

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

Maria Naharro

Spring term 2018

**Exchange university**

TU Delft

**Degree programme**

MSc in Chemical Engineering (Process Engineering track)

## Excellent engineering experience while enjoying the Dutch culture and lifestyle

### Before departure

I applied to TU Delft because it is the best European university in my field as best as one of the top ten worldwide. I also had close contact with the Dutch culture and I found this opportunity perfect to experience the Dutch lifestyle while studying and learning from their expertise in chemical engineering.

In the Netherlands, people have really good English. I didn't have time to learn some Dutch in advance, but I didn't experience any communication problem. Once there, it is possible to attend Dutch courses taught by the university.

### Upon arrival

I arrived one week before my studies started because there was an Introduction Program organized by the university, so I attended the TU Delft orientation. There are several student associations which work similarly to KTH. Personally, I didn't join any, but it is a great way to meet new people.

### Financials

The scholarship that I received during the exchange is the Erasmus scholarship. The cost of live is less than in Sweden but the accommodation. Therefore, the Erasmus scholarship didn't cover all the expenses, extra budget is required. The transport is definitely cheaper than in Stockholm if you use bike regularly (check Swap Fiets out!).

### Accommodation

Finding accommodation is the hardest process that I had to go through. It is highly recommendable to start looking for accommodation as soon as possible. Delft is a relatively small town full of students, so the demand is really high. The prices are high but good deals are possible through Facebook. I found my accommodation in a Facebook group after arriving to the country. We aware of scams, there are many! Other recommendation would be to try Rotterdam and Den Haag (The Hague) to find accommodation.

### University and studies

The campus is large for a European university, it includes many technical faculties, some research institutes, companies, gym, student associations and the library. The Masters are in English since a lot of international students are joining the programs. I found many similarities between TU Delft and KTH, however the program at TU Delft had courses that I couldn't find in my program and were highly interesting for my future career.

### Courses

My courses were from the process engineering track so very industrial focus was offered during the courses. As an example, during the Process and Product Design (PPD) course, experts from the industry offered a mandatory training in Aspen simulations which is highly useful for a chemical engineer.

Other example would be the presentation of the group project at the company in the Heterogeneous Catalysis course as well as in the Design Project course. Summarizing, what is taught during the courses is very likely to be used when work in the industry.

### **City and country**

Delft is a gorgeous city full of students and with really friendly mood. There are many bars to go and it is very well connected with The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. I really enjoyed trying a wide range of cheeses and discovering the country by bike. Very recommendable country to live!

### **Leisure and social activities**

I have joined International programs as ESN to meet new people and discover the city. Delft is an easy place to meet nice people. I also joined a basketball team since there are many basketball clubs in the area. It is possible to sign up in the university or just find a suitable plan at the university gym. A lot of possibilities are offered by the university to meet new people and feel embraced by the Dutch culture.

### **Other recommendations and observations**

I recommend joining the university during the Spring semester because of the weather, during autumn and winter it is very rainy and windy. However, during my time in the Netherlands I had very good weather,