

Report Erasmus + at the SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) on Alnarp campus

I did one exchange semester at the SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) on the campus in Alnarp. I arrived at the 24 of August on the campus in Alnarp. But I applied already some month prior to this, for been able to take place this exchange program. The process initiated with the application to Hohenheim, my home university. I had to select three universities as options where I would like to study during my semester abroad. Since there were to many applicants for the university in Wageningen (which was my first choice) I got the spot offered at the SLU. In the process of application, I had to choose courses in the receiving university to take during the exchange semester. Those should be suitable with my degree program of the bachelor in agricultural sciences in Hohenheim. Fortunately, the receiving SLU campus in Alnarp could accept me for that courses. The SLU didn't accept my applications for courses at the campus in Uppsala since they aren't offering bachelor courses in English and I couldn't bring the required ECTS points. After this step the SLU excepted officially my application and offered me a spot in the exchange program as the receiving university. Per mail I got all the necessary information about the introduction days on campus.

The SLU campus in Alnarp could provide room in a student house so I didn't have to organize living space by my one. The contact with the responsible coordinator was quite easy and so we could arrange the handing over of keys and the payment. The rooms in the student house are furnished and provide every necessary facilities. Because of the expensive price in the student dorm I got offered in the first place I ask for an opportunity to move into another student house. Because another room could be offered I moved one month after beginning of the exchange semester into the cheaper accommodation. I liked to life in the student dorms since a lot of international students from different countries lived there with me. In any case, it was a big advantage to live on campus and close to the university. I doubt that I would have found a private accommodation otherwise.



It was easy to find people with the same interests to spend the free time with. Close cities could be explored during weekend trips. Hiking trips into the beautiful Swedish Nature were planned with those other international students too. But also, I did daily life activities like sport courses in company of other intentional students. Some sport courses for instance yoga and floorball were offered by a student group on campus. Other common activities were organized dinners from the

active international student group on campus Alnarp. This was a very good occasion for getting to know the other international students from other student houses and student programs. The international student group organized even events like canoeing, climbing and ice skating at the weekends for the SLU students. Because of those active students who put a lot of effort in the volunteer organization into these events we never had to be bored in our free time on campus. Since Alnarp is a quite small campus which is located on the countryside, it is important to have the offer for those kinds of activities.



The two courses I took in the exchange semester consisted each of 15 ECTS points. Both are part of the master degree program offered from the SLU on Alnarp campus. The focus of the teaching of the courses was different to those I took in my bachelor program at my home university. For example, writing an individual paper was part of the courses. Guidance was given by the teacher for instance the selection of a topic was supervised. But the elaboration of the chosen topic was done by individual work of the student. Therefore, every student could work on and deepen his knowledge in the topic of his own interest. In the course "environmental impact in crop production" we got the assignment to work with the "Life cycle analyses". In this task a group of students had to fill in given data in an excel document for calculating the environmental impact of a certain crop production. With suggestions of the students how to interfere in the production process a more environmental friendly production alternative was proposed. In this assignment, the students had to contribute actively in the course too. In the course "integrated pest management in sustainable production systems" (IPM) the students had to develop a whole integrated pest management plan in one selected crop. All existing pests in one crop had to be described and the treatment of these pests had to be compiled in one document. Thus, the aim of this assignment was to enable the students to prepare this IMP plan for farmers in practice. Excursions were part of both courses too. In the IPM course we visited farms to learn about the pest management of different cropping systems. Part of it was to assess these pest management strategies too. In the course "Environmental impact in crop production" we visited farms to learn about the different factors which are harmful for the environment in crop production. In the conversation with the farmers we got the idea of how different cropping methods can lower the environmental impact. Lectures were part of the teaching

in both courses too. Since the courses were quite small with only around ten students there was room for discussions as well as personal statements and own opinions during the lecture. This atmosphere helped me a lot to improve in verbal exchange of knowledge to deepen the learning process.

The teaching methods used in the courses were one of the major positive experience during my exchange semester. I appreciate the possibility for the participation of the students in the courses to deepen the knowledge by actively using the acquired topics. I also really appreciated that the Swedish students are so active and organize a lot of events for the international students to integrate them. Like already mentioned is Sweden a beautiful country and there is a lot to see, both nature and culture in the cities.

In the first days, I had to get used to listen to the lectures in English since my bachelor program in Hohenheim is based on German courses. I had a time of an adjustment process till it was completely normal to taking the course in English. But I think there weren't any problems at all because of the language not even in the time of commencement. In term of content of the two courses I took I was completely satisfied with course "integrated pest management in sustainable production systems". The second course "Environmental Issues in crop production" was interesting, but not what I expected since the course was quite broad and no focus has been set to go into depth.

Everything summed up I can say that the Erasmus Program was very positive experience for me. I learned a lot about my study subject, other learning methods and other organization of a university. I had the opportunity to see Sweden and his culture. I also improved my language skills. In the end of the day I made a lot of friends of different countries in Europe.