

Erasmus+ Erfahrungsbericht

Gastland	Netherlands
Gasthochschule	Technische Universiteit Delft

Erfahrungsbericht (mind. 1 Seite):

Studying at TU Delft for a semester through the Erasmus exchange program was an incredible experience that shaped both my academic and personal journey. TU Delft has always been a dream university for me, especially for its excellence in aerospace and mechanical engineering. I initially hoped to pursue my master's degree there, but getting direct admission was highly competitive and challenging. So, when I found out that I could study at TU Delft through the Erasmus program while doing my master's at TU Chemnitz, I jumped at the opportunity without hesitation. It felt like a second chance to be part of this prestigious institution and to immerse myself in its world-class academic environment.

During my exchange, I took several courses at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering: Characterisation of Materials, Application of Materials in High-Tech Engineering, Compliant Mechanisms, Opto-Mechatronics, Multiphysics Modelling using COMSOL Multiphysics, Manufacturing of Aerospace Structures and Materials, and Designing Materials with Aerospace-Specific Properties. My main objective was to gain an in-depth understanding of materials used in both the mechanical and aerospace industries, as I knew this knowledge would be essential for my future career aspirations.

Out of all the courses, Characterisation of Materials stood out the most for me because of its hands-on lab component. I participated in various experiments that allowed us to quantify different properties of materials, which I found fascinating. Unlike the more theoretical approach I was used to at TU Chemnitz, many of the courses at TU Delft were highly practical, which made learning more engaging and impactful. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of applying theoretical knowledge to real-world applications through group projects, which reinforced my passion for materials science and engineering.

This exchange was also instrumental in helping me refine my research interests. Through my coursework and interactions with faculty members, I developed a deeper appreciation for aerospace materials, which eventually led me to my master's thesis topic. However, my time at TU Delft was not without challenges. The course load was significantly heavier than what I had experienced at TU Chemnitz. Juggling multiple assignments, group projects, and exams was overwhelming at times, and despite my best efforts, it was reflected in some of my grades. Although this was a difficult experience, it taught me valuable lessons in time management, resilience, and adapting to a more demanding academic system.

On a personal level, being an introvert made it challenging to make new friends initially. However, I gradually stepped out of my comfort zone and connected with many international and local students. Attending social events and engaging with people from different backgrounds broadened my perspective and helped me appreciate diverse cultures. This aspect of my Erasmus exchange was just as enriching as the academic experience, as it allowed me to grow personally and develop a more global outlook.

One of the most significant turning points of my exchange was the opportunity to build connections with professors who shared my research interests. Through these interactions, I found a professor who agreed to supervise my master's thesis at TU Delft. This was a major milestone for me, as it not only gave me the chance to work on a topic, I am passionate about but also solidified my future academic path. Additionally, I was able to expand my professional network within the aerospace and space industries, which I believe will be invaluable in helping me pursue my career aspirations.

Looking back, my Erasmus exchange at TU Delft was truly life changing. It provided me with a rare opportunity to study at one of the best technical universities in the world, gain practical experience, and form connections that will benefit me for years to come. Most importantly, it brought me one step closer to my dream of working in the space industry, despite coming from a non-aerospace background. This experience has been a stepping stone toward my future, and I will always be grateful for the doors it has opened for me.