



## TU Delft - An unforgettable exchange experience

### Before departure

First of all, TU Delft is a university with a very good reputation, especially in the construction and civil engineering industry. Besides that, Delft is a very beautiful town with a different landscape and culture from Scandinavia, and I really wanted to experience a different life. In addition, TU Delft has a lot of freedom in choosing classes, which allows me to choose classes that are related to the direction I want to pursue in the future. Everything was very detailed in the application process. TU Delft has a special system for applications, so all students need to do is to follow the process step by step, and the process of applying for a visa was quick and easy for me because TU Delft helped me throughout.

### Upon arrival

The fall start date was 8-30, and I didn't arrive until two days before the start of the school year, so I was very sorry to miss the welcome event. But TU Delft has a variety of receptions, basically students get together to meet each other, talk, and make friends. For the exchange students, the coordinators of each college also organized get-to-know-you and Q&A events for the exchange students, which helped us learn more about the local culture in the Netherlands and what to look out for at TU Delft, etc.

### Financials

As exchange students we all received the Erasmus scholarship, which was enough to cover our monthly living expenses (not including rent). In fact, the cost of living in the Netherlands is lower compared to Northern Europe, and most students choose to cook their own meals, which is less expensive than eating in restaurants.

### Accommodation

TU Delft has a housing system for students, but you need to pay a fee to the university in advance as a way to get an account and password to rent a room. Housing in Delft is very tight, so I chose the school's housing system. I was lucky to get a corridor on campus, which was very close to the library and the civil engineering school, which saved me a lot of time. However, there are many students who choose to rent their own room, and some even choose to live in The Hague.

### University and studies

TU Delft covers a somewhat larger area than KTH, and the academic system is much the same. Both are two months to complete a small semester and take exams. The difference is that the academics are heavier, the course credits are smaller, and the requirements are very rigorous. My academic life was similar to KTH in that I had to do a lot of homework in addition to classes, which counted in the grading scale. The classes were taught in English and the school offered English courses, but I did not have the option.

### Courses

I took a total of seven courses during my exchange. One of them, EPA1316, was a course using Python, which introduced me to some code with regression equations. Most of the other classes were required for the major, for example CIE4130 Probabilistic Design, which talked about some engineering, such as risk management for roads and bridges, which benefited me a lot. I chose my courses through a

website provided by TU Delft: Study guide, which provides detailed information about the course codes, course content, as well as credit, professor contact information, etc. There is a lot of freedom in choosing courses at TUD, we can choose courses from other colleges or from different directions of the same college, which I think is good. Since TUD has the same credit system as KTH, I can take 30 credits to convert to 30 credits at KTH.

### **City and country**

Delft is a very nice town and the Netherlands is a very inclusive country. Compared to Sweden, Dutch students prefer to get together and party, and since I live on campus, I often hear shouting and revelry downstairs. But overall I didn't have any discomfort and the atmosphere in the Netherlands was perfect for living.

### **Leisure and social activities**

In the Netherlands, besides studying, I really like to get together with my friends to talk or go on trips, and TUD has a building for students' sports activities called X. In X, there are several gyms, volleyball courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, etc. And if you want to take some special art classes, X offers classes at different times, and they are not expensive. The classes are not expensive.

### **Sustainability**

I was flying from Stockholm to Amsterdam. But in Delft, I basically chose to walk, and since Delft is a small town, it was basically a quick walk to the desired location. Most of the students chose to ride their bikes, which is also an environmentally friendly way.

### **Other recommendations and observations**

I think the most important thing about studying at TU Delft is putting in the effort. At this school, the failure rate is relatively high, reaching 50% in some classes, so it is not possible not to study hard. But in your leisure time, you can take advantage of Amsterdam as a transportation hub to travel a bit to neighboring countries. I was lucky enough to visit Germany and Belgium, and the customs of each place were unforgettable to me.