

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 2008-2009

Programme BSc International Management

University Attended Uppsala Universitet, Sweden

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

Well, we were all invited to a lecture hall and given basic instructions. That helped a lot, and then we could ask any questions we had. They give you a map of Uppsala, some leaflets and even a mobile simcard. There are also welcome parties and "gasques", although I failed to attend those for personal reasons. But the buddies abroad are also very helpful, mine met me at the station and showed me the way to my hall, and I could always text her when I had problems.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Well, the education relies about 95% on self-study. The teacher gives a lecture or two for an overview of the course, and then you arrange into teams that you will have to work with till the end of the semester. It's a LOT of teamwork, you get to do a presentation every week, so you must be very organized to plan for team meetings and do your parts of the job. Even one of our exams was team-based. I think it was an amazing experience, but it might depend on the people you work with in a team. Mine were fantastic.

So, the course will consist mainly of seminars where students present their topics. The study groups are much smaller than in Manchester, maybe 20 people per group. So you get to know people you work with, which is good because there is a lot of discussion at the end of each presentation and no-one is shy to speak up. At the end of each seminar the teacher gives feedback so you can improve your skills over the course.

The assessment relies both on your participation in seminars and the exam, and sometimes coursework, which is also done in groups. And the seminars can count as up to 60% of the course, so you really need to attend them and work hard throughout the year. You have to pass both the seminar assessment and the exam assessment to get a grade. It keeps you motivated. I think I learned a lot from my year abroad, because with the presentations and discussions you always stay focused on the topic and you get more knowledge. Although I truly missed the lectures from our brilliant Manchester professors. I'd probably love to have a mixture of the two types of education, both having more lectures and the team-based seminars in small, coherent groups.

On the whole, if you dislike teamwork, if you prefer to work individually, - study in Uppsala is not for you. ☺

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Although I personally did not have any problems they answered the emails quickly if anything came up.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

You can always come by during office hours or send them an email and they'll gladly help you.

ACCOMMODATION

I stayed at Ekebyvagen. Very nice and quiet place (except for the days of student parties of course), although a bit expensive. 2 floors of exchange students and 2 floors of Swedish. Large room, own TV, a WHOLE room for clothes! And a big nice bathroom. Only complaint: no full-size mirror, point of consideration for girls. ☺ On the whole, I wish I stayed closer to the center, but oh well.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Transport in Sweden is quite expensive, but if you live in Uppsala, you do not really need it. From where I lived, it took 10 minutes by bike or 30 minutes walk to get to the city center. So you need a bike. That is rule number one.

Rule number two, if you come here in winter, go visit Kiruna. Even if you nearly freeze to death, it is worth it. The most magical place I have ever seen.

As for local students, I would say that exchange students tend to stick to each other. Sure we did make friends with Swedes, but they already had established families, friends etc. here, so they were on their own. They are very nice people though. Very positive-thinking and helpful. And everybody speaks great English, which is brilliant. Most student activities are organized around so-called nations. You have to join one when you come to Uppsala, that will give you a student card as a pass to all the major parties and places where you can get cheaper drinks and food.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Definitely one of the coolest years in my life.