

## Adam Head: Delft University (Semester 1, 2010)

Alles goed?

Everything is great, thanks. In fact it's ummm.. Gezellig. The Dutch have built their culture around a friendly and open minded environment. Their lifestyle is of a laid back nature, where discrimination of any kind is frowned upon.

I am undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering 3<sup>rd</sup> year and I came to Delft to study under one of the top aerospace engineering universities in Europe. I have grown not only to appreciate the knowledge and experience gained academically but the beauty of a quaint and historically royal town. The culture and the travel has really changed my view of people and taught me many valuable lessons which I could not have learnt while at UQ. I engaged in the exchange program for a full year and undertook some of the most interesting courses. Rocket space propulsion, Computational fluid dynamics and material design are just some of the subjects that are so deeply related to industry, as the Technical University of Delft tends to have close connections with widely renowned and respected employers throughout Europe. TU delft is ranked the **top 15<sup>th</sup> technical university** in the world by the times magazine and it has well deserved its place. Studying at a different institution gives you a different perspective on your education, teaches you a different way of learning and provides you with so many employment opportunities. There were many tricky bits and quick decisions but this is part of the adventure.

I made it a personal goal to find and attach myself to the locals, whereby I could properly engage in the culture and the language. I signed up to an event called "Owee" at the beginning of the year, which means orientation week in Dutch. This is truly a great event. The week consisted of an introduction to student social and academic life. On the social aspect, fifteen societies with the hope to recruit 'newbies' show all students the time of their life by hosting parties with a different show and theme every time. I joined a society called 'Wolbodo', the first international student and non-dutch speaking person to join since the society's creation in 1959. I have developed many great friendships here and I **will not** forget any of them. The academic aspect of the Owee was just as rewarding and informed me about many great employment opportunities which I intend to use in the future.

During my stay I didn't just stick in Delft, I visited over 10 countries and had many different experiences which I will cherish forever. Trying to decipher what they spoke in Ireland, visiting the loch ness monster in Inverness Scotland, attending Europe's biggest Reggae festival in Uppsala Sweden, getting ripped off by every product in Denmark, drinking 9 musses of beer at Oktoberfest in Munich Germany, rock-climbing in Belgium (yes they have a hill), finding out how small the Mona Lisa is at the Louvre in France, kicking back at a student festival just outside of Cracow in the mountains of Poland, finding out that they speak Catalan in Barcelona Spain, and snowboarding on Christmas day with 2-3 meters of white fluffy snow in Italy beats beach cricket man.

I would never be able to describe what this experience has brought me. I am speechless and always will be. You need to do this and find out for yourself. I recommend if you come to Delft to visit Wolbodo! Go to Amsterdam once and then never go back, Delft has way better architecture anyway. Do not book with Ryan Air- a cheap airline that will certainly take your soul if you don't look out. The weather is the **only** downside of exchange. If you can't stand the cold. then don't bring anything with you. Buy your winter gear here, Australia doesn't know winter and the clothes we have will surely fail.



Figuur 1 Feest at Tom's House in Delft



Figuur 3 Architecture in Delft



Figuur 4 Kicken back with the lads in the mountains