

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**

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Exchange university

Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet (NTNU)

Degree programme

MSc Computer Science

Exchange in the land of mountains and fjords

Before departure

My main reason for applying to NTNU in Trondheim was the university's sports team NTNUI. When I am not in school I train and compete in orienteering and NTNU has one of the best orienteering teams in the world. Apart from that I also wanted to experience the beautiful Norwegian nature and winter with a lot of snow. Finally the language was also a deciding factor, since Norwegian is so similar to Swedish I would have no trouble communicating with the locals.

Upon arrival

I arrived just before the orientation week which was held the week before the ordinary semester started. During the orientation week the school held a few information meetings and you could also attend different activities for international students to better get to know other international students, the city and the Norwegian culture.

Financials

I think a lot of people believe it is a lot more expensive in Norway compared to Sweden, but in my experience this is not always the case. Due to some different taxes compared to Sweden, sugar products for example can be a lot more expensive, but in general I only think it is a bit more expensive. If you apply for Erasmus+, which I did, you get a bit higher scholarship compared to most other countries to compensate for this. One thing that however is cheaper compared to in Sweden and that I can recommend getting is a gym membership through the university. With this you get access to several gyms around the city as well as membership in the university's sports team.

Accommodation

The student organisation Sit has quite a lot of student accommodation, but as a nordic student I had lower priority compared to other international students and was not able to get accommodation from them. On the university's website they had information regarding private student housing and with the help of that I was able to find accommodation. I lived less than 10 minutes of walking from the campus and since the city is not that big no matter where you find accommodation it will most certainly be within walking or biking distance from campus.

University and studies

NTNU is Norway's biggest university with around 40 000 students and despite its name, NTNU does not only have studies in science and technology. You can study everything from engineering to medicine to economics and much more here. The university has a lot of campuses around the city, but the main one is called Gløshaugen and is located quite centrally in the city. All my courses were taught in English, except for one that had exercises in Norwegian.

Courses

The education was in general very similar compared to the one I was used to in Sweden. One larger difference was that NTNU only had one period per semester compared to KTH's two. So during the semester I took all my courses in parallel and had a longer examination period at the end of the semester. Before going on the exchange I took as many mandatory courses as possible so that I would have my elective courses left and that it would be no problem transferring the credits to KTH.

Due to scheduling conflicts I had to change my courses a bit during the start of the semester. I ended up choosing four different computer science courses that sounded interesting. The first one was a standard machine learning course just named Machine Learning. The second one was called Ethical Hacking and Penetration Testing. It was really interesting and taught us about a lot of different hacking techniques. The third one was named Web technologies and in that one we had a group project with the task of making a website using HTML, CSS and Javascript. The last one was called Algorithms for Bioinformatics and in this one we learnt about algorithms that are used to search in DNA sequences.

City and country

As a neighbouring country to Sweden the Norwegian culture is quite similar, but there are minor differences. One of the most noticeable ones is Norwegians' relation to lunch. Unlike Swedes they do not usually eat warm food for lunch, but instead they bring sandwiches with them. On Sundays a lot of places, like grocery stores, were closed which was a bit confusing at the start.

In comparison to Stockholm Trondheim is a real student city with a big portion of its inhabitants being students. The nature is always around the corner in Trondheim. Almost no matter where in the city you are you will have great views over the fjord and the mountains surrounding it.

Leisure and social activities

In my spare time I mostly trained with the university's sports team NTNUI or hung out with friends I got to know through the sports team. NTNUI is a really big sports team and has groups in over 50 different sports. Going on hyttetur (eng. cabin trip) is a big part of Norwegian culture and I got the opportunity to go on one to the cabin of a friend I met through NTNUI. The school also has its own cabins that students can rent and go on hyttetur to.

I did not interact so much with other international students, but if that is something you would be interested in there are student organisations that arrange activities for international students.

Sustainability

As Trondheim is within driving distance from Stockholm I did not have to fly and could go there by car. The city is not that big and all the campuses are within walking or biking distance, so you always have the possibility to get to school in a sustainable way.

Other recommendations and observations

I would recommend everyone to consider going on exchange studies since it is a really fun and educational experience. If you like nature and outdoor activities I would definitely recommend going on exchange to Norway.