

**Exchange university**

NTNU Trondheim

Degree programme

Electric Power Engineering

Trondheim as a hub for nature exploring and group exercise

Before departure

The plans for doing an exchange started early for me, during the bachelor years at the electrical engineering programme. Figuring out the destination was not as easy as deciding I wanted to go somewhere, due to the many amazing places that are available. The first plans I had was abandoned due to unexpected logistics that I was not up for, so this was the second try for me. I chose Trondheim for the incredible nature in Norway, and the ease of integration with the local people, due to low language barriers. The preparations for going to Norway is of course very simple as a Swedish citizen, but I acquired a national ID card to be safe.

Upon arrival

The travel to Trondheim by train was abruptly made impossible by a storm named Hans, and during the first days there where multiple routes where the travel agency did not offer busses instead. This led me to take my old red Volvo from 92. It ran like a charm during the 9-hour drive, and I had great views along the way. I arrived the same day as I intended, one day before the introduction week, one week before the course starts. The introduction from the student union was nice with music and barbecue. A few events were also held along the week, with a small hike as an example. Some more planned events could have been nice, but I managed to find things to do anyway.

Financials

The financial situation regarding living in Norway is quite okay. With the extra Erasmus money, it is very comparable to Sweden. Food is more expensive in Norway, but it does not differ that much if chocolate and alcohol is limited. The price for the student held gyms are great and the cost of accommodation can be the same as in Stockholm.

Accommodation

Finding an accommodation took about three days for me, in the beginning of June, a few months prior to departure. I signed up for maybe 10 different rooms at hyble.no in mostly shared apartments. I got multiple options and chose a cheaper alternative that seemed to have two good Norwegian roommates, that I facetimed with. The monthly rent was around 4700 SEK, although I had to pay for July as well, when I would not use it. It was possible to get help from the university, but they could not guarantee housing for European students. Most students live in shared apartments with other students, but there were also one room apartments out there, but for at least double the cost, compared to mine.

University and studies

NTNU is the largest university in Norway, although partly because it is a collaboration of universities in multiple large cities in Norway. The main campus in Trondheim was slightly smaller than the main campus of KTH, if I had to guess. The faculty was very professional, and they had branches in all types

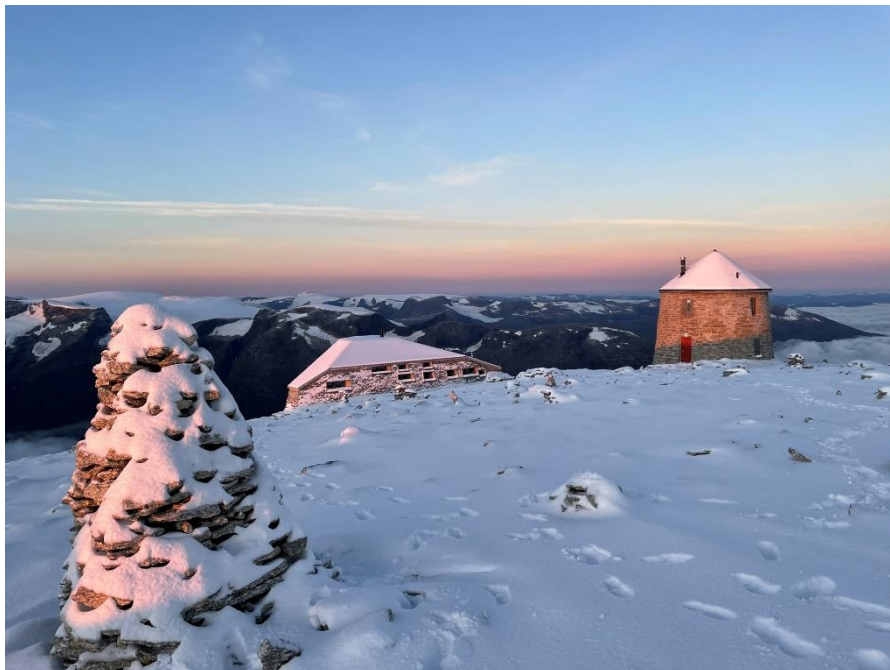
of sciences, not just technology. Overall, I got the feeling that the atmosphere was more chill at NTNU than at KTH. All my courses were thought in English, but I spent quite little time at the university. To have more time to travel or hang out with student groups I did quite a lot of the studies remotely. My lecture schedule was also chill which made this easier. Language courses in Norwegian was available, but I did not take them.

Courses

In the programme I study, electric power engineering, there are a lot of fully elective courses, which made choosing courses quite easy for me. I took TET4545 Electrical Machines and Electromagnetics, Specialisation Course and TET4125 Advanced Power Electronics that are within my main area of interest and field of study. The best part of the first one was the use of COMSOL when designing electrical machines. This was also a project course that did not have a written exam. To take 30 credits in total, I also took two economics courses, SÖK1151 Macroeconomics for Managers and TIÖ4146 Finance for Science and Technology Students. The macroeconomics course was quite simple but interesting and the finance course very math heavy and different from the macroeconomics course. Overall, I am very happy with the courses I choose, and they did give me quite a lot of time to travel in Norway.

City and country

Regarding culture shock when going to Norway, it was basically non-existent as one may expect. There were a few differences when doing groceries, and I had to think more when talking and listening to the Norwegians. The city Trondheim is a great student city, more like Uppsala than Stockholm with the high percentage of students. There were always student parties happening in the student union hall Samfundet, and there were more student workout groups than I could ever name, almost one for every sport. I joined the triathlon group and a hiking group called Ski og Fjellsport. Both were awesome, I got multiple beautiful cycling workouts on their favourite 50 km route with great view over the fjord and they thought me a lot of freestyle swimming technique. With the hiking group I went to three long weekend trips, the best one going to Loen where I met a wonderful American girl. The biggest culture difference between Norway and Sweden might be that they have almost everything closed during Sundays, which is good to know.



Leisure and social activities

I made sure to do as much exploration of the nature in Norway as I could, often during long weekends by taking Friday and sometimes Thursday off school. Early in August, with my newly made German and Swedish friends, I went to Lofoten by train and ferry. This weekend was amazing and since we booked just a few days in advance we made sure to have great weather forecasted. The night train there took 10 hours and the ferry an additional 3 hours, but it was very worth it. The mountains straight up from the ocean and the cute fishing villages are hard to beat. I climbed the tallest mountain of the peninsula, and the view was absolutely astounding!

Every other autumn the student union hosts a massive three-week festival called UKA in Trondheim, which I made sure to enjoy. For example did we go to an October fest and a Trönder fest, which is a local thing in the area.



Sustainability

The travel to Trondheim was planned to be by train, which would be possible usually, but as I mentioned earlier, I had to take my car in the end. However, my travels home went by train. Norway in general feels like Sweden in sustainability manners as well. I didn't have to buy any textbooks, since all my material was available digitally.