



EXCHANGE REPORT
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Exchange university

TuDelft

Degree programme
Aerospace Engineering

Six months at TuDelft

Before departure

I decided to do an exchange at TuDelft because the university is at the top level in the rankings for Aerospace Engineering. The curriculum in Space Exploration is something that is not offered at KTH and I believe that merging the best of the courses for KTH and TuDelft is a great opportunity to develop an outstanding profile. Before departing I had to fix my vaccination certificate and complete one English language test offered by the Erasmus program.

Upon arrival

Here the introduction to the course was online and there was really little chance to socialise with the other students at the beginning. This was mainly due to the ongoing pandemics and not much could be done to solve the problem. The biggest challenge is finding an accommodation in the Netherlands. When the university offers you the possibility to book a room with them, don't try to reject it. Otherwise you will find yourself in a hell trying to find an accommodation on your own. Unfortunately they will charge you with an entry fee for the service, but this will save you a lot of headache.

Financials

The cost of the life is pretty close to the one in Sweden. The cost of the students accommodations is around 300-500 euros and the university doesn't charge you with any additional fee. When you arrive I suggest you to go directly to a second hand shop to buy all the necessary stuff for your apartment. This is more eco-friendly and cheaper. You have a lot of options. Also check the price of the gym at TuDelft. It is quite expensive compared to KTH Hallen, but it is bigger and offers many different sports and activities. It is called TuDelft X. Try to get a bike at the rent shop as soon as you can. It is only 15 euros a month and nobody will try to steal it since it is from a reorganised rent shop. The cost for the bus is quite high, so it is better that you use the bike.

I received the Erasmus scholarship as the only financial aid and I had to use it mainly for the accommodation. I suggest to check on the website of the city hall of Den Hague, because some of my friends got a schalschip from the town hall directly. For that you need to have a valid residence permit in the town. Apply at least 2 months before your arrival to get your personal number in the city Hall and

apply for a bank ID as well. This will make your life easier as in Sweden. But be aware that you will need to prepare all these things well before you arrive in the Netherlands.

Accommodation

I did the stupid mistake of not accepting the offer by the university because I thought that paying an entry fee of 250 euros was too much. Going back I would take it immediately. It is one of the hardest challenges to find accommodation in Delft and I discovered it the hard way. Apply immediately to the University accommodation once you have the opportunity. My accommodation was an hotel that was quite expensive and 15 min bike from the main campus. NEVER try to find accommodation alone if you are not willing to pay extremely high rents

University and studies

Tu Delft is quite big. The campus is twice as big as KTH and all the facilities are really student friendly. I personally studied mainly in the Design Department or in the Library, but many other solutions are available. It is all to be explored. Usually you will have lectures in the morning/afternoon and you should be done after 5 with all the lectures. The work load is really high. Much higher than what you have at KTH. You will need to submit many assignments a week and try to be always on track with all the courses. Make sure you have good friends for the projects if you don't want to end up with complete strangers. This can save you a lot of work and make the experience much more involving. I didn't take any language course because the study pace was already quite high, but there are available Dutch courses offered from the university. You need to ask for them at the intro day

Courses

I decided to take mainly courses from the Space Exploration track even if they are not fully compatible with the courses offered at KTH. The main reason is related to the fact that I wanted to explore what I didn't have at KTH and not what I could have done at KTH. I believe the space exploration track can give really useful material to work on in your future. In addition to that I took many courses in robotics since this is my area of interest. Among the most important course I can mention the following

Numerical astrodynamics

Planetary Science I

Robot Motion Planning

Machine Learning For Robotics

Satellite Orbit Determination

City and country

The city of Delft is pretty small compared to Stockholm, but you can easily travel to Rotterdam to get back the feeling of living in a big city. I personally prefer Stockholm to Delft, but if you like cozy and small realities, Delft is for sure a good place where to live.

Leisure and social activities

The contact with other students was pretty low. We were mainly going out to play pool and we were going to Rotterdam every now and then. But nothing more fancy due to Corona. I personally joined the gym, but many sports are available at Tu Delft X

Sustainability

I didn't manage to travel to Delft sustainably due to the Corona pandemics and due to time constraints. But I think I tried my best not to use public transports or car in my daily life. I always try to reuse scrap papers when I could and they are available at the main library. In addition to that I tried to buy as much as I could from the second hand shop. I believe this makes your belongings f=more original and you will grow fond of them.

Other recommendations and observations

Join the Erasmus program if you can. It can open your mind and give a better prospective what is out there