

MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Tilburg University
Fall 2017

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

At The University of Ottawa, I am a commerce student who studies at the Telfer Business School of Management. However, at Tilburg University, the equivalent is known as the School of Economics and Management. During my Fall semester, I enrolled in four business courses as follows: Digital and Social Media Strategies, International Comparative Management, Introduction to Corporate Entrepreneurship, and Marketing Analytics for Big Data. Class schedules were the at the same time every week. With four courses and a DGD session, I was averaging 7.5 hours a week, not including the time spent on group work or studying. Each session is 1.5 hours long with a break in the middle.

Digital Media is a marketing specific course and was tailored to those individuals who wanted to learn more on how to leverage web analytic tactics and the best way to market your website. The course consisted of 3 assignments, two in groups and an individual, and a final exam at the end of the semester. The breakup of the assignments were 10%, 20%, 10%, with a 60% final in which you have to pass with a grade of a 60%. International Comparative Management was a course similar to International Business at Telfer, which offered an in-depth perspective of different business cultures from around the world and how an effective manager can prepare themselves. The course consisted of just one 100% final at the end of the semester. Introduction to Corporate Entrepreneurship was a course that taught us the basics and fundamentals of business knowledge needed to start your own venture. We were taught various strategies, the strengths of each one, and discussed various cases as to why a business had failed in the past. This class requires a midterm exam of 60%, and a mandatory DGD session in which you had to present a case. There was no final exam for this course which was nice. Marketing Analytics for Big Data was probably my favorite course during my exchange. It consisted of 3 assignments, 2 individual and one group, and a term final worth 40%. In this class we used econometrics to figure out what consumers thought in regards to products and services advertisements.

Every class has a re-test if you happen to fail an exam. The only downside is that the re-sit occurs in the new semester so you will have to wait until then. However, your dorm is still available until all re-sits are completed.

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

The major dates that an exchange student should be aware of at Tilburg are provided by two sources. (1) The I*ESN board which is the international exchange student association who organizes the majority of trips and parties for the exchange students, (2) Tilburg University. The academic year is split up into two semesters, but some classes can end early right after the midterm (you could still have a final in December). The major dates are as follows:

August 17th/18th: These are the recommended arrival dates to Amsterdam airport where Tilburg (IESN) members will be awaiting you to help you get on a train to Tilburg University. They will

help you bring your bags to the school and lead you to the 'Academia Building' where registration occurs.

August 19th: On this day there is a welcome BBQ as well as a city tour which is very helpful. You will be shown all the helpful places a student will be needing while attending school, so pay attention!

August 21st-25th: 'TOP WEEK' or orientation, or frosh week or as Telfer students know it, '101 Week'. This is a week-long party filled with introductions to popular night life destinations where you'll meet every other exchange student and most likely your friends for the rest of your exchange. The package costs around 70 euros but is a must, and very worth the experience. IESN will be hosting a party at their club every Tuesday night which is also accompanied by a mentor dinner. The mentor groups will be formed during TOP Week so get to know them quick!

August 28th: First day of classes! Teachers usually use the first lecture to introduce the course and list out the requirements.

October 17th-28th: This is when your midterm exams will take place, if you have any. If you don't, this time can be used as a break in which the majority of students do. It's a great time to travel. Besides this time, we don't get another holiday so you really have to know your class syllabus' and plan around your own personal schedule.

December 8th-22nd: Depending on your course syllabus, final exams will take place here. The last day for a final exam is on the 22nd of December so if you want to plan ahead and book your flight home early, make it for December 23rd.

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

As outlined in the previous section, August 17th-18th are the registration and greeting days. Exchange students were required to get to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam on either of those days where we were greeted by a group of students from Tilburg University holding signs and wearing colored t-shirts. You will be required to buy a train ticket using a valid VISA card which was around 20\$ Canadian, and the helping students will point you out to the right train to take to go to Tilburg University Station. The ride is about an hour long, and will most likely be with other exchange students. Once you arrive at the Tilburg University Station, there will be a group of students from IESN that will help you off the train to load you and your luggage in a van. They will drive you to the main campus where you will temporarily drop off your luggage, to register at the Academia Building. Registration is guided by other students to set you up with your dorm, booking a Dutch bank account meeting, and to get your Tilburg student card.

During these registration days, you will also be able to purchase a bike. The average bike is an older, re-installed bike which sells for around 75-105 Euros. You can purchase one of these bikes however, there is a company called Swapfiets that will rent you a new bike for 12 Euros a month

which includes insurance and free repair and another bike for 40 Euros if yours gets stolen. This is a very good alternative to the other bikes that are available on registration days.

When you sign up for the exchange in June, you will have already picked your classes which will have been approved by the time you get to Tilburg. During TOP Week, you will have time to meet with an academic advisor who will teach you how to change your section so that you have no conflicts between courses. Students are able to make changes to their sections on their own, however must see an academic advisor to switch into and out of courses. As long as you have no conflicts during your semester, you are good to go.

The biggest and most important social activity as an exchange student is to be a part of IESN. They are the club that handles all activities and trips abroad for exchange students and host the majority of the parties. I highly recommend that you join IESN if you want to make the most out of the exchange. Their membership costs 40 Euros for the year, and this gives students access to all parties, dinners, and all organized activities. You will be with your TOP Week group for the year, and you will have dinner with them every Tuesday. IESN organizes over 40+ activities all semester which are all fun and add some value to your exchange.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.)

The cost for doing an exchange is a lot if you want to make the most of it and take part in all the activities. My monthly expense is 1000 Euros (roughly \$1,500 CAD). This includes food (restaurants as well), going out, laundry, any extra expenses I might incur, and some travel expenses. I spend around 20-40 Euros a week on food which includes grocery shopping and restaurants with friends. The cafeteria is a great alternative and the school provides good and healthy meals for about 5 Euros.

Travelling expenses are usually tied into the 1000 Euros a month but can be very costly if you don't plan ahead and think smart. The earlier you book your flight around Europe, the cheaper it will be. You can pay around 100 Euros for a round trip to most cities in Europe if you plan within a month in advance, but around 500 Euros if you plan a couple weeks before. Each small weekend trip to a city cost me around 150-200 Euros for the weekend. However, if you want to just travel around The Netherlands (which I highly recommend), the farthest trip by train will cost you only 20 Euros. The transportation system here is very efficient and you can always take advantage of group tickets by buying online, having it ahead of time when you book for at least 7 people.

In regards to Verbs (housing), I chose to pay ahead of time which cost me around 1900 Euros for the semester. Everything else is included however, you can choose to pay on a monthly basis if need be.

I didn't buy any textbooks while I was studying, because it either wasn't required, or they were available in the library to take out for free.

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

During the summer before your school semester, you will be in constant contact with Tilburg University staff as well as the Dutch immigration services. They will guide you through every document and process required to fill out your profile. A lot of the forms require basic information as well as various types of ID's which will be stated as required. Every document has sufficient deadlines and they tell you where you can find everything. In regards to the visa, the school actually provides one for you so you don't have to do anything about it. It lasts for one year, and you are also able to work if you want for the time being. The only document that is very important and you must bring a physical copy, is the WHS form which again simply requires basic information about yourself. The accompanying email will help out with all the required fields.

After TOP Week, you will be required to go to a school meeting for exchange students, which will outline your requirements in order to receive your permanent residence permit. You will have to go to Den Bosch which is a city about 20 minutes outside of Tilburg to go to the office to apply for your permit. It will be ready to pick-up about a month after you initially go to Den Bosch.

Course registration occurs during the previous school semester where The University of Ottawa will have to approve of your courses in order to see whether or not they can be a substitute for your program. A list of courses can be found online; however, I highly recommend the courses I took if you are a marketing student.

During the summer months, you will be sent an email which gives you the instructions about Verbs (housing). They will send you another email that has a code which you have to use to log into the Verbs website to select your dorm. On a specific day, at 2 PM Tilburg time, the website will be open to purchase a room which means you have to act fast because they fill up very quickly. If you want to be close to school, involved in all activities, and meet a lot of cool people I highly recommend you to sign up for Verbs and not to rent another house. After selecting a room, you have to pay by credit card where you can choose to either pay up front (1900 Euros) or on a monthly basis.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing

The address for Verbs is Professor Verbernelaan 52, 5037 AG Tilburg. There are 3 Verbs buildings for exchange students and the other are for Dutch students. The housing costs 1900 Euros in total for a semester which is available to you from August 17th to January 15th. Everything else is included and the landlords are very helpful. The housing is very clean and all kitchen appliances and cutlery is provided. You have to buy your own dish soap and sponges. Every room is equipped with Wi-Fi and is very fast.

G) Work term (if applicable)

Your permanent residents permit which is valid for one-year also allows you to work. I did not choose to work during my exchange.

H) Other comments or recommendations

Go to class, travel, and make the most of your exchange while you're here.

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience

Tilburg University is an amazing school, in an amazing town, in an amazing country. I can confidently say that these past couple months have been the best experience of my life. I've grown up and learned things that I would've never learned if I hadn't done this. I learned in and out of the classroom, and met incredible people from around the world that will be my friends forever. This exchange has opened my eyes to so many things around the world, and now I can bring that with me wherever I go, and to any situation or job. There is simply no substitute to travel and learning in another environment. Always strive to learn something new every day.

This photo was taken with my friend who also attended the exchange from the University of Ottawa:

