

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name**Lucy Millichamp**Year and term for exchange**MSc Year 2 Sep-Jan**Exchange university**TU Delft**Degree programme**Architecture

Challenging & Fun Exchange at TU Delft

Before departure

TU Delft is known for its reputation, particularly for Architecture. I wished to challenge myself academically and take the opportunity to study at another highly regarded institution. As a British citizen, I had to apply for a resident's permit, which was organised very smoothly with help from KTH and TU Delft. As I need a permit to live in EU countries, I wanted to take this amazing opportunity from KTH to experience another country.

Upon arrival

There is an introductory programme offered by TU Delft for new students which starts two weeks before the start of the studies. I personally didn't participate in this as I was away travelling. I had friends who enjoyed this programme; however, it was not a problem to miss it as there are many events that continue into the semester. There is an Erasmus student network organising lots of activities for new students. The design studios are also extremely social, so there are always opportunities to meet people. I also lived in student accommodation and met people living there too.

Financials

I received the Erasmus grant from KTH for my studies which helped me with accommodation costs. Travel is quite expensive compared to Sweden but as I lived in Delft, I did not need to pay for public transport every day. I paid for a monthly bike subscription service which I recommend. The university has various canteens on campus which are cheaper than those at KTH. In general, I felt the cost of living to be lower than here in Sweden. There are loads of student discounts offered so always be sure to ask and check those options.

Accommodation

I got accommodation through DUWO, a student accommodation service in the Netherlands. I had to pay a fee to access this service, which seemed expensive at the time, but I highly recommend you pay it. Try to access the service as soon as possible once accepted onto the exchange to have the most options for where to live. It is difficult to find accommodation in the Netherlands, especially in Delft and becomes expensive. DUWO is a great option. I lived in a student corridor room with my own bathroom, living just 5 mins from campus. About 550 euros per month. I had a contract which lasted the length of the semester so it was perfect for me to arrive and leave.

University and studies

TU Delft is a huge campus. There are loads of different study programmes and just amazing facilities. So many different study areas and libraries. All of the courses for the master in architecture are taught in English. For architecture, all the courses are mandatory however you can choose your design studio

and your seminar course tutors. There is an amazing model making workshop and library in the architecture building alone.

Courses

I was in the public building studio which consisted of the design studio (10 ects) and the building engineering studio (10 ects). I did two other seminar courses which were 5 ects each. The courses themselves were mandatory but I made my choice about the studio based on reading about what was on offer on TU Delft's website. The courses are extremely demanding. Despite starting the semester with a very good work life balance, towards the end this became very difficult to maintain. The amount of work expected is just very time consuming. Additionally the building engineering studio expected students to have a lot of knowledge which I myself did not have. In just one semester we designed in scales from 1:5000 all the way to 1:5. Although I wanted to challenge myself, I had not expected the technical requirements to be so demanding.

City and country

I had the best time in the Netherlands. Everyone speaks English to an extremely high level. The public transport and infrastructure is amazing. I was able to travel throughout the country and also to neighbouring countries like Germany, very easily by train. There are loads of internationals living in the Netherlands too. I immediately felt at home and made amazing connections with people from all over the world.

Leisure and social activities

The nightlife in the Netherlands is amazing. With easy access to Rotterdam and Amsterdam from Delft, there are so many amazing djs and events to see and go to. There is also an amazing pub culture in Delft. Every faculty has a student pub with really cheap drinks. There is also really cozy and fun local pubs in Delft with affordable beers! There are loads of student parties always going on. There is also amazing sports facilities on Delft campus with loads of affordable clubs and classes to be part of. The Hague is also super close to Delft with amazing museums and the beach not far away. With easy access to many different types of cities, it is such an amazing place to live with so much to see and do.

Sustainability

The Netherlands is so well connected by train so it is very easy to travel internally and to neighbouring countries and even to Stockholm by train. Everyone cycles in Delft even when its snowing so there is almost no pollution in the city from cars which is amazing. Most of the work for architecture was presented digitally and with model making facilities, there was always recycled materials which could be used.

Other recommendations and observations

I had the most amazing time and I am so glad I took the opportunity to go on an exchange. However, because the final submissions for the semester are in January, when the diploma project back in Stockholm has already started, it became extremely stressful towards the end. This in part was also due to the high intensity in the design studio in Delft and the high expectations they had. Despite planning my diploma project early and in advance, there was still quite a lot of pressure. I would take the length of the semester into consideration when deciding where and when to go on exchange.