

2012-2013

University Attended: Uppsala University – Sweden

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

Before I came to Uppsala I was contacted by email by the buddy system programme that asked if we would like to have a buddy that could support me and show me round the university when I first arrived here. I said yes to this but for some reason I never had the opportunity to meet my buddy because she was always working etc. However, even though I didn't meet her it didn't affect my settling in process. Before formal classes start there is an orientation week for international students where you are provided with a programme of all the social activities that will be going throughout the week. In my opinion you must make the effort to attend this as it's where I met the friends that I hung out with for the whole exchange period. Because of this I would say it is extremely useful to be a part of and will help shape your experience here.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

The style of teaching here is quite varied. Group work was used heavily in all my courses and even though I am the kind of person who is not a big fan of group work I thought it was ok to learn in this way. Signing up for courses is really easy although there isn't that much selection but it didn't matter for me as there were still courses that interested me such as marketing courses etc. The methods of assessment vary with both exams and coursework being used although there seems to be more of a reliance on coursework and in my opinion the exams are quite easy as you get so much time to complete them. The support from teachers is good to they all have their individual offices where you can visit them anytime during their office hours which they will give you in your first class. Things that are different from Manchester is that each semester is split into two parts. So from late August/early September until late October you will do 15 credits normally with an exam at the end and then from October till December you will do another 15 credits with an exam at the end. It makes the courses quite intense but it means you don't have to do any work over the Christmas period! The second semester was structured in a similar way.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

I felt the support from the MBS International was really, really good. I felt I was always able to email someone from Manchester and have a response within a day or two and when the response came it wasn't just an answer to my question but they would also ask me questions about how my exchange was going and there was a feeling that they genuinely cared about my experience here. I don't feel that there could have been any additional information that could have been useful.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided

Again these meeting were very good and gave me a feeling of what my exchange year would be like. I'm struggling to remember exactly what was said but I can't think of anything that could have been improved upon.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

Again support here is good. In my experience I only needed the international office here to sign off on my learning agreements etc. so I didn't visit the place that often. One thing to note is that office hours here are a lot less frequent than at home so you need to find out when the office will be open and get there on time because especially in the first few weeks, the small amount of time that they are open they are very busy.

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

Manchester covered my Health cover so I have nothing to add here.

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.

The university didn't charge me any hidden fees. You can take Swedish Language courses here for free courtesy of the university and they count towards your credits so don't go paying for any language courses.

ACCOMMODATION

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

There is varied accommodation here. I myself stay in Flogsta which in my opinion is the best accommodation here. Most international students live here and there is always something to do. Parties happen nearly every night whether this be in a corridor or on the roof in summer. The rooms are also quite big and you have your own bathroom and a shared kitchen and common area. There are usually 12 people to each corridor with a split between exchange and Swedish students. Only drawback is, is that it isn't all that close to the city but if you buy a bike (WHICH YOU NEED TO!), then it is only a ten minute ride and there are also two regular buses (the 2 and 5) that run into town. Moreover, the cheapest supermarket in the city is right on your doorstep. If you want a bit more peace and quiet then I would recommend Rackers (this is a shorter name for the accommodation but I can't remember the full name). This is between Flogsta and the city and again is social but not as much as Flogsta. Here it's 5 people to a corridor and you have to share a bathroom. If you want bigger rooms, a quieter place near the science buildings then Eklunds (again a shorter name) is the place to live although this is far out from where the main activities happen; however if you have a bike it isn't a problem really.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

Some other important things about Sweden is that it is an expensive place to live. With student loans and Erasmus funding you will be able to live nicely but maybe make a budget. Uppsala is also only a 35 minute train journey from Stockholm so you can visit the capital and also from Stockholm you can go on boat trips to many places in Europe and also Russia! (there is a company called Scanbelt that organises these trips for you; I recommend going on a few). In regard to alcohol, in supermarkets you can only buy alcohol below 3.5% which is annoying. However, there are these special government run stores which sell proper alcohol; they are called systembolaget and there is one near Flogsta and some in the main town. In regards to the main town it is really beautiful! There is a small river running through the middle and there is also a huge cathedral and castle to see. In respect to student social life and it's very different to Manchester. There are 13 'nations' and students can choose to join anyone. Joining certain ones gives you perks at that nation but you can still enter any. Certain nations run different club nights on different nights and most of the nations also have a pub which is open every night if you just want to chill out. You do have to pay to join a nation but it's a must because if you don't you won't have a social life. Also alcohol is cheaper in the nations. In my opinion you should join Varmlands because it has the best club night on a Friday and members get in cheaper. Also it does really good food and again members get it

cheaper. However in orientation week all the nations will be explained to you so you can get an overview of them all. Like I said above a bike is a must as everyone has one here. Get one second hand and don't pay more than £100 (1000SEK). Also make sure you buy a secure lock as they sometimes get stolen. Finally bring warm clothes because the winter is so cold. It gets down to -20 so you need to be wrapped up.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A truly unforgettable experience that will broaden your horizons and mould you as a person.