

# My semester in Trondheim



## General information

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Study Program: Economie& Bedrijfseconomie, 3th year  
Country: Norway  
Town: Trondheim  
University: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU  
Period abroad: From 11-08-2016 till 23-12-2016

## Preparation

It all started with a friend of mine, who went to Trondheim for her minor. She showed me beautiful pictures and told me a lot of stories, which made me very enthusiastic. I also read the student reports of other students who went on exchange to Norway. I really wanted to go on exchange and especially to Trondheim!

After I was selected, the communication with the NTNU started. This went via e-mail and their website. Everything was very well organised and clear. The website gave a clear overview of the courses offered. It also gives more information about coming to Norway as a exchange student. The exam committee approved my courses before I went to Trondheim. However when I got there, I found out that I had collusion for lectures. I also found out that there was a Business school that is part of the NTNU since last year. They

offered a lot of interesting courses, so I decided to change my courses.

The second thing you need to think about is housing. There is a student organisation called SiT. During the application procedure, you receive information about housing. I applied for 2 different villages, Moholt and Steinan, to increase my chances of getting a room. I got a room in Moholt. This was the largest student village with almost only international students. If you don't get a room from SiT, you can take a look at finn.no. This website is like the Dutch marktplaats.nl but much larger!

### **Arrival**

I travelled to Trondheim Vaernes with a direct KLM flight from Amsterdam Schiphol. You can also fly with SAS, but then you have a transfer in Oslo. From the airport, you can take the bus to Trondheim. There are two different busses, the 'vaernes ekspresen' and the 'flybussen'. I took the 'vaernes ekspres' because that one stopped in Moholt. Here are also taxis which you can take, but that will cost you around 50 euro and the bus around 10 euro.

In the first week, the university arranged an Introduction week for all the exchange students in Trondheim. In this week you'll get a lot of information and meet a lot of new people during the games, hike or parties! I really recommend going there. This way I met a lot of new friends.



### **Courses**

#### *Microeconomics (7,5 ECTS)*

This course was a Third-year course. Every week, we had an assignment with which you could earn 5 point. There were 12 weeks, so in total you could earn 60 points. In order to make the exam, you needed half of the points. This course was not very hard because I already had microeconomics in my first year and this course was quite comparable.

### *Economics of Transport infrastructure (7,5 ECTS)*

This course was about basics of transport economics and Cost/benefit analysis of transport infrastructure investments. Very interesting course! There were 3 small exercises, which counted for 20%, and the written examination was 80%.

### *Consumer Behaviour (7,5 ECTS)*

I followed this course at the Business School. It was about how consumers make decisions and why they buy certain products. We had to write a term paper for this course, which counted for 60%.

### *Sport business and economics (7,5 ECTS)*

This course was also at the Business School. It was about the structure of professional team sports, about leagues and competitive balance, supply and demand of sport, about the labour market in professional team sport etc. A lot of micro economical concepts were applied to the sport world.

## **Finance**

The costs of living in Norway are much higher than in the Netherlands. Normal groceries are on average twice as expensive, while alcohol can be four times higher! But, you'll receive the highest amount of Erasmus Scholarship if you choose to study in Trondheim. This makes it more affordable.

### Monthly expenses:

- Accommodation €350
- Food €300
- Insurance €120

Total monthly expenses: €770

### One time expenses:

- T:kort (bus-card): €160
- Textbooks €200
- NTNUI Sport card €120
- Bike €90
- Stuff for the apartment €40
- Lofoten trip €300
- Ski trip to Oppdal €160
- Airplane to Trondheim & back €450

Total one time expenses: €1520

Average monthly expenses: €1100

## **Daily life**

The cultural differences between Norway and the Netherlands are not that big. One difference I noticed was that Norwegian people are sportier. Even when it is cold and when there is snow, people are running outside or go for a hike.

I also did a lot of hikes. The sport association of the NTNU, the NTNUI, has more than 20 cabins, spread in the nature around Trondheim. A cabin is a small wooden hut without running water and electricity. Maybe it doesn't sound that attractive, but it is actually really nice to go there! Make your own fire, make a nice hike in the area, play cards, cook

and enjoy the time with friends. Furthermore, it is very cheap, you only pay around €3 per night.

I have also been to the Lofoten, which is a group of islands in the north of Norway. It is very beautiful there! I recommend you to go there as early as possible, because of the weather. We went there in the end of September, so it wasn't that cold yet and we made some awesome hikes. Kvalvika beach, The Munke, The Reinebringen and Haukland beach are really, really beautiful!

I recommend doing a lot of hikes and trips during the first month of your exchange, since it is getting darker and colder. But that is also fun! In the last month I went to Oppdal for a small ski trip and spend a lot of weekends in the city center of Trondheim. In the city center there are a lot of shopping centruns and bars and café's where you can drink nice coffees or hot chocolate :).

