

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A.
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_Cognome	Li
_Nome	Xiaohui
_Matricola	833613
_Anno di corso	2.LM
_Corsi di studi	DESIGN DEL PRODOTTO PER L'INNOVAZIONE
_Sezione	1
_e-mail	lovelyfeel@126.com
_Sede di scambio	TU Delft
_Stato	EU
_ID ERASMUS (per sedi in EU)	NL DELFT01
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Testo

I feel honored that I was given this chance to study in TUDelft. It was a memorable experience and a treasure for me.

Chapter 1 - First impression

At the beginning, I was welcomed by the freaking strong wind the moment I arrived in Delft. Having heard of the Dutch weather, I still felt kind of annoying because it damaged my hairstyle everytime. I was kidding. The reality is that, the first time I arrived in Delft, I was surprised by the buildings, especially my Industrial Design Engineering Faculty. It looks so clean and modern, organized and well-furnished. The most impressive thing is the sofa in the center of the faculty, which make me feel at home working in the faculty.

Walking around the campus, or we say the Delft city, I felt everything was quiet and adorable, I don't even need to mention the slim river through the town, neither the old cathedrals. Especially my apartment, which looks like a container, but cozy and relaxing. There it reminded me of the experience when I was in the USA several years before. International students living together, sharing the laundry and saying hi to each other.

Well, there was something stressful for me, It was really a challenge for me to speak English everyday, especially during the project. As though I have passed the IELTS exam, to properly pick up a word is still a hard thing. However, as time goes by, everything become better and better.

I still remembered that the most difficult period in Delft. It was the first two weeks after I arrived there. Because I haven't finished the Italian project in Milan and my Dutch semester has already started. I need to care about the Italian project while I was occupied furnishing my new home and getting familiar to the new environment. I needed to fly back to Milan within 10 days, under the circumstances that I have gained the permissions from all the Dutch teachers. I made it and successfully finish my project in Milan. Fortunately I have got a full mark for that project, which made me feel that every effort worth. Being satisfied with the Italian project, I went back to the Netherlands very soon and moved more belongings to Delft. Once I arrived in Delft, I received an email that informed me to meet the coach because I skipped one obligatory coach meeting. Unfortunately I forgot that meeting and did not ask for leaving. It made me feel nervous for the

reason that I totally had no idea about what the coach would react on this issue. During the meeting, I tried to make myself relax and smile and talk as politely as I can. Surprisingly the coach is a gentle man and always smile to me, too. I explained the real situation and present my Italian project to him, and he did not punish me for my absence but felt interested in my project. From that meeting he remembered my name till I left Delft. This incident made me feel that Dutch people is reasonable and easy-going. And let me feel more confident contacting people.

Chapter 2 - Projects

Then the projects were kicked off.

I enrolled two main projects, one of them is Usability and Experience Evaluation and Redesign (UXAD), the other one called Interaction Technology Design (ITD). More important is the first one. We had 5 persons in our UXAD group, three of us were Dutch and one Taiwan. The first impression of the group was that, people were all ambitious and confident, which made me feel energetic. What's more, the Dutch guys did not even talk in Dutch in the group, I felt involved from the very beginning to the end, which made me feel kind of touched. It sounds like a great group work but not really, especially for me. Because at first I was not able to properly express myself and spoke less words, making my group mates feel that I was a timid girl. However I knew I was a talkative person but the English skill made me feel less confident. I took more time to read the reports, the resources and materials regarding to the project that were provided by the coaches, trying to remember more words that were commonly used, asking questions frequently each time I felt confused. Things should become better soon. However I found that my further disadvantage was not the English skill, it was that I can hardly understand what they were the materials saying. Because I had merely knowledge about user experience. It made me feel more anxious. Though I felt so, I consciously knew that the only way to go through is to make more efforts. As time went by, I felt that I can follow the regular speed and did not need to pay too much time on reading those materials. And, I can participate more in the group discussion. Even though I still found myself not as good as writing like my Dutch mate, I realised that to dig my disadvantages was worth and important during my exchanging period. I admit that I had a lot of shortcomings, but this was a wonderful opportunity to let me enhance myself with my wonderful teammates. Delightedly, I made a good redesign proposal within my teammates. From that time, I almost took charge in design phase, which was my advantage and pleasure. Many thanks to my mates that they believed me and to myself that I took time to come up with some good ideas. It was a great experience, wasn't it?

Now let me talk about ITD project. Today I still feel amazed that I can finish my job. Well, similarly, we had 5 persons in the group, we called our project Atoms, so the group can be called Atoms Group. The most different thing from UXAD group is that, people in Atoms are all bit of Individualistic, I mean we all have our own ideas and not easy to give in. This is the challenging part for the manager of our group. Most challenging part is that, I will take the engineering work. Please...I know nothing about electronic stuff, let alone program them according our imagination and present! I felt loss at the beginning. Starting to learn the new program and fiddle with those electronic components, I felt I hate them all the time...I always ask myself that why I did this as a designer in the future, why I finally agreed when my teammates shuffled off the role. I felt regret to take this role and barely no interest in the electronic stuff. Realizing that I have no way to flinch and the sense of responsibility, I persuade myself to get into the programming. All was going well with good state of mind. As though I come across a lot of difficulties, I went to the student assistant asking for help and learning diligently. That was my only way to approach the success. However, there was always a gap between a designer and the real engineer, in other words, what

the student assistant (engineer) did for me was not always what we want, that can be due to the presentation of our idea, and the comprehension of the engineer. Being aware of this, I made more efforts on learning and testing, in order to make sure that I can like the logic behind the idea and the language of coding. It was hard, I must say. Here I want to compliment the student assistants and the coach, that they provided us a lot of help, including physical and digital things such as free components and tutorials, as well as many possibilities to access the final goal. Thanks to the hard co-working, we finally completed our prototype, not only the physical part, but full functioned was the electronic part. I feel proud of myself, as well as my teammates of course.

It was a nice academic ending. It was a wonderful final semester in my life. Thanks to everybody who has given me this opportunity to live a better life and dig further about design.

Chapter 3 - Daily life

To mention my daily life, I feel a little bit disappointed because I took too much time stay alone but not hang out! Such a nice city and country! I should have been to more places other than Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag, Utrecht. Um...I've got pity because I need to come back someday for sure.

Delft is a tiny town, but located between Den Haag and Rotterdam, both of which are modern major cities in Netherlands. It takes only 10 minutes approximately from Delft to Den Haag or to Rotterdam, it means that we friends will easily reach those two cities after school! Honestly, will reach the wonderful restaurants in those cities...

Besides, I like go to gym. It was very convenient for me to go there because my apartment was very near to the gym. That's a nice place with incredible many sports options that you can choose, and rooms with different ambience that are for different sports, not one room that loops the schedule by various sports events. All of the people inside are youngsters, it was my first time seeing in a gym, and made me feel more energetic.

Chapter - 4 Ending

Farewell with friends and coaches, the apartment and the city, the station and the airport. It was not easy to say goodbye, because it was a place that I feel familiar as hometown but have not spent enough time enjoying the life. Everything is like a dream, I even don't want to wake up.

Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

Firma  LI XIADHUI