

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
ERASMUS Report 2016/17

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	Master of International Information System (IIS)
Host university:	University of Twente
Host country:	Netherlands
Study programme at host university:	Master of Business Information Technology
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS
May the report be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) NO to both

1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)
2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)
3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)
4. Study at the host university (Courses / Language Courses / Timetable)
5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)
6. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)
7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)
8. Finances (cost of living, grant)
9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)
10. Important contact persons and links

I chose the university of Twente based on different reasons. First, it was offering a very interesting course, which I wanted to attend. Secondly, it was not that away from the country where I originally study my master degree (Germany). Last but not least, its good reputation. The preparation and organization was not difficult at all, as most of the required document have been sent via e-mail. However, some points one should take into consideration if the applicant is not European.

Application and organization are quite easy. Every student should check the different requirements online before applying, as it differs from a country to another. In my case as I am not European, I had to apply for visa, health insurance and submit a financial proof. A very important point here that student should consider, the university of Twente doesn't know the regulation and requirement of the visa, as another 3rd part company is doing them on their behalf. So, student should send their detailed information to get the right answer. I would as well recommend to ask always for a confirmation to ensure that both parties (Student and the university) are aligned and understanding each other. In my case, I had already a resident permit in Germany that allows me of course to enter the other Schengen countries. So, when I sent my application to the university of Twente, they thought that I may need a visa and asked me to book an appointment with the Dutch embassy in Berlin to grant me a visa, which I did not require. From my side, I thought that they may understand that I won't require a visa as I am already leaving in German. However, lessons learnt, never assume and ask. In case a student has a European resident permit, he/she may not require a visa to enter the Netherlands. But, if the student will stay longer than 3 month for a study purpose, they will still need to apply for another resident permit in Netherlands.

Normally, students in Germany are having a health insurance which cover them as well within Europe. Students should check that with their health insurance company and inform the university of Twente. Otherwise, student should organize that with the university of Twente.

Finally, the Dutch authority asks the students to proof their financial situation before granting them the resident permit. Therefore, students should take into consideration that the university will ask them to transfer a certain amount of money before moving to Netherland.

The university of Twente is based in Enschede, a small city on the border between Netherlands and a city called Gronau in Germany. Therefore, the transportation was not difficult at all from Germany to Netherlands. There are trains as well from Germany to Enschede in the Netherlands. The university organize a welcome party for 3-5 days, which is very important and one should not miss. Student will have a lot of fun, beside a lot of information about everything a student may need during his/her stay.

Accommodation was easy if and only if students organize it as early as possible with the university. Students as well can ask the university to share an apartment with someone that they choose. The university is quite flexible with that. But again, if and only if, the student did that as early as possible. Otherwise, students may find a lot of difficulties to find an accommodation. The university offers dormitory in the campus and in the center, which is not as well far away from the university. Plus, there is a hotel in the university where student can book rooms in emergency cases. The university offers different types of apartment, which suit everyone.

Studying at the university of Twente. Student should take into consideration, that the university of Twente is a research based university, where a lot of self-study and researches will be required from students. Courses and timetable were not that clear in my case. They have a different system than the one in Germany. A semester over there is divided into two semesters. So, student should plan for their course ahead and ask always for the availability of the courses. Because, some of the courses which were listed on the online system, were just removed, replaced, or renamed, and the system was not updated accordingly. This is an important point for the student to prepare their learning agreements. I personally did not attend any language course. However, the university offers different language courses. Taking into consideration that most of the courses as well are taught in English.

The support and international office at the university of Twente is support amazing. Student need just to pass by and they will get all the support and information they may need. The university has a well a special e-mail contact for the international office, where student can send their queries whenever they want.

The facilities at the university of Twente no one can complain about. They offer everything that student may need in the campus. Libraries, computer, sport studios, swimming pool in and outdoor, different sports and activity. It is the best university campus I saw still now.

Living in Enschede is quite boring. It is a small city and not much things to do there. However, the university offers a lot of activities and programs to get the student engaged. Most students I met there were tending to travel a lot during the weekends and long vacation. To find a min-job in Enschede was not easy, because they usually prefer candidate who speaks Dutch. However, getting an internship or a part-time job in a company should not be that difficult. Most of the Dutch people speak English and usually their working environment is an international one which may not ask candidate for Dutch language skills. During the application period, the university will ask the student to transfer a certain amount of money as a living financial proof. Accordingly, they will ask student to fill a certain form to open a student bank account for them. Two weeks after the arrival, student will get an appointment with the bank and get the cards.

The living cost in Netherlands is more expensive than Germany. Plus, the transportation from the country where the student originally study to Netherlands and backward, can cost a lot of money as well. So, students should consider the accommodation costs, mobile phone internet packages, health insurance and buying a bicycle on the arrival date. Bicycles there is the major mean of transportation. There is a market place page on Facebook for the university, where students can find bicycles and other things to buy.

In conclusion, it was another experience in my life. The best thing out of it is that one can get exposed to different education system, different culture and getting to know new people. The worse thing was the city itself, as it was not that entertaining as I mentioned before. The most important contacts are:

- Application and Visa internationaloffice-visa@utwente.nl
- Accommodation internationaloffice-housing@utwente.nl
- Courses Registration/De-registration, Ms. Wandt u.wandt@utwente.nl
- Transcript of Records, Janke Rademaker j.rademaker@utwente.nl