

Titel

My name is Sjoerd Dijkstra, I am a third-year econometrics student. From the 7th august till the 17th of December I've studied in Trondheim, Norway, at the Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (NTNU). This university specializes in technology and medicine, but also offers courses in social studies.

Preparation

When I heard I was allowed to go to Trondheim I had to take care of a lot of things. Suddenly all the organizations started e-mailing me with important stuff and it was slightly overwhelming. What I suggest you is that you make a shortlist of things you have to take care of. A lot of the information provided by your exchange university is already provided by your own university or vice versa.

The most important part is that you select your courses before going and make sure those courses can be incorporated in your home program. When you select your courses you need to send them to the NTNU, they will determine if you can take these courses, as some courses have entry requirements.

Besides studying you need a home to study in! Pro tip: take care of this before you leave to Norway. In Trondheim there is a student organization called SiT which can provide you with a place in one of the student villages. This is by far the cheapest and most relaxed option. As the fall semester can get pretty busy in Trondheim not everybody is guaranteed a place in one of the student villages. At first I was rejected for housing in a student villages because of lack of capacity. I started searching on the private market and found out this can be pretty stressful. The NTNU has a facebook page where they will link you to if you're rejected housing. This way you can put up an advertisement, but be aware of scammers on this facebook site. If you don't trust it, don't do it. Besides this facebook page there is also a general housing site called; www.finn.no. Fortunately I got accepted eventually for the student housing which saved me a lot of effort. If you haven't found any housing before arriving don't stress out, the university made a deal with a hotel in Trondheim, where you can stay atleast for 1 month to find housing. But this hotel is somewhat expensive.

If you're accepted for student housing you get the chance to select the student villages, I would suggest choosing *moholt studentby*. This is by far the largest student village with the most international students. The rooms are also already decorated, which saves you money and a ikea trip.

Arrival

Most flights to Trondheim are provided by SAS and Norwegian. Tickets can get pretty expensive, but as a real Dutchman I found out about some discount tickets. If you're flying with Norwegian, use the 'UNDER26' discount code when booking your flight. If you're flying with SAS select youth tickets. This way you can get a nice discount (provided your under 26). I'd suggest to make sure that you arrive in the afternoon, because this way you can still pick up your key at the reception. If you're later it's not a big problem, but in the evening the reception is closed and you have to pick up your key in a box somewhere.

When you arrive at the airport I'd advise you to take the bus to Trondheim. There's also taxi's but they are really expensive (around 50 euro's), where the bus costs around 12 euro's. There are 2 busses, a blue one called 'flybussen', and a grey one 'vaernes ekspressen'. If you're living in a student village take the grey one. The blue ones only got to

the city centre, whereas the grey ones tour around town. The grey ones also stop at almost all the student villages. This bus takes around 50-55 minutes to reach moholt. When I arrived the university organized an orientation week for international students. Participate in this! It's a great way to discover the city and make some new friends. They organize a lot of activities, but many of them tend to be filled up quick, so be fast.

Courses

At NTNU they only provide courses of 7.5 or 15 credits. I took four 7.5 credits courses. *Cryptography*; This course was really interesting. It covers the mathematical side of encrypting message. During this course you'll find yourself amongst mathematical and engineering students. The course is challenging but not impossible, just make sure your mathematic skills are on point. This course also required some algebra courses which I did not take. I asked the university if I could still take the course and they said it would not be a problem if I was willing to read up on the algebra myself.

Asset Pricing; This course covers the way to mathematically price asset, mostly options and futures. In the beginning you'll get some stochastic calculus and after that you'll have some optimization problems. The course itself was not that hard for me, as I already had a lot of the material in my econometrics studies at home. The downside of this course for me was the teacher, I had the feeling he hardly did any preparation. Also there was no book for the first half, we only had his lecture notes to study... If you're an econometrics student I would suggest you take this course, especially if you want to specialize in finance. But if you're not in econometrics I would only suggest that you take this course if you want to put some time in.

Petroleum Management, Political Economy and Ethics; Really interesting course, it covers the way Norway managed it's political situation when it found its oil. Also gives answers to question like; why is there an autocracy in most countries with huge oil supplies and why is there a democracy in Norway whilst it has huge oil supplies? The lecturer was really interesting, the book provided for the course was written by him.

Knowledge Management in a Global Economy; This course was a lot different than I expected. It thought it was more of an economy course, but actually it was more a sociology course. The course gives a really theoretical view of the distribution of knowledge in our economy, which I found extraordinary boring. It was not that hard though, which was nice. Would not suggest you to take this course, unless you're highly interested in this material.

All the courses can also be found on the website of NTNU, where you can find a more detailed description of the course.

Finances

As your probably already know, Norway is one of the most expensive countries in the world. The rent of living in moholt for me was around 3900NOK. Furthermore I spent about 400NOK each month on a bus card, 70NOK for a data package for my mobile phone (buy the mycall sim card, this one is by far the cheapest if you just want a data package), food was about 2300NOK each month. This alone would give you about 6700NOK of costs each month, which is about 700 euro's. Besides this of course you'll spend some money on trips, drinks (if you really want cheap drinks, there's a brewery in moholt where you can brew you own beer!) and random stuff. You can make this experience as expensive as you want. In Holland you should apply for the Erasmus Grant, which will provide you with approximately

250 euro's a month. Furthermore you can cancel your public transport, which gives you 98 euro's a month of compensation. This way you can cover some of the expenses.

Daily life

My daily life was not that interesting, studying took me about 10-15 hours a week so I had a lot of free time. I joined a track and field team where I trained a lot. Besides this I also went on some cabin trips. This is a really cool idea. You are able to rent cabins in the mountains and can hike from one cabin to the other. Would suggest this experience to everyone! To rent a cabin you should be a member, or know someone that is, of NTNUI, the sports organization of NTNU. These cabins can be rented really cheap, about 50NOK/person/night.

If you have any more questions, don't hesitate and hit me up with an email! I hope you'll have a wonderful experience in Trondheim.

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