
 UNIVERSITÄT LIECHTENSTEIN	ABSCHLUSSBERICHT Zuerkennung eines Zuschusses für einen ERASMUS Studienaufenthalt Studienjahr	Universität Liechtenstein
--	--	--------------------------------------

Eindhoven is the 5th largest town in Netherlands. The name Eindhoven derives from the contraction of the regional words eind (meaning *last or end*) and hove (a section of some 14 hectares of land). Eindhoven is actively (re)discovering its identity. The city is also known the 'city of light', but Eindhoven has more to offer, much more. Eindhoven's city rights exist for centuries, yet this is not so obvious when you look at the city. Eindhoven does not have a historic town centre where you can take a stroll through history. On several occasions Eindhoven was literally in the firing line. At the beginning of the 16th century, the Duke of Gelre would regularly raid and plunder Eindhoven. During the 80 year war, both the Spaniards and William an Oranje's troops invaded the town. And then, of course, there were bombardment during World War II. The allied forces bombarded the Philips factories and the town. The day after the city's liberation, the town centre was devastated by the German bomb raid. Hardly a building was left standing. But now Eindhoven has begun to rediscover its identity. In 2011 Eindhoven won the title of smartest region in the world due to its leading research in the field of technology.

Travelling to Eindhoven is somewhat easier as the city has a small airport but not an international one. Afterwards you can take a bus to the city and it will be much cheaper (3.50 euro) than a train. There can be a possibility of coming from Amsterdam and then you can buy a train ticket to Eindhoven that is not that cheap. Travelling here in Netherlands is not cheap so once you reach your destination i will strongly recommend you to buy a bike. You can avail this option by searching it on internet (marktplaatz.com) or by going to the shops available in the city that have good range of bikes but highly priced ones. Overall biking is very safe as in each they have build a separate biking tracks alongside the roads. To find the accomodation university international office sends your profile to local based company (vestide.nl) who searches an accomodation for us before we arrive. Afterwards we can pay them the whole amount (min1400 euro) through internet and then please keep in mind we also need to pay a security money of about 250 euro before we start to live in. Due to the limited availability of accommodation in Eindhoven it is hard to find cheap furnished accommodation. As the University does not have accommodation on the campus, all guests are accommodated in the direct neighbourhood. The university can mediate for a room or a house, depending on your needs and financial possibilities. It is up to us whether we make use of this offer. Be aware of the fact that we have to start in time finding a place to stay. If we have to spend a night in a hotel it will cost you at least 35 Euro and prices may rise up to 100 Euro and higher.

People in Eindhoven are known for their exuberance. They are easy going, welcoming and they enjoy the good things in life. Which of course includes hearty meal and a good glass of wine. From a culinary point of view, Eindhoven (and the surrounding area) ranks pretty high. Its various Michelin-star restaurants are mentioned frequently in good food guides. But luckily, Eindhoven also offers great, tasty grub if your student budget does stretch that far. There are plenty of places where you can go and grab a good bite at rates. Look around carefully (for example on internet), keep your eyes peeled, and you can get a decent meal any day of the week at a fair price. If you want to cook yourself then it will be slightly cheaper and you can make your own dish. There are also many Turkish shops available to get the halal meat and to buy spices you can go to Indian shops as well. In Eindhoven you will find number of worship places including church, mosque etc. In the city centre you can find all high street brands and stores. The truly great shops are not located in the main shopping streets in the centre, you will find them in little dead end streets in tucked away places behind white washed windows. The weather Eindhoven is cosy in summer and it rains unexpectedly a lot in winters whereas I am studying here in winter semester. Local people here makes complain of this rainy weather. Due to the majority of land in Netherlands is below sea level therefore the evaporation from sea is quite high and close by so it showers a lot here. The environment is very healthy, clean and user friendly. Though lot of natural vegetation in and around the city with free flowing natural streams alongside the parks keep you very much connected to the nature.

Technical University of Eindhoven is a famous university as it is highly ranked Dutch university in the world. It has been recently ranked by Times Higher Educational World University Rankings of 2013-2014 as 106. The ranking position depends on the quantity of public-private co-publications within a university. 'Where innovation

 UNIVERSITÄT LIECHTENSTEIN	ABSCHLUSSBERICHT Zuerkennung eines Zuschusses für einen ERASMUS Studienaufenthalt Studienjahr	Universität Liechtenstein
--	--	--------------------------------------

starts' is the TU/e slogan for the societal challenges especially in the fields of health, energy and mobility. Studying at Eindhoven University of Technology means that one can choose a university with to quality education and internationally prominent research. TU/e offers excellent facilities and there are many international contacts with other leading universities. You can take admission in bachelors, masters or PhD research programs. Also you can find number of scholarships as well. The campus is very large with open green spaces with biking tracks and you can find lot of interesting departments with each department has its own canteen. These departments have their own individual buildings where your studies are supervised. The campus has huge sports arena with number of sports facility can be taken with memberships and this arena is common for everyone from the neighborhood as well since the sports clubs are working independent of university though they provide some discounts for the university students.

Hereby, I am quite enthused to tell you that I took my Erasmus study chance here in one the department named as Built Environment under the Master program of Urban Planning and Design. This department is a newly designed building with lot interesting facilities like canteen, material shop, printing shop, model testing area. All the architect, urban planner or designer has this common building with lot of work space areas given to bachelor, masters and PhD students. This department also has lot of different societies that are working with different field of specialization to help and organize meetings. To be quite honest I didn't understand their role as they were there to help but when you talk to them they don't know anything what's going in your studies or they lack coordination. Whenever there is some kind of an event they didn't put any notice and then the public lectures are also arranged in the Dutch language. Besides providing every facility in the department I think it lacks many educational facilities. When I look back to the studies that I did here they were quite okay but not extra ordinary. What I expected with the faculty was totally opposite to my expectations (learning new planning techniques & sustainable issues). I also understand that I took a chance to come here since it is a highly ranked university and will help my CV but surely it is not a best choice for urban designer & planners. It is not ranked because of its built environment department that encompasses architecture and urban planning facilities.

Firstly, i will like to thank my home university who motivated me to take the couers that interests me. The course I took here were taught in English and the professors here also speak English quite well so there was no problem while communicating with them. Since i had to complete 27 ECTS therefore in my case it was divided with the studio course worth 14 ECTS and remaining 13 ECTS were divided in three course named as urban analysis, urban methodology and last course of building information modelling (BIM). The 14 ECTS course in mandatory for urban planners and then you have the choice which course you prefer to take while letting your home university know about it. The main problem that I felt quite often was the lack of teaching staff as the professors are doing their own professional work and they come here to give lectures from other cities. There were only 2 professors in the whole urban planning field who I met in the whole semester for my studio project. These professors were also common for bachelor students so they don't give proper time to the students and many times they forget your projects as well as your faces. I also felt that they lack the coordination as sometimes they even didn't know what they were expecting. This also comes true for my other course of urban analysis where the end product was to make an atlas but professors didn't know what they were expecting. For urban methodology and analysis course I had almost the same professors so I thought a lot about the lack of teaching staff again in this department. BIM course was one of the reasons I chose this university and quite gladly I took this course. The course was about the making a computer model since I lacked that skill and knowledge. I was quite surprised that this course had only one lecture in the whole semester and the assignments were to be self-taught. All the courses I took had the presentations with the written assignments thus I didn't had any written or verbal exams.

Overall, I enjoyed the biking culture and city life. My experience with the class mates had been the most exciting one as we learned a lot from each other than our faculty. The studies here are much independent and the professors don't give much feedback or lectures or any new innovative ideas so it's up to students who can take their own directions / initiatives. I learned everything from self-studies so I hope it will help me a lot in future.