

TILBURG
UNIVERSITY



EXCHANGE REPORT

TILBURG UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS &
MANAGEMENT

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PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

August 2016

When I first arrived at Tilburg, it was quite a challenge for me because I didn't know anybody in this city. But fortunately I joined the TOP WEEK and met exchange students from different countries, we had different kinds of games and parties for the whole week, and I experienced the Dutch party culture for the first time.

September 2016

I started my school on early September, and it did satisfy my previous expectation on western education. The students here are more proactive, they are always willing to answer questions or bring up questions themselves whenever they have a chance, and this makes the class more interactive and intellectual.

October 2016

I raised my traveling frequency on early October as I realized that I am able to do so while without affecting my study at that time. I went to Switzerland, Italy, and United Kingdom, those trips excited me and I could feel that my horizon was not as narrow as before.

November 2016

On November, I became closer with my Dutch flat mates and finally I had the chance to experience the local party culture. We had party weekly in our house and in the local clubs, and that was the time when I learned a lot about the Netherlands, including their people, their culture, their values etc.

December 2016

December was the exam period, and it was also the time for me to evaluate my gain from the Dutch education system. Overall, I realized I studied even harder for some courses I took here than when I was in UST, because they have a larger variety of courses so that I was able to choose courses that I was interested in.

January 2017

January is my last month in Tilburg, and also the farewell period. I gathered with my friends every week to enjoy our last moments and say goodbye to each other, and it was the time when I realized that I gained a lot from this exchange journey.

PART II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Tilburg University will assist you in the visa application process. All you have to do is to an antecedent certificate, a declaration of Intent TB screening, an Authorization Form Study Progress Monitoring, an Embassy Form, and financial proof to Tilburg University as instructed in their email, and they will pass on you case to the Dutch Immigration Department.

Orientation Activities

The I*ESN international student society in Tilburg Society will organize an orientation activity called the TOP Week, which is an orientation week in which you can meet other exchange students. The TOP Week offers different kinds of group games and parties, and it is a good chance for you to make new friends.

International Services & Activities

Basically the international services and activities are mostly provided by I*ESN, those activities include Cultural Dinner, parties, and trips.

Accommodations

Exchange students are mostly housed in dorms right beside the university, but if you failed to register a place in the dorms you could still rent a room in Tilburg by yourself from the links provided by the university.

Course Registration

As an exchange student to TiSEM, you are required to take at least 2 business related courses. You are required to submit a study plan which will be evaluated by the Tilburg University Exchange Team before arrival, if some of your chosen courses are rejected, you still have a chance to register new courses in the registration period.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching style actually depends on the subject you chosen and the professor. In general, the classes are more interactive than those in UST, and discussion and projects are usually involved in courses.

Sports & Recreation Activities

There is a sports center besides the university, in which you can join different sports classes for free. But in order to enter the sports center, you have to purchase a sports membership.

Finance and Banking

The expense actually depends on your traveling frequency. When you arrive Tilburg, the university will assist you in setting up a bank account, and you could pay even you're cashless by using the debit card.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Still, I*ESN will be the club that is most closely related to exchange students. You could also join different sports clubs to attend their training sessions or even participate in Dutch competitions.

Health and Safety

Tilburg is quite a safety place, so you don't have to worry about the safety issue. But the health care service is to be improved, as it will be a bit difficult to find a clinic in the area.

Food

Apart from a few local Dutch food, Tilburg mainly consists of Italian and fast food restaurant. There are also a few shops that sell Asian food.

Transportation

As Tilburg is a small city, biking will be the major transportation method. If you want to travel to other cities, you could take the NS train, and buying group tickets will definitely save you some money.

Climate

The weather in summer is perfect, the temperature is around 22 degree with long day time and perfect sunshine. But the weather in winter might annoy a bit, as it rains a lot and the temperature is around 8 degree.

Communication

I*ESN gave every exchange student a free sim card on the Registration Day, and all I have to do is to charge the sim card whenever I used up my data. I am not sure whether they will do the same this year but you could buy one by yourself in the mobile shops.

Cautionary Measures

I strongly recommend you to buy an external lock for your bike and remember to lock it every time you leave, as there are quite a lot of bike thefts in Tilburg.

PART III – Items to Bring

- Bed sheet
- Notebook
- Pillow sheet
- Umbrella
- Router
- Medicine
- Bag lock
- Sportswear
- Camera

PART IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Tilburg University Student Portal

<https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/students/>

Tilburg University Exchange Program Website

<https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/education/exchange-programs/>

NS Train Website

<http://www.ns.nl/en>

TiSEM Autumn Semester Course Catalog

<https://mystudy.uvt.nl/it10.owp?taal=e&pfac=FEB&variantcode=19200&ajaar=2016&minorcode=>