



# EXCHANGE REPORT

Rotterdam school of management,  
Erasmus university

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Finance Year 3

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## Monthly Activity Log

### January 2018

I arrived in the Netherland on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 and later caught a train to Rotterdam from the airport. Upon arrival, I checked in into my student housing and try to get used to the 7-hour difference between the Netherland and Hong Kong. I joined the orientation activity held by the exchange office, they held a talk about the things that we need to be aware and get used to in the morning and doing a mini checkpoint game in the afternoon. There will be a surprise waiting for you during dinner so you can look forward to the surprise. Later in January, I also joined the orientation camp held by the ESN and met other exchange students, it is a three-day orientation activity filled with different events, such as bowling, ice skating, clubbing, drinking etc. Be prepared to drink a lot! I also visited the Amsterdam by the end of January.

### February 2018

In February 2018, I started travelling around Rotterdam, including places such as Den Haag, Antwerp. For one of my classes, I also visited the local flower auction market as a site visit activity. In the same time, it is around the middle of the semester, so I also have to start studying for the midterm exam ahead. We also held a mini birthday party and mini hot pot party for my roommates and friend, promoting the hot pot culture around the globe. We also held a hot pot party among other Hong Kong exchange student to celebrate the lunar new year in the Netherland.

### March 2018

In the beginning of March, I am finally able to witness snowing in the Netherland, the scenery is beautiful, and my roommate and I immediately rushed downstairs to take pictures and leave our footprint there. By the end of March, the semester comes to an end and I started my journey to three different cities including Germany, Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt.

### April 2018

The semester start a week later, so I use the first week of April to travel to England with my friend, we have a great time in there. My friend and I also visited the famous tulip garden-Keukenhof in the Netherland. The Big festival in the Netherland- King's Day is also held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, me and my friend all dressed in orange and went to the Amsterdam to enjoy the party atmosphere in the Netherland.

### May 2018

As there are compulsory workshop to attend during May, it is pretty difficult for me to travel around during May, but I am still able to go to the famous village Giethoorn in Netherland by the end of May, the village itself is breathe taking and we also have an opportunity to travel inside the village by boat when the guide tell us different story in the village.

### June 2018

It is the exam period and my Hong Kong exchange friend are starting to leave the Netherland, so I wait until the end of June when all my exam are done and my family are coming to travel around Europe, we visited Belgium, France, Switzerland and Germany together before going back to Hong Kong.

## Visa Procedures

I receive an email about VISA from the RSM office on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018. Attached will be some document to filled in and also instruction and guidance on how to fill them in. You are required to hand them back to the office in about half a month (15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 for me). There should be no problem in the forms and feel free to contact their office if you have any inquiry. As an Hong Kong passport holder, you will not only be required to apply for a VISA but also a resident permit. For the VISA, after all your document are processed, you will have to make an appointment with the Netherland Consulate in Hong Kong and leave them your passport, they will return you the passport with the VISA on it in around a week. You can reserve an appointment before you receive the result for your application as the office is pretty busy if you make the appointment at the last minute but be aware that you should make sure by the day of your appointment, your application is processed. For the resident permit, you can pick it up in the Netherland, and make sure to do the TB test if you are required to do so.

You are also required to pay a deposit of 5400 euro as you apply for the VISA, you should be able to get the refund of the deposit within a month when your bank account is ready.

## Orientation activity

I joined 2 orientation activity, the first one is the one held by the RSM exchange office which is compulsory. The one-day activity cost me 65 euro in total, it is kind of expensive but they are also prepared to give you a surprise, so be prepared for it. I also joined another activity held by the ESN office, it also cost me around 65 euro for this orientation activity, it is quite similar to the o-camp offered by student society in HKUST.

## International Services and Activity

ESN is the organization that you should be looking for, they organize many activities during the year and you are always welcome to join. Their membership card will cost around 10 euro but they also offer various of different discount, including Flixbus and Ryanair which is pretty useful for exchange student who want to travel around.

## Accommodation

I stayed in the Hatta building during my exchange period and I apply it through SSH. It is a pretty nice building with But be aware that the housing in the SSH could be running out really quickly so pay attention to the email from SSH at all time if you hope to get a place from them. If you hope to find other housing, you can also look for Airbnb or housing anywhere, but be careful as I heard from other that they are getting scam, so choose wisely and make sure that the landlord is willing to provide you a proof of resident to apply for different things in the future.

## Course Registration

You will receive an email from the RSM office indicating the rules and guideline related to the courses, you are required to take at least 3 course each semester to fulfill the minimum requirement. Be aware that you will not be offer with any finance course over there. If you change your mind, the first week in the semester will also allow you to add course or drop course, feel free to do that if you find other interesting course.

## Teaching and Assessment method

I took six courses in total, as the following:

1. Foundation of business law
  - a. The course is quite interesting, talking about some basic concept which may come in handy in the future, it includes a midterm which is essay-based question when the final exam are all MC.
2. International business the Dutch way
  - a. The course includes multiple topic, from marketing to logistic management, they will talk about some of the basic concept and then further explain it with example around the globe, usually Dutch companies. They also invite student to join a site visit in the flower auction which is definitely fun. But be prepared to read a lot of reading offered by different professors. The final grade is determined by a project and a final exam.
3. Management accounting
  - a. This course is pretty similar with the management accounting course taken in HKUST, so it is pretty easy to pass, I picked this course because I want to know more about this topic. The final grade will be determined by the midterm and the final exam.
4. Supply chain management
  - a. This course is a more challenging course, your grade will be based on your case assignment and final exam, the case assignment could be pretty difficult and same as the final exam, but the topic included are pretty interesting. You also need to expect a lot of reading to be done after class.
5. Leadership, sustainability and governance
  - a. I heard this course is pretty difficult in the previous years, with only 10%~30% of students being able to pass the final exam, but they have changed the rule this year and the exam question seems to be easier. In addition to that, you can work hard in the workshop to balance the score out.
6. Foundation of Finance and accounting
  - a. This course dives deeper into than the basic finance and accounting course we took in HKUST which makes it a pretty interesting to take, talking about some of the further concept which may be useful in the future, there are 2 exams, one for finance and one for accounting.

## Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a gym room in campus while also providing various of sports lessons and activities for you to join if you are interested. But you will have to pay a membership fee for using it. The original price should be around 130 euro and will be discounted to 80 euro if you are an ESN card holder, so if you want to use the sport facility, make sure that you join the ESN membership.

## Finance and Banking

The currency used by the Netherland is Euro, and it is highly recommended to you to start a bank account immediately once you arrive the Netherland. Most shop will be accepting a debit card to do payment and you can use iDeal in the Netherland if you want to shop online. There are even shops which will not accept cash so starting up a bank account ASAP. I started by bank account in ING bank because they do not require a BSN number for registration, but the service fee will be slightly higher compare with other banks, so do research and compare before making a final decision. The living expense in the Netherland could be pretty high so I suggest to bring a little bit more than the deposit, just in case you want to travel around Europe which is a common thing to be done.

## Health & Safety

Luckily, I stayed healthy during my stay in the Netherland so I do not know much about the clinic and hospital in the Netherland, but I consider it to be a safe country. I have not heard any of my friend facing any thieves or danger, but always pay extra attention just in case.

## Food

Dining outside could be pretty expensive in the Netherland, so most of the exchange students will cook for themselves. There are supermarket such as Albert Heijn or Plus de Esch, but I usually brought meat from butcher as they are selling meat in a much cheaper price and higher quality.

## Transportation

There is multiple way to transport inside the Netherland, including tram, metro, train or simply by cycling. Tram and metro could cost you around 1.5 euro when travelling inside the Netherland so most student will choose to cycle around. Swapfiets could be your choice if you are looking for cycling so you don't have to worry about selling your bike at the end of the semester or when you bike went out of order.

## Climate

It could be pretty cold in the Netherland during winter and you will need a large and warm jacket to survive the cold. During the summer, the Netherland will still be around 20 degree Celsius which is definitely comfortable for people to live in.

## Communication

Most people in the Netherland know how to speak English and they are also friendly to English speaker, however, Dutch is still the main language use when it come to the supermarket, so you may still be a translator if you want to know what you are buying inside the supermarket.

## Cautionary measures

I did not buy any extra insurance in the Netherland so I am just using the one provided by HKUST. But if you like, RSM will also held a one-day market where you can get an insurance there.

## Item to bring

	A small luggage for you to travel around in budget airline
	Hair dryer (it is not provided in my dorm)
	Adaptor for the EU region
	A back up glasses (I broke mine in a week and lucky I get a spare one)

There is a China town in the Netherland and it is easy for you to get one if you need, so just make sure you have your clothes with you than you will be fine.

## Useful Link or contact

An international student Handbook will be send to you from the RSM, the information included is detail and useful.

<https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/home.htm>

This is a link for the ov card (similar with octopus in Hong Kong), you can check your credit through this website as it could be hard to add value to the card if you are using the tram)

<https://9292.nl/>

This is the website/app that can be useful to plan your journey, just enter your starting point and destination and it will recommend you with the way you should travel.

<https://call-bill.com/nl/>

This is the website you will need to use the laundry system in the Hatta building.

**If more information is needed, get my contact  
from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at  
bmugexch@ust.hk.**