



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Lund University
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2 2022
Otago degree(s)	BSc
Major(s)	Neuroscience

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Immunology	English	300 unspecified
Astrobiology	English	100 unspecified
The Emergence of European Culture	English	100 unspecified

Total Otago credits gained: 56 points

Any comments about these papers?

The Immunology was mostly for Masters students and had 3hr lectures most days of the week, group seminars each week. A large portion of the final assessment was a presentation to the class/lecturers.

Astronomy and European history in the second half of the semester were much more relaxed and filled with exchange students. The history paper included field trip to the National Museum in Copenhagen which was fun.

None of my courses offered any zoom/recordings option of lectures which was not ideal but in the end made it much easier to make friends in classes.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Semester is split into 2 halves where you take 1 or 2 papers at a time in each half. I didn't get a break inbetween, but usually there would be if you take papers in same faculty.

Some exams were a take home essay which was different for me, otherwise the written exams were 5 hrs long but never needed all the time. The grading scales varied greatly between faculties but you can get the % grade if you need. Lab assessments were usually pass/fail and you could always resubmit.

You have to register for classes (even after enrolled) either by going to the introduction lecture or online and you sometimes have to enrol in exams yourself.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I stayed in a corridor room in Sparta which was a student accommodation block close to uni. I got it through the AF Bostader lottery and was very lucky. I lived with mostly Swedish students which was a great experience. We shared a kitchen but each had our own bathroom. It was well organised and also very social.

The student accommodation lotteries is by far the simplest way to get a room somewhere, otherwise there's private places to rent and I had some friends who stayed in nearby towns and biked or took the bus to Lund which they found not too bad.

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

Rent= \$650/Month including power/internet

Flights= \$2500 to Europe and back (booked very late)

Visa = \$150

Food = Varied each week but overall more expensive than Dunedin

Insurance: \$800

Student nation membership = \$30

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I just used my NZ debit card.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

After being accepted to Lund for exchange you have to apply online through the Swedish Migration Agency website. I think it only took about a month to get a response but I would recommend applying as soon as you can. You need to have proof of acceptance, funds and insurance to apply.

I got an email telling me my visa was approved but then had to book a time at the immigration centre in Malmo for when I arrived to take photos and do fingerprints. Then the Swedish resident permit card is sent to you in Lund.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No but I think being accepted to exchange at Lund came with some health insurance coverage for Sweden.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

Nations are the main source of social events and activities including hosting most of the pubs/nightclubs in Lund. It doesn't matter which one you join but definitely join one and go to as many events as you can. There's events on somewhere most days of the week – follow them on facebook for specifics.

What was the university/ city like?

The Uni campus is very intertwined with the city and the surrounding areas are filled with student accommodation and parks. Lund has a very wholesome vibe and is easy to get around especially with a bike.

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

Going to events hosted by Nations, the international department and your own faculty are always a great way to meet people and get to know Lund.

Explore national parks in southern Sweden and visit nearby Malmo and Copenhagen. Stockholm is also easy to visit with the direct train from Lund and very enjoyable to do with friends one weekend. Norway is also worth the visit and would recommend a hiking trip in the fjords in the warmer months or a trip up to the arctic.

Any tips for future students?

Buy a bike. Everyone has one and you can get them cheap off facebook and sell them when you leave. Be sure to buy a lock too.

If possible travel around Europe before or after your exchange when you don't have uni work, but traveling during the semester still very possible with a bit of extra planning – just be sure to know what classes on your timetable are compulsory. Flights are usually cheap (Copenhagen nearest big airport) if booked in advance otherwise a train pass is amazing and the one I got took me all around Europe.

Overall Experience

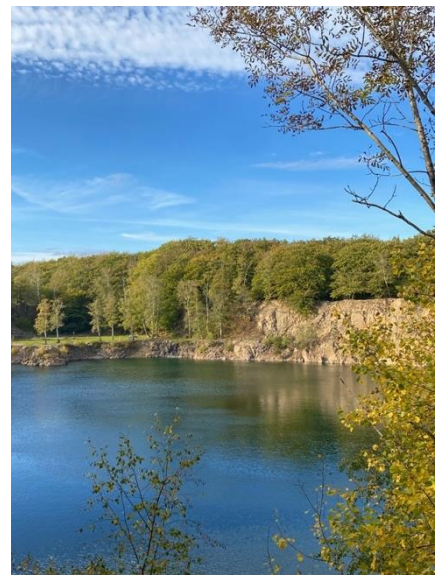
Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

I loved Lund! It was a great experience and I highly recommend going on exchange. Lund/Sweden is more expensive than some places in Europe but also a lot cheaper and more affordable than others. Going on an exchange is not only a great way to travel and see the world while you study but to also properly get to know another country and fully experience a different culture and university. Everyone speaks perfect English and it's easy to settle in and make friends with other exchange students from around the world.

The winter months are cold and dark but you get used to it and I ended up loving the plentiful snowy days. Just be sure to pack for the cold and its manageable. However a trip down to southern Europe to find some sun in the winter is an absolute treat.

Overall my student exchange was incredible. I don't know if I'll see as many mind blowing places and meet as many amazing people in just 6 months ever again.

Lund:



Copenhagen



Free concert at Malmo



Stockholm



Norway



Europe Travels:

