



Exchange Study in Amsterdam

Amsterdam University of Applied Science

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Introduction.

This report is about my exchange which I took in Amsterdam during my fifth semester. I first heard about the exchange program when I started in the first semester. I was not sure if I would go for exchange at all, but during my third semester I made up my mind to go in my 5th semester because I wanted to try something new, experience another school and what it has to offer. I had a dilemma between Amsterdam and Scotland which should be my first choice, But after reading the exchange Report from the students who had traveled to Amsterdam on Scotland before, I set up my mind on Amsterdam as my first choice. Fortunately for me when I applied I was the only student in our school who was going to Amsterdam for Exchange so I had no problem to be accepted.

Preparations before Amsterdam.

Before I left for Amsterdam, I didn't really know a lot about what to expect, it was a whole new experience for me because I've never gone for exchange education before and I've never been to Amsterdam. But one thing was for sure, I was really excited and impatient to try a new experience.

After I was accepted by the University of applied science in Amsterdam, I was in constant communication with them through mail. I was given the choice to choose whether to study architecture or architectural technology, I chose architectural technology. They sent me a list of accommodations which I could rent. and this was very very helpful because I had three student residential buildings to choose a room from. So I chose a room in an area which is really close to school and paid the first three months of rent as recommended. It was a very comfortable feeling knowing that as I was going I already had somewhere to live, and for the past few months I had been working my ass off, to make some money which would last me for 6 months since I didn't intend to work there. There was some paperwork that had to be signed and filled in between me, the international coordinator and the school in Amsterdam. But it was no big deal everything went well.

My arrival in Amsterdam

When I arrived in the airport in Amsterdam, the school had organised for a pickup service for all exchange student who arrived at that day. The pickup service took us to destination in town, where we have to meet up with our housing company representatives and pick up our keys, laundry card and information about our rooms. And in that same place it was organised in the way that you can sign up for a local Bank if you want to and register in the municipality. During this process that was when I realized that before coming to Amsterdam I was supposed to apply for a Visa, since I have just a permanent resident in Denmark and not a passport. If I was to be on exchange for 3 months or less it will be okay with no visa but since I was supposed to live there for more than five months I was supposed to apply for a Visa. So the international office in the Amsterdam School of applied science help me with all the paperwork to apply for the Visa and after 1 month I came back to Denmark and collected the visa.

but all of this cost me about 400 euros. In general I was really impressed by the way the school organized the arrival of all the exchange students. it was organized in a way that everybody will feel less stressed and try to settle as fast as possible. it was a really good system.



School life in Amsterdam University of applied science



Amsterdam University of applied science

In Amsterdam University of applied science, the way the semester is being organized is kind of different from the way it's been done in Kea. In Kea we have one big project for the whole semester, but in Amsterdam the semester is divided into two blocks, Block 1 and Block 2. In the first block i had 6 subjects and in the second block 7 subjects, some of which were a continuation from the first block. During the first block i had 3 classes a day, which means i had to be in school only two days a week. But that does not mean you have a lot of time doing nothing, because every week we have assignments which we had to present to the teacher the next week. During the presentation of these assignments there is always a good conversation between students and teachers which gives room for advice and recommendations and solutions for problems. During the second block i was in school 3 days a week because the classes increased by one. There is also study trips that have to be done and it is compulsory, the students themselves have to choose 3 cities in the Netherlands to go for excursions.




INTRODUCTION

Welcome at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) or in Dutch: **Hogeschool van Amsterdam** (HvA). The next few months you are studying not only in one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, but also at one of the best universities of the Netherlands. An university with surely different regulations and communication between lecturers and students, then in your home institute. In this so called "coursebook" you find all the information you need to study in the exchange programme.

Enjoy your stay in Amsterdam!

Hans ten Voorde
Erasmus coordinator

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SB Smart Buildings	30
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Hogeschool van Amsterdam

General Introduction

block 1	grade	code	form
Lectures sustainability 1	3 ECTS	LE1	lecture
Design project AT	5 ECTS	DPAT1	project
Facade design	3 ECTS	FD	workshop
Hyper earthships	3 ECTS	HE	workshop
Capita Selecta lectures 1	1 ECTS	CS1	lecture
Excursion Dutch architecture 1	1 ECTS	EX1	excursion

block 2	grades	code	form
Lectures sustainability 2	3 ECTS	LE2	lecture
Design project AT	5 ECTS	DPAT2	project
Smart Buildings	3 ECTS	SB	workshop
Complex Details	3 ECTS	CD	workshop
International workshop	2 ECTS	WS	workshop
Capita Selecta lectures 2	1 ECTS	CS2	lecture
Excursion Dutch architecture 2	1 ECTS	EX2	excursion

Dag	Start	End	Activiteit	Docent	Locatie	Klas/Groep	Opmerkingen
Ma	08:30	11:50	Vormgevingstraining (2011/AFSTBTR) (TR)	C.G.M.M. Spronck J.E. ten Voorde	LWB D-1.03	DT/BKAA (exchange) DT/BKASB (exchange)	
W	12:40	14:20	Herbestemming/Luisbedding Architect project (2011/FAUBD) (PJ)	P. Wijk	LWB C-1.35	DT/BKASB (exchange)	
W	14:20	18:00	Theoretische grondslagen training (2011/LATBTR) (TR)	P.H. Boscher	LWB A6.36	DT/BKAA (exchange) DT/BKASB (exchange)	

day	time	subject in Dutch	lecturer	location*	group
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*LWB D-1.03 = de LeeuWenBurg (building next to Amstelstation)
D-wing
-1 floor (basement)
room number 3

LWB A6.36 = de LeeuWenBurg (building next to Amstelstation)
A-wing
5th floor
room number 36

how to read your timetable

Subjects division in Block 1 and 2

The different subjects that we had were, Lectures of sustainability, design project, facade design, Hyper Earthship, Complex details, and Smart buildings. We also had International Workshop programs.

Lecture of Sustainability.

In this subject we studied about topics like sustainable construction, exergy, material and flexibility, air conditioning systems, energy saving air conditioning systems, passive houses, active facades, biomimicry, green facade and green roofing and cradle to cradle.

Design Project.

In Design project the goal was to gain knowledge and awareness on how local conditions have an effect on design and Technical outline of buildings and construction methods. And secondly to become aware of the difference between the different conditions between your country and the Netherlands and as a result of that also the difference in architecture.

Facade Design.

In facade design, the assignment was to design a glass curtain facade for a building which you will be assigned. We started with analyzing glass curtain walls of historical, as well as modern buildings. The main goal is to design a glass curtain facade with some chosen materials and develop the technical system for this design. You have to come up with a complete set of facade drawings, sections and details.

Hyper Earthship.

In this assignment you are asked to design your own small garden Studio, which is meant to be used as a study somewhere in the Netherlands, and it should be build based on the principle set for earthships. The materials you used to construct this building must be from our immediate environment. You should use waste materials from the garbage (not construction waste).

The whole idea is that construction process use a great deal of energy leading to high admission of CO2. This energy is used during the production of building materials, during transitions of the materials to the construction site and during transportation of these materials at the site itself.

The tools and equipment used during construction also consumed a great deal of energy. There are many environmental benefits to be gained by reducing this energy consumption.

Complex Details.

The objective of this subject was for students to understand the language of architecture and can translate that language into structural solutions that are architecturally, technically and functionally sound.

The University of Amsterdam and the University of applied science has a join student body organization called ISN. This student body organises parties add event for the students and mostly exchange students. during my stay in Amsterdam I went to a lot of parties organized by this student organisation and they were all awesome. It's a lot of fun always and one has the chance to meet all the exchange students from both schools. Every wednesday there is a student night in a club call Coco's located in the center of Amsterdam. Each exchange student is assigned to a Dutch body who can help you if you need help with anything.



Housing

I lived really close to the University of applied science, my housing company was called Duwo. they had many other accommodations around Amsterdam. In my accommodation you could choose if you wanted a room with your own kitchen and bathroom or a shared room with a shared toilet and kitchen or your own room with a shared toilet and kitchen. I chose the one with your own bathroom and kitchen because I love my privacy, but it cost a little bit more than the others. there were also



bigger rooms in the accommodation for students who are moving in with their girlfriends or wives and kids. I really loved my room it was spacious enough, the kitchen was good and the toilet was really really clean and spacious. I payed 564 euros for my room including everything. I will advise the exchange students going to Amsterdam to choose their accommodation as close to your school as possible because that's where everything happens. I had some friends who lived in the outskirts of Amsterdam in a place call Deimon, I think it was kind of far from school on from the city center. I will also advise those going to Amsterdam to choose to live in the student accommodations because the experience is far more better than renting an apartment.

Life in Amsterdam

As you may already know Amsterdam is a very beautiful city with its canals and old buildings and a wide mix of cultures with it varieties of exciting restaurants. There is a coffee shop in almost every street in



Amsterdam, if you're into that it's really something to try out. And also you have the Red Light District in the center of Amsterdam, it has a special atmosphere and there is always a lot of tourists in the area. no matter what time of the day you go there there's always a lot of people.

In this area you have sex shops, sex shows, strip clubs, live sex shows and Piping shows. Amsterdam has almost everything you might think of.

When going to Amsterdam as an exchange student The first thing you should do is get yourself a bike. You should try to get a bike as soon as possible. I got my bike the second day and that was one of the best decision I made. Amsterdam is a city of bikes so it is very easy to find a cheap second-hand bike to buy. It will cost from 20 to 100 euros depending on the quality of the bike.

You should also get an OV Chip card, as they call it, should in case you need to use the train, metro or the bus. Its very cheap and you use it only when you need to. I personally used my bike to go everywhere, i used my chip card only when i had to go out of amsterdam.

When shopping for food stuff used the supermarket call Albert heijn, they have really good product for a really good price. Also if you're shopping for your kitchen utensils and some

furnitures you should go to Action, they have really good stuff for cheap price.



Conclusion

A few weeks before I was to leave Amsterdam, I felt how much the city has taken a hold of me. most of my friends whom i have met during this Exchange in Amsterdam who were from different countries all over the world felt the same way, none of us really wanted to leave because we have had such a good time. I can remember thinking to myself “ i can’t believe this exchange is almost over” I felt like the exchange should continue..

In general I had such a good time in my Exchange in Amsterdam, I can't think of any better place I would have gone for Exchange. It was really cool the way the university of Amsterdam and the University of applied sciences organize the exchange students together and the way the INS create the social life. In my point of view the organization of the exchange program in amsterdam was so well done.

I will recommend any student who wants to go for exchange abroad to try Amsterdam, you will definitely have one of the best experiences of your life.