



# Tips on Studying Abroad at Lund University in Sweden

Want to know what it's like to study abroad? Want to know what your peers think? Your fellow Georgia Tech students who have previously gone on this exchange program gave their opinions so that future participants have the inside scoop on their host institution and host country.

## Preparation & Getting Started

- There will be an orientation and welcome reception once you arrive at Lund.

## Housing

- Dorms house international students and are the center of the social scene.
- When I applied for housing I was not familiar with any of the residence halls— so I really just applied based on word of mouth.
- I lived in Sparta— located right next to the Design Centrum.
- I did not have any roommates, but I shared a communal kitchen with many residents— a great way to get to know your corridor mates!
- There is a kitchen in the dorm.



## Communication

- Cell phones can be used for calling or sending text messages.
- I would recommend getting a pre-paid cell phone to take so you can call friends who are with you on the trip
- I used Skype to keep in touch with everyone at home
- Definitely bring your laptop— Housing will have internet for you.

## Classes

- If you're going to study Industrial Design, the courses include guest speakers from European companies (such as Volkswagen), and class presentations to Swedish government officials (such as the Minister of Sustainable Development). You also tour facilities and work on projects for real companies.
- Classes are long: sometimes 8a-5p or 8a-3p.
- Industrial Design students have different and advanced types of tools available for their use in the studios.
- There is a lot of group work.
- Professors and advisors are friendly and approachable.
- The studio size was pretty small. There were about 20 Swedish students and 7 International students
- The professors love International students!
- I loved the diversity— it was probably the best thing about the educational experience.
- You take one class at a time so there is less overlap and the work load seems easier.
- I took studio, two Design electives and Materials study. They were nice because there are no lecture classes— it is mostly instruction and free work time.
- The grades are all based on effort.
- When it comes to homework and exams, they don't really exist. Studio time is basically used how you see fit. I chose this program because I was able to take studio abroad and Sweden has a very interesting design perspective.
- I signed up for courses while I was in the US, but once you get to Sweden, the schedule is pretty much set for you.
- Your schedule is pretty much pre-defined by what year you are in studio.

## Food

- You can shop at ICA, a popular grocery store, and cook meals in the dorm kitchen. There are a lot of international students, so it's fun to try foods from all of the different countries that are represented.
- The 40 SEK pizzeria is a good choice for cheap pizza.
- "Sittning" is a traditional three-course meal consisting of meat, potatoes, and tomatoes.
- The Design Centrum had a great café, but it became expensive to eat there often.
- Generally eating out is going to be pricey—cooking your own food is much more cost effective.
- I had a great time learning to cook Swedish food.



\*These comments do not reflect the views of GT's Office of International Education. They are based on students' individual opinions and are, therefore, not necessarily representative of all student experiences.

### Transportation & Travel

- You can rent a bike for getting around the town.



### Lifestyle

- You can join a “nation”, which is a social organization similar to a fraternity.
- It is very easy to meet and be friends with Swedish students, as well as with the other exchange students.
- There is decent nightlife in town.
- I had no problem finding things to do and people to meet.
- Doing things with a mentor group is fun– and a great way to get to know other students (international and Swedish).
- I did not learn the language– all Swedes speak decent English.

### Finances

- The only money I spent that was beyond what I would spend in a normal semester was for weekend travels around Europe.
- Conversions can be tricky, so be sure and keep a close eye on all that you are spending.
- Credit cards are probably the most convenient thing to have– just be sure and keep an eye on the extra charges.

### Cultural Differences

- The biggest adjustment for me was daylight time.
- The Swedish students were friendly, but it did take a while for them to feel comfortable around Americans.
- I had to re-learn how to ride a bike– that was probably the biggest adjustment I had to deal with!

### Packing

- During the fall, it is often rainy and cold, so pack accordingly.
- Be sure to pack warm and pack light!
- Don’t forget a warm, water and wind-proof jacket and water-proof shoes



### Participant Profiles

Please see information of contributing students below. If a blog or website is listed, feel free to take a look! Also, if an e-mail address is listed, you may contact that student if you have any questions about their study abroad experience.

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