

**Destination:** Macau University of Science and Technology  
**Exchange period:** VT 2015

**Choice of the destination and courses:**

I found my destination in the study abroad section of Umeå University homepage. I mainly picked Macau University of Science and Technology because I was interested in China's culture and Macau seemed to be quite a place to experience. On the university homepage it wasn't really hard to find courses but once I arrived it was different conditions. Once there, I received a list with the different courses that was available.

**Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:**

Since I was in Macau I didn't need to apply for a visa before departure. I did have to go through a comprehensive medical examination and take some vaccine (Twinrix and tetanus).

**Contact with receiving institution:**

It was easy to access all necessary information and my contact person, Christina Chow, was really helpful.

**Support from Umea University:**

Yes, it went smooth although I didn't have that much contact with them. The information meetings where we could meet student that had been at the same location was great source of information.

**Arrival information:**

We had a welcome meeting and the buddy group took care of us the first couple of days. They showed us the city, school, transportation and other useful facilities.

**Accommodation arrangements:**

The school provided us with a dorm on the campus area. The accommodation was clean upon arrival, had plenty of space and housekeeping ~ once a month.

**Transportation:**

Since I lived on the campus area I had walking distance to school. If I wanted to go downtown or any other location in the city, the bus stop was just 50 meters away. The bus ticket is ~2 SEK, although you can ride the casino shuttle bus for free.

**Budget:**

The financial situation in Macau is very similar to Umeå. Transportation is cheaper but upon arrival you have to buy kitchen utensils which cost approximately ~500 SEK unless you want to eat out all semester.

**Social activities:**

Macau is the Las Vegas of Asia. The entire city circles around casinos and it's quite an experience just to walk inside 'them. However, once you been in Macau for some time you discover it's more than just casinos. You can go hiking, barbecuing, visit the beach, experience Macaus F1 museum, jump the worlds highest bungy jump, enjoy the nightlife to 7am, visit old tempels, play tennis, or hitting the school gym. If you get a china visa, which i sincerely recommend, mainland china i just 30 minutes away.

Hong Kong is an hour away with ferry and it costs ~200 SEK for a ticket.

**Recommendation :**

Yes, I had a great time and would definitely recommend it for other students.

**Practical things to think about:**

Apply for the china visa directly when you get to Macau. It takes up to 4 weeks to receive the visa.

**General information about academia:**

The university in Macau reminded me of high school in Sweden. The teacher checked attendance every lecture (you were obligated to be there), you had homework for the next lecture and you received a higher grade if you were active in class discussion. The academic level were also similar to the Swedish high school. It seems to be quite a big difference in how educated you are in the third year of university.

**Courses attended**

*Course 1:*

Stress management

The course handled how to deal with stressful situations. Teaching methods were lectures and group projects. The workload was minimal.

*Course 2:*

Fixed income securities

The objective of the course was to get a deeper understanding about stock and bonds. The workload was similar to an economic course at Umeå university. Teaching methods included lectures and home assignments.

*Course 3:*

Business policy and strategic management

The course treated various topics about different business policy and strategies. For example a company's core values, different business models, company culture, acquisition and mergers. Teaching methods were lectures, group presentations and a group project.

*Course 4:*

## Macroeconomics

Basic macroeconomics and the financial situation in the world with focus on USA, Europe, Macau and China. Teaching methods were lectures and class discussions. Workload was average, similar to an economic course at Umeå University.

### *Course 5:*

The content of the course included how to reward employees and how to give them appraisal. Teaching methods were lectures and group discussions. The workload was average, similar to any course from the sociology department.

### *Additional Courses:*

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

The university did provide a language course but it didn't give any credit. The teachers, who were students studying English, were pedagogical and very committed.

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