

# Studying Graphic Design in the Netherlands

By Doug Miller



I had a GREAT time in the Netherlands. I would love to go back in the next year or so to continue to educate myself about the country and culture.

I felt that the overall program was well worth my time and money. I also feel that the program should be opened up for photography and fine art students as well. The design part of it was a smaller part of the program I felt, but the

overall learning process was designed well. They of course have a different mindset as far as design concepts. They are far more open to expressionistic thought rather than the straight forward thinking that most Americans seem to look for with design. The professors emphasized expression and experimental thought more than what I am accustomed to.



I also feel that the program was designed with the intention that the students would do a lot of self exploration in both themselves and the country. Not everyone that attended was there for the graphic design aspect of the program which also made it an experience. At times it allowed me to lend a helping hand to those who wanted it. Not that the teachers were not helpful, but the fact was that I was in a position to help.

I got to know one of the teachers pretty well and he helped me a lot on the side. He gave me many suggestions about museums and places to visit in order to further explore my Dutch graphic design

knowledge.

The program director was very knowledgeable when it came to city tours. The tours we went on included many cities throughout the Netherlands which I thought were very interesting and beneficial to me.



I would recommend that if any student does attend in the future to bring along their computer if possible. There was access to computers in their labs but it would have made some projects much easier to complete with far better results.

Also, I ended up taking about 2100 pictures so bring a camera or two with enough batteries and memory cards. I probably could have taken close to 3000 if I didn't run out of batteries at certain points of my trip.