



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	Master	Major(s)	Business Administration
Host University	Otago? RSM Erasmus University	Semester & Year of Exchange	First semester 2018

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
BMME040 Sustainable business models	English	?	6 ECTS (Have no idea what that is in Otago credit value)
BMME087 Strategic Leadership and Corporate Governance	English	?	6 ECTS
BMME060 Marketing of new Products	English	?	6 ECTS
BMME081 Strategic management consulting	English	?	6 ECTS

Any comments about these papers?

Mostly positive when I look back on the papers. However, BMME087 was taught by PHD students. This meant that I was not only the oldest student; I was the oldest in the room. They still have a lot to learn, before the course will become really good.

BMME040 was taught by Prof. Dr. Rob van Tulder. He is one of the absolute experts in Europe when it comes to sustainability. He is a bit all over the place sometimes and not the best lecturer. However, his expertise makes up for that!

The two last papers were both really good. However, the experience was hindered by the fact that most of my fellow students was occupied by writing their theses and did not participate in the

lectures. That is a big problem, when most of the workload is group-based work. BMME081 is a very practical paper which I find very usable. If you want to work with strategy consulting, then this paper will give you a head start in the industry. However, if you quite fast find out that you are not going to work in the industry, the paper can become quite long. I now know that I will never work as a strategy consultant and that is a gift in itself.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Generally, more academic than I am used to from the MBA. However, that is not surprising because the papers were electives for 'normal' master students. The workload is about the same as at Otago.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I had to find private accommodation. It was a long way from the university. However, that was not a problem, because the public transportation in Rotterdam is very good and you are able to travel by bike anywhere. It was a lot cheaper, than the accommodation closer to campus. On the other hand, if you want to have a lot of social encounters with other students, it would be prudent to live closer to the university. The student hotel is a good option.

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

Accommodation: €500 per month

Flight: NZ\$1000 (One way)

Visa: I had no need for visa, because I am a Danish citizen

Food: about €150 per week

Insurance: NZ\$200

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

Mostly credit card! However, I used a lot of cash, because many stores do not take VISA or Master Card. The 'normal' credit card in the Netherlands is Maestro, which you can use anywhere.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

No! I am a Danish citizen. There was therefore no need. I know that Erasmus University helps the incoming students with their visa if it is necessary.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

Do not know! I was not interested in it.

What was the university/ city like?

Rotterdam is never going to be my favourite place in the world. There is a lot of culture (architecture, cheese, art, etc.) in the Netherlands. However, I am a nature enthusiast, so for me it was boring. The campus was good (good facilities, air-condition, strong Wi-Fi, sport facilities (you have to pay for), etc.)

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

Keukenhof (in the spring), Delft, the beach in Den Haag, Amsterdam, Gouda, Kinderdijk, the art museums (there are a lot), bars in Witte de With, Markthal (and the market next to it every Saturday), Shiedam (very Dutch part of town, with windmills, channels and older architecture (market each Friday)) and Fenix Food Factory

Any tips for future students?

No, not really! Just enjoy it!

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

I generally had a good time in Rotterdam. For me, the experience was very much centred around the academic part. I am European and have been to the Netherlands a number of times before this exchange. This means, that it was not a big cultural experience for me. For people that have never been to Europe before it will be completely different. There are a lot of history and culture connected with the Netherlands and Rotterdam, which could be very interesting. For example, was Rotterdam bombed in 1940 by the Germans. This means that the centre of Rotterdam is all modern architecture.

The academic part was at a high level. That did not come as a surprise to me, because RSM is considered one of the best schools of management in Europe. So, if you are interested in learning, this is the place to go!







