

## Experience Report– Erasmus at University of Gothenburg

My name is Xuyang Jiao, double degree exchange student from Tor Vergata to Gothenburg University. I am Chinese, 26 years old, came to Rome after high school and been living here for 6 years. I feel glad to write this short report about my second year of master i.e. 2015/2016 which I spent in Gothenburg. This whole experience, right from the initial application process till writing this final report, will always remain of great importance throughout my life.

### 1. Application and accomodation

The application process is not difficult, everything was explained on the website <http://economia.uniroma2.it/master-science/financeandbanking/dual-degree/>. You will need to fill the dual degree application form and send it to the school with a copy of your Curriculum Vitae, Identification card and transcripts. Then you will be informed if you get the opportunity and need to submit an online application of Gothenburg University. After submitting this online application, I strongly recommend you to submit the housing application **as soon as possible** because the accomodation in Gothenburg is not easy to find, I would say this is the most difficult part. For the student house, you have to wait on a list and it is difficult to get. I found my room through <https://boplats.se>. What I have done is first, I called SGS office (official student housing department) and rented a 7 days room, at the same time, I was searching on [boplats.se](https://boplats.se) private rooms, writing e-mail or calling to private landlords to make appointment, so that I can immediately meet up with them after I arrive in Gothenburg and find a room in the first week. The landlords usually welcome students because there are two big universities and very large amount of students in Gothenburg. If you couldn't get enough reply, don't worry, you could also call Boplats office or go directly to them and ask help. The rooms in Gothenburg are usually provided with all basic necessities i.e. furniture, internet, heating etc. It shouldn't be cold inside even in winter.

## **2. Life at School of Business, Economics and Law**

Gothenburg University is separated in different faculties, School of Business, Economics and Law is located in city center and easily to reach with bus or tram.

The University has organized a very good welcome program, they had a pick-up service(remember to sign up first) and prepared sim card(which you only have to top up with money once to have free internet access for one year) for incoming students, explained how things work in the city including bank account opening, student health care, libraries and student housing, etc. University has also organized free swedish courses for foreign students, but all swedish people speaks perfect english, so don't worry about the language. You can find all the informations here: <http://utbildning.gu.se/education/incoming-student>. For any further question, you could also contact international office or your coordinator, they are very helpful.

The school is well organized with a very nice library and financelab which has access of Bloomberg. Courses are more practical than in Tor Vergata, all subjects have projects and homeworks(usually they are group works) with a grad, some with presentation, written exams are easier. This way of teaching and studing make students to study more by themselves and understand deeper about the subjects. For the final thesis witting, you can choose to write alone or with a partner. If you plan to have a phd afterwords, it is suggested to write alone. Teachers are always kind and available, so don't hesitate to ask if you have any question.

## **3. Everyday life and leisure time**

Gothenburg is the second largest city of Sweden, but it is not big, it's very convenient to reach different places by bus or tram with max. 30-40 min, bike is also a good way of travelling especially in spring. The living costs are higher than in Italy and you need to get used to the darkness and coldness in winter. The good thing is there are lots of parks, lakes, cinema, night clubs and bars in the city. Student buddies have also organized different activities such as trips, fika, events and parties so that you can make friends with other exchange students from different countries and get to know Gothenburg and other cities. (There were trips organized to Copenhagen, Oslo and Lapland etc. )

#### **4. Conclusion**

Gothenburg University is a great place to study. I liked the interactive and more practical way of studying. Sometimes it is a lot of work but I realised that the effectiveness of learning is much higher. Lots of project and group work let me enjoy most of the study time. There are many international students, it's a lot of fun to get to know people from all over the world.

Sweden is so different from Italy even both of them belong to Europe. Getting to know a different culture, making new friends and seeing new places was an amazing experience, it helped me to figure out what kind of life I want in the future. Take the opportunity! Living in another country will change your perspective of many things, you need to go there and get your own experience!

In the end, I would give a special thanks to all the people, which make this amazing experience possible!