



RESEBERÄTTELSE

Namn

År och termin för utbyte

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VT23

Utbytesuniversitet

TU Delft

Utbildningsprogram

Civilingenjör Industriell Ekonomi

My Enriching Exchange to the Netherlands

Innan avresa

I decided to go for an exchange term to broaden my horizons and experience life from a new angle. I wanted to meet people from different backgrounds, try new things, and step out of my comfort zone – things that might not happen as easily back in Sweden.

I didn't choose the Netherlands for any particular reason, but I've always been curious about life further down on the continent. When it came to picking a university, I heard great things about TU Delft from a friend who'd done an exchange there the year before. Additionally, it certainly helped that TU Delft had a good reputation.

Getting ready for the exchange, I focused on finding a place to live. I also got a vaccine for Meningococcal disease because I was going to stay in a corridor. It wasn't mandatory, but I thought it was a smart move given the living situation.

Ankomst

I got to Delft just a day before the Introduction Programme, which kicked off on the 8th of February. It worked out well because there wasn't a ton of on-the-spot paperwork, aside from registering with the local municipality. The Introduction Programme gave insights into TU Delft, life in Delft, and the upcoming student experience. It was organized by an association at TU Delft and was geared towards Masters, exchange, and bridging students. The Introduction Programme was worth it for me. It was where I connected with fellow exchange students and met my closest friends for the exchange term. Classes themselves started on the 13th of February, and that's when the academic journey officially began.

Ekonomi

I didn't apply for any scholarships to fund my time in the Netherlands. Instead, I relied on CSN as I usually would, but with the extended version for my exchange period. On top of that, I was fortunate to receive the ERASMUS grant, given that my exchange was within another EU country.

The cost situation turned out to be quite manageable. Prices in the Netherlands tended to be lower than in Sweden, which was a relief. However, as the term progressed, the SEK weakened against the EUR, making the exchange rates less favourable. This did impact my budget to some extent, especially since the funds were received in SEK. Plus, a significant chunk of my expenses went towards train travel. It is important to the travel costs down, for example by using the OV-chipkaart. Additionally, there were no mandatory fees to pay during the exchange, which was appreciated. However, to secure

student accommodation through DUWO (which was essentially a must to avoid the potential headache of not securing a place to live in Delft), I needed to pay an upfront fee of approximately 200-300 EUR, if my memory serves me right.

One helpful tip is to download Revolut. It comes with a handy feature for quick money transfers to others who also use Revolut, much like Swish in Sweden. Additionally, getting a bank card that allows for a good and effortless SEK to EUR conversion can be quite advantageous.

Boende

I secured my student accommodation through DUWO, as briefly mentioned earlier. The instructions for the application process were straightforward and arrived in an email alongside other administrative details in the term prior to my exchange. I strongly advise going for DUWO, as finding alternative student housing can be much more challenging. Obtaining a DUWO accommodation necessitated the fee mentioned in the previous section. It's also worth noting that paying the fee quickly increases your chances of securing a favourable spot.

I resided in Professor Schermerhornstraat, a five-minute bike ride away from both the campus and the city centre. I paid my fee quickly to land a place in Professor. This location was perfect for me, and I wouldn't have chosen differently. My living arrangement was a corridor shared with seven individuals, including three exchange students, me included, and four master's students. In the corridor setup, the only communal area was the kitchen. The rooms and kitchen were modern, although I must admit the kitchen was lacking in cleanliness. However, this might vary based on the individuals sharing the space.

Living in a corridor turned out to be an incredibly enjoyable experience. It facilitated making friends and spending casual time with fellow residents in the kitchen. The monthly rent amounted to roughly 560 Euros. Additionally, using the washing machine and tumble dryer incurred costs of 2 EUR and between 1-3 EUR respectively. It's worth mentioning that laundry detergent was included in the machine, saving on that expense. Additionally, DUWO gave a "moving-in-package" with all the necessary stuff, meaning going to IKEA wasn't a must.



Universitetet och studierna

TU Delft is larger than KTH but shares some similarities. Both universities operate within similar subject areas, and they are grouped in roughly the same manner. In terms of daily life, I would say TU Delft is also quite comparable to KTH. Since I exclusively took master's courses, all my classes were conducted in English. Additionally, Dutch language courses were available.

Kurser

I selected my courses using TU Delft's "Study Guide." I found the non-technical courses to be particularly satisfying. They had a manageable workload, which was well-suited for an exchange period. However, I was disappointed with the time series course. There were no exercise sessions provided, and we only had access to one previous exam without solutions. This made the course difficult.

Mandatory at KTH?	Course at KTH	Course(s) at TU Delft
Yes	ME2323: Research Frontiers in Industrial Management (6 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MOT1452: Inter- intra-organizational decision making (5 ECTS)• SEN131B: CoSEM Research Challenges (5 ECTS)
Yes	ME2324: Strategic Management in Technology Shifts (6 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TPM411A: Idea to Start-up – IT & AI (5 ECTS)• TPM401A: Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (5 ECTS)
Yes	SF2943: Time Series Analysis (7.5 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WI4230: Time Series and Extreme Value Theory (6 ECTS)
No		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TPM024A: Methods for Risk Analysis and Management (5 ECTS)

Staden och landet

I loved my time in Delft. It was a calm, idyllic, and small city filled with charming canals, conveniently situated near both Rotterdam and The Hague. Amsterdam was also just a short train ride away, around an hour's journey.

A major contrast from Stockholm was the prevalence of bicycles as the primary mode of transportation in Delft (and in general). In terms of cultural adjustment, I didn't experience any significant shocks. This could mostly be due to the cultural similarities between the Netherlands and Sweden.

Fritid och sociala aktiviteter

Connecting with other exchange students was relatively easy, although it was a bit tougher with the master's students. In my free time, I focused on spending quality moments with my friends. Some days were laid-back, with us simply hanging out in Delft. On other occasions, we ventured to various cities in the Netherlands and Belgium. Our activities ranged from exploring museums and landmarks to enjoying dinners and parties.

There were plenty of options for exercise. And the springtime provided the perfect backdrop to soak in the local culture. The exchange coincided with the carnival in many cities, which kicked things off energetically. Then came the celebrations of King's Day and Liberation Day, both of which I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of.

Hållbarhet

Sustainability in the Netherlands is quite similar to what I'm used to in Sweden, both in terms of daily life choices and the course content at TU Delft.

Rekommendationer och övriga reflektioner

Make sure to make the most of the exchange, especially on a personal level! Meet new people, travel to new places and attend local happenings/events!