

Jönköping University - Jönköping - Sweden

Did you come across any problems during your application at the university? Subjects, country specific.

No not really, at first they said that I was from Groningen University, but after sending an e-mail to the university, the problem was solved immediately. And for the subjects: I did not have to face any problems with that, since I got all the subjects I wanted. Some people chose some courses that did not match their schedule, so they had to change some subjects, but that was not really a problem because it was very easy to switch subjects. Except for the university mistake, I did not have to face any more problems.

How did you arrange housing, any tips here?

The university guaranteed everyone housing, so they arranged housing for all the international students. There was this international website where I had to subscribe for a room. You had a few months to this and it was not first come first serve, so you could take your time to do it. There were several options, like apartments for more people, but also for yourself, and studios. You had to provide a top 3, and answer some personal questions. Then the university did the rest. There was not a campus, so the rooms were a little bit further from the university. The room was furnished, but I had to buy the linen, and I had to buy kitchen stuff, since they were completely empty. I had an apartment with three other students. We had a common room in our flat where we could hang out together.

Any tips for booking flights tickets?

If you live near Germany, it is better to go from Düsseldorf to Gothenburg and then take the bus to the University, since this is quite cheap. I went there by car, but I booked my ticket for the way back just a few weeks upfront.

What is the best time to arrive?

The semester started the last week of August, but there was an introduction week before the official start. I arrived the weekend before the start of the introduction. I think that this is the best time to arrive since you will have enough time, and if you come earlier you could be very alone. I really advise to go to the introduction week, since it was a lot of fun. It is quite similar to the TOP week here in Tilburg. The whole introduction week lasts for ten days. You had different schools like the Business School, the Health School and the Engineering School, and every school had a different colour of overalls for that week. We were really lucky in that week because the weather was really nice, and everyone was outside in a big park.

Are there any specific items to pack for your region?

No not really. Even though my insurance was also already enough, we additionally got an insurance from the University in Sweden.

How did you have to adjust to the cultural differences?

It wasn't that different in Sweden than in Tilburg, so I did not have to adapt very much. One small difference is that the people were a little bit quiet in the beginning, but that was not a problem, since I didn't have a lot of contact with the locals. It were mainly exchange students that I hang out with. The way of teaching was a bit different though. There were a lot more group assignments, and the classes were smaller, but for the rest was the way of teaching kind of the same. We only had lectures, but than in a smaller room. The level was the same, it depends on the classes you choose. I had one course that was really easy, but I also had one course that was even harder than courses here in Tilburg. I took 4 classes, and additionally I took a Swedish language course. Doing that language course was quite helpful, for like when you see signs on the street or on the bus or something. But on the other hand, everyone speaks English in Sweden, so it is not that you really have to learn the Swedish language, it was just a bit extra helpful.

Do you have any suggestions for associations to join or other ways to come in contact with local/exchange students?

No I didn't join any association. Everyone had to join the student union and pay seven euro's, since Swedish people do not have to pay any student tuition. Together with the student union, you could join some activities, but it was not that you had to do a committee or something. The coin for payment they use is Crowns, where one Euro is ten Crowns.

Are there any places that you have to take a visit to?

I went to Norway, and to Lapland. Both of those trips were organized by the student Union. We went to Stockholm and Kaltenburg for a weekend and then to some smaller cities just for a day. Norway was the best trip. I had quite a lot of time to travel, since I only had two courses per term, so I did not have a lot of courses during the week. Renting a car is very cheap there, so you should do that, unfortunately we only figured that out in the last week. The weather wasn't that much colder, only like three or four degrees less.