

American Ambitions

Modern Methods in Today's Challenges

What is the study tour?

The study tour is an intercontinental tour, which is organized once every two years by the study association ConceptT. The study tour is mainly focussed on Msc-students. Previous destinations of the tour include Brazil, Indonesia & Singapore and Argentina & Uruguay. The study trip takes three weeks during which numerous excursions in all fields of civil engineering and some cultural excursions will be organized. In advance of the tour courses will be organized which have to do with the USA and the theme.

Why are we going to the USA?

The United States of America should spark a reaction into the mind of everyone. You might link the country to McDonalds, Starbucks and general enormity. However if you come past the initial prejudices you will find the USA to be a beautiful country with tremendously friendly people. In the field of civil engineering, the USA has some of the world's most interesting projects. For example, some of the highest and most impressive skyscrapers (Empire State and the new WTC) and of course the new flood defences in New Orleans. All these factors make the USA an amazing location to visit in a study tour.

Why the title ?

America sees itself as the number one country on the field of civil engineering. But they have enormous ambitions protecting their cities against natural disasters as hurricanes, rising sea levels and earthquakes. Furthermore some cities in the US keep growing and growing, the key question to this problem is how to keep those cities accessible. Also the need for new buildings in cities as New York causes problems, how do you manage to build a skyscraper in the centre of one of the most busy cities in the world. All these parts led to the title: American Ambitions, Modern Methods in Today's Challenges.

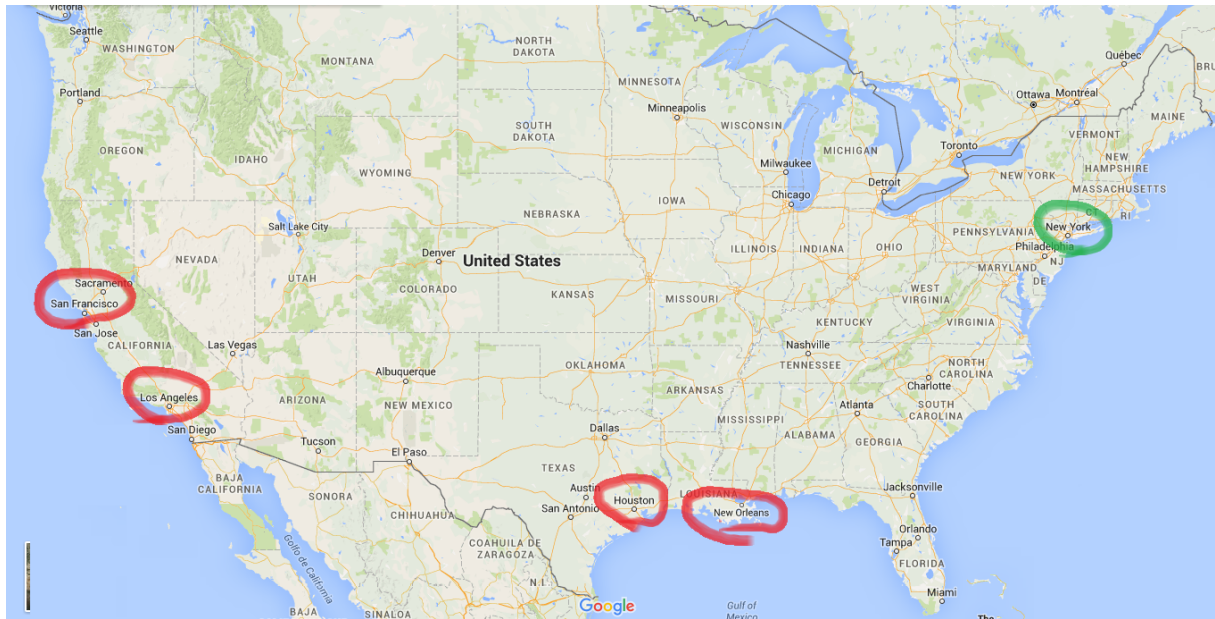
Which cities will we visit?

The city we will definitely visit is **New York**, also called the city that never sleeps! In this economic centre they are building a new defence to protect the city for storms and floods. Also the most impressing skyscrapers like the Empire State and the new WTC are present here.

After New York we will fly to two of the other interesting cities the United States has to offer:

- **Los Angeles**, the densely populated city with the biggest harbour of the USA, a huge highway network. Especially this area struggles with the upcoming drought.
- **San Francisco**, known for the famous Golden Gate Bridge and Silicon Valley a centre for research in self-driving cars. Furthermore it is a sensitive area for earthquakes and the rising sea level.
- **Houston**, an economic growing area with big companies located here with a lot of innovating ideas arising and coming to existence.
- **New Orleans**, the city which was destroyed by hurricane Katrina, but is now blossoming again due to all projects like the big floodwall and a floodgate complex which have been carried out.

NOTE: These cities are not all included in the trip!



We, as the study tour committee would like to give you the chance to give your opinion about these cities. So if you really like or dislike a city you can send an email providing us with arguments why we should or shouldn't go there within one week after this meeting (studiereis2016@concept.utwente.nl). We as the study tour committee will take your opinions into account, but in the end make the decision ourselves. We will try to communicate our decision by mail (so sign up for the 'keep me informed' list and the ConcepT-site before the application date.

What does the 'study' part in study tour mean?

Except for the experiences you also have to learn from the study tour. That is why the tour is accompanied by three courses that will take place before the trip. Each course is centred on a study. The studies are on a macro, meso, micro scale and will be done in groups. During the trip you will also be working on these studies and afterward you will present your findings.

- **Macro:** Aimed to make participants familiar with the destination country or cities.
- **Meso:** Deepening your knowledge of the workings of a particular civil sector in the destination country or cities.
- **Micro:** A study mainly done during the study tour. The study complements excursions of the study trip. The micro study includes formulating research questions, an anticipated method and so on.

As an Msc-student the study tour will grant you in total 15EC's (given you have completed the track with sufficient marks). 7,5EC can be used as part of your 120EC Msc-degree. The other 7.5EC will be added to your degree as a bonus (so a total of 127.5EC). For a Bsc-student the study tour counts as full quartile (15EC).

There will be some changes as to how the study part is organised, when compared to the previous study tours. First of all the courses will all be given in the first quartile of the study year 2016-2017. This means we will start our trip in the second part of this quartile, which will most likely limit your abilities to travel solo afterwards. To streamline the courses, and make sure we leave on time we will try our best to make it possible to do part of the work during the summer holidays.

What is expected of the participants?

Participants need to take the study tour pretty seriously. You commit yourself to a trip for three weeks with weeks of preparation time. So you need the enthusiasm to go and sufficient resources. We aim to keep the level of the study tour high. That's also why it is aimed at Msc-students (at the time of the study tour). Bsc-students are not excluded. However it is (highly) uncommon for them to participate. If you are still a Bsc-student at the time we leave for the USA and you want to join, let us know.

First there's the money. The admission fee is set at €1100. This will be paid in 4 payments. You also need to do a research contract for different company of around 120 hours. This usually takes place in the summer vacation. We, as the committee, will look for an appropriate contract for you. This in total will get you the trip to and from the destination, every meal on the trip, excursions etc. So it's a total package. Of course, other luxury goods you need to pay yourself on the trip.

Next there's the effort. We want students who are committed to go on such a trip and won't mind to do some extra effort for that. It's a study tour, so you take the trip and the study component seriously.

Last there's your study planning. We'd like to have students that are well on their way with their study. For Bsc-student it is required they have completed module 1 till and including 8 by the time we leave. That being said, we prefer Msc-students and would like to limit the amount of Bsc-student we take along. Therefore it is important will-be master students stay on track with their courses. Now second year Bsc-students must also make sure to reach the set standard. Therefore we ask of all our participants to make a realistic planning for the coming year including the study tour and its components. You need to take into account that you need to devote the first quartile of college year 2016/2017 at the study tour. It's not recommended to follow any additional courses next to the course of the study tour.

So, why go on a study tour?

First of all, the study tour is a unique experience. You will get the chance to get acquainted with civil engineering in another part of the world. You can learn a lot from the different cultures in the country where we're going and see the way they look at things and handle things differently. Besides, it's also a lot of fun. Going to another continent with about twenty other civil engineering master students is an exciting thing to do. Also, although the study tour is a serious trip, that can't be placed on equal footing with a BuLa or vacation, there will be plenty of time to do nice things or have a beer together!

How do I sign up?

If you want to join the study tour, you will have to write a letter of application, before the end of October. In this letter, we would like to read your motivation, and why especially you should join the trip. Also, please include your CV and a study planning with the letter, in which you specify how you are planning to combine your study with the study tour and the contract research that you have to do. You can submit your letter to us at studiereis2016@concept.utwente.nl. We expect your application at the 30th of October (at the latest). If you would like to be kept informed, please write your name and email on the list or send an email to the above address.