take courses where you won't mind doing just that. A lot of friends here who have never failed a single course before failed several at TU Delft.

For the times when you are free, there are sports facilities of high quality within walking distance of the university. These include gyms, tennis halls, dancing classes and a lot more for a reasonable price. The night life was also a lot of fun, especially if you take the time going to Rotterdam.

Other recommendations and observations

Coming to Delft means having a lot of fun whilst being challenged. After my time as an exchange student I got offered to extend my stay and do my thesis here, which is something I highly recommend. The supervisors are so far very engaged, and they know what they are doing.