

2012-2013

University Attended: Lund University, Sweden

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

The induction/orientation programme involves students participating in 2 weeks worth of activities with mentor groups. These activities are a good chance to meet people and make friends, and are normally led by Swedish people who can answer any questions you have about Lund and university life. The activities include walks around Lund where you are shown all the most important places, barbecues and other get-togethers.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

The style of teaching at Lund University is similar to that of Manchester, with the only large exception being the interaction that some lecturers wish to have with their classes. The system in Lund operates as a 2 semester year, with each of the semesters split into 2 'sub-semesters' where 2 courses are taken each 'sub-semester'. This essentially means that at any given time you will have 2 courses (although you can elect to do more). Due to the system being separated into 4 sub-semesters this means that exams and other assessments will be done every few months (normally around the end of October, the end of December/start of January, the end of April and the end of May/start of June).

Assessment takes the form of either a normal exam, which tend to be longer than those at UOM (you can leave at any point after the first ½ hour), take-home exams (essentially essays which have to be handed in within a given time period, this ranges from 2 weeks to a day) and the usual coursework.

Teaching support is good with a very informal approach taken to asking questions etc. normally the lecturers are approachable during breaks in the lecture or once it has finished, otherwise sending an email normally gets a fast enough response.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Support from MBS is great, I didn't need much but all of the paperwork transfers went smoothly and on time. It is important to check the UOM email as information is passed along there as well as paperwork that needs to be printed and filled out.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

The information from the second year meetings I found to be sufficient and any questions were quickly answered. All the information that was necessary to have before leaving was easily obtainable.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students

The host international office was great and helped with any issues, if you forget to do paperwork they remind you which is quite useful, especially when they don't tell you it is necessary to fill it in in the first place...

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

Fortunately I didn't need to use either insurance or health cover so I can't comment.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.

Only cost I can think of is textbooks, as usual they are a rip-off when new, so buy second hand in shops in Lund or buy online.

ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

Be sure to book accommodation as early as possible as there seems to be a shortage of university accommodation, especially in September.

Most university accommodation is very good with Delphi and Parentesen being the best accommodation for parties. Klostergarden is expensive but has great studio apartments, unfortunate lack of common area though. Spoletorp is also a great hall as it is very central and reasonably close to a large supermarket.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

Lund is a great city, bear in mind that its more like a little town than a city even though they call it Lund City. As such there are few bars that students go to, however there are a lot of student nations (basically unions) which have bars and clubs (drinks there are much more reasonably priced).

You can join a nation by getting a card, it doesn't matter which nation you join as you get access to all of them. In all there are 13 nations around Lund and each hosts club nights as well as dinners, lunches and sittnings (essentially just dinners followed by clubbing). You can work at a nation by registering your interest when you sign up, you don't get paid with money but you do get free food and drinks.

Buying alcohol in Sweden is a pain, if you want light beers (3.5% and under) then you can buy them at the supermarket, if you want anything stronger (including spirits) then you have to go to the systembolaget (a state run off-licence) that charges extortionate prices (e.g. normal sized bottle of Bacardi rum costs £25-27). The systembolaget's opening hours are also a pain (Mon-Fri 10.00-18.00, Sat 10.00-15.00, and Sunday its closed). There are about 3 or 4 in Lund, with 2 being central (one outside the bus station near university and the other is opposite the train station).

Sim cards: Telia is the widely used one, if your friends are all using it then get one as you get free messages between Telia users. They hate BlackBerrys here so if you break it you can't get replacement parts easily, also BlackBerrys don't work well with most networks.

Food in Lund can be quite expensive, a meal at most restaurants will cost about £15-20, Burger King and McDonalds also cost a lot compared to home (about £5-8 for a meal). Supermarkets are also expensive although there are cheaper supermarkets around so you can hunt for more reasonable prices.

Weather in Lund depends on the season, Autumn is great and fairly warm, as is Spring, Summer is also decent. Winter on the other hand is quite cold, this year the coldest winter day was -10 Celsius, but normally the temperature hovers around the 0 degrees mark. There's not too much snow, this year there were 2 weeks worth

in December and then a few days in January and February. Warm coat is recommended, gloves are a necessity and a hat can be useful.

Bicycles are used to get around everywhere in Lund, you can buy them on arrival as there are plenty of shops that sell them, as well as other students and events at the university. Bicycles are necessary as most people have one so you don't want to be the only one walking around. When buying make sure that they are in good shape and aren't stolen bicycles (otherwise the police will take it off you). Buy a bike that costs around 900-150 Kr (£95-£125) to be sure it won't fall apart after a few weeks, you can sell them when you leave for a similar price so you don't lose much money, if any. Most bikes come with locks, if they don't then get a D-lock as they can't be cut, bikes with thin cable locks tend to get stolen.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

An amazing experience in a new country that you only get once, so make the most of it and you're guaranteed a great time!

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

You are assigned a 'mentor group' ran by a mix of exchange students and Swedish students. They organise activities for the first few weeks of your placement. It is a good way of meeting exchange students. The international desk organises regular trips to IKEA in Malmo in the first few weeks to buy the essentials.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The semesters are divided into two halves and you would typically take two courses in each half of the semester which means the courses are much more condensed than in Manchester. Courses are very focused on individual learning and you will usually have ten hours in university per week maximum. Assessment is a mix of group work, individual assignments and examinations. Lecturers are happy to answer your questions via email and arranged meetings.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

The international office did a great job of keeping us informed without inundating us with too many emails.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Included all the information you could need.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The international office at the business school is very efficient and the university's international desk put on a lot of activities and socials for the International students coming into Lund, usually involving food!

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Your passport and European Health Insurance Card should be enough if you are from the EU and need medical treatment.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

None that I can think of.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Lund is comparable to Manchester but there is a much bigger shortage. I was allocated some of the most expensive in Lund but if you want to save money you could commute from Malmo and get a monthly bus pass that stops just down the road from the business school.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Everybody cycles in Lund! Get a second hand bike from a shop early because they do run out. The city is small and you can walk from one side to the other in 25 minutes if necessary. Lund is a short train journey away from Sweden's third biggest city Malmo and just a little further from Copenhagen over the bridge into Denmark. The Erasmus Social Network organises trips to Lapland, Stockholm and Russia, also they organise a 'sea battle' which is basically a booze cruise. Social life in Lund is centred around 'Nations' which are individual student unions dotted around the city. You have to join one of the nations but you can take part in activities and club nights organised by any of them. Nations offer food, have pub nights and club nights and also organise other activities such as sporting events. You find that although you are in Sweden it is very hard to integrate with the Swedes. They are very friendly and polite but unless you really push to integrate you find that social life centres around the exchange student community in Lund.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A truly international experience that I will always appreciate.