Instructors

- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  Instructors were more relaxed than professors here. Though very passionate about their fields, professors are understanding of student’s other responsibilities and very easy to talk to. While they don’t often hold office hours, feel free to send an email.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  Professors will generally let you know how they wish to be addressed, but in general you may call them by first name.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  The student/instructor relationship is less formal than at UCSB. Students will likely see their instructors at the gym and around town. Emails can be addressed less formally.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  Professors don’t often hold office hours, but they are generally quite available if you need assistance.

Courses

- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  There was a big difference between the difficulty of courses offered in English and those offered as SAS courses. SAS courses tend to be much less work than courses offered in English, which are more comparable to UCSB course difficulties.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  Lund University gives VG, G, U grades. For exchange students, these are averaged into letter grades. In my experience, grades transferred nicely – with VG and G translating to A’s and B’s.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  Classes often were held fewer times per week for longer periods of time (2-3 hours). Courses run at different speeds and therefore run for different numbers of weeks. For the most part, courses consist largely of an essay and a final. Other courses will avoid finals with a series of assignments.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Most exams are written or papers. Some exams include a presentation aspect.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Finals are scheduled at various points throughout the semester, depending on when the class is scheduled to end. Some classes will allow you to reschedule certain parts of exams, but for the most part it is respectful to follow exam date deadlines.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  I did not receive any academic support. Professors were available however if you needed help, and certain classes hold non-mandatory sections.
- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
  You do need to take more initiative in Sweden, you often won’t be given exact reading assignments and are expected to keep up with the class. There are, however, a lot of group projects and group essays that ensure you are up to date and can work together.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
  Classes were often small enough that questions are posed to the class. Students may also be expected to work together both in and out of class.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  Courses tended to be longer, and meet less often. Attendance was often not mandatory.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  Classes ranged throughout the week. Classes are usually offered in the morning, in the afternoon, or in the evening. Classes often run from 1.5 to 3 hours.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  You can often eat and drink in class, particularly at the break. Classes usually begin fifteen minutes after the hour, but on the half hour.

**Language**

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  You may take courses in Swedish (With B 2+ proficiency) or in English. Foreign language courses are only offered with Swedish B 2+ proficiency. There are courses which teach Swedish to exchange students.

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  I took Swedish language courses, but my courses were otherwise taken 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?**
  I believe that Lund University has around 40,000 students. The university is spread out across the town of Lund.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  Many students do live within Lund. Corridors within dorm buildings or housing within a nation is a common place to live

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - How far or close is it to the city?
The university is essentially the town, dorms are located on the outskirts with a five to twenty minute bike to the center.

- What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
  Bicycles can be purchased or rented. There is also a train station in Lund (to take you outside of Lund) and a number of buses that travel across town. Be sure to acquire a jojo card at the train station in Lund upon arrival as buses and trains are discounted when you pay this way

- Could students take cabs -cost?
  Students may take cabs but they tend to be expensive.

- How long would it take to get to the city center?
  Between five and twenty minutes by bicycle.

- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
  Students should join a Nation. They are the basis of social life in Lund and offer a number of activities.

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  There is a bookstore within the Academic Building. You may also be able to find your books online or at Lundabocker.

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  Laptops are probably the most common form of computer (with each student needing their own Ethernet cable to connect in their dorm building). Computers however can be found at the main library, the public library and SOL.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
  You can find grocery stores, gyms, cafes, restaurants and nations around university buildings.

Housing
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  UC students live in AF Bostader dorm rooms. They can move out into Nations.

- How close are they to campus?
  I lived about five minutes from the city center by bike. Other dorms are further from the center of town but closer to parts of campus or the train station.

- How did you find your housing?
  It is garunteed by Lund University

- Where did you live and with whom?
  I lived in Ulrikedal. I lived in my own room with a shared shower and kitchen. I had seven corridor mates.

- 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?**
  Rooms were much nicer and more spacious.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  My rent was about $400-$450 a month. Internet added another perhaps $10.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  You pay the International Housing Office.

**Food**
- **What was the food like?**
  There is a lot of variety in the grocery stores. Some things are particularly Swedish, but many things are familiar.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  Eating out can be very expensive in Sweden. Falafel and Thai food are two commonly found items. It is much cheaper to make your own meals or eat them at a Nation.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  It varied greatly. Lunches at Nations were approximately 40 kr, but a dinner could run around 180 kr.

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  Lunch is eaten around 12-2 and dinner is eaten between 6-8 in my experience. This changes sometimes due to class schedules.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  I am a vegetarian and didn’t have much difficulty. While there is a lot of meat in traditional Swedish foods, it is always possible to find vegetarian options at the grocery store and in restaurants.

**Travel/Safety**
- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  - You must pay by phone or card to take the bus and train as of June 1, 2011. Buses and trains tend to be very nice, and run on schedule until winter (when you can expect delays)

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  - I felt very safe in Lund.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  The train is likely the best way to get around Sweden and Denmark. Buses (such as Swebus) are also available often at a slightly lower cost.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
Copenhagen is accessible by train (about a 40 minute ride). There are flights and ferries to other neighboring countries.

**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
  The weather varies greatly. You very much see all four seasons in Lund. In winter the sun can set as early at 3 PM.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  It’s very small and almost quaint. The streets are cobblestone. That said, the town is filled with life and activity. It is very much a student town.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  Lund University puts on a Kultur night in the fall and in the spring there is a festival Valborg. Getting involved in Nation life is really rewarding as is biking outside of Lund to Lomma or Dalby

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
  Lund is for the most part Swedish. There are a great number of international students with many coming from Australia, Germany and the Netherlands. Thai food is very prevalent.

**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    Some classes begin fifteen minutes after the hour, but you are expected to be on time.

  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Eye contact is generally avoided. It is not common to smile or say hi to passing by strangers.

  - **Relationships**
    Friendships can be very slow going. Some say it is hard to be friends with a Swede until you’ve hung out drunk (and there reserve is gone). Romantic relationships can be very non-committal. Often time coffee is seen as more of a date than in it in the US. Other relationships are very committed and long term, but there seems to be a divide.

  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    People are generally well put together, guys in particular.

  - **Alcohol consumption**
    Alcohol is very expensive in Sweden. It is largely consumed Thursday-Saturday and in very large quanities. With shots, chaser is not common.

  - **What culture shock did you go through?**
    It was initially very lonely. It’s strange to have your own room after years of sharing here.

  - **Other?**
Banking

- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Credit cards are widely accepted, but not without chips.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  I did not open a local bank account.

- 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?
  There are plenty of ATMs around Lund, in the main squares and in certain university buildings.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  There was an ATM in the University building.