



# Exchange Report

ROTTERDAM SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT,  
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM

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# Monthly Activity Log

## 1. January

I was so excited to be here. The campus was partly in construction but I could feel the modern atmosphere. I met some new friends and buddies during the orientation events. The infrastructure in Rotterdam is so complete and user friendly. As you can see, there are some fantastic cube houses, and many other buildings in special shapes. The bike roads enabled me to ride my bike to anywhere safely. The semester started earlier than the HKUST' one. Also, I spent a lot of time to deal with stuffs about bring a resident here, like opening a bank account, applying for residence permit, etc. However, I still felt so excited because I believed that I could have a great exchange studying life here.



## 2. February

The projects and exams were coming in February, when we should just start the semester in HKUST. However, we still had time to visit different places in the Netherlands. For example, we visited the flower auction in Aalsmeer and Zaanse Schans, the windmill village. It was really an unforgettable experience showing me how do Dutch businesses run. Compared with Hong Kong's business, I think Dutch businesses are more organized but relaxed, which is the things that Hong Kong businesses are lacking. However, I was surprised by their efficiency. The flower auctions were processing in an insanely fast speed, but the windmill village made me feel slow and relaxed. That were why Rotterdam attracted me.



### 3. March

The period of projects and exams was till the mid-March. Then, the semester break came! I went to travel with my friends. It was such a crazy experience that I travelled seven countries in thirteen days! I needed to plan my trip so carefully and patiently, but I enjoyed it so much. At the same time, the results were going to be released. Although the courses were not demanding as HKUST's, it didn't mean that they are easy. I got good grades in two courses, but a bad grade in one very difficult course. Most of my friends got this poor result. It told me that even the courses are not that harsh, they still have very high standard to grade our performance.



### 4. April

It was again the time to go school. I found myself already immersed in this lifestyle. I was like a Dutch person, buying foods in a local market and riding bike to anywhere. However, the courses required us to study a lot of readings so I had to spend some time at home studying hard. Also, I found myself a little bit isolated from my original social circle. I had to learn how to deal with this loneliness. At least, I got my new friends here.

## 5. May

Rotterdam was getting hot! Not only the temperature was, the people in Rotterdam were so hyped because the Feyenoord Rotterdam got the champion of Eredivisie this year! As one of Rotterdam people, I felt proud of them hoping them they can win the title next year! I studied hard this month because the courses were quite hard. I didn't want to get the bad grade or even fail the courses! I need to take the responsibility to learn and experience properly in this program.

## 6. Jun

The other month of exams. It was also my last month of being a student of EUR. I learned so much and experienced so much in this exchange studying program. I was so happy to meet some good friends. I am so grateful that HKUST gave me this opportunity. After checking out from my dorm, I went to UK, from England to Scotland, for travelling. This was an unforgettable experience. I had chances to meet different people in different cultures. It really broadened my horizon and equipped myself with international sights. Reading books do good to me, but I believe that travelling around the world is the best way to get known with the world because the world is changing every single moment. Catching up with the changes makes us capable to follow the world trend, so we won't be fell behind the times.



# General Exchange Information

## 1. Visa procedures

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) would collect the required documents and financial proof in order to help exchange students to apply student. No special and time-consuming documents are needed, and the process is not that complicated. What you need to do is following the instruction. However, keep in mind that the immigration department of Rotterdam requires incoming students to transfer money equivalent to 6 months living costs to the host university. You need to finance it as soon as possible.

## 2. Orientation activities

EUR would provide pick-up service when you arrive at the Schiphol Airport. During the ride to university, the representatives of EUR would briefly introduce the university and give you some souvenirs. Also, the exchange office will organize an orientation activity. From my experience, it was a city hunt game making you more familiar with the city, and a dinner giving you a chance to meet other exchange students. It costed me 50eur.

## 3. International services & activities

There is an organization called Erasmus Student Network (ESN). They organize a lot of activities for university students. You can join so many types of activities to meet new friends from different countries. From pub night to study tour, you can find what you want in here.

## 4. Accommodation

Exchange students can freely choose to live in in-campus dormitory or off-campus housing. For me, I lived in an in-campus dorm called Hatta Building. Everything is quite new and clean, but I believe that the rent (524eur/month) is a bit higher than off-campus housing. Since you will be the resident in Rotterdam, keep in mind that you have to check if the off-campus housing provides the registration in the city hall. If not, it will be very troublesome.

## 5. Course registration

Very simple. Just click the link from the host university and select your interested courses. You name will be enrolled in these courses in around a week.

## **6. Teaching & assessment methods**

It is quite different from HKUST's one. EUR tends to provide students a bunch of readings and we need to read them in our own time. Most of the courses have only one lesson a week. They have a very simple method for grading calculation, just projects and exam. The courses from business faculty seldom require attendance.

## **7. Sports & recreation facilities**

There is a sport center in campus. It provides a lot of sport facilities like basketball courts, volleyball courts, gymnastics, dance rooms, etc. Before using these facilities, you need to pay membership fee. Also, the center organizes many fitness classes regularly.

## **8. Finance & banking**

Cost distribution (hkd):

25000 – Accommodation

20000 – Travel

24000 – Living Expense

4000 – Insurance and visa fee

4500 - Air ticket

As I said before, you must transfer money to the university as financial proof. After you arrive Rotterdam, you can open a bank account immediately. I recommend ING because it is most common used in Rotterdam. After that, the school will transfer your money in your new Netherlands bank account. Keep in mind that you must bring some cash for the living of the first two weeks.

Also, you need to have 10 EUR inside the bank before you cancel the account.

## **9. Social clubs & networking opportunities**

Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) provides a bunch of opportunities for students to build up their interpersonal network. They usually organize career talks and networking events. Keep in mind that they sometimes adapt Dutch as the language of certain activities. It would be embarrassing if you mistakenly join these.

## **10. Health & safety**

Rotterdam is a safe city. The only day you need to be careful is football match day. Rotterdam has three football teams (the home court of S.B.V. Excelsior FC is just near the campus) which mean some fans would gather and yell for their team. Some of them would be drunk so please be careful. The air quality of Rotterdam is excellent, plus you have many chances to bike. I felt so healthy during the stay. I never go clinic or hospital so I do not have idea of medical services in Rotterdam.

## **11. Food**

Eating outside is expensive, while cooking by yourself is far cheaper. You can purchase ingredients from supermarkets or outdoor market located in Blaak on every Tuesday and Saturday. There are several restaurants in campus. You may try them.

## **12. Transportation**

Buy a bike. Rotterdam has the best cycling network and road planning in the world. It will be extremely safe as long as you remember all rules. Also, taking public transport is quite expensive in Rotterdam. You need to pay at least 10hkd even you travel one station in metro. Bike will save you money.

## **13. Climate**

Rotterdam always rains. It will not rain cats and dogs though, just drizzle. The temperature is quite comfortable for me. In winter, it can be below zero and you have a chance to see snow. You can feel windy all year, even in summer.

## **14. Communication**

The Dutch people are so proficient in English. There is completely no need to learn Dutch if you just want to survive in Rotterdam. However, if you want to be politer, just learn some frequently used Dutch (e.g. dank u wel).

## **15. Cautionary measures**

Rotterdam always rains, but it is a drizzle. Do not forget to bring a light umbrella if you hate getting wet. But, if you just want to be a real Dutch, do not bring umbrella because they never bring it!!!

# Items to Bring and Contacts

1. Passport, Visa, Original Birth Certificate, and other related documents
2. Cash (for first three weeks waiting for the bank account) and credit card
3. Plug adapters (Type C, Type E, Type F) and Power strip
4. Winter clothing
5. Electronic devices (phone and laptop)
6. Stationary
7. Toiletry
8. Umbrella or rain cloth

# Useful Links and Contacts

1. [9292.nl](http://9292.nl) (very useful transportation website)
2. [bb-app02.ict.eur.nl](http://bb-app02.ict.eur.nl) (EUR's Canvas)
3. <https://courses.eur.nl/#/> (Courses catalog)

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk).