

Destination: Western Washington Univeristy
Exchange period: VT 2016

Choice of the destination and courses:

Since I took my elective courses, it was not hard to find suitable once. I was interested in the vehicle design program WWU offers and took classes within that program.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

Had to look up a lot of the things myself regarding visa, International office was not updated with the process that WWU are using at the moment. It was not a problem though.

Contact with receiving institution:

Abigail and Bruce, my International coordinators at WWU always answer e-mails, phone calls and are very helpful and understanding.

Support from Umea University:

Need to be synced and updated with what information is needed to apply.

Arrival information:

Yes, second day and tons of information e-mails.

Accommodation arrangements:

Shared flat with four other students, perfect.

Transportation:

Bus, walk. School provided buscard.

Budget:

Same housing price as in Umeå. I had saved up money from working and got CSN.

Social activities:

There were activities, clubs and organizations everywhere. Some you had to pay for, some for free. I was on the Sailing team, practise twice a week and regattas during weekends. Treasury of the Robotics Club, had meetings once a week. Also joined the Rock climbing club, went climbing together about once a week.

Recommendation :

BEST PLACE EVER!

Practical things to think about:

Have money. Be open-minded. Don't be on your phone all the time and don't stay in your room. I did

a lot of research before I got to WWU and had already contacted the Sailingteam etc. Saved me a lot of time.

General information about academia:

Credits and högskolepoäng are different. I prefer the American system with graded homework through out the courses and possibilities to get extra credits. You could affect your final grade from day 1. At UMU you just have one chance to pass, with one exam.

Courses attended

Course 1:

Vehicle systems: Very hands on course about piston engines. We were divide into lab groups (2-3 people) where we all got our own car engine that we took apart, inspected the parts, built new ones if they were broken, put the engine back together and ran it. I loved it and learned a lot.

Course 2:

Robotics: Built and programmed NXT robots, lot of different projects. Ended up starting up a Robotics club on the behalf of my professor and left off with a successful team with over 50 members, all robot fanatics.

Course 3:

International business: How business works around the world. The course could have been more in depth. Great teacher, very enthusiastic and inspiring.

Course 4:

Exposition and Argumentation: How to build an argumentative case, how to present yourself, body language, persuasive essay. Very useful class.

Course 5:

Additional Courses:

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

Yes, did not take any of them.

Name: Lovisa Lund
E-mail address: lund.lovisa@gmail.com
Possibility of future contact: Yes