



2017

Technical University of Eindhoven

The Technical University of Eindhoven's campus is one which really provides a student campus life experience greatly contrasting my experiences in Liechtenstein. Upon arriving at the University, I was enamored by the level of technical savviness, and the number of engineering facilities on the campus. Despite the invariably different education system, you can feel the wealth of knowledge and the immediate sense that this was a challenging academic environment. I was hoping that during the experience I would improve my understanding of architecture and learn how I could continue developing as an aspiring architect. The courses I enrolled in initially were selected for their titles, like "Architecture Acoustics," or "Heating, Lighting, and Ventillation", and these were open to all architecture students but unfortunately they were courses geared for those majoring in Building Physics. Despite these courses being under the umbrella of the "Architecture and Urban Planning Department, I didn't have the education or the engineering background to continue. I had to re-select courses which fell under the Architecture and Design package. I would advise future students to select courses which are not in other departments because other courses are leaned towards engineering.

Despite this, there was a lot to take in for a learning how technical universities in architecture operated. I learned and observed how their curriculum focuses more on the practicality of a building rather than the theoretical position. Professors here are vary in teaching styles, and they are very straightforward in their responses, so communicating is relatively easy. My courses required a lot of time because of the amount of group work the courses emphasized, this was also another learning experience. Their culture also reflects in their architecture and I have a greater appreciation for how they approach building design.

The academic environment is different, the Dutch aren't as competitive as other cultures but they are strict with rules and getting things done on time. So that was not so different than my previous experiences. Besides the academic challenges, I felt that the best thing about being in my study abroad was having the opportunity to travel around the Netherlands and get immersed with the culture. Biking will and always be a favorite pastime, their cities are bike friendly and most of the happiest things one can do is to go on a bike ride through Eindhoven. They even have a path called the "Van Gough bike path," on this path you can see the starry nights on the bike paths lit up from below while strolling on your bike. I also enjoyed the many festivities and holidays

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they had such as King's day, a day celebrating the King's birthday and where everyone wears orange. There is so much to do and see in the Netherlands that its difficult to achieve when there is school. I would recommend taking a light load to free up more time for travels and other activities.

In Tu/eindhoven you get to experience a high proportion of international people, because of the High Tech Innovation Campus in Eindhoven, this draws many foreigners with skills in engineering to take part in the work force. I think this aspect makes the experience easier knowing that others from a different country can live peacefully in the Netherlands. In general the culture and society are open-minded, friendly, and offer a lot of help to internationals. Eindhoven also has a good food market every Saturday which I visited mostly throughout the semester to buy cheap and good quality food produce.

I stayed in the Aurora student dormitory in a shared flat with three other roommates, this was a good experience because each person was respective of private spaces, there is one bathroom shared among 4 people, which has never posed a problem. The rooms were spacious and had large windows with views outside, it does get pretty warm during the summer but they didn't have air conditioning, which is common in Europe. This dormitory is 2 minutes to the campus, you can easily just roll out of bed and go to your classes.

Outside of school it is very easy to go to several events, they have lots of festivals, events for education, yoga, and there is a lot of culture in Eindhoven, so one can never say they are bored because there is something to do for everyone. I personally went to meet up groups and met Dutch vegans all of whom were kind and open, giving me the opportunity to create friendships. The most rewarding part about living abroad and doing school is the fact that you open your mind, understanding that different people can be happy and live differently. This has definitely been a rewarding experience, and something which I will always remember.



Van Gogh's Watermill



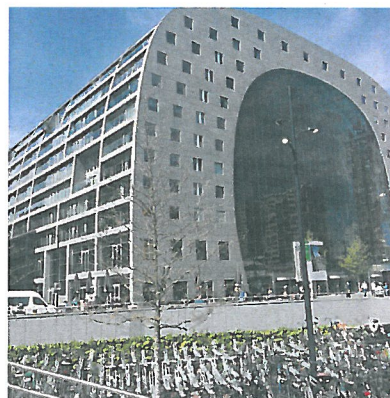
Rotterdam Cube Houses



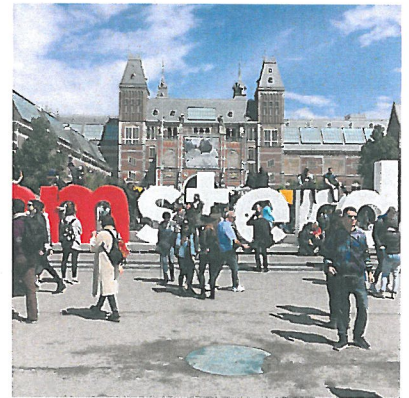
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Food stock Festive @ Tu/e campus

