

# STAP Experience Report for Lund University, Sweden

Fall Term 2024/25

20.08.2024-20.01.2025



Economics

Completed courses:

FEKH15 Global Business Responsibility

SASE21 Social Innovation - a Strategy for Sustainability

HARA28 - Business Law: International Business Law

NEKH81 Portfolio Selection



I am Mark, I study Economics and my exchange semester at Lund University was an unforgettable experience filled with engaging courses, vibrant student life, and opportunities to explore stunning Nordic landscapes. It is a perfect destination for academic and personal growth! [REDACTED]

## Description of the University, Courses, and Special Requirements

Lund University School of Economics and Management (LUSEM) is a highly ranked institution known for its excellent academic standards and modern teaching approaches. Unlike the University of Cologne, the teaching style at LUSEM is more informal, with smaller class sizes that allow for closer interaction with professors. This fosters an engaging learning environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and participating in discussions.

The evaluation methods are different as well. Instead of relying on one final exam, LUSEM assesses students through various assignments and projects throughout the semester. These include papers, oral exams, group projects, and practical tasks like Excel assignments. The courses I completed focused on teaching applicable knowledge rather than just theoretical mathematics, with the exception of the Portfolio Selection course, which was more math intensive. Overall, the courses were straightforward to pass, provided you stayed on top of the assignments.

## Preparation of the Semester Abroad

### Preparations

The preparation for my semester abroad was smooth, thanks to the structured Erasmus program. The coordinators were communicative and helpful, making the process of choosing courses and handling administrative tasks easy. The system for course selection was user-friendly, and any changes to my course preferences were readily accommodated.

If you plan to attend Lund during the fall term, don't worry too much about the weather. While it does get cold later in the year, the temperatures are only slightly lower than in Germany. Snowfall is rare; during my stay, it snowed just once.

### How to Get There

Traveling to Lund is simple and flexible. You can either:

- Fly to Copenhagen and take a short, affordable train ride to Lund, or
- opt for green travel by taking a train from Germany. The train journey takes around 12 hours and is very budget-friendly (approximately €55). Green travel also qualifies you for an Erasmus travel subsidy. I chose the train option, and it went smoothly without any issues.

### Accommodation

Finding accommodation in Lund can be challenging, so start your search early. Here are some options:

- **Housing Agencies like LU Accommodations or AF Bostäder:** Official housing agencies but securing a spot here can be competitive.
- **Facebook Groups and Online Platforms:** Be cautious of scams when searching online.
- **Living in Malmö:** This is a viable alternative. For instance, Basecamp in Malmö is a modern and convenient option. It's only a 15-minute train ride from Lund.

- **Student Organizations:** Some provide housing options as well.

I was fortunate to take over an apartment from a friend in Malmö, which worked out perfectly for me.

## **Life in Lund and Leisure Activities**

Lund is a charming and cozy student city. It's much calmer and smaller than Cologne, but its atmosphere is welcoming and vibrant. Everything is easily accessible by bike, and the university buildings, such as the main library and university square, are stunning.

The weather in September was very pleasant, allowing for example for trips to the nearby beach. Lund is a student-centred town, with many exchanges where almost everyone likes to speak English. The student nations—unique student organizations—offer a wide range of affordable or free activities, clubs, and events that create a great sense of community.

For leisure activities, there are excellent gyms and sports facilities like padel courts.

However, note that Sweden is generally more expensive than Germany. Housing, groceries, and recreational activities cost about 20-30% more. Alcohol, in particular, is costly and highly regulated—stronger drinks can only be purchased at Systembolaget, the government-run liquor store.

For nightlife, Lund mainly offers the student nation parties, as there are few bars and no other clubs. If you're looking for bigger parties, Copenhagen is a good option, though it's expensive.

Cheap food options in Lund include falafel, which is a popular and affordable choice (around 25 SEK, ~€2.25).

### **Travel Experiences**

Sweden and the surrounding Nordic countries are perfect for travel enthusiasts. During your stay, you can visit bigger cities like Stockholm and Copenhagen, both of which are easily accessible by train. ESN (Erasmus Student Network) also organizes trips to places like Lapland, Norway, or even Iceland, which are highlights for many exchange students.

One of my personal highlights was hiking in Norway. The stunning landscapes and nature trails were unforgettable. The excellent train and plane connections in the Nordic region make it easy to explore neighbouring countries, so I highly recommend making the most of your time in Lund to travel and experience the unique beauty of the north.