

Erasmus Report

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to Technique University of Eindhoven

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In this report we try to present a very broad view of our exchange study experience back in Netherlands. The process of evolving this report took so long as we aimed to make it smooth and influential. But as always there is room for improvement, we may forget to mention some points. We hope this reason would make you to contact us and ask for more information☺.

The idea is to transfer the real feeling about our exchange period experience. It is a real life experiment including studying, travelling, making new friends and adaptation to new environment... believe us, it is hard to write about all of these.

Just one fact, try exchange studies for SURE! It may happens once in your life and much better not to regret the memories which didn't make up.



Exchange Students - TU/e Netherlands - 2013

## 1. Erasmus program

Believe it or not, from our perspective LUT facilitate the progress of going to exchange studies much easier than other universities. LUT offers wide variety of universities around Europe which you can select and go. The informative sessions and notifications provided by international office regarding the process, will defiantly ease the registration steps even more. The only thing you better do is following the instructions and keep in mind the deadlines .Also, most importantly team up with other students whom are directing to the same university or program as you are. As for us, we were three Iranian students sent to TU/e along with other two Finnish students. We have accomplished all the major courses during the first year of our master program so the decision for Erasmus program mainly made to take related new courses at TU/e.

## 2. Netherlands and Eindhoven City

Eindhoven is a small industrial town where Phillips Company is headquartered. Thus, it is somewhat difficult to find any kind of information regarding the city on the web. So it is very important that to make contact with people who are actually living there to obtain necessary information.



The Netherlands is a very international country. Good thing about Netherlands is that, it is approximately located in central part of Europe and there are so many possibilities for travelling with student budgets. During our stay in Eindhoven, we had the chance to visit most of important cities in Netherlands such as Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague , Maastricht and rural areas which were having wind mills considered as a Dutch symbol. Also, among the country neighbors we could go to France, Belgium and Germany since the flights and trains tickets were cheaper comparing to Finland. You can do it in our way which is to team up, rent a car (it is even cheaper!) and head where ever you like.

Similar to Finland, everybody speaks good English in Netherland so there is no pressure to learn Dutch language. With only English you can simply survive for daily life and find many friends as well.

### 3. The University

Technical University at Eindhoven (TU/e), is one of the leading research universities in the Netherlands.

As an exchange student you should not expect too much support from university for your first days like tutor in LUT. At TU/e, Of course there is some introduction days and it is more related to university staff and you have to pay for them if you want to participate. Generally, there is no need for any

these kinds of intensive programs as everything is clear and everybody seems very helpful if you have any question and problem. Just as a suggestion, it is better to join other exchange students, thanks to social media networks “Facebook” just join the defined group and participate the first day’s gatherings.



### **3.1 International atmosphere**

There were thousands of people from all over the Europe, so you could make many European friends. For example, among the international exchange students in the department of industrial engineering, the nationalities varied from Korea, Singapore, France, China, Turkey, Germany, Italy, Spain, Finland, and Argentina. Every other week, we used to get together with these friends to have dinner with each member's own cuisine.

### **3.2 Course quality**

The courses at TU/e were usually composed of a number of group assignments rather than individual work the same as course structure at LUT. This means we had to work closely with other team members to get the assignments done. Actually, the only individual work for us was the final examination at the end of semester.

TU/e University has almost similar educational and administrative system, therefore the process of selecting courses and transferring the credits would be easier comparing to other universities.

## **4. Accommodation**

### **4.1 Student house**

There are many possible ways of house-hunting in Eindhoven. Basically, university is responsible to accommodate Erasmus students upon their arrival. However, after the registration we have been notified that due to high number of applicants students should find their own places. There are several housing company providing their offers online but most of the landlords needed to meet the customers in person. So it could become a bit difficult process to arrange a contract while you are not present in Eindhoven.

The rental costs were more or less similar to Finland but the rooms were smaller and older.

The apartments were not equipped as good as here in Finland like we have common room, sauna facilities and freezer! If you want to have fresh food to eat most of the days you have to go to market, so maybe it is even a good exercise.

## 4.2 Transportation means

The bicycles are the main transportation mean. Dutch cities do not have hills so cycling is much easier without going up and down the hills. Bus and train are available but bicycle is the best for city travels because of short distances between university, super markets and home.



You can simply find a bike through “Erasmus Facebook page” or the shop at TU/e campus. But do not forget: “Before buying a bike, buy a lock!”. It is common in Netherlands to have locks more expensive than the bike! Most local people have even several bikes; if one stopped working or stolen they would use other spare bicycles.

## 4.3 shopping

Comparing to LUT, there are some limitations in terms of food and cooking facilities in TU/e. The food at university is not always perfect and at the same time expensive. Generally, it was common to bring snakes and sandwiches to university for lunch even professors do the same. However, you can find fresh, tasty and cheap groceries from open markets every weekend. These markets offer wide range of fresh ingredients, vegetables, fruits, meat and cheese in a very good price.



Also, there are varieties of super markets. You can choose them based on their products price and quality. Famous super markets are Albertain , Lidl and Jambo. Several shopping malls are available in the city center (piazza) where you can buy clothes, electrical devices and many other stuff.

## 5. Our Opinions and suggestions

Comparing to LUT, TU/e was not very supportive regarding new comers! Although, there would be no serious problems or difficulties. Still, it would be a bit difficult for new students to settle down. That's why we admire the tutoring program at LUT.

It is recommended to buy the offered insurance package from banks. Since, accidents can happen while you are moving from place to place or travelling to unfamiliar locations. Additionally, in case of any unexpected incidents you are not completely aware of that country regulations and systems. Hence, register for the insurance services is a smart move. There are two insurance plan categories which protect you for many accidents or losses. Besides the health and liability insurance which are obligatory, it is better to register for home and travel insurance as well which only cost 50 - 100 euros in a yearly contract.

Although, one year ago when we were applying for TU/e there was no Erasmus report available in English language. However, we got very good support from our Dutch friends both in LUT and Netherlands which made the establishment process even easier.

TU/e is a large university with more than 20,000 students studding every year. To facilitate your moving and establishment into a new city ask anyone's help. Other students may experience the same situation as yours and there would be always kind people ready to help you in any situation. Better to start to find people from your own country and language as you may have common issues to share and in the second stage go for any kind people you can reach.

Generally do not take life serious! Just have your goal and other things will be arranged unintentionally.

At the end, we want to thank our great and inspiring International Coordinator Ms. Kaisa Nikku, who was very patient and supportive to all stages of our exchange study period.

Also, we had valuable advices and positive support from Prof. Juha.Vaatanen and Prof.Tumo kassi .And, of course Ms Suvi Tiainen, our Study Secretary who helped us in its best possible way.

Just note that we are very grateful to give out any help and advice and do not hesitate to contact us.

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