

# LUND UNIVERSITY

## SWEDEN

### LUND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT EXCHANGE REPORT



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Year 3, BBA in Information Systems and Management

Fall 2018

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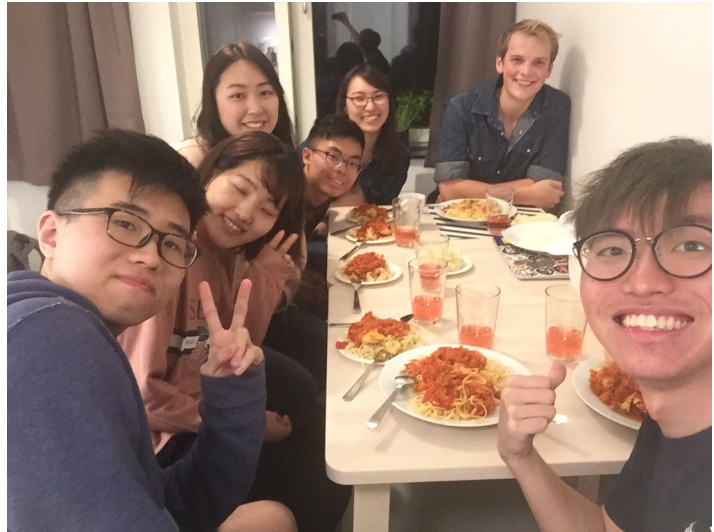
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## Part I – Monthly Activity Log

### August 2018

I arrived in Copenhagen Airport on the 20<sup>th</sup> August with three other students from HKUST. As 20<sup>th</sup> August is the official arrival day, there were some international mentors welcoming students from other places in the airport, guiding you to buy the ticket for the train to Lund C. Arriving at Lund C, there would be some international mentors driving you to the AF building, where you would have your registration and accommodation arrangements done and you can buy the tickets for the orientation activities. Every student would be given a “Welcoming Pack” with a booklet about Lund University as well as a pre-paid sim card, etc). Besides, there will be some packages for sale on the welcoming day, such as pillows, blankets and towels.



The orientation week then started after the arrival day. Orientation activities includes hiking, visiting IKEA in Malmö and Taste of Sweden, etc. I have joined the visit to IKEA and attended the introductory Swedish course during the orientation week. The Swedish course consists of 6 lectures and an examination with MCQ only. I would recommend taking the Swedish course as it was quite interesting and picking up a few basic Swedish phrases would be useful.

### September 2018

The 1<sup>st</sup> period of the semester commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. In this period, I took 2 courses which are both management courses. The workload of both courses are not too heavy so I have got quite a lot of free time even though the semester has already started. I have also got



the chance to form groups with students from all around the world for the group assignments, which is quite an interesting experience. Soon after the start of the semester, we, students from HKUST as well as two other Japanese and American friends we went during the orientation period went traveling in Copenhagen and Odense. This city is quite different from Lund, which is way more peaceful compared to the busy Copenhagen city. Apart from Denmark, we have also visited Stockholm in mid-September, which I had my first unique experience of taking overnight train.



## **October 2018**

In early October, I have joined the Novisch Party held by my nation, it was a party for all newcomers, which consists of a dinner like high table dinner and an after party. Besides, we have also travelled in Berlin in early October. We were so lucky to catch the last few days of Oktoberfest in Berlin. After our trip to Berlin, we went travelling in Prague and Munich. The buildings and sceneries in Prague are just so mesmerizing. As we went there during Autumn time, all leaves were turned into red and yellow which made the city even more impressive. As exams are approaching, I then spent the last one and a half week in Lund, studying and preparing for the exams. Yet, as one of them is just take-home exam, the overall workload is very manageable.





## **November 2018**

Here comes the second period of the fall semester in which I took 2 other Informatics courses. Although one of the courses have quite a lot of guest lectures, compared to the others in the first period. Yet, the workload is still quite light and easy to handle. In early November, soon after the exam break, I went to The Netherlands to see the spectacular windmills.

Besides, I have also spent 2 days in Brussels, Belgium. For seeing the windmills, I would highly recommend the place called Kinderdijk. The views of canals in Amsterdam are also brilliant, which makes the city looks like Venice in a Dutch version.

Following this trip, we also went to Iceland for a few days. However, the weather was pretty bad when we were there and we could barely catch the northern light.



## **December 2018**

After finishing my first examination in early December, I went to Norway for travelling. I have visited both Oslo and Bergen, following the travel package of Norway in a Nutshell. The snow views in Norway are just too lovely and impressive which makes Norway become one of my favorite places. In Oslo,





instead of visiting museums like the art museum, I went skiing in the Oslo VinterPark, which is very accessible from the city centre. Besides, as it was almost Christmas at that time, there was a Winter Wonderland in Oslo. With the snow, all these made the Christmas atmosphere even stronger! After my trip to Norway, instead of travelling around, I chose to stay in Lund until late December to have farewell with my friends in Lund. As my remaining exams were all take home exams, so I left Lund after Christmas for my final trip in London before going to Hong Kong.



## **January 2019**

Before going back to Hong Kong, I have spent around two weeks travelling in London and a few other cities in the UK. It was my first time to celebrate New Year outside Hong Kong. The New Year firework show in London was epic. After my trip in the UK, I went back to Hong Kong and finished all the take-home final exams for my two Informatics courses.



## **General Exchange Information:**

### **1. Visa Procedures:**

You need a residence permit if you are studying and staying in Sweden for more than 3 months. However, unlike what it was like in the previous years, you now can no longer have the fingerprint and photo taking or get your residence permit in the Swedish Embassy in Hong Kong. So what you should do is to apply for the permit online first and have all the required documents submitted. It might take around half a month to proceed at this stage. Then, you will receive an email with a "dossier number". You then have to call the Swedish Embassy in Hong Kong within the office hour (should be 9am-12noon, Mon – Fri) to check if your decision letter for the permit is ready. If ready, you can visit the Embassy and collect your letter, bring it with you when arriving in Copenhagen airport as well as Lund. After arriving in Lund, you can then book an appointment to make the fingerprint and take photos for your permit. They will then send the permit to your Swedish address approximately 1 week after. (p.s. for the saving amount you have in your bank account, be reminded that scholarships that you are going to receive will not be taken into account, so bare in mind that you should have the amount required saved in your bank account, excluding the amount of sponsorships or scholarships you are going to receive.)

### **2. Orientation Activities**

The orientation week lasts for around two weeks which starts soon after the arrival day. There are quite a lot of activities held during these 2 weeks, both mandatory ones like the registration day and some optional ones, like the visit to IKEA and hiking in national park. For some of the optional activities, they are on a first-come-first-serve basis, so if you would like to join some of those, you might have to come earlier on the arrival day. Apart from the activities that you have to pay and register for on the arrival day, there are also some activities held by the International Desk, such as Swedish Lounge and Board Game Night, etc.

### **3. International Services & Activities**

If you have any questions during your exchange study in Lund, you may just contact your international coordinator or you may seek help from the staff in International Desk. There would also be some social activities held by the International Desk regularly, like Swedish Lounge, a coffee break activity which allows students to meet with each other and practice Swedish while enjoying snacks.

#### **4. Accommodation**

During my stay in Lund, I lived in a studio flat in Pålshjäng. It was located very close to LUSEM, which is just around 5-minute walk. As it is a studio flat, you will have your own kitchen and bathroom. However, in such case, there is not any common area, unlike the corridor rooms in places like Sparta. Yet, I was very lucky to have the chance to meet some of my neighbors unexpectedly on the first week arriving in Lund so we all can still meet and socialize with each other even though there is no common area within the dorm. The price of my accommodation is around 3800SEK per month. The environment is super nice to me as the room is spacious and very comfortable; though I have heard about someone saying that there were some water leakage problems in some of the rooms in Pålshjäng. For applying for accommodations, as there is always a shortage of dorms in Lund, you are suggested to apply for housing online through LU accommodation soon after the application starts. There is also another housing agency called AF Bostäder. If you cannot get a hall offer from LU accommodation, you may apply for housing through AF Bostäder. (p.s. Starting from Jan 2019, LU accommodation is not providing any housing in Pålshjäng)

#### **5. Course Registration**

I have registered for 4 courses during my exchange in Lund University (excluding the SUSA 1, introductory Swedish course). Two courses in the first period and another two in the second period. For fall semester, you will have your first course registration in April and you will have another chance to edit your choices before your departure to Lund. You can feel free to contact your international coordinator regarding course registration or if you would like to make any changes on your course preference. Courses I have taken:

FEKH11 Business Policy

FEKH45 Managing and Developing Organizations

INFC50 Content Management Systems

INFC30 Mobile Industry Dynamics.



## 6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Absolute grading is used in Lund University. The teaching methods here are similar to those in HKUST. Here, we have lectures and seminars, in which attendance is required. However, unlike HKUST, courses here are not held regularly, for some of my courses, there were only a total of 6 lecture and seminars throughout the whole semester. A thing that is very different from UST is that your final exam might be a take-home exam, which you can finish it at home within the stated exam period and you do not have to be present or sit in an exam room for completing the assessment. Besides, the examination duration for written exams here are extremely long. Normally you will be given around 4 hours for your exam even if the length of the paper is just about the same or even less than those in HKUST.

## 7. Finance & Banking

The currency used in Sweden is Swedish Krona, which the currency rate is around 1SEK = 0.87HKD. It is kind of cashless in Sweden, almost everywhere accepts credit card payments. However, beware that sometimes paying in credit cards here will require a pin which is usually not provided for credit cards registered in Hong Kong. You are then advised to ask about this from the banks in Hong Kong before departing to Sweden. Besides, students staying less than 1 year here will not be given a personal number, thus you can probably not set up a local bank accounts in banks in Sweden. Therefore, you are advised to turn on the overseas withdrawal function of your bank account so you can withdraw cash in the ATM in Sweden using your bank card from Hong Kong. Reminded that you cannot find ATM with UnionPay logo, thus if your bank card has UnionPay logo only, you can then not withdraw money from ATM in Lund. Yet, you can withdraw cash using VISA or MasterCard credit cards (it will be very expensive though) or you can do so using a bank card with PLUS or Cirrus logo.

I have brought 10000 SEK cash, 3 credit cards (2 VISA, 1 UnionPay) and 2 bank cards (UnionPay and Cirrus) with me to Lund as for some places other than Lund (like Germany and The Netherlands) you can still use your cards under UnionPay system.

### Expense summary:

Airline Ticket: \$7460

Accommodation: \$18000

Basic Expenses: \$20000

Travelling: \$45000

## **8. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

You can choose which nation you would like to join during the orientation week. Nations in Lund University are just like student societies in HKUST. There will be different activities held every week from Mon to Sun, like lunch gathering, pub nights and Tapas dinner, etc. You may choose to be the participants or helpers for the events. For me, I have joined the Västgöta Nation, which is very popular among exchange students. Apart from nations, you may also join the activities like tour to Lapland held by ESN Lund.

## **9. Health & Safety**

Lund is generally very safe place to stay in. However, just beware that you must have your bikes locked securely and try not to lock it near the Central station for days if you are travelling outside Lund, as I have a friend got her bike stolen when she locked her bike near Lund C and travelled for just 3 days. Whereas for healthcare in Lund, you will be covered by an insurance plan provided by Lund University, in case of emergency, like unexpected injury or illness, you may see the doctor in the hospital or clinic and you may be able to claim back some of the medical fee using the insurance plan. However, it is advised to enquire staff in international desk first. Besides, even if you go and see the doctor, they will just advise you to drink more fluid and rest more instead of giving you prescriptions for medicine; and the medical fees here are super expensive, one appointment might cost you around 2000SEK if you are non-EU students and if you do not have a Swedish personal number. Thus, it is suggested to bring some medicine with you from Hong Kong and drink warm lemon water if you are sick.

## **10. Food**

Dining out in Sweden is quite expensive, a meal in a restaurant would probably cost you more than 100SEK. Thus, for most of the time, we will cook by ourselves in our dorms, which usually costs 20-50SEK only. You may buy food and other daily necessities in supermarkets like ICA and COOP. There are also 2 other supermarkets, Willys and Lidi, which sells things in lower price. You may also join the lunch and dinner gathering held by your nation if you do not want to cook.

## **11. Transportation**

As I do not know how to ride a bike, I usually travel within Lund on foot or by bus. You may also buy a second hand bike so you can travel around by bike. Cycling is very popular in Lund, though it might be hard to ride a bike when it was raining and snowing as it will be very slippery and cold. For taking bus and trains, you may use the JOJO card or I would recommend you using the Skånetrafiken mobile app for purchasing tickets. With the app, you can enjoy student as well as group ticket discount. And the ticket bought using the app is a QR code which lasts for 1 hour, 24 hours or 1 month, depending on which type of tickets you have purchased, which is more economic than paying for the bus fare by JOJO card. (p.s. Buses green in colour are within Lund, buses in yellow are travelling across cities (i.e. Lund and Malmö))

## **12. Climate**

The weather in August in Lund is just like autumn in Hong Kong, with temperature at around 18 to 25 degree. Yet starting from mid-September, fall comes and the temperature starts to drop. It becomes quite cold when it rains. Starting from November, the temperature continues to drop to single digit. And it starts snowing in December. The weather here is much drier than in Hong Kong. Although it is much colder than Hong Kong, the temperature has never dropped to below -7 during my stay in Lund.

## **13. Communication**

Swedes speak very fluent English and you will probably have no problem in communicating with people here as almost everyone is very proficient in English. Yet, it is recommended to take the introductory Swedish course, as learning some basic Swedish (like hello [Hej] and thank you [tack] can be useful for you daily life like shopping in supermarkets.)

## **Items to Bring**

- Passport & Identity card (with a few photocopies)
- Letter of Acceptance
- Decision Letter for your residence permit
- Swedish Krona (and some cash in other currencies, e.g Euros)
- Bank card (preferably PLUS / Cirrus) and credit cards (Visa/ MasterCard)
- Laptop and charger



- Medicines and bandages
- Adaptors
- Socket extender
- Clothes (including beanies, **scarf** and gloves)
- Coats for extreme weather (preferably wind and water proof)
- Shoes (suggested to bring an extra one that is for walking on snow)
- Stationery, e.g pens, pencils, rubber, tapes, scissors... (stationeries in Sweden are expensive!!)
- Umbrella
- Backpack or small suitcase for travelling (it is suggested to buy one in Lund if you want to have a small suitcase)
- Some paper for note taking or revision
- Water bottle

## Useful Links

- LU accommodation  
<https://www.luaccommodation.lu.se/>
- StudentLund (you can get the discount code for things like FlexBus here)  
<http://www.studentlund.se/>
- Swedish Migration Agency (for applying for residence permit)  
<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden.html>
- Lund university International Desk Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/internationaldesk/>
- Courses information  
<https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/international-admissions/exchange-study-abroad/exchange-studies/find-exchange-courses>
- Live@Lund (like Canvas in UST)  
<https://liveatlund.lu.se/en-us/pages/default.aspx?r=31>
- Lund University Student Portal (for course registration & checking results)  
<https://idpv3.lu.se/idp/profile/cas/login?execution=e1s1>



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! I am more than happy to share more details regarding the exchange with you! Enjoy and have fun in your exchange in Lund University!

**Lycka till och Hej då! 😊**