



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



First Week in Gothenburg

First week there was extremely hectic for me since there were so many things to do. After landing at the airport, there was a group of buddy students came to pick us up and brought us to sign a housing contract and gave us some brief information about the city, university and schedule for a welcome week, before taking us to dormitories. Most of the courses had already started this week, however, during the first week every exchange student was required to attend an orientation organized by the university and the faculty. Orientation is a good opportunity for you to meet new friends whom you will be interacting or studying with for the rest of the semester.

Studying at GU

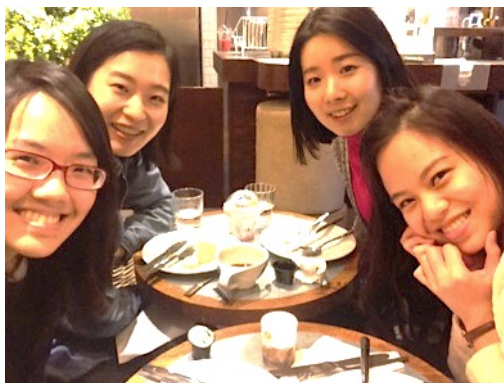
One semester are divided into 4 periods with five weeks each. Some courses require one full-time period to study while other courses require two part-time periods. So practically, students will take one or maximum two courses at a time. That way, I can put all my effort

on every course I take. Local students are quite serious with their study; it is normal to see a hallway full of Master degree students discussing about their assignments and a library full of Bachelor degree students self-studying with their textbooks and a highlighter. Studying at GU does not require students to join the class and there is no participation score. However, class lectures can be useful when reviewing for the exam. Grades for Bachelor courses are normally based 100% on final examination.



Life in Gothenburg

Living in Gothenburg is not a problem if you cannot speak Swedish since most people can speak English fluently. Gothenburg has a very well organized public transportation system so it is very convenient to travel around by buses and trams. Restaurants in Gothenburg are expensive so people normally cook their own food. Most students bring their own lunch box but there is also a cafeteria in the school where you can buy food and drink. 'Fika' or Coffee break is a Swedish custom that is very famous. It is interesting that there is a law regulates workplaces and schools in Sweden to have Fika two times a day.



Activities

There are student associations who organize activities for exchange students. Different kinds of activity were held at least once a week. Moreover, they assigned us a group buddy and each group buddy would also have their own activities.

Gothenburg is a city full of museum and if you are under 25, most of them are free! The city is located on the west coast of the country so visiting some beautiful nearby islands in summer is not a bad idea at all. But if you are an adventurous person, I recommend you Liseberg, one of the leading amusement parks in Europe. It has over 40 attractions and this year Liseberg introduced us a new roller coaster, Helix. The amusement park opens in mid spring to summer only.

Travelling around Europe is also a thing to do when you had already stayed in Europe with a 6-month Swedish residence permit! ;)

