

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad and what you need to know. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

Yes No

Study program at EUF

B.A. European Cultures and Society

Subject combination (if BABW)

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Host country

Sweden

Host university

University of Linköping

Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2020/21)

Fall semester 2021/2022

2. Your Experience Abroad

At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

I listened to a podcast ran by international students at LiU where they share some tips regarding studying and life in Sweden overall.

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

I attended many activities and events organized by the student organizations such as ESN.

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

I did not take a Swedish class and it did not seem necessary to speak the language in order to manage living in the country.

How was the study program at the partner university structured?

(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)

The Swedish system was a bit different from what I was used to, usually I only had one course going on at the time, which I liked because this way I could focus on that one subject completely.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

I took a course called Nordic Culture which did not only teach me about the culture of the Nordic countries, but also of the other students' given that we had many tasks where we had to compare Sweden to our home countries. There were many students outside of Europe, therefore I also got the chance to learn about cultures which I did not know much about beforehand.

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

I used to think that Europe is pretty similar culturally, but now that I have studied in three European countries I must say that there are significant differences regarding the mentality of the people as well as their way of living. But personally I think all of them have their advantages and disadvantages therefore I could not really pick a favourite.

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

The area where I was offered a room was very student friendly. The supermarket and the bus stop are very close and all my friends were living near me.

What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

In Sweden there were almost no regulations regarding covid, therefore in the beginning I was a bit worried about living there but the people around me still tried to be mindful and responsible about it so in the end it all worked out fine.

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

I had high expectations regarding my semester abroad and yet I could not have imagined how amazing these few months are going to be. This experience has definitely changed me for the better and I am very thankful to have had the chance to do this.

3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/represent your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following questions can help you choose the appropriate photos:

- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?



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Many thanks for your support!