

Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)

Gastland: Niederlande

Gastinstitution: Universität Twente

- 1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen Erfahrungsbericht an?**
Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

- 2. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasteinrichtung)**

Planning for the Semester Abroad at University of Twente was a straightforward process. All information necessary for exchange students can be found in the following links:
<https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/electives/exchange/application-procedure>
<https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/electives/exchange/>

- 3. An- und Einreise (Visum, Flug/Bahn/Bus)**

For the Visa, University of Twente (UT) has a dedicated department for Visa Applications. That department takes care of the visa application for the Exchange Students, and you can do everything online without the need to go any Dutch Embassy/Consulate. The visa process took in my case around 10 days. Once I arrived there, I had to register in the city. This registration was done on the Campus. For the visa, I got a Residence Permit for around 9 months and had to get the City Hall to just give the Fingerprints and picked up the card after 2 weeks on the Campus, too. To conclude, UT and the city of Enschede makes it really easy to obtain visa and finish the bureaucratic processes really fast and efficiently. For the travel, I travelled by train from Nürnberg to Enschede via Münster. So, ICE from Nürnberg to Münster then a Regional Bahn from Münster to Enschede. From Enschede HBF, I took a bus to the Campus where also my Accommodation was. The entire travel time till you reach the Campus was like 8 hours with a little bit of Delay of DB.

- 4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)**

For the accommodation for Exchange Students, you can apply for a spot in the dorms on Campus via Roomspot: <https://www.roomspot.nl/en/>. Once you finish visa processes, you get a Special Offer Option once you create a Roomspot account, this Special Offer Options puts you on higher priority to get the desired accommodation which is furnished for exchange students. For me, I applied for a room (11 m²) in WG of 12 people and got it. Its monthly rent was 350 including all services (Warm).

- 5. Fachlicher Aufenthalt an der Gasteinrichtung (Lehrveranstaltungen, Praktikumsinhalte und -aufgaben, Sprachkurse, Stundenplan, Prüfungen, Abschlussarbeit)**

My exchange semester was organized via WiSo and I did there Business & Information Systems -I do Masters of Information Systems-subjects withing the faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social sciences (BMS). The semester at UT is divided to 2 Quarters. For me as I did my exchange semester in Summer Semester, the semester started in the beginning of February i.e. (3rd Quarter of the entire academic year & 1st Quarter of the 2nd Semester). This Quarter was till end of April then another Quarter started in End of April/Beginning of May till the end of June/July based on your subjects & exams.I did at the end 3 subjects in total which were: ICT Management, Implementation of IT in Organizations, and Social Implications of Internet. I also attended Vision, strategy, and Leadership. And I can recommend all of these subjects and although I did not do the exam of Vision, Strategy, Leadership as I needed only 15 ECTS total, I cannot recommend that subject enough. Attending the lecture per se is a much recommended from my side and the teacher is one of a kind!All subjects were project-oriented where you had to work in a group on a practical or research project. This is in addition to some individual tasks and in some cases a written exam. Active Participation in the classes is highly encouraged at UT. And Professors are easy to approach and discuss with. Also, for some subjects attendance is mandatory and checked by the professor.For the grades, do not have expectations in comparison to Germany. In the Netherlands, getting a 10 is extremely rare case, a 9 is very rare. While the best is 8 and the very good is 7 which is also not so easy.

6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikumsbetreuung)

Each Faculty has its own department of International Office who will be responsible for your orientation week, all exchange semester documents such as learning agreements, proof of stay, and transcript of records. For BMS, my main contacts were Jaap Stout (<https://people.utwente.nl/j.h.stout>) & Lotte Sander (<https://people.utwente.nl/l.a.sander>). This in addition to a student who helped me with selecting the subject and check what is realistic or not. For subjects' selection, I would recommend max. 2 subjects per quarter meaning 4 subjects in total over the semester abroad stay.

7. Ausstattung der Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume, Laboratorien, Unterrichts- und Arbeitsräume etc.)

UT is a Campus-based university, and it is the only Campus-based university in the Netherlands and the biggest in area in the Netherlands, too. UT is very modern university. The library at Vrijhof building has all the equipment that you might need from Desktops to Monitors, Headphones, Mouses, and Keyboards. All can be borrowed using your UT Card. The Library at UT is also very Cozy. There are also group rooms which can be booked via the following link: <https://rb.utwente.nl>. There is also a Capsule where you can calm down. Over the entire campus, in each building there is also places where you can sit and study or meet with fellow students for group work. I would say at UT, besides the main library at Vrijhof, there is also small kind of libraries in other buildings. Bastille Building is also interesting, it is a hub for the students' committees and many activities and on its roof, there is the campus bar which offer a great atmosphere and decent prices. The Campus has also a doctor, a supermarket, a sports center, a barbershop, and a small bike maintenance shop. In various buildings, there are also Mensa(s)/Cantine, but the 2 main ones can be found in Waaier & Horst -the tallest building in the campus-. Lecture rooms and lab rooms are very modern and equipped with all you can need. There is also a building called Gallery where Academica meets industry. There you can find many companies that have offices at the university and several big areas for Design Thinking.

8. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld abheben, Handy, Jobs)

The city of Enschede is small and there is not much to see there. Also, the campus is around 4.5 Km out of the city. So, I recommend buying/renting a bike to commute to the city as there is no semester ticket there. And, for the fact that everyone has a bike there. Yet, the city centre is interesting especially on Saturday, there is an extremely popular market where you can eat very popular fish dish called Kibbeling for only 5 Euro. The cuisine in Enschede/NL revolves around Fries, Bitterballen, Frikandel, Fried Chicken, Kibbeling on Saturday, and Stroopwafel. This in addition to diverse international cuisine. Furthermore, 10 min. from the Campus is one of the biggest football stadiums in the Netherlands which is De Grolsch Veste the home of Twente FC. I was lucky enough to attend the UEFA European League Quarter Final there between Spain & Italy. For outside Enschede, there is much more to see. For sure, the capital Amsterdam which is rich of various museums and famous for its over thousand canals. Yet, you should plan your stay there as early as possible since the hostel prices there are high. Yet, I think other cities which I will mention now were more interesting than Amsterdam. Near to Amsterdam, there is also Zaandam which is famous for its Windmills. Utrecht is like Amsterdam but much more beautiful. Den Haag on the Ocean was one of my favourite cities. Within 2 hours from Enschede you are on the beach in Den Haag. Den Haag is also the city of the International Justice Court and many other famous sightseeing such as the Dutch Royal Palace. Near to the Netherlands, you can also visit Rotterdam. For me Rotterdam is one of the most modern Architecture wonders that I have visited from its futuristic central station to the market hall and the Erasmus bridge, Rotterdam is also very rich of its international cuisine since it has expats from all over the world. Also, near to Den Haag is Delft a small city yet very nice to visit and walk in its old city. Visiting the Dutch Venice Giethoorn is also very recommended. Furthermore, for cheese lovers visiting Gouda is a Must. Yes, the famous cheese Gouda is named after a city in the Netherlands. Less than hour from Enschede there was also that opportunity to visit the medieval city of Deventer. Deventer was also the centre of trade and economy in the Netherlands for long times. And this can be noticed in the city's golden street signs and the city architecture.

9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Gasteinrichtung)

The Netherlands in general is more expensive than Germany. But for Enschede it is not that much more expensive to live since it is close to the German borders, and it is not located in Holland -the most expensive part of the Netherlands-. With an accommodation of 350 Euro per month, a total living cost of 1000 Euro was feasible with 300 Euro for Food, 300 Euro for Travelling & Fun, and 560 Euro Misc. This including travelling in the weekends all over the Netherlands since you can obtain an NS weekend pass for around 35 Euro per month. It is also important to have a Credit Card to another Dutch or Online Bank in the Netherlands the German GiroCard is not accepted everywhere especially for the online purchase and subscriptions. Cash also works there but any banknote higher than 50 Euro is not accepted.

10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

In Conclusion, I really enjoyed my stay at the University of Twente (UT). All staff there were helpful and incredibly supportive and made my stay quite easy and enjoyable. The campus life was amazing, and the city was exceptionally clean and good but a little too quiet which is expected for such small cities. But that gap was bridged by travelling and enjoying other cities such Den Haag. Language (Dutch) was not a barrier there as most people spoke English even at the supermarket and restaurants. If I had the choice again, I would always choose UT in the Netherlands.

11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

Incoming Exchange

Students:<https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/electives/exchange/><https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/student-services/>[https://www.utwente.nl/en/ces/BMS Incoming Students](https://www.utwente.nl/en/ces/BMS%20Incoming%20Students)

Email:<https://www.utwente.nl/en/bms/education/bms-international-affairs-and-mobility/incomingexchange-bms@utwente.nl>2 Contacts from BMS International

Office:<https://people.utwente.nl/l.a.sander><https://people.utwente.nl/j.h.stout>All Education-

Related Websites & apps Needed at UT:[https://www.utwente.nl/en/educational-systems/Student Records Website](https://www.utwente.nl/en/educational-systems/StudentRecordsWebsite) (like Campo at

FAU):<https://osiris.utwente.nl/student/SetTaal.do?taal=en&bronUrl=/student/StartPagina.do&event=setTaal>[https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/electives/exchange/manual-osiris-student-](https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/electives/exchange/manual-osiris-student-1.pdf)

1.pdfSchedule/Timetable:<https://rooster.utwente.nl/schedule>Booking

Room:<https://rb.utwente.nl>Sports Centre Offers:<https://www.utwente.nl/en/sport/>

12. Nur Erasmus-Aufenthalte: Für diejenigen Studierenden, die eine Sonderförderung erhalten haben:

Bitte stellen Sie kurz dar, wie Sie Ihren Aufenthalt in dieser Hinsicht erlebt haben.