

Erasmus Student Report

Stockholm University

I feel glad to write this short report about my third semester i.e. winter semester 2018/2019, which I spent in Stockholm University, Sweden, as an Erasmus Exchange student. When I started the European master in territorial development, I knew that I would have a good experience during this program since it includes one obligatory abroad semester. The experience during this period, which started from the initial application process till writing this final report, is one of the most important stages in my academic life. First of all, for the selecting a university or the exchange semester, we had five choices. I selected Stockholm University for myself. The main reason for my choice was the courses being offered there. I got more in contact with students who had already been on their exchange and asked them about things that I needed to handle. The international office in my home university, Hannover University, also organized the application phase. We were provided with the list of requirements very well before leaving for abroad semester. The combination of information from the students who already did their exchange, the students that were in my university and the support from the staff covered all my questions and information needs.

The accommodation in Stockholm was a little complicated for me. The host university offered me to apply for student dormitory and because of the large number of applicants, a lottery has been done and unfortunately I have not been selected. So I tried to find private accommodation and finally, I found a room in a three-member family flat. It was helpful for me to live with a Swedish family to be part of the host culture and learn things in a better way. The host family was very cooperative and very friendly and they as a representative of Swedish people, made a good view for me to Swedish.

About the academics aspects, as mentioned that my main reason for selecting Stockholm University for Erasmus was the courses offered there. There were lots of courses offered which we could register for. There were 10 courses offered in English especially for Erasmus students and these courses were very well structured. I selected three courses to total 30 credits. These curriculums for these courses were not very intensive in order to make it possible to study for both the Undergraduate and Graduate students. Apart from special Erasmus courses, we were also allowed to register for any course offered in university, for their own Masters or Bachelor

programs. The teaching staff was competent enough and was equipped with the required skills to teach in the English language. Apart from the curriculum, the environment of the class in itself was providing a platform to learn a lot. Being in class along with so many international people from different countries of the world, having discussions, presentations and listening to different perceptive and ways of thinking's was an experience worth. The assessment method varies from course to course and teacher to teacher. Normally the assessment method was a final online assignment, writing answers to three to four questions in a limited time but one course was a project report for the course along with the presentation. These methods were totally different from my home university. I will suggest to new students to first attend at least one lecture of every course and then register for that course as else they may not like the course structure or the way of teaching of the professor.

About everyday Life and Leisure Time, as you know Stockholm is the capital of Sweden with a very high student population. There is a lot to do and explore in the city. The city has a good transportation system hence making the life very easy. Metro, commuter rail, bus, ferry are the modes of public transportation. With an electronic card which is charged, persons could use public transportation. I charged card every month because my room was far from campus and I should take the metro or commuter rail. It costs about 59 Euro for students for a 30-day ticket.

The city has a lot to offer for the free time and weekends. There are some museums, theatres, some old monuments, Opera, lakes, parks, cinemas, shopping malls, night-clubs, bars and lot more. There were different local and national festivals also like Saint's Eve Day, Nobel Prize Day, St. Lucia Day etc. The city also has a lot of traditional, continental, Asian and fast food restaurants. The prices are usually more than as compared to Germany. The Swedish people are very friendly. There is always something going on around which is worth enjoying. The Erasmus Student Network also organizes many trips, picnics, events, and parties for the Erasmus students.

Conclusion:

I will conclude by stating that this was undoubtedly a unique and life-changing experience for me. Every moment was full of learning and fun. I will thank you very much for providing me with this opportunity and will highly recommend Stockholm University as one of the best places to go for an exchange program.

The time I've spent in the Erasmus enabled me to finish my Master studies and prepared myself to start my thesis. In the time of this Erasmus I've also prepared a proposal for my thesis during the course, Advanced Method in Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning that I passed at Stockholm University. Stockholm University fulfilled all of my expectations. I'm particularly happy and thankful that I was able to spend one semester abroad, meeting new people and cultures. Spending five months period in Sweden was indeed amazing. I had many benefits as a student and was able to enjoy all the sightseeing and visiting different museums and galleries for free. I would like to thank all the people from Hannover University and my host Institution that made this as a Semester to remember.

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