

Exchange report

My name is Heinrich Wittleder and for my exchange in 2015 I went to Gothenburg Sweden.

Preparation:

Applying at the University was very effortless. They will contact you with every information you need and reply fast and in a helpful manner to any question you might have. As I have read in previous student reports and also was informed by Swedish people, it is very difficult to find accommodation in Gothenburg. Many Swedish students that I have met during my exchange were still after a year without a proper place to stay. The university only has a limited amount of space for all their students. It is therefore not certain that everyone will also receive a place. I therefore applied online over the university. The university claims that being chosen is a random procedure, but I registered 5 min after opening and got my first choice. I will strongly advise to go for two housing choices. The first one Olofshöjd, which is also where I stayed and Helmutsgatan. From both locations the city center and University are easy to access. Olofshöjd is a big student compound. You receive your own small room and bathroom. Furniture all included. I was lucky to use my neighbor's Wifi but some people had to buy their own router. Most of the exchange students that I met in my time, also lived in these two housing facilities. Since I am an European citizen I did not have to apply for any visa.

Before arrival you only have to coordinate your pick up service from airport or ferry. The university clearly gives information on when these pick ups are and to which student buddy you can turn to if questions remain.

Arrival

After arrival I was picked up by my student buddy. You are brought to University where the keys for your housing are distributed. You are also given a Swedish sim card, which will give you a limited amount of data each month. Since I usually used my internet for what-app, this data package was enough for myself.

The university plans lots of activities. These activities, if they were organized by students, were usually great fun. You are put into a buddy group, which accompany you for the rest of your stay. Over this buddy group I also got to know most of my closer friends on this exchange.

Courses:

I choose four courses in my exchange program. Each of them gave 7.5 Credits. That is 6 more than we need in total, but unfortunately there is no way around.

The East and Central European Experience

This course is probably the best choice you can make, if you want to get to know Gothenburg in the first month of your stay. Even though the professor gave the lectures in a very boring way, I found the topic very interesting. I therefore also went to every lecture which is not compulsory. I studied two days for the exam and passed with the highest grade.

Portfolio Investment

Since I felt a bit unchallenged with my first course, I wanted to take something more in my interest and took Portfolio Investment.

I found this course highly interesting, since it expanded into options and futures trading. The workload was quite high and can be compared to Finance 1. I had to study for good two weeks,

more than six hours a day. Nonetheless I would advise this course, since I think that the professor was very competent and I have learned a lot.

The Swedish Model and Equality: Family Policy and Gender Relations and The Swedish Model in the Labour Market

The last two courses I took covered the last two months. Both courses were only taken by exchange students. I had to write quite a lot of essays and give two presentations, which was not very difficult to do. Unfortunately they were very boring. I would advise these two courses since they end before Christmas.

Daily live:

My free time looked very different from my life in Rotterdam.

One big constraining factor is the high price of consumption. Prices for a beer in a normal bar are usually around 6€. Of course there are a couple a student bars that usually have prices between 3-4€. Every wednesday there is Handelspub at Uni, which serves beer for 2€. The disadvantage of the bar however is that it closes at 12. The nightlife in Gothenburg was not amazing.

Entrance were everywhere around 15€ and the better clubs have an age restriction of 22 or sometimes even 25 years. Nonetheless it was still fun.

Gothenburg is a beautiful city, but within two weeks it is easy to know your way around. There are a lot of cute little cafes and bars and other attraction like the amusement park Liseberg. Another part of the Swedish culture is the afterwork. While several bars don't participate in this tradition anymore, many still offer free meals when you buy a drink there on weekdays between 5 and 7p.m. This was usually another great way to end a day of work or start a fun night!

Trips:

During my last two months I undertook a lot of amazing trips.

I made a big trip to Helsinki from which I went to St.Petersburg and Tallinn.

One of the best trips I did though is going for a week to Swedish Lapland in December. It was very cold but we saw the northern lights and the landscape was breathtaking. Flying is quite costly, you should therefore book your trips about a month in advance. Some friends and I found 10€ flight tickets to Warsaw and back. So you might also get lucky some times.