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# **Erfahrungsberichte – Den Hague**

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# Onno

## My Recommendations:

I'd suggested everyone going to THUAS to prepare for your stay in advance:

- There are deadlines as well as time slots for choosing your courses and lectures. Before the beginning of the stay you can pre-choose your courses which you have to do anyways to set up the learning agreement. Nether less this is NOT a definite choice since you must enroll into the lectures and courses in your first week at THUAS. There will be a date and specific time for a) a talk to the global office about the courses and b) the final enrolment. For both occasions following applies: First come, first serves.
- There will be a date and time announced when the booking of student housing (the company is named DUWO) will be opening. Here also applies "First come, First serves". You have to be fast in order to get a room (minutes not hours).

Summarised: Be fast if you want to get good housing and the courses and lectures you desire.

## My Highlight and/or Regrets:

### Highlights:

- I got to know a lot of other international students coming from all over the world but mainly Europe
- There are a lot of activities organised by the university and Erasmus program where you meet a lot of fellow exchange students

### Regrets:

- Since THUAS is a University of Applied Science the teaching methods and assignments were new to me and it took a few weeks to adapt to the style.

## Academic experiences:

I enjoyed all courses I took (two Minors in European Studies). The teachings methods where quite different to those I experienced in Germany:

- Smaller classes: max. 30 people
- Almost daily lectures in both Minors



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- Weekly assignments that were graded

The workload was the same but spread along the semester. There were a lot of guest lectures and field trips.

#### Experiences with possible organisational Issues:

Overall, it was a positive experience with the organisational matters from THUAS. There is an entire team only focussing on incoming students and you get answers or a response really fast, no matter what problem you have.

#### The housing situation at the guest university:

The university cooperates with a company (DUWO) but the flow of information before the stay wasn't that good. There was not enough information about the fact that the housing is limited and that you have to as quick as minutes after the booking starts. In general housing in the Netherlands is really expensive. I found a room via Kamernet (the Dutch version of WG-Gesucht).

#### Financing the stay abroad:

The Erasmus funding is necessary when living in the Netherlands since the cost of living are way higher than in Germany. There can be issues since the funding is paid only two times, one after the stay.

#### Non-academic:

The university and the network of Erasmus students offer a lot of activities. All in all it was a great experience because you can get a lot of discounts on cultural activities as a student in the Netherlands. I tried to learn Dutch but you don't really need it since everybody speaks English anyways when you try to speak Dutch with them. THUAS is a very international university so the primary language that everybody uses even outside the lectures is English.