 UNIVERSITÄT LIECHTENSTEIN	<b>ABSCHLUSSBERICHT</b> Zuerkennung eines Zuschusses für einen <b>ERASMUS Studienaufenthalt Studienjahr</b>	<b>Universität Liechtenstein</b>
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von |  
an der Gastinstitution [AMSTERDAMSE HOGESCHOOL VOOR DE KUNSTEN] [NL AMSTERD07]  
zu senden an die Universität Liechtenstein, International Office  
Postadresse Fürst-Franz-Josef-Strasse  
9490 Vaduz  
gesamter Studienaufenthalt von [16.01.2017] bis [14.07.2017]




My semester abroad I decided to spend in Amsterdam Academie van bouwkunst. Within other options it was only one program that offers a practice opportunity during study and converts working hours into ETC credits. It was the main reason as I wanted to have an internship experience before thesis semester in Liechtenstein.

### Amsterdam

The exchange semester, for me started, in advance, in sense of searching a job and place to stay. Honestly, I should mention that it is not a simple task as Amsterdam is highly overloaded city by tourists and people who came for work or study. Amsterdam is the country's largest city, with a population of more than 851,000, and the most visited, with over 3,5 million foreign visitors a year. However, it is impossible to not fall in love with this city. Authentic Dutch architecture in central part with its canals, narrow streets and none-stop life will make anyone fascinated. Amsterdam is the nominal capital of the Netherlands as all governmental departments are located in the Hague. It makes this city more comfortable for its local population. The city has all the advantages of a big city: rich culture, lively Amsterdam nightlife, international restaurants, good transport - but is quiet, and largely thanks to its extensive canals, has a little road traffic. In this city your destination is never far away, but do not forget to get a bike for an authentic local experience.

### Academy

Academie van bouwkunst (Amsterdam Academy of Architecture) is located in the central part of Amsterdam just in front of National Opera and Ballet complex. All classes and studio sessions are take place in a gorgeous historical building in typical Dutch style. The building was renovated in 2005 that increased the number of classrooms. The academy has specific educational model that includes work experience, set of exercises as well as several studios. My program was composed of a studio P4 (8 credits), exercise O4 (3 credits), series of lecture C4 (2 credits) and practice experience where one can gain more than half of necessary credits (15 credits). In my opinion this approach has its advantages and disadvantages. The most positive point is the possibility to get practice experience along with a small financial compensation from an employer. From other side, daily schedule is quite busy. Four days per week I have

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been at work from 9:00 to 18:00. Than two days per week I had classes that usually starts at 19:00 and supposed to be finished at 22:00 however, it isn't a rule. Friday ( whole day) is reserved for O4 exercise and excursions.

#### Place to stay

The Academy has no campus or dormitory but has agreement with the housing corporation Ymere that offers 8 student rooms for international students in the complex 'De Eretribune', where student athletes are housed. This complex is located in Amsterdam West at the Erasmusgracht. In my case, I found a room in shared apartment in New West district that is quite far away from centre but that encouraged me to be an active bicycle user. Honestly, I never have cycling so much as in Amsterdam, around 20 km per day, sometimes 50 km . Cycling is part of Dutch spirit that promotes healthy lifestyle and sustainability. Moreover, it is the fastest way to get any destination in the city.



#### Internship

Majority of internship offers are low-paid or in some cases are non-paid. Never the less, I was lucky to get a place in well-known office "de Architecten Cie" that partly covered my life expenses in Amsterdam. The office is quite big with more than 70 employees and impressive experience all over the world. It was my first professional practise in European architectural office. From the first days of work, I have been involved in several projects at the same time. I was very exciting to be a part of the team where every member has its unique professional background. This internship enriched my professional abilities, awareness about local construction methods and values that makes Dutch architecture so recognizable all over the world.

More detailed information about organization, study program and evaluation process in the Academy one could find in the study guide by following link.

<http://www.ahk.nl/en/architecture/publications/study-guide/>

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Signature: 

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