

## Free report

### ERASMUS Semester at SLU (Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet) – Uppsala

WS 15/16

#### Preparation

I must say I get the information about the exchange opportunity by accident. When I was surfing at the Uni webpage I mistakenly end up reading what was needed to apply for an exchange and since there was not much time left, I didn't think it twice and did what it was necessary to apply: Register in Mobility Online, upload documents, submit documents to SLU. Meanwhile I was getting informed about visa requirements for Sweden (since I am not an EU citizen) and gathering what I needed.

The application for all purposes was easy to do, everything was done via internet and when I had any question I received help without any problem. The only thing I had a very stressful time with, was the visa. I had to wait too much for the answer of my host university and when I got the admission letter, the time to apply and wait for the visa was very tight, taking into account the beginning of lectures at SLU.

#### Lodging

I got accommodation with help of my host University which I appreciated a lot, I met some people who were having a hard time to find a place to live. The location of my place was in between the University and the city was very convenient and reachable by bike (having a must in Uppsala is a must! One can discover the city as a sweet ☺!). I had enough space in my room and my own bathroom, and the people with whom I got to live were nice. The kitchen was never as clean as I would like it to be, but is something one gets to manage.

#### Studies at the host University

I took 2 courses: "Introduction to environmental communication - Society, social interaction and communicative skills" and "Sustainable natural resource management".

In the environmental communication one I felt particularly challenged, since it involved a lot of social sciences, with which I am not used to work (my background are natural sciences) and therefore, I appreciated the constant group work. It made the readings more understandable.

What I missed in this course was more involvement of the professors in teaching, rather than just giving the students readings (a lot!) and go through them during the lectures.

In the sustainable resource management course, the one that I enjoyed the most, I saw many other courses that I had already taken getting connected, and the atmosphere in the course was welcoming. I felt that we were more encouraged to get to know our classmates, since we always worked with different people and had a short excursion. Although we are in other University to continue with our education program, is not a secret that the people one gets to know, are a huge part of the experience.

In both courses I really liked that we had the chance to receive lectures from different professors. It made the courses richer and more enjoyable.

### **Daily life and free time**

I loved the student life in Uppsala! In the course schedule's there are lecture free days that allow you to prepare and keep on with the work that the courses demand, in that way you can have and enjoy your free time, and "the nations" are a very good way to do so. At each nation (each of them representing one of the Swedish states) there are Theater groups, Choir, Sports and many other activities. You won't get bored.

Getting where you want is easy to do by bus or bike once you are settled.

I definitely felt it was a more expensive country than Germany, for a lunch at the university the average price is 90 SEK (around 9 EUR) and so on. There are many places in the university with microwaves so the students can easily warm their food and gather to eat with their friends.

### **Summary**

My exchange semester was definitely a good decision, I would gladly do it again. The student accommodation was comfortable enough and Uppsala offers you a wide range of activities outside the university. In my exchange semester I learnt about a different way of teaching, get in touch with other culture, met new people and get to know myself even more. The best for me was to experience Swedish culture by firsthand and the worst part (apart from the VERY cold weather) for me were some visa related issues that took so much time and energy.

