

Unforgettable Adventure - Exchange in Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

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My Blog What you definitely cannot miss is to meet the local or exchange students from other countries as much as you can! Travelling is not a must, which you can do in the future but studying with foreigners is a very treasurable experience.

My Pre-departure Checklist

I had to register for residence, study visa, courses that I was going to take, etc.. Looking for courses that could be for transferring credits troubled me a bit, but luckily it was settled before my departure.

Just Arrived...

Gothenburg, Sweden The only word for describing my feeling of the very first day is AMAZED. The freezing weather led me to my first experience of seeing snow while I got many chances to see later on. I just missed the exciting time so much.

Orientation

The orientation was awesome. The Student Union of the host university was so caring about the exchange students that they held various activities in the first two months allowing the students to make new friends and immerse themselves in their culture.

My Place

As we know, things would never come so perfectly. My accommodation was kind of well-equipped but there was still a gap between my expectation and the reality. I did not get enough chances to interact with my neighbors. Though we shared the same kitchen, we did our own food and usually went back to rooms after cooking. Of course we talked a bit but not enough for sure.



My First Class

Doing projects with foreigners was also a remarkable experience in the whole journey. They knew your merits and weaknesses, and they were pleased to coordinate with you and help you whenever needed. There was a bit pressure at first when you could not find any Asian faces in the class and you did not know anybody. But if you did not resist to talk, you could always make new friends.

People I Met

The most direct way to make local friends is in class. I have made several Swedish friends who are very nice. It was surprising to know that they liked Asian culture so much and even knew it more than I did.

Out of Classroom

An annual activity held by the university is called “courtege”. Students made their own trunks and decorated them for voicing issues they wished and mostly they were related to social criticism. And they did a parade all around the city and that was really impressive.

Money

Fortunately I did not miss any flights or buses or trains so my expenditure was within my expectation.

Goodbye

I just felt one semester was way too short for students to get immersed in a new culture. However, I did not feel too upset about leaving Gothenburg believing that I would be there again soon.

Sharing Don't put travelling to the highest priority in your journey. Students might want to travel to as many countries as they could. It does not mean much when you could only stay for limited time and could hardly do many things you wish. If I could go back, I would spend more time in Sweden and with my foreign friends rather than travelling around.

Overall Rating

4 out of 5