

Personal Report

Malmö University, Wintersemester 2018/19, 1 Semester Urban Agglomerations, Fachbereich 1, Frankfurt

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

All the classes were held in English and I had no problem communicating at the University environment or off campus.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

360€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very well.

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

Although there was a bus stop in front of my house, the most convenient transportation mode is the bike, it takes less than 15 min to reach the University.

Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

The University will send an invitation through Facebook to join the international student's webpage. Following the University in Social media is a good source to be informed in any regard, activities and so on.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc?)

I stayed in Celsius Garden. It is a student corridor and nearby, it is possible to find convenience stores, supermarkets, and transport to everywhere. By foot, it takes less than 15 min get to the city center.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The University prepares an arrival day and it is highly recommended to be there on that day. They walk you through all the processes of the accommodation and setting in your new home.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

I consider that Malmö University has an excellent exchange program, from the application phase they are willing to help you with any question regarding visa, transportation, accommodation, student life.

And during the semester they are really supportive. It is helpful to be there at the introduction week; it's like after all the activities you belong to the city and the university.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Less, it cost about 50%

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the mensas/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

Although, the country nor the city offers free transport for students, this was not an extra cost for me because the city is bike friendly, and it is the most convenient transportation mode.

Being in a Nordic Country is a great opportunity to travel far North, especially from November to March because one has the opportunity to see the northern lights. I traveled in December and it is not that expensive if you organize the trip by yourself.

The student-life off campus is active; there are many free activities or festivals offered by the municipality or the community in general. As I was an exchange student, I got to know many international students and we ourselves organized dinners or activities indoor, like watching movies or board games.

I never got to use the services of the cafeteria because it was a bit expensive, but the schedule gives you the time to cook your own food.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A little bit more challenging.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

Compared to the program at my home University, Sweden is less demanding. Only two courses take 30 credits and the semester is divided into two, each course takes half of the semester and students can be more focused on the subject.

There are more readings and discussions, students are more encouraged to participate in the development of the classes, and there is more freedom for students to deliver projects

Usually, one week has two to three days of classes of which each day would be from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

I would highly recommend having an exchange semester not only to experience a different education system but to expand professional and friendship networks.

Coming to a different Country also means to learn about history and new cultures, which sometimes is as enriching as any academic formation.