

Summer Internship Blog: UCurious Summer School 2018, University of Twente, Netherlands

Overview

There were a wide variety of courses offered, of which I selected the Water course. This was a highly interdisciplinary module spanning fields such as chemistry, environmental science and engineering amongst others. The course itself was excellently delivered by a range of professionals and organisations in the field, including Wetsus: European centre of excellence for sustainable water technology and the Mesa+ Institute for Nanotechnology. We were provided an overview of key concepts such as balancing stakeholders' needs within a global scale of relevance alongside legislation.

On each day, all students from all courses attended a keynote lecture after breakfast. These covered a wide variety of topics including but not limited to psychological models and intercultural skills. During lunch and after dinner we would have further opportunities to engage in, and there were access to other resources such as a 3-D Printer.

Sun 12/08/2018

The arrival day was the first time we saw the campus and our tents. Tours of the area were arranged. The campus was beautiful and the main "festival"-style area was very well thought out.

Mon 13/08/2018

For the first course we were introduced to the usage of membranes for water purification, an overview to Wetsus and its related activities in developing research. We could also engage in a virtual reality parachute jump and in the evening, attend a LEAN simulation game to optimize our efficiency skills in the workplace.

Tue 14/08/2018

We looked at wet infrastructure through building with nature, and explored some key challenges in in different strategies designed to prevent flooding.

For lunch we could participate in lab tours, and in the evening played beach volleyball after a barbeque with live music played by a band.

Wed 15/08/2018

Investigations into novel research implementing membrane technologies for water treatment. In the evening we tried an escape room – very entertaining!

Thu 16/08/2018

We practiced using computer software for earth observations of water cycles. For dinner we were taken to a restaurant in town, and enjoyed music courtesy of Grolsch summer sounds.

Fri 17/08/2018

We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to have an excursion to Wetsus where we toured the facilities with their microscopy imaging facilities and research labs, and in the evening, saw the Giants of Royal de Luxe in Leeuwarden (11-foot marionette puppets!) before dinner in a local Dutch restaurant.

Sat 18/08/2018

Free day.

Sun 19/08/2018

Improved and evaluated our graph skills; taught basics of salsa dancing; and could try graffiti painting on paper, followed by a movie night.

Mon 20/08/2018

Exploration of water characteristics at the micro- and nano-scale, with free time.

Tue 21/08/2018

Check-Out day.

Summary

I am really pleased to share my experiences. It was a highly valuable and enjoyable experience which I would strongly recommend to all students and am delighted to have participated in. Many thanks to all the organisers at the University of Twente for the excellent event, and to MedTech Foundation and Surgical MIC for the wonderful opportunity.