

After the bachelor programme at IES, I continued my master study (Finance, Banking and Financial markets) at the same school. I took a part time job as a demand analyst at a pharmacy company and wasn't very appealed by the job of analysts. I realized that I would rather see myself at a business development position, ideally in a dynamic, young company. Thus, I decided to go to Rotterdam School of Management (Management of Innovation), and broaden my skills and knowledge in business. It might seem as a very unusual choice for an IES student but I must admit that it offered me totally different perspective.

I chose Management of Innovation (Moi) at RSM for several reasons.

- 1) The programme fits my goals to shift from a theoretical study to more **hands-on approach** and gain requisite skills for business positions.
- 2) **Admission criteria:** Many business schools across Europe require you to have a business background, i.e. bachelor courses focused on management, marketing, supply chain etc. Even majority of RSM programs require this kind of experiences. Moi is open to students with various backgrounds. That's good for two reasons: (1) you'll be admitted (2) diversity in background of students (economy, finance, engineering, business, PR)
- 3) Money, money, money...very **low tuition fee** (under 2,000eur per year). This means, that you are not dependent on a scholarship and don't need to take a loan etc.

Admission procedure

In comparison with other business schools, the procedure is pretty lean. Everything is online (I was surprised how big hassle is to apply to some other schools), you need to physically send only verified copy of your diploma. For this programme, you need a GPA equivalent to 7 (around 2.2 in the Czech grading), GMAT (at least 600) an IELTS (minimum 6.5 from each part) or TOEFL. A number of admitted students is limited by the capacity; it works on first come first served basis.

Programme

Around 80 students are enrolled in the programme. In comparison with larger programmes as Strategic management, there is very 'IES like' atmosphere, i.e. you know each other, spend time together etc. The courses are very practically oriented. During your study, you will cooperate with large companies (e.g. Phillips, Google) as well as small start-ups and solve real case studies and projects.

The focus on team work, presentation skills, creativity, and soft skills in general is omnipresent and if you are at least partly antisocial IES student, you're gonna hate it after few months. Sometimes, all formal IES students across RSM reminisce about sweet days spent with math. Nevertheless, it is the other side of a coin and it's totally worthy unless you wanna spend your life in front of a screen.

The exams are mostly in a form of essays or case studies. There is a lot of reading. Particularly for the first courses, it was about 100 pages for every lecture (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). You have only one course at a time (usually for one or two months) ended with an exam. You can focus on it and take the best of it. In comparison with IES, exams (and courses in general) are not so difficult, i.e. you need to be really lazy to fail. However, many of them are very time consuming as you spend enormous time by talking with customers, preparing presentation for companies etc. Some exams are also quite challenging because it's not so clear what the right answers are and whether there are really right answers. So, as it is very easy to pass it might be very difficult to obtain a high grade.

Life in Rotterdam

Life in Rotterdam is, at least for Czech students, very expensive. Living costs are around 1,000eur per month. If you are lucky, you can have a decent room for 450eur but more likely, it will be around 500-600 eur. Housing situation is very difficult particularly in September when the most students come to the city. College has small capacity (and a part of it is under construction) and some landlords have ridiculous conditions for 500eur rent (you cannot cook after 8pm, no visits, laundry only on Saturday etc.). Transportation is quite expensive too so you need to have an apartment in a biking distance from the campus. I don't know if it is better to solve it upfront (and pay a rent for August or something like that) or stay at a hostel in the beginning. Girls and couples can find a place to stay quite easily (it took two weeks to us); boys might struggle with it several weeks (some of our schoolmates didn't have a place to stay in November).

Food in a supermarket is little bit more expensive than in the Czech Republic but there is a market in front of Markthal every Tuesday and Saturday. There you can buy very cheap and delicious fruits, vegetables, fish and cheese. A decent meal at a restaurant starts at 10-15eur but you can go to campus canteens. Clubs are not my cup of tea here but there are many nice bars and pubs (e.g. Food Factory) where you can get really good craft beers. As international community is really large here and Dutchies are open to international students, you can expect great house parties and other social activities.

What you should definitely do!

- Buy a **bike!!!!** In the very beginning, even before accommodation...life in Netherlands without bike is very painful
- Find a flat at the **Northern bank of the river**, preferable Kralingen... a nice part of the city, chilled, near a nice lake where you can swim, barbecue or run.
- Buy a **Rotterdam Pass**, it's for 12eur per year (from March to March!!!) and you can go to cinemas, zoo, swimming pools, yoga, galleries etc. for free or with a large discount
- Take a **boat trip**, you can see the port of Rotterdam as well, it's cool.
- **Group tickets:** find a FB group NS Rotterdam group tickets. You can make a group of 10 people, with one common station (i.e. Rotterdam) and buy 7eur ticket for traveling between two selected destinations for entire day.
- **Scheveningen** is the nearest beach in den Haag. You can take metro to den Haag and go swimming, kiting or surfing in the summer.
- Buy a yearly pass to **SportCenter** at the Campus. It costs 165eur and you can use the gym and attend various sport classes (dancing, football, tennis, yoga, boxing etc.)