

Destination: Fudan University
Exchange period: VT 2015

Choice of the destination and courses:

Wanted to go to one of the major cities in Asia, Shanghai was a really good option from that point of view. The reason i wanted to go to Asia and one of the major cities is because i though it would be a very different experience with huge contrast compared to Umeå, Sweden and western culture. I think it was pretty easy to find suitable courses, especially if you study finance or business.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

Needed to apply for visa from the Chinese embassy. It was an easy and quick process. Had the visa within a week even when applied for it from distance (had to send my passport with the application to the embassy). Only thing that struggled a bit was filling all of the application forms, especially some technical problems of downloading the finished forms with Chinese characters.

Contact with receiving institution:

They had a information day when we arrived where they told us all that we needed to know about the semester. They had also sent of really good information about course applications and accommodation before departure. It was also possible to change courses during the first two weeks.

Support from Umea University:

I think so, only confusing thing where how many credits we where supposed to study. On Umeå university's web page it says 12 credits corresponds to 30hp when it in reality is 15 credits.

Arrival information:

One orientation day with all necessary information and one ice breaking day to get to know other students. Otherwise not that much of arrangement for incoming students.

Accommodation arrangements:

Good information and arrangement with accommodation on campus. Not that much information about other kind of accommodation as Tohee that is just on other side of the road from campus.

Transportation:

Walking and bike to university, close to my accommodation. Metro and taxi around the town. Transportation is very cheap in Shanghai

Budget:

It's lower costs compared to Sweden, especially the cost of eating where we visited restaurants for every single meal during the semester.

Social activities:

Wasn't any organized activity, but a lot of Scandinavian exchange students so it was very easy to get to know people and a very good non-organized student life.

Recommendation :

Yes, I would strongly recommend it.

Practical things to think about:

China is very different from the west, with huge language barriers to struggle with every day. Some people had a rough time with the culture differences. But I think that the extra challenge make it even more worth to go there.

General information about academia:

The biggest difference where that we studied all courses at the same time (5 courses parallel with each other) and that the final exam only was about 40% of the course, the rest was on midterm exams and group projects. In some of the business courses they also used multiple choice question, something i haven't seen in Sweden.

Courses attended

Course 1:

International markets study. Marketing with focus on integrated market communication and communication objectives with the Chinese market as target.

Course 2:

Project evaluation. Evaluation of real life project with discounted cash flow valuation with IRR, PI, NPV etc. Performed a valuation of LKAB's new mine project with included 11 steps to forecast cash flows and cost of capital.

Course 3:

Company logistics. Project about a companies supply chain management. Lectures with discussions about supply chain and new technologies that can have impact on supply chain in future.

Course 4:

International finance. Study international exchange with focus on currency and what kind of risks companies that act on an international market faces. Went trough different perspectives as speculator, arbitrage and risk management. The course builds on economic theories about how inflation and interest rates affects currency depreciation or appreciation and what effects that have on GDP, investment, consumption, import and export. Best course during the exchange semester.

Course 5:

Foreign business investment. Focus on how to bring business ideas to China and how Chinas market works with with regulation, free trade zones and one country, two system relation to Hong Kong.

Additional Courses:

Did the university provide language courses? Could you receive ECTS points for them? What was your experience of such course?

Yes in both case, i didn't study any language courses.

Name: Jonatan Sköld
E-mail address: jonatan.skoeld@gmail.com
Possibility of future contact: Yes