

Experience Report

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Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University Rotterdam

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To begin this experience report I must mention that during the Trimester, which was 2 ½ months, I was not very involved in student life and in Rotterdam. I lived in The Hague, that is a 20min drive from the campus. So I can't give you too many details about the student life in Rotterdam.

Furthermore, this was my second exchange after the Asia Term in Singapore.

University

The Campus of the Erasmus University is huge compared to the one of the HSG. The different schools are located within one location. There is a nice library and a food court with various possibilities to have lunch. Around the campus are not many things to do. But the city is a short tram ride away.

There is a one day orientation program and various activities for exchange students. The international office is very helpful and they are very friendly and help with any issues.

The course bidding is very straight forward and easy.

Academic

During the term I took three courses (16 credits). The courses and the style how they were taught is comparable to the HSG. Some courses are held in big lecture halls, whereas others were taught in smaller setups. The workload is not huge and the exams are feasible even without going to lectures.

There is no time pressure for exams (3 hours).

Not all courses can be chosen for all terms.

Applied Business Methods (6 Credits) / Statistics

The course is divided into two parts. The first part is theoretical, where we had a midterm exam after 6 weeks. The exam was quite easy with more than enough time to complete.

The second part is a team assignment. A statistical analysis is conducted with programming with R. The course was therefore quite interesting, because I got to learn programming skills.

Business Information Management (5 Credits)

The course is very interesting, giving an interesting overview of information technology, current trends and developments and their implication for management, business and the economy. The course grade consists of a midterm and a final exam. Furthermore an optional assignment can be done to receive extra points for the grade. All the lectures are recorded and accessible from home.

The case assignment includes programming with R and SQL codes in Microsoft Access, manipulating data derived from Twitter.

International Business – The Dutch way (5 Credits)

This course is especially held for exchange student. The topics are very diverse, so each lecture there was another lecturer talking about another topic. Such as “how to change the Dutch” which in fact was an interesting and alternative view of marketing, or the “Dutch east India company”, the history of the first corporation and the founding of transferable shares and limited liability of shareholders and management. During one day we did a tour and went to see the Dutch flower auction, the biggest in the world, and the Rotterdam harbor,

the biggest in Europe. There is an exam at the end of the term, while 70% do not pass it. But there was group assignment to develop a business idea to fight food waste which was fairly graded.

Living

As already mentioned, I can't tell a lot about Rotterdam and the student life. The city though is very modern, because it was bombed in the WW II. There are many nice bars and clubs and plenty of choices to hang out, meet friends and have dinner. The city is safe. Prices are obviously lower than in Switzerland, but still higher than in other European countries. There is an in campus accommodation possibility for students and getting an apartment is not very difficult. The international office also provides exchange students with plenty of information of how to arrange things before arriving.

I liked the Dutch food and the Dutch style of living. The value "gezeilgheid" very high and are very open minded. Almost everyone speaks English fluently.

During the Trimester the "Erasmus Recruitment Days" took place, where I could get to know companies in the Netherlands, and eventually found an interesting internship for the time after this exchange.

Rotterdam is centrally located and cities like Amsterdam, Den Haag, Utrecht are very close. There are also many smaller cities in the Netherlands worth visiting, such as Leiden, Delft, Alkmaar, Gouda and Haarlem. Furthermore German and Belgian cities are within reach. A day or weekend trip to Brussels.

I lived in Den Haag and drove by car to the campus. Den Haag is the political center of the Netherlands, even though it is not the capital. The two chambers and the King's residence are located in Den Haag. The city has an old city center. There are not many things to do in the city, but in summer there is the sandy beach of Scheveningen and the many bars that wait to be visited.

To conclude, the exchange trimester at the RSM was not as exciting as the ASIA TERM in Singapore, but it was a nice time and I met many people from all over the world. And the Netherlands.