

Lund University, Sweden

Exchange Report



School of Management and Economics

Lund University, Fall 2016

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Information System**

Part 1. Monthly Activity Log

August



I took the same flight with five other exchange buddies from HKUST and arrived Lund on 16th August, which is the official arrival day for all the exchange students. Upon we arrived at the Copenhagen airport, we were greeted by the student ambassadors. They kindly guided us the way to take the half-an-hour train to Lund and walk us to the main academic building to finish all the registration procedures (accommodation, student membership, welcome package, etc.). As we reached there in the evening, most of the orientation activities organized by International Desks are full already. Thus, it is advised to arrive Lund

earlier if you are interested in joining them.

The orientation period lasts for two weeks and it is packed with language courses and activities organized by school, mentor groups and nations (student societies). The Swedish Introductory course is a bit intensive for me, but it is a good way to start understanding their culture by learning Swedish basic conversation and alphabets. Every exchange student would be assigned to a mentor group before the orientation period and the mentors will organize activities like picnic, treasure hunt and night outs. For the Nations, they have activities like lunch, sittings and night clubs. It was fun to hang out with other international students and all the activities are organized by students at affordable prices. Besides, we did travel a bit to places nearby like Malmo and Copenhagen.



September

School started on the 1st September. I took two courses in the first term – Innovation Management and Global Strategic Marketing. As both courses are taught in English, more than 90% of the students are non-locals. Innovation Management requires higher workload than the other one, which has oral exams, book presentation and final project. However, compared to the study environment in HKUST, it is much more flexible as they expect students to spend more time on readings after class and less time on attending lectures.





During free time, we will go to other friend's corridors to cook and party together. We managed to join some activities like International Sittings and Running Dinner organized by ESN Lund. It was a great chance for us to meet other international students to sing, dance and dine together. Apart from that, we have been to Stockholm for three days and visited a few museums like Vasa Museum, Nordic Museum and Fotografiska. Also, we went to Gröna Lund (Theme park) to try out all the thrilling rides. That was by far my favorite city in Scandinavia.

October

As the exams, reports and presentations are not packed together in one week like HKUST, I did manage to travel a bit in this month. For presentation, as lecturers focus more on the idea rather than presentation skills or visuals, students were presented in a more casual way and not required to wear any special attire. After the examination, it was the fun part. I joined a few Halloween parties and all the other students did dress-up and put on special make up to celebrate Halloween for the whole week.



I have been to Belgium and Amsterdam for twice in October. The most memorable part was the Amsterdam Music Festival, as this was my first time to join such a large-scaled EDM event. We enjoyed the high quality music played by the world's top DJs and had an amazing time there!



November

At the beginning of November, I saw the first snow in Lund. Everywhere was filled with snow for a couple days in this tranquil city and the view was just stunning! In the second term, I took two courses – International Business and Multinational Enterprise and Introductory to Scandinavian Culture. As both courses are not heavy in workload, I could devote more time on travelling and participating in different activities.



I went to the 3-days-2-nights cruise party, Sea Battle, which was organized by ESN. There were about 2,500 exchange students from the Scandinavian area participated in this event, so basically most of the people on the cruise are students. They had plenty of activities on-board for participants to choose from and you definitely would not be bored.

In this month, I travelled to Stockholm and Estonia by cruise. Afterwards, I have been to London and Brighton to visit my friends.

December

As the exams and presentations in this term were on the first week of December, I did not have to worry about anything on my studies afterwards. I joined the student tour to Finnish Lapland – Levi and Santa Claus Village. It was extremely cold, like -20°C at most of the time. As the Norwegian saying goes – “There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes”, just remember to wear the proper clothing with gear and everyone could have an enjoyable time there. The snow view in Lapland was astonishing, just like coming out from the wardrobe of Narnia or being in a fairy tale. We joined activities like husky and reindeer safari and snow tracking. And finally I saw the Northern Lights for the first time in my life! Besides, as this was hosted by student association, we could enjoy a much cheaper price than just randomly book a tour through the agency.





As I have more leisure time after going back to Lund, I tried to be a helper in the lunch and sittings events organized by Nation. The whole working atmosphere was fun and I could have more chance to talk to locals. During Christmas, I travelled with my family to Norway and London – for the Christmas Sale.

January

On the New Year's Eve, I went to count down in Copenhagen. There were fireworks and "Champagne Showers" everywhere on the street. It was a bit messy, but we did enjoy the joyfulness and the atmosphere there! Afterwards, I have been to Amsterdam, Brussels and Edinburgh with my friends. Then, I went back to Lund to join a few farewell parties and fly back to Hong Kong.



Part 2: General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedure

The details and procedures for applying Residence Permit will be provided by Lund University through email. If you are holding British passport, it is not required to apply for the Residence Permit and you only have to inform the Tax office near Malmo Central Station that you are staying in Sweden for more than three months.

2. Accommodations

The application for accommodation is on first-come-first-serve basis. Be sure to check carefully on the date that you can start your application. I was assigned to a studio room in Pålsjöäng, which is just opposite to the Economic Building and easy to access to all the places in Lund. It takes about 20 minutes to downtown by foot and there is a supermarket (ICA) in 5-minutes walking distance. The location of Pålsjöäng is perfect for business students, but I would recommend exchange students to apply for Sparta or Delphi:

(1) Unlike corridor room, it is a studio room without common kitchens or any shared area, it would be more difficult for you to meet people living in the same area.

(2) Pålsjöäng is built by a Chinese construction company and I faced many problems during my stay, like water pipe leakage, broken ventilation system, sink, lamp, toilet, etc. Most of the time it takes 2-3 days for the caretakers to fix the problem, which would be very troublesome if the problem is serious.

3. Course Registration

You will receive email from Lund International Office in April to inform you about the registration process and courses available in the coming semester. It is suggested to take 4 courses, 2 for each term. I have taken the following courses:

	Courses	Notes
1	Global Strategic Marketing (7.5 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Seminars, 1 MC Exam and 1 Group Project Workload is not heavy, but the content is
2	Innovation Management (7.5 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Seminar, 1 Oral Exam and 1 Group Project The oral exam is not as harsh as it seems and you could actually benefit from others' answers during the exam. For the group project, you will be required to work on a real case study and present your innovative strategy in front of the company's representatives.
3	International Business and multinational Enterprises (7.5 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Seminars, 1 MC Exam and 1 Group Project. The content and the course structure are similar as the Global Strategic Marketing.
4	Introduction to Scandinavian Culture and Society (7.5 ECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Essays This course last for 3 months and only have one lesson per week. It enables students to have a deep understanding on the Scandinavian culture through literature, movies and music.



	Also, the professors will organize some excursions to museums during lesson time.
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4. Orientation Activities

The official orientation period lasts for 2 weeks and the schedule will be released before the registration day. Activities like Excursion Day, Treasure Hunt Challenge and night clubs are organized by the International Desk, Nations and mentor groups.

5. Social Activities

There are 13 student social clubs, which are called 'Nations', offer a wide range of activities and services, including lunches, brunches, pubs, night clubs and sittings. Studentlund membership is required to join all these activities. You can check out more information in: <http://www.studentlund.se/>. The Nations that I joined is called Västgöta nation, which is the most popular one among exchange students and their Wednesday club is the best! To further get involved in the nation, you can also be the helper in different events!

Besides, I participated in lots of activities, like Running dinner, Sea Battles, Copenhagen Pub Crawl and Hot Sauna, etc. organized by ESN Lund and had so much fun there. They also collaborate with other travel agencies and offer student trips at low price. For more information: <https://www.esnlund.org/>

5. Transportation

Most people travel by bike in Lund. As I am not good at cycling, I did not get my own bike and just get to everywhere by bus or walk on foot. Another option is that you can register for the City Bike at an affordable price, but their bikes are a bit too bulky for Asian girls. It is advised to download the app "Skånetrafiken", so you can check the updated bus/train schedule or buy tickets on phone at any time.

6. Communication

Swedish people are the best non-native English speakers in the world, there will not be any problem in terms of communication.

7. Food

Not much food choices are available in Lund, the cheaper ones are mostly Kebab, pizza and salad. Therefore, most of the time I just bought the food ingredients from supermarket and cook with friends.

- ❖ *Supermarket available in Lund (Cheapest to more expensive): LIDL, Willys, ICA, COOP*
- ❖ *Recommendation for restaurants in Lund: Govindas, Rosegarden, Crêperiet i Lund*

When I was too lazy to cook, I would check the schedule online and see if any Nations have lunch or dinner events. Student Nations offer delicious food at an affordable price and it is also a great chance for you to mingle with other students!



8. Climate

During summer, the weather in Lund is perfect. It is about 20°C and the sunset is at 9pm, so you can enjoy the long daytime to travel around. But starting from mid-October, the temperature keeps falling and rains more often. As it is very windy in Lund, using an umbrella would not be a smart choice, while wearing water-resistant jacket with hat is much more convenient.

9. Money and Expenses

In order to use the ATM in Lund, you need to get a bank card with a 'plus' sign or cirrus in Hong Kong.

Item Expenses	(HKD\$)
Return Flight Ticket	6,500
Daily expenses	20,000
Travel Expenses	40,000
Accommodation	22,000
Total	88,500

Part 3: Checklist

- Documents (Passports, Letter of acceptance, Residence Permit (if required))
- Money (Cash (SEK), Debit card, Credit card)
- Electrical appliances (Wi-Fi router, Hair Dryer, Adapters)
- Clothing (Waterproof jacket, Heattech, gloves, fluffy socks)

