



ERASMUS+ STUDIES - UU Report

Every student receiving an Erasmus+ STUDIES grant has to submit a UU report as well. Writing the UU report is one of the university's conditions to receive and keep the grant. Only after submitting this report your Erasmus+ grant will be awarded definitively.

Your report will be **published** (anonymously!) on the [UU study abroad destinations webpage](#) to inform UU students preparing an exchange or research period abroad. Not all of them are Dutch-speaking, therefore we prefer to receive reports **written in English**.

Please use Tab to go to the next (text) box.

family name*	
first name*	
student number*	
permission to publish contact details**	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> yes: @ my weblog <input type="checkbox"/> yes: my Facebook account <input type="checkbox"/> yes: other (social) media <input type="checkbox"/> yes: or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> my contact details cannot be published on the UU webpage, but I do give the International Office permission to forward my e-mail address to individual students interested in my host university abroad: @
<i>See end note for * and **</i>	
faculty/college	Faculty of Geoscience
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Energy Science

destination city & country	Lund, Sweden
how did you travel to your destination?	Train
name university abroad	Lund University
start date	15 / 08 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	The application process for the exchange was well-explained on the UU website, but keep into account that it is quite some work (orientating for possible universities, checking courses and if they fit together, getting approval for the courses, finding housing). Don't let it scare you to do it, but it is not something you fix in a weekend and you have to keep in mind that it is all your own responsibility to keep track of the deadlines. It was sometimes quite difficult for me to find universities with enough courses that could fit for my studies, because some similar courses are categorized in another faculty at the partner university than at UU. E.g. the main faculty-wide



partners for Geosciences have mainly physical geography or social geography courses, and to find courses related to Energy Science can be challenging. This only holds if you want to use the points for your program, in case you want to broaden your horizon more and take it as an extra semester this should be less difficult.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

There was enough support before going abroad: an introduction meeting about wanting to study abroad and then once you got accepted there was a preparation meeting. It is mainly important to keep track of all the deadlines. However, the Osiris process usually generates an automatic email when a new step needs to be undertaken.

academic preparation

There is some preparation in terms of making sure that the courses get accepted by contacting the programme leader and the board of examiners, however there was no need for really preparing for the courses in other ways. In my case, my background knowledge was sufficient to take the courses without further preparation.

language preparation

The language of instruction was English, so no preparations were needed there. I did use Duolingo to get some basic understanding of the Swedish language, and Lund University also offered a two-week language course upon arrival which was nice to get a grip on the basics.

finances

For the study abroad I was granted an Erasmus grant of the highest category (since Sweden is quite an expensive country). They have mainly student accommodation which is really affordable (below 400 euros, so similar to Utrecht), so when you keep your finances as in Utrecht along with the Erasmus you can cover everything (depending of course if you normally work a lot, then you might have to compensate by loaning a bit more). Lund is also really reachable by public transport: then you get an additional UU Travel Green Grant for the way there, and you also get an Erasmus top-up of €50,-. Also, there are big differences in prices between supermarkets (ICA/Coop more on the expensive end and Willy's/Lidl more cheap), so if you shop smartly it doesn't have to be much more expensive than in Utrecht. Public transport within the region is also quite cheap.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was a bit difficult to get courses that are related to Energy Science that all fit together in the semester. I was not accepted to my initial choices, so make sure that you have quite some back-up options. This was made difficult, as mentioned before, by the categorization of programs across faculties: for the faculty-partnership the UU Faculty of Geosciences is linked to the LU Faculty of Science. However, LU also has a department of Energy Science with many interesting courses for our program, but this is with the Faculty of Engineering, while you have to take at least 15 ECTS in the partnering faculty (Science). So you have to have some flexibility in your courses and readjust your programme a bit to fit all the suitable courses in the right blocks with the right amount of credits. All in all, there are in my opinion definitely enough fun and suitable courses at Lund University to match the interests of UU Energy Science students so it should not be too much of an issue, but be prepared to spend some hours on checking courses, time-schedules, etc.. In the end I took the following courses:

- Block 1: District Heating and Cooling (7.5 ECTS) & Energy Convertors for Sustainable Transportation (7.5 ECTS), both at the Faculty of Engineering.
- Block 2: Physical Geography - Climate Change and its Impacts on the Environment (15 ECTS), at the Faculty of Science.

The course set-up was very different for the Engineering and Science faculties in terms of amount of hours of lectures, exercises and self-study.

academic quality of education activities



The quality was good. The set-up of courses was also quite similar to Utrecht. The course in District Heating and Cooling did not have the best teacher, but the content was interesting. I thought the block 1 courses were a nice addition to the Energy Technologies I and II taught in the ES master, since these were a bit more specific to certain technologies (district heating) or sectors (transport). The course on climate change was a nice addition to be refreshed with all the newest publications on climate change impacts and the more geophysical background.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

With the puzzling of courses after I did not get my initial choices the international coordinator at Lund University was very helpful and was answering quickly. Also, there was a meeting when we arrived and one almost at the end of the semester with information on what we need to arrange still and when. The international coordinator also had some timeslots at which she was available to sign for example the Certificate of Attendance. There were, before arrival, quite a lot of emails from Lund University which could be quite overwhelming with information (and also got in the Spam folder first), so make sure to check your mail (and spam folder) often and maybe keep a to-do list with important things.

transfer of credits

I have not completed my transfer of credits at the time of writing, but you already request this before going on your semester abroad. First, you send the courses to your program leader to sign for their approval. Then, you make a case with the Board of Examiners to ask for the transfer of credits. Then, with the Transcript of Records, which you can create yourself through a Lund University system, the credit transfer can be achieved.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a fixed Arrival Day in Lund on which there are students waiting at the train station and there are shuttle services to student accommodations and key-pick up locations, which was very convenient! Then there were two weeks of activities by the International Office, but these were often filled up quite quickly (you get quite some emails from them about it, but they often contain a lot of information about housing, introduction, etc., so for me these activities slipped through a bit). They also offered a course called Swedish for Exchange Students, which was a nice way to cover the basics of Swedish language and culture! I would recommend this. I am not sure if this also holds if you go in the second semester, since in the first semester it was held before the start of the semester in the final two weeks of the summer holiday. There were also many orientation programs from the Nations and the Union (see leisure&culture section).

accommodation

There are different organisations for accommodation. First you have LU Accommodation, which is university housing. This works based on a priority ranking as well as first come, first serve. Though I think there are not that many rooms, so the chances are quite low. Then, there is AF Bostader, which is a student organisation (similar to SSH in Utrecht) with many houses for affordable prices. However, this one works with a lottery, so you have to be quite lucky. I got my room in the end from KC (KemiCentrum) Housing, which is housing from a specific department rather than from the general LU Accommodation. They contacted me since I was on the waiting list of LU Accommodation, but I would definitely send them an email if you have not gotten a room through other means of accommodation.

leisure & culture

There are many student organisations active in Lund. First, you have 13 nations that you can become a part of. The umbrella organisation is AF/Studentlund. In order to become a member there, you have to choose one of the nations (=student organisations), but once you are a member you can be active in any nation you want. Sometimes you get discounts at your own nation though, so it is wise to look around a bit to see where you expect to be most often. The nations all have their own housing as well as a nation building with either a pub,



club, garden or a combination thereof, and they organise social activities from hikes and movie/game nights to parties and dinners. You can also volunteer at the nations (for free food and other benefits) which is a fun way to meet new people, or if you want to be more active you can choose to be a foremen (sort of committee member). Some nations also have sports teams, theatre groups or choirs that you can join. Besides, you also have the Unions, which is more like a faculty/study association. These also have similar activities, but can also help you with examination and education regulations and your rights as a student. They were mainly a thing in the introduction weeks, but I think they also have committees and such. Further, there is also an ESN located in Lund, who organise activities specifically for international/erasmus students (also bigger trips to Norway and Lapland). In the city there are also some musea, personally I liked the Skissernas museum (which is free for students). So, for students there are many things to do.

suggestions/tips

Have a lot of Fika (a Swedish coffee break with coffee/tea and a sweet pastry), e.g. at Coffee Point, Bröder Jakobs or the Patisseriet. Make use of the weather when it's still nice: there are many shelters in nature (sort of wooden huts with one open side) that you can sleep in when it's warm enough, and they are first come first serve so a perfect spot for a spontaneous little camping trip. There is also the Skaneleden trail which runs through the entire region (Skåne) that Lund is located in. It is also super close to the beach (Lomma), nice cities (Malmö, Copenhagen) and some beautiful national parks (Kullaberg, Stenshuvud, south coast near Ystad, Måklappen).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend this university. The city is quite comparable to Utrecht (though smaller and less lively), but it has many things to offer for students with all the nations for which I think one semester is a perfect amount of time. Also you won't get a culture shock in terms of the education, which means you also have time to explore your surroundings. Sweden is a beautiful country with some interesting traditions (Sankta Lucia, Christmas is quite big) and habits (a special Fika pastry for every special occasion) and beautiful nature for hiking and adventurous trips, the university offers high quality courses and an exchange experience in general is very valuable.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make sure to read through the Erasmus grant guidelines every once in a while to check if there is anything you can do already before you leave (e.g. getting the right signatures and documents). And go by train! It's super easy and you get your money back and it's a sustainable way of travelling which is really doable for this distance.

Save this UU report for your own records and upload the report in your Erasmus+ file/application in Osiris within 30 days after finishing your study abroad period and in ANY case before the final deadline!

NOTE: Please **upload in Word (.docx)** so we can delete your ***personal details between processing for grant purposes and publication on the website for future UU exchange students. **Contact details will only be included if and where permission has been given.**