

Personal Report on ERASMUS+ Exchange Programme

Home University : Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU), Cottbus, Germany
Host University : Lund University, Lund, Sweden
Study Programme : Environmental and Resource Management (ERM)

Preparation (planning, organization and applying to the host university)

Upon receiving the response about my choice of university, I proceeded with applying to Lund University through their online application platform. I had some misunderstandings at the beginning about the procedure of the online application and acceptance information but my co-ordinator at Lund University, together with the international office, were very helpful in assisting me through e-mails. Their replies were very prompt and the misunderstandings were cleared immediately before the deadline approached. The tricky part for me was filling in the Learning Agreement before the mobility as I was not sure what subjects to take that were suitable for my study course. I ended up filling in my desired courses in the Learning Agreement before the mobility and changed them accordingly after the host university decided which courses I could participate in. The changes were then reflected in the Learning Agreement during the mobility. I received my grant within one or two weeks after sending all the necessary documents.

Accommodation

Finding an accommodation in Lund could be very tricky as well. The accommodations offered by the university are often fully occupied. The right step would be to apply for accommodations as soon as one receives the information that he or she is enrolled in the university. I was pretty late so I tried to do the lottery for the accommodation provided by "AF-Bostader". I stayed with a friend in the first month of being there and shortly afterwards, AF-Bostader managed to find me a room. However, the room was unfurnished. I might have made a mistake while trying to translate the contract in Swedish to English. This came a little bit inconvenient for me as I had to buy new furniture for my short semester there but everything worked out fine in general. I stayed in a corridor room with a shared kitchen. I thought it would be such a hassle to share such a common important space but it turned out to be really helpful. We often cooked dinner together and socialised at the kitchen.

Studying at the host university

To be honest, I got caught off guard with the university system in Sweden. I would suggest asking around and doing more detailed research prior to the exchange programme about the system in the host university as it varies from one university to the other. The semester was divided into two parts in Lund University, meaning that we complete one or maximum two modules in the first part and the other(s) in the second part of the semester. I am used to German system where we have the whole semester to prepare for the examination. As a result, I struggled to cope with the syllabus. The workload was a little bit too overwhelming but a good time management would have sufficed to do well in the subjects. The tasks appointed in every course require deep understandings of the subjects fully and not merely participation or memorising theories. I find this really beneficial for me as I gained so much knowledge within a short period of time. The professors never ceased to amaze me with their understanding and patience in guiding the students. They were also very competent in their fields. I never had to wait a long time to get my e-mails responded. Furthermore, the classmates that I got to do teamwork with were also very motivated and understanding. Even though the courses I did were very demanding, I gained a lot out of them in many aspects.

Everyday life and leisure time

I spent a lot of time in the gym that is located in the middle of the university campuses to spend my leisure time. The gym opens 24 hours every day and it is fully equipped. The facilities were worth

the price we paid. As Lund is very close to Malmö, one of the big cities in Sweden, I went there during my free time too. Students in Lund sometimes organise events as well such as movie nights and lunch together. Many cafés and restaurants are located in the city central and they are perfect for a hangout in the evening with friends. Getting groceries was also made easy. The only downside is that the bus fare is expensive in Lund so students often opt to buy a bicycle. Getting from one point to the other without a bicycle could be troublesome. When I had no bicycle, it was hard for me to meet up with people or attend events, especially in the colder weather, as I did not stay close to the central.