

STUDY ABROAD

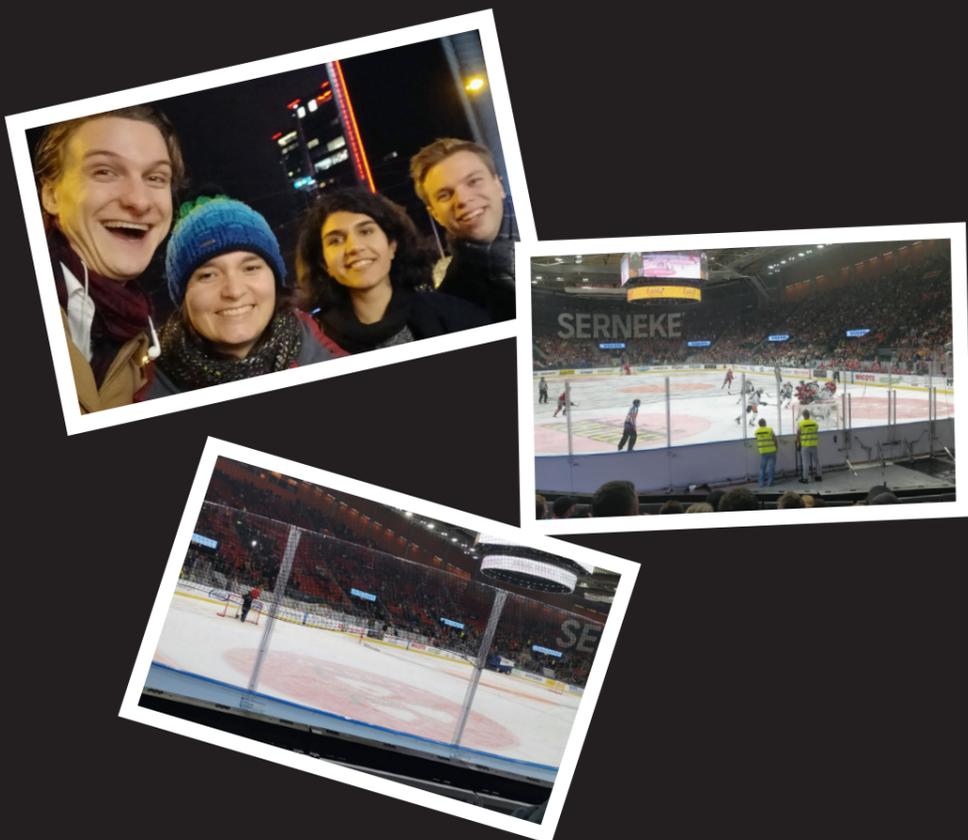
Chalmers University of Technology
Sweden
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EXCHANGE

- In Gothenburg, Sweden I studied at Chalmers University of Technology. I decided to go there to specialize in evolutionary algorithms, which complement my CoSEM master nicely. I did end up changing my planned courses - in fact, a lot of people did. Sometimes courses are full or you run into scheduling conflicts. It's perfectly fine to switch courses, but make sure you have some alternatives lined up already so you have one less thing to worry about in your first few weeks.
- There's loads of opportunities to do something on the side as well, in the form of student jobs or committees. These can be nice ways of meeting new people, and I highly recommend looking these opportunities over.

MY FREE TIME

- On my off-time, I went cooking with friends, planned parties or played soccer. My accommodation also included a sauna, which is a great way to relax and hang out with your new friends. I had a lot of fun evening sessions in the sauna!
- Gothenburg has two universities, so it's no surprise that it also boasts a thriving nightlife. There are clubs and lots of bars. One particular bar, King's Head, is the go-to starting point for your night out. I met acquaintances almost every time I went there!
- Chalmers offers a sports subscription which will net you access to their gym, and also to their climbing hall. While I didn't go there, other people told me it's well worth it, so you should definitely try it out! And if you're more of a sports spectator, there are frequent ice hockey matches which are super exciting!



TIPS & TRICKS

- When looking for a room, try and get one through SGS Studentbostäder, the local student housing organization. They ask fair rent for their rooms, which is something a lot of people don't do in Gothenburg. There is a shortage of housing, which means many Swedes spend years on a waiting list to get their own accommodation. Fortunately, SGS Studentbostäder provides rooms specifically for exchange students, allowing you to bypass the waiting list. Ask the Chalmers International Officer for a CIS-code, which will let you apply to CIS rooms. These are put online every Tuesday (and Thursday?) at midday and are first-come, first-serve. My initial room was really far away, so I decided to switch to another. My second room was right next to the university and close to the city center. I am really happy I made the switch, as living so far away can become a barrier to participating in all the fun activities.
- To summarize, my time in Sweden was amazing and I made all kinds of new friends and learned a lot both inside and outside the lecture halls. Gothenburg is a large and beautiful city and it's perfect for the active and social student! And on a final note, if you're not a fan of the cold, know this: in my experience, Sweden actually didn't even feel that cold.

MY EXPERIENCE

- The people in Sweden mostly keep to themselves, but that didn't keep me from making some friends when going out. I still speak to two Swedish friends I made during my exchange. The international friends I made there I'll never forget either. While I did make some Dutch friends too, I mostly hung out with a varied group of German, French, Luxembourgish and Iranian nationalities. We celebrated birthdays together, studied together and afterwards went out for drinks together too.
- I also booked a trip to Lapland, which is a must-see for anyone going to Sweden. We went husky sledding, I rode a snowmobile and of course saw the Northern Lights, which are quite breathtaking. If you can find the time, definitely go there! You can book a trip by yourself, or join one of the student association-organized ones. I went with ESN, and the trip was perfect!