

Exchange Life Experience Summary  
Rotterdam School of Management  
Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherland  
By Wan-Ju, Li (Judy Li)

**\*\*\*\* Information about Rotterdam School of Management \*\*\***

If your school choice is the same as me, Erasmus University, then, please make sure you learn how to pronounce “Erasmus” properly before your arrival. In Rotterdam, you will see “Erasmus” a lot; for example, Erasmus university, Erasmus bridge, statue of Erasmus and etc. I still remember at the first month after my arrival, I had difficult times pronouncing “Erasmus” properly and got me into a few embarrassing moments. If you are interested in knowing more about Erasmus, check out the details on Wikipedia.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desiderius\\_Erasmus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desiderius_Erasmus)

Erasmus University is a great university and well-known in Europe; the master program is called RSM, abbreviation of “Rotterdam School Of Management”. Their MBA program has a very high ranking in Europe, below is the information from Wikipedia:

***In its 2011 meta-ranking, the Financial Times placed RSM on a seventh place amongst the top 10 schools in Europe. RSM’s MBA programme appears in the European top 15. In the 2011 Elsevier Thema Survey, the BSc programme was ranked best in the Netherlands for the 6th time in a row. Moreover, the Erasmus Research Institute for Management (ERIM) ranks amongst the top three research institutes in Europe according to the CWTS ranking.***

***RSM is a world leader in research and teaching on sustainability. According to the Aspen Institute's Beyond Grey Pinstripes Report, RSM ranks 19 out of 100 globally and third in Europe (2011). Also, in 2008, RSM endorsed the Principles for Responsible Management Education, a UN-based global initiative developed to promote corporate responsibility and sustainability in business education.***

Because I am here for their master program exchange, hence, I will use “RSM” as the school name for the rest of my report. RSM locates in Rotterdam, not far away from city center. From central station, you can take tram# 21 which arrives right outside of the school. RSM is a very modern university; you might get disappointed like me if you are interested in old style campus. On campus, you will find many international students, hence, do not worry about language barriers. English is well used/accepted in the Netherlands and RSM.

Most of my courses are either in T building or G building, T-building is one of very new built buildings on campus and it is also where international exchange program office locates. On T-building, you will find a cool bar 'In de Smitse' on the first floor which offers cheap beers and drinks. On the 3rd floor, you will find computer room and help desk. If you have any problems about setting up internet service to your laptop, help desk is the place you visit. On the 5th floor, it is where international exchange program office locates, but be aware of their working hours/days. They usually do not work every day on campus, sometimes they work at home.

The school systems are different in the Netherlands and Taiwan; we use semesters in Taiwan but they use blocks in the Netherlands. Before your arrival at RSM, school will send you the course information for your selection.

The grading systems are also different; we use 100 as the full score for the grade but they use 10 as the full score. **Warning! Studying at RSM is not easy. You might be an excellent student back home in Taiwan, but the chance for you to get an “8” is definitely difficult!**

The credit systems are also different; we use 2 or 3 credits for a course but they use 10 or 15 ECTS. For your reference, every 10 ECTS is equal to 3 credits in Taiwan. ECTS is calculated based on the time and efforts will be spent and requested from students. RSM requests all the international students to take no more than 30 ECTS which is only for 3 courses. **Another warning: all the courses are very heavy, so do not try to take a lot of courses. For master program, the class hours are not long but you need a lot of after-class hours for your projects, reading and assignments.**

Same as iNCCU, RSM also uses a SIN-ONLINE. All the course information and announcement will be posted on here, hence, please make sure check

this account regularly.

### \*\*\*\* Course Selection \*\*\*

**All the course information I list here is for Master students only**

1. **International Business Project (IBP)** – Unfortunately, I had a terrible experience about this course, **I definitely DO NOT recommend any students to take this course because:**

\*\*\* None of the projects are really business-oriented, most of companies are using students to do research for them. For my team project, we worked with a consulting company in Amsterdam which asked us to find information about Nano-technology. We did a lot of researching about nanotechnology, and interviewed with experts; but nothing is really about business problem solving. Same to almost all other teams, this is why I said I will NOT recommend any students to take this course.

\*\*\* Unless you do not like traveling while you are in the Netherlands, because this IBP is for both blocks (one full semester), you will not have lots of personal time for traveling. For other 10 ECTS courses, you might only need 10 hours per week and only 2 months period but this project is only 10 ECTS and takes 4 months. If you want to visit as many European countries as you can, you should definitely not choose the IBP.

\*\*\* Unless you think your English speaking and writing is strong enough, otherwise, you might get bad treatment from your team members. Too many examples happened in our team and other teams.

\*\*\* The least and worst point is school officers do not really care about your problems. I made complains about our team issues and never heard of any response from them. Terrible experience.

2. **Strategic Management Consulting** – The course itself is interesting, teaching you how to solve the problems like a professional consultant. The professor is a very nice person but his teaching can be a bit boring sometimes. There is a group project for this course; I teamed up with 4 other Dutch students which was a bit difficult at the beginning because they often speak Dutch in front of me. Hence, I strongly recommend you to team

up with different nationalities if possible.

3. **Getting things done without resources** –If you are shy in public, you definitely shall take this course. This course is a fun and interesting course teaching you how to communicate/network with strangers, you will get the chances to speak in front of the whole class regularly. But please do not worry, the professor is very nice and because he makes everyone feel comfortable in the course, you will not feel scared when it is your turn to speak in public. There is an interesting personal assignment is using a red paperclip professor gives you in the class to do the trades. I got the highest score for this assignment – 8.5; I am pretty proud of myself because I really do not have many friends like other Dutch students; but I managed to do many interesting trades through FACEBOOK or asking strangers!

#### **\*\*\*\* Rotterdam City \*\*\***

Rotterdam is the second largest city in the Netherlands, but compared to Taipei, it is still a very small city. During the World War II in 1940, Rotterdam got bombed by Germany, the center of Rotterdam was 80% destroyed and many buildings you see in Rotterdam now are built after the World War II. Rotterdam is a modern city, a bit like Taipei which also has a bit old tastes, but please do not expect to see many old architectures like in Amsterdam.

#### **\*\*\*\* Dutch Bank Account \*\*\***

A few bachelor students arrived at RSM before me and they said ABN AMRO banks do not accept short-term stay students' account request, thus, the only choice you have is ING. About ING account, you shall be aware of:

1. Opening account is not free – It costs EUR 20 to open a few account –  
**Note: Lots of students said it is free, NO, it is not free. The reason they thought it's free because they might not be aware of this EUR 20 is charged a few weeks after your account is opened!**
2. Every 3 months, they charge your EUR 3.75 as service fee
3. The staff is very nice and willing to help you if you have any question.
4. Don't forget to open the online banking, it will be very useful when you need to transfer money to anyone. For example, you might want to transfer your rent to the housing agency or online shopping in the Netherlands.

5. Please bring your school acceptance letter, passport and your housing contract for opening the account.
6. Please try to open your bank account as soon as possible, because you need your online banking for lots of shopping and it takes 2-3 weeks for you to receive your ATM card (In the Netherlands, they usually do not take credit cards, mainly ATM cards only).
7. ING has no English version for online bank, but here I list the details on how to transfer money to others.

## 如何用 ING Online Banking 轉帳

1. 先登入你的帳戶
2. 進入後會看到右手邊有秀

Betalen

Overschrijven -請選 "Overschrijven"

Af- en bijschrijvingen

Overzicht saldo

Verzendlijst

Sparen

Spaaropdracht

Spaarsaldo bekijken

3. 點入 Overschrijven 後....會秀

Nieuwe overschrijving - ....請選 **Overschrijven naar bankrekening****Spaarrekening**

Bedrag (euro) \* - 請打你要轉的金額

Van Betaalrekening \* - 這應秀你自己的帳號

Naar rekening \* -你在 T.N.V.前打對方帳號, 例如 6600xxxx

在 T.N.V.後打對方名字, 例如 Mw W Li

Opslaan in adresboek - 這是問你要不要記下這個帳戶- 看你自己要不要選

Datum \* - 不用管...會秀你轉帳當日日期

Periodieke overschrijving- 不用管

Betalingskenmerk Acceptgiro - 不用寫

Mededelingen - 註明...你可寫....例如 **Buy train day ticket** 讓你以後好知道這錢的用處

4. 下面有 3 各選項

Opslaan, nieuwe opdracht – 如果你一次要轉給很多不同帳戶

Opslaan, naar verzendlijst -請選這個

Wissen – Clear

5. 選了 Opslaan, naar verzendlijst 後...那你手機應會收到密碼

6. 收到密碼...打入到 TAN-Code

並選 Verzenden = send

Annuleren – Clear

完成了喔

### \*\*\*\* SIM Card \*\*\*

The school will give each student a free SIM card by company Lebera. You can go to any Albert Heijn supermarket for top up (adding credit).

Note: Albert Heijn supermarket <http://www.ah.nl/>

Note: Lebera usually has promotions. Sometimes, it's buy EUR 10 and get EUR 20 worth of credits. <http://www.lebara.nl/>

### \*\*\*\* Discounted Train Ticket \*\*\*

OV Card – Once you have your Dutch bank account opened, you can apply for personal OV card. This is a very important card for you in the Netherlands. You can pay for all the public transportation (train, tram and metro) by this card. <http://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/aanvragen/>. It takes 2-4 week to receive the card; I strongly recommend you apply for this OV card once you have your bank account ready. NOTE: You need to have your pic in PDF form ready for applying this card.

40% Discount On Train – Once you receive your personal OV card, please do order 40% discount package online. The package name is Dal Voordeel <http://www.ns.nl/reizigers/campagnes/nieuwe-abonnementen>. You only pay EUR 50 per year and you get 40% off on all your train tickets. Another good thing is you can bring up to 3 friends to travel with you and enjoy this 40% off discount. If you wanna know how to buy the card online, please go to Facebook and join this group “台灣人在荷蘭” and you will find an file named 荷蘭火車打折卡資訊 by Sisi Chan.

### \*\*\*\* Connecting With Other Taiwanesees \*\*\*

Please go to Facebook and join this group “台灣人在荷蘭”

### \*\*\*\* How To Take Bus/Train/Tram To Your Final Destination \*\*\*

9292.nl – You can find out how to travel from your house to any destinations in the Netherlands by using [www.9292.nl](http://www.9292.nl)

### \*\*\*\* Cheap Traveling \*\*\*

Take advantage of budget airlines like Ryanair and easyjet if you wanna travel. For EUROPASS, I personally do not think it is really cheaper. Here is the list of all the budget airlines in Europe. To sum up, Ryanair (Biggest) and easyjet (2nd largest in Europe)

[www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

[www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

<http://www.etn.nl>

### \*\*\*\*Finding Your Own Housing \*\*\*

#### Housing Anywhere

[www.housinganywhere.com](http://www.housinganywhere.com)

Only students can post their housing on this website and NO COMMISSION OR SERVICE CHARGE ;) I found my amazing room through this website

**Note:**The following is from 荷蘭租屋 of FACEBOOK group “台灣人在荷蘭”

荷蘭二手拍賣網站

<http://kopen.marktplaats.nl/huizen-en-kamers/c1032.html>

戰鬥在荷蘭 (中國學生網站)

<http://bbs.gogodutch.com/forum-forumdisplay-fid-51-filter-typeid-typeid-58.htm>

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荷蘭租屋網站(強調不收仲介費)

[http://kamernet.nl/kamers?USRC=1&kwd\\_id=11453-40FDA62B-CFD0-413C-9C30-CDBFE4708BC7S8019428082&gclid=CLmkku26xqwCFYJH3god\\_3zRrW](http://kamernet.nl/kamers?USRC=1&kwd_id=11453-40FDA62B-CFD0-413C-9C30-CDBFE4708BC7S8019428082&gclid=CLmkku26xqwCFYJH3god_3zRrW)

荷蘭租屋網站(也可以出租)

<http://www.kamerhulp.nl/>

**Xpat Rental**

<http://www.xpatrentals.com/>

**Craigslist**

<http://amsterdam.craigslist.org/>

**Pararius(多為房仲業者貼的廣告，要收佣金，但是比較有保障)**

<http://www.pararius.com/english/>

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以上網站都會有陷阱，所以最好多聽多看多問，如果有朋友可以幫忙用荷蘭文詢問會更清楚些。

過來人經驗談:

- 二手租屋網站或是號稱免仲介的租屋網站有些租屋資訊其實大多都是來自仲介，讓你以為不用仲介費，等簽約之後才知道是仲介公司搞鬼，所以是不是仲介公司要問清楚。
- 如果可以，盡量不要跟中國人租房子，有可能會發生說的是那個樣子，等住進去才知道是怎麼回事。另外還有一些中國人會冒充房東二轉租房東賺錢，若是發生問題，責任歸屬難釐清。(戰鬥在荷蘭網站裡面有很多中國學生自己被騙的經驗也可以去看看)

1. 當天看房當天收現
2. 說明天就要出國，兩個星期後回來才給合約
3. 先給你 KEY 讓你可以把大型家具入住



4.等兩個星期後要跟對方拿合約，發現門鎖已遭換，對方聲稱你東西進來就算入住，房租不退回。

5.又說真正房東不是他，他只是二房東，要小心，Utrecht, Zeist 區。

注意:沒簽合約之前，千萬不要付錢也不要拿 key!

荷蘭文租屋關鍵字:

租 huur huren

房間 kamer

房子 huize 單人套房(含廚房和衛浴) studio

公寓 appartement

學生宿舍 Studentenhuis

瓦斯水電 gas/water/electriciteit

樓友 huisgenoten

其他:

1. 在荷蘭客廳也算是房間，所以若是寫明三房通常是兩個房間+客廳。
2. 找仲介租房子通常需要繳交等同一個月租金的仲介費，另外還會收取 19%的稅金，所以若是非不得已，最好是自己找比較省。
3. 有些房東的水電會內包，有些不會，在搜尋資料的時候要看清楚。
4. 房價大多和地區和房間大小比較有關係，可以多比較看看。

[學生找房面試小秘訣]

===在找房子之前先思考===

- 1.想住的區域 or 確定不想住的區域
2. 預算 minium & maximum
3. 想和幾個人一起分公寓
4. 須不需要註冊地址

## 5. 室友是否要同性別

===開始找房子===

### 1. 在預期住房前六週左右開始找房

太早開始找，也沒房子要租給你(amsterdam 多是可以立即入住或是兩週後入住)

### 2. 使用 kamernet 的朋友建議買一個月的 membership

如此你可以瘋狂的 react 房主。因為你接到邀請的機率約只有 50%甚至更低。

### 3. 自我介紹的申請要多寫一點，增加可信度

內容包括：從哪來，在哪間學校念什麼，為什麼想租房子，你是安靜/乾淨/的人，你的興趣，你抽不抽菸，有沒有寵物等等

### 4. 沒有簽約前，一切的口頭 agreement 都不算數

我就有在簽約前一天被擺一到的經驗，所以請大家要注意

===接到看房邀約=====

### 1. 看房時總是表達高度興趣

這樣屋主就會對你增加印象。如果遇到真的真的非常想要的房子，面試結束後記得寄 sms 感謝邀請看房。沒錯，在荷蘭找房子，看到好的就像工作面試，看到不好的就像是家庭訪問(我看過頂樓加蓋牆壁貼滿小張海報的、屋主還在多明尼加監獄的)

### 2. 確認項目，確認房租是否水電網路都包，家具是否含在內。

### 3. 了解房子狀況

可以問為什麼對方想租房，室友是什麼樣的人在做什麼，鄰居是什麼樣的鄰居，附近的交通、超市、健身房等等

基本上，你找到房子就知道自己想不想租了啦

====要簽約了=====

### 1. 不要使用 western union - 聽說很容易被騙錢

### 2. 合約看清楚 - 像是需幾天前通知不續約，房東可否進入你的房間

**\*\*\*\* Housing Contract \*\*\***

房租合約 **sample** - 這是我和二房東的合約, 大家可以參考看看!  
我用這份合約去 **city hall** 註冊, **ok** 喔! 大家以後可以用這份當參考.

If you are like me, finding house on your own. Here is my housing contract for your reference.

**Temporary Room Contract**

Undersigned,

Michael

Judy Li

Passport number: xxxx

Passport number: xxxx

*(person that "owns" the room)*

*(person that will live in the room temporarily)*

agree to the following:

**A. Living Accommodation**

**Article 1.**

Paragraph 1:

Lessor lets out for hire, starting 20/01/2012, a room in the house at Oostzeedijk beneden xxx, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. This includes joined use of the kitchen, shower, restroom, communal area. Surface of the room is: 20 square meters.

Paragraph 2:

Lessor himself is tenant of the room. Reason for the renting by lessor is a temporary stay abroad after which lessor will return to the room.

Name and address of the owner of the room and house:

F.A. xxxx

xxxxxxx

xxxx, Westbroek

The Netherlands

**Article 2.**

The agreement has been made for the period from 20/01/2012 to 20/06/2012

The tenant is responsible for the rent during this period.

**B. Rent and other Costs**

**Article 3.**

The rent of the room is 425 Euros per month. This includes the cost of gas, electricity, water, wireless internet and the use of furniture in the room. The furniture in the room consist of a bed with mattress, study table, chair, closet, filled bookcases, lamps and curtains.

**Article 4.**

By signing this agreement, the tenant commits herself to pay a refundable DEPOSIT of 200 Euros to the lessor. When, after the end of the agreement, there is no need to withhold the security deposit (such as damage done to the furniture or leaving the room before the end of the agreement), the lessor will pay back the security deposit within one month.

**Article 5.**

The rent will be paid monthly before the 25th of the month. The five payments will be received before the 25th of January, 25th of February, 25th of March, 25th of April and 25th of May.

Payment will happen by money transfer to the account number 853xxxxx of the lessor with the ING bank.

**C. Obligations and Rights**

**Article 7.**

The lessor is obliged to make the room available to the tenant in a clean state and with no defects.

**Article 8.**

The tenant is obliged not to cause any trouble or other inconvenience to the lessor, fellow inhabitants, and neighbours. When the tenant leaves the room it should be clean and with no defects.

#### **D. The end of the agreement**

##### **Article 9.**

The tenant is responsible for the rent during the period stated in article 2.

##### **Article 10.**

The tenant can register this house address at the city hall.

##### **Article 11.**

The rent agreement can be ended:

- at any moment
- by mutual consent
- by one month's notice in advance (*please cross the applicable option*)

Thus, drawn up in two versions on .....  
(day/month/year) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

**Signature lessor: Signature tenant:**

**Name: Name:**

#### **\*\*\*\* Final Conclusion\*\*\*\***

I did not really enjoy Rotterdam for the first 2 months because the weather was really cold and was not easy to meet people. But after living here for almost 5 months, I built up a few good friendships with local friends and other Taiwanese students. Now, I am very sad that my stay in Rotterdam is going to end within 7 days.

Everyone has different expectation about his/her exchange life. Doesn't matter what is your original expectation about Rotterdam or RSM, I can guarantee you that you will fall in love with Rotterdam and RSM before you leave.

Enjoy your stay and be safe!

Judy / June 15, 2012