

**Exchange university**

Eindhoven University of Technology

Degree programme

Medical Engineering

Exchange to Eindhoven: A Surprising and Fruitful Journey

Before departure

I applied for exchange studies because I love adventures and enjoy exploring different culture. As a matter of fact, I am quite experienced since I came from China, have been to Manchester before for summer school and do my master in KTH. I found it interesting to live and study in different countries with different people of different background. It keeps me open-minded and helps with reflecting myself. I chose Tue mainly because I have a Dutch friend who did her bachelor there and I know that Tue has an awesome academic reputation in my major. Actually I've decided to do exchange the moment I stepped into KTH, so I am already quite clear without hesitation. After granted a place, I applied for the resident permit, which is pretty much troublesome, and registered the language course online from Erasmus.

Upon arrival

I arrived three days before my studies starts. We exchange students were warm welcomed by the international coordinator, who introduced the Dutch culture and warned us that the Dutch are difficult to become friends with. I was in doubt at that moment, but it's somehow proved to be true later in my exchange life. There were pub crawls, parties through the introduction week which is pretty nice. It was a huge surprise that there are so many student associations at Tue. I joined the tennis club which is called Fellenoord and a board game group which I exited after the first month.

Financials

I got Erasmus scholarship 360 euros per month. It's generally less expensive than Sweden but the housing price is higher. We can apply for supplement from the government if you live in studio or apartment. It will save you pretty much money. I was unlucky and got a student room in a house with five other people for 400 euros per month without supplement. I think the living conditions are worse than in Sweden for student rooms, which is personally not recommended since the price is similar for a student studio after supplement.

Accommodation

I got accommodation from an agency recommended by the university called Friendly Housing. The university doesn't have its own accommodation, so it's cooperated with housing agencies such as Vestide and Holland2Stay. Eindhoven is a rather small city and basically you can reach anywhere within 20 mins by bike. So the transportation is not a problem at all once you get a bike which is supposed to be a priority once you arrive.

University and studies

Tue has a big campus and modern building. It's really convenient that they have restaurants in every building and the campus is located close to city center. In biomedical engineering they have rather theoretical tracks such as cardiovascular mechanics, regenerative medicine and bone structure, biomedical imaging and modeling, nanomedicine. They have divisions for master students and group meeting every two weeks. Every student is assigned a supervisor and a mentor, responsible for supervising their academic study and life respectively. The academic atmosphere is better and the students are familiar with the teachers. The master courses are given in English and I joined the Dutch for beginners in the second period.

Courses

I have rather heavy burdens for my exchange study since I have to choose at least three courses per period and get 30 credits in total. I have cardiovascular fluid mechanics, perspective on medical devices, biosensing technology in my first period and cardia function, neural monitoring, monitoring

respiratory and circulation system in my second period. They are good courses with experienced teachers so I had a good time in school life.

City and country

Eindhoven is exactly an engineering city and as flat as you can imagine. There's a glow festival with lighting arts in the winter. I visited Utrecht and Amsterdam in autumn, both with the typical Dutch canals. It's such a pity there is no canal in Eindhoven. Netherland is a bike country and you can reach any places in Eindhoven in 20 minutes with a bike without exaggeration. So it's been significant to have a bike once you arrive in Eindhoven. I think I will come back again for the tulips in spring.

Leisure and social activities

I am so much impressed by the student sport center in the university. It contains almost all kinds of sports as well as really good facilities. I spent plenty of my spare time in the sports center with tennis, fitness, swimming and other sports courses. It's strongly recommended to have a student card and enjoy your time in the amazing sport center. Meanwhile, Tue has plenty of student associations where you can meet new friends with same hobbies as you. Beside, the chapter pubs are a good place to meet and talk to new people.