Experiences abroad reporting

Planning and Application
In our first semester, the professors have already introduced this Erasmus program to us in the orientation week, and the coordinator of department was responsible to introduced the detail and organize the application. We firstly should make the decision of choosing the host university in the middle of December, and handed out the first application to the international office of department, then they would know how to organize the application work in next step, since we were going to different countries and universities. After the consideration, I have chosen the department of Human Geography of Stockholm University, due to the personal interesting of the courses.
After that, we filled out and uploaded the official application in website and waited for the reply of the host university. After receiving the acceptance email from host university, we handed out all the documents to international office of university. Since I am not the citizen of EU member states, and my study in Sweden will be longer than three months, according the law, I need to apply the Swedish resident permit from Swedish Migration Agency.

Housing
The housing office of Stockholm University tried to help all exchanged students in applying the dormitory, since finding an accommodation in Stockholm by self would be very difficult. They would inform all exchange student in an official time with an introduction of applying, then we could fill the form in the website.
After we arriving to Stockholm, we firstly need to pick up the key in housing office desk. The dormitories are locating in different places, and I was living in Kungshamra, which is about 5 to 8 minutes by bus to the main campus Frescati. There is also a subway station which is about 7 to 10 minutes by walking from the dormitory.
The condition of the dormitory is good. Besides, with a large space, the bathroom is independently set up in each room.

Studying
The education system is different in Sweden. The whole semester has been separated to different semester period, and for me, it was divided into 2 period, since I have chosen two courses, and each of them are 15 HECs. Each period would be given
about 2 months for studying. In fact, the course time was more spent to self-studying. For example, in my first semester period, the course was *Space and Society – Theory and Method in Human Geography*. Basically, the official lectures were arranged in first two weeks, then most of time was given to the seminar and home assignments. And for the second semester period, I have studied the *Advanced Method in Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning*. Since this course has been including lecture and project, after about one month basic theories studying, there was an examination has been arranged. After that, the rest of time would be completely used for project.

Even there are some differences in studying way, but I think it is acceptable, and I learnt many useful knowledge for my future research through this exchange study chance. The way of studying could help me to think more independently.

**Leisure time**

Even the weather condition was not very well in most time, I have still enjoyed the leisure time in Stockholm. I have visited many beautiful and interesting attractions and museums of Stockholm, for example, the Royal Palaces, Vasa Museum and others. The students will get a discount for the ticket price. Therefore, the important thing is that you should have a student card, through joining into the Student Union with member fee. With this student card, the students can also have the discount in transportation, including the public transport in the city and long distance train service. Sometimes, there are also some benefit on shopping to some special brands.

**Best and worst experience**

Except the weather condition is a challenge for me, compare to the ‘worst’, I think I have more good experience during my exchanged period.

Firstly, Orientation week to the international students, was started one week before the official lecture time. It is organized by the student union, which services for all university students of Stockholm. They organized lots activities to the international students, such as the visiting to IKEA and the city, parties. Otherwise, we also gathered many useful information in the introduction meeting of orientation.

Privately, I have been travel to the northern Sweden with my friends, and it was a wonderful experience to see the northern light and Sami people’s life in Arctic area. It was my dream for a long time, and with this exchanged study project, I have chance to make it come true, I believe it will be one of important memory of my life.