Major/Minor: ________ Communications/Global Studies/Spanish
Country: Sweden Program: Lund Fall 2008 Term & Year Abroad: Fall 08

*What type of student should go on this program (ex: personality traits, major, etc)?
People who can be independent and self starters. It can be difficult to emerge yourself into the Swedish culture and with the students so it is important to be able to be persistent and put yourself out there. Students who want to go abroad but don’t know another language, because all the Swedish people are fluent in English and it would be decently easy to get around without knowing Swedish.

Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
- Very similar, they want to help you understand and do well. The main difference is that there are usually multiple professors for each class, since they each specialize in something different.

- Could you call them by their first names?
- Yes

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
- No, it was similar if not less formal, they want feedback and try to be very active in class with student participation

- Were they available for help during office hours?
- Yes

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
- No, they were pretty similar, just go to class and do the reading with just a final essay, there wasn’t really any busy work.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
- It really depends because each professor was different in how they graded

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assigments or just finals?
- The only big difference I noticed was that they really emphasize group work, all the essays or assignments were always in a group.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  - I had a presentation in one class, and a final paper in two of my other classes, but that was it.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  - Similar to UCs, if something important came up you could postpone but in general the deadlines were permanent.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  - Teachers were very willing to work with you and office hours were helpful

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  - Yes for sure. When you are not familiar with a place it is necessary to take initiative and be more independent or you wont get anywhere.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  - Yes very much so

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
  - Only differences were the fact that each course had multiple teachers and the papers/assignments were always group work.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
  - Yes usually only 1 to 2 days a week but usually for 2-3 hours a day

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
  - Swedes are very punctual so I would recommend going on time. There was never any punishment for being late however. Do not eat or drink during class, it is considered rude.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
- English and Swedish (for the language course)
- What language did you take your courses in?
- English

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.

Host University
- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
- The university was very similar to UCSB with around 20,000 students. Its in a middle sized town just outside of a larger city. Lots of old tall buildings and classes were held all over the town, but a bikeable distance.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
- Many students lived in the dorms and if not in the dorms they lived at home.

- If not located in the city center,
  o How far or close is it to the city?
    About 15 minutes in a car

  o What type of public transportation could you take? cost?
    Buses are a huge mode of transportation, and you can take the train too.

  o Could students take cabs -cost?
    You can take cabs but not many students did it.

  o How long would it take to get to the city center?
    Bus- 30 minutes, Train- 20 minutes, Car- 15 minutes

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
- Yes all kinds

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  There is not a bookstore like at UCSB but most of the classes just have readers that you can pick up in the building your class is in.
- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  Bring a laptop, but there are some computers in the library

- What types of establishments are in the university's neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
  Lots of cafes, shopping, grocery stores. The campus is spread out through the town, so
  there is pretty much everything in biking distance.

Housing
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  Living in the dorms

- How close are they to campus?
  Not too far, biking distance or just take the bus, the bus comes every few minutes and is
  always on schedule.

- How did you find your housing?
  Through EAP

- Where did you live and with whom?
  I lived in the dorms, I had my own room and bathroom but shared a kitchen with 12
  korridor mates, most of whom were Swedish.

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
  A lot nicer than the dorms at UCSB because everyone gets their own room with a
  bathroom, and they are pretty big.

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US
  dollars?
  Less expensive, I think it was around 300 dollars a month.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
You get a bill each month and take it to a bank with your credit card and passport and pay it there.

Food
- What was the food like?
Very similar to in America, lots of choices. There is even an American food store in the next city over.

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
I bought all my food at the local grocery store by my dorm and made each of my meals in my korridor kitchen.

- How much was an average meal?
Same as in America, depends on the meal.

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
Lunch around noon and dinner around six or seven

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
Not really, especially if you eat fish, there is lots of fish.

Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Very safe, there is not a lot of crime in the university town, and there are students everywhere all the time. Just be aware of your surroundings and make sure you know where you are going before you go.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
Very punctual and used by everyone. Buses and trains are the main modes of transportation in sweden

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
Not difficult, but a little bit expensive

Host City/Country
- What was the weather like?
At first nice, like 65 degrees, then in October it starts getting pretty cold and by November it hovers around freezing and there are only a few hours of daylight. Bring lots of layers and prepare yourself for rain.

- Describe your host city? which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
Im not sure since I haven?t lived out of California, but it is probably similar to Mideast America since it gets so cold during the winter.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
Fun to see some of the really old churches and architecture. Lots of shopping available, you could go to soccer games, go to the beach (before it got cold).

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
Very international. Tons of international students go to this university and many immigrants live in the next city. Im not sure about international business, but they are very welcoming to international students.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  o Time & punctuality
    Very punctual and everyone is always on time.

  o Eye contact & staring
    Make eye contact but don?t stare.

  o Relationships
    It really depends

  o More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    Definitely more formal in what they wear. They are always put together nicely. Do not wear pjs to class.

  o Alcohol consumption
    Similar to the US, but drink more beer and hard cider than shots.
o What culture shock did you go through?
Just everyone being very independent

o Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Yes

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No I didn’t, it wasn’t necessary, they have ATMs.

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
  Yes very easy, and there were a lot of them. The fee depends on your credit card.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  Yes and in the grocery stores.

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