

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**

Shuang Li

Autumn 2019

**Exchange university**

Delft University of Technology

**Degree programme**

Architecture

## Travel report

### Before departure

As an Architecture student, it's important to experience different culture, people, expressions and other ways to think. Apart from that, TU Delft is a university with a high reputation, especially in the field of Architecture, Building Engineering and Sustainability. Some of my friends said that the academic atmosphere in TU Delft was good. In the end, I choose TU Delft as my first choice.

### Upon arrival

I arrived two weeks early before the start of the semester. There is a course called "Introduction program", I highly recommend to participate in this program since it was very helpful in order to get started with a new environment. During the program, I made many friends, and learned more about the university, city and the student life.

### Financials

There is a scholarship called Erasmus scholarship, around 300 Euros per month. The local price in Delft is cheaper than Stockholm, since Delft is a small city, almost like a village. You can also apply online for the housing subsidy if you live alone. Delft is a small city, so I always cycle to school. I spent 90 euros for a bike, and before I go back to KTH, I sent it to other people, so the expenditure on the daily transportation does not cost a lot. If you decide to travel to other cities in the Netherlands, you'd better buy an OV travel card, and you should always have 20 Euros in your card when you take a train to travel to another city.

### Accommodation

I got my apartment from the university since it is hard to find an apartment in the Netherlands, especially in Delft. I paid 228 Euros to the university, and they helped me find an accommodation. However, it is important to pay for the fees as early as possible, since some of my friends lost their apartment since they paid the fee too late. I lived in a shared apartment with seven other people. Everyone had their own bedroom, and we had a shared kitchen, toilet and bathroom. I think it is good to live with other people when you have just arrived in a new place. Sometimes we would cook and eat together. Most of my roommates were exchange students and we had a great time together.

### University and studies

The university occupied half of the city, so I cycle to school every day. The university is rather big; the architecture faculty is located in BK, which is the main building of the university. In the BK building, you could find the library, a model room, a canteen, a cafe' and a pub. You could spend your whole day in this building.

## Courses

The courses in TU Delft are very intense compared with KTH. You read a course package that consists of different studios and seminar courses. I choose the public building studio. I know some students who have studied in TU Delft, and they gave me some suggestions on different studios. The university also sent us a pdf with some information on different studios. I had an architecture design studio, an engineering studio and two seminar courses. The two studios are integrated with each other, so you have to think about design and building engineering simultaneously. I was not so familiar before with the subjects but after several months of study I really learned a lot within these areas.

Component <sup>i</sup> code (if any)	Component title at the Receiving Institution (as indicated in the course catalogue <sup>ii</sup> )	Semester [e.g. autumn/spring; term]	Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) <sup>iii</sup> to be awarded by the Receiving Institution upon successful completion
AR1A061	Delft Lectures on Architectural Design and Research Methods	autumn	5.0
AR1A066	Delft Lectures on Architectural History and Theory	autumn	5.0
AR1A080	Building Engineering Studios	autumn	10.0
AR1AP012	Public Realm Design Studio	autumn	10.0
ARX071	Workshops Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment	autumn	1.0
			<b>Total:31.0</b>

## City and country

Delft is a rather small city, you can walk or cycle to anywhere within the city. It is small but also convenient; here you can find almost anything you want. Next to my apartment was a rather big supermarket, and if you walked about 3 minutes, you could find a big shopping mall. Every weekend in the city centre, there is a big market where you can find flowers, seafood, and fruit for a cheap price. You can also go to the city centre and watch a movie with a friend. The Netherlands is a small and lovely country. You can take a train or even a tram travel to another city within one hour.

## Leisure and social activities

Since the study in Delft is rather intense, I spent most of the time to study. However, sometimes I would go to the pub in our faculty with my classmates on Friday. There is many museums, some museum's exhibit paintings by very famous artists like Vincent Willem van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Rembrandt and so on...

## Other recommendations and observations

TU Delft is a very good university, especially in the field of Architecture, many famous Architecture firms and Architects are from the Netherlands. Therefore, if you decide to study abroad, and would like to go to the Netherlands do not hesitate to choose TU Delft as your first choice!