

## Experience report

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Business Administration

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First of all, it was clear to me that I wanted to do a semester abroad. Not sure which country I would go, but after I saw the presentation about an exchange semester and the possible countries I had a favorite country. I applied for that at my university with the Erasmus program. Luckily I got my first choice country, Sweden. Then, I started to collect and fill in all the documents which were requested from the Erasmus program and the university. The most expensive part was to figure out which subjects at the home university are comparable with the subjects of the host university. Therefore I talked to my teachers which subjects could be credited if I bring a grade from Sweden back home. Another hard thing was to find accommodation.

In the middle of August 2015 I started my trip by car. I found an accommodation from home in advance. So I was really happy, relaxed and was looking forward to arrive in Växjö. My new home for the next month was not directly on campus but only 5 minutes away by bike and 15 minutes by feet. It was in a very familiar area in a house, where the landlord was living with me and one other student from Belgium. We had everything in the house: A kitchen and a bathroom with all the stuff we needed and even a furnished room, which is not usual in Sweden. Almost all rooms on campus are unfurnished without anything (kitchen stuff, furniture,...) So I was very happy about that. At least I recommend to search for a room as soon as possible. It's difficult to find one, even on the campus.



Thinking about the campus and university in Växjö I can say: It's special. I have never seen such a nice campus area before. You have everything on campus: A large university with many buildings, a big and comfortable library with many learning places and a cozy coffee place for breaks, some other lovely coffees shared over campus, clubs, one pub, a modern fitness center with a wide range of sports courses and groups. If you were asked if you want to have „Fika“, you can relaxed answer with „yes“. It means to have a coffee break with some cakes. Swedes do it many times during a day. A really nice tradition in Sweden. Also two supermarkets are not far from campus and for some sunny afternoons there are some nice lakes to walk around or go for a run. To get downtown you need 15 minutes by bike. I don't have much experience with busses because I always went with my bike. For me, it was the most important thing I have bought there. And the Swedish people use their bike at any time and any weather.



About the study in the Sweden: For me, it was completely different to my home university. Firstly we didn't have so many lecturers, sometimes one or two a week, sometimes only in the afternoon. Therefore we had to read a lot of books and articles on our own and sometimes write a paper or do a presentation in groups. Secondly and totally different to Germany are the exams. They are after each course and not all together in the end of a semester like it is in Germany. Also the exam mostly consists of writing a paper as a home exam during one week. If you fail, you can repeat the exam several times. For the Swedes the grade is not as important as for us. The main thing is just to pass the exam. Finally I can say it was extremely difficult for me to get a good grade so that I won't credit it in Germany but write the exam again in my next semester. As a result, you can have it more relaxed during your exchange semester but then you loose - concerning the time - one semester. Of course not for your experience.

About the student's life: This university has so many exchange students and offers so many trips that you never get bored. During my short time in Växjö I did so many amazing trips in whole Scandinavia I will never forget. You have the choice to sign up for trips like Lapland, St Petersburg, Norway, Stockholm (don't miss to eat a big „kanelbulle“) and Sea Battle. Except sea battle I did all of them and I would never regret it. I experienced and saw amazing things, had a lot of fun with all the exchange students from different countries and brought unbelievable memories back home. Besides all the journeys we did, we were having a lot of fun while going out every week into the clubs on campus, having pre parties at an apartment, watching a real Swedish ice hockey game or just doing a relaxed movie night on campus. We could watch movies like in a cinema in the lecture rooms since every single student owns a student card which allows to enter the university buildings 24 hours a day. Great!



One thing you should be prepared before going to Sweden: They love queuing. So be patient and range into the line and wait until it's your turn. It is absolutely common to queue for everything in Sweden.

Some points about the living costs in Sweden: I assume that everyone knows that Sweden is more expensive than Germany. Both, the rent for an apartment and the groceries in the supermarket. The prices for example in the clubs or in coffees on campus are really friendly for students. Outside of campus, in town it is more expensive. One thing I was definitely surprised about it are the prices for trains. Compared to Germany you can travel really cheap to several points in Sweden.

At least, one of my purpose going abroad was to improve my english. Well, it is fulfilled more or less. There were so many Germans that it was easy just to hang around with people from your home country. Therefore it was up to me to mix and make friends with people from different countries to speak as much as possible English. Of course, in my course we spoke English, but even there were more Germans than people from any other countries.

All in all, it was the right decision to go to Sweden, I still love the country, the life and the people there. I made amazing experiences and got different impressions, met nice people from all over the world in a really short time for my whole life.

