1. Host University *
   - University of Iceland

2. Host City *
   - Reykjavik

3. Host country *
   - Iceland

4. First semester of exchange *
   - Autumn semester (HT)
   - Spring semester (VT)

7. Level of studies during exchange? *
   - Undergraduate (Bachelor)
   - Graduate (Master)
   - PhD/doctoral studies
8. State the name of the courses you took during your exchange *

- Marine and freshwater ecosystems (LI201M)
- Conservation Biology (UAU214M)
- Icelandic Nature and Cultural Legacy (MEX020G)
- Glacial Geology (JAR617G)

9. Home faculty at the University of Gothenburg (GU)? *
   - Faculty of Humanities
   - Faculty of arts and design
   - Faculty of Social Sciences
   - Faculty of Education
   - School of Business, Economics and Law
   - Sahlgrenska Academy
   - Faculty of Science
   - IT-Faculty

10. What are you studying at GU? (name of programme, single subject courses etc) *

   Naturvetenskaplig miljövetenskap

11. What subject area/s did you study during your exchange? (example; communication, biology etc) *

   biology, geology

12. Were you/or will you be able to transfer the credits from your exchange to your studies at GU? (tillgodoräknande) *
   - Yes
   - No
   - To some extent

Personal Experience
13. STUDIES: Describe the studies at your exchange university. Differences between GU and your exchange univ? Academic level and quality of your courses? Examinations and learning methods, relationship between teachers and students? *

The University of Iceland offered, in general, a larger amount of small courses with less credits compared to GU. This meant that the four different subjects were read simultaneously throughout the semester. During the first weeks of the semester, it was possible to change one course. I tried to customize the personal schedule and avoid overlapping lectures. Although the process of comparing timetables and selecting courses was somewhat challenging, it also provided a great opportunity to find the courses which sparked the most interest. Therefore, I felt confident with my choices, and excited to learn from the different topics. Most of the courses used a combination of smaller exams and assignments during the course of the semester, with a larger exam in the end. This was in stark contrast to the courses I had previously studied at GU, since they had often been read on a final exam, while still encompassed obligatory assignments and lab exercises. With the examinations spread out during the semester, and with grading based also on assignments, the workload seemed more evenly divided in time.

Furthermore, the learning methods were largely influenced by the grading of assignments and projects. This valuing of each part of a course lead to a great motivation and participation from all parts. The teachers appeared interested and excited to introduce their topics, often in an interactive way, where group projects and discussions were common. Some courses also offered their students to attend field trips, as a mean to learn practical skills and use the theoretical knowledge taught in class. One example is a field trip upon a research vessel for marine studies, where we got an insight into the methods used for collecting different species of fish and other aquatic organisms, followed by an interesting analysis of the species and their role in the ecosystem. Partly because of these interactive learning methods, but also because of the relatively small classes, the relationships between teachers and students became rather casual, with students feeling comfortable to ask questions.

14. ARRIVAL, ORIENTATION AND HOUSING: Tell us about your arrival and how you settled in? Practical matters such as registration, housing etc. How was the orientation organized? What type of accommodation did you have? Were you satisfied? *

I had managed to find a private housing, due to the contacts of a friend who previously stayed there. Therefore, I stayed in a shared house, in the city and approximately 15 min walk from university. I ended up feeling very happy with this, since my flatmates were all very lovely, and would recommend searching for such housing, especially since the student apartments are situated a little outside of the center. However, since the student housing also offer a larger access to socializing amongst other exchange students, this fits some people better. The orientation was organized during the first days of the semester, with a guided tour, which ended up being a way for exchange students to meet and exchange contacts. The registration itself was easily done at the registration office, where they also answered any other questions one might have. University of Iceland also have a very nice library, where you could borrow a lot of student material, as well as study.

15. FINANCES: Describe the living costs compared to living and studying at GU. Cost of accommodation? Were there any administrative fees at the university? How did you finance your exchange? Is CSN enough to cover the costs? *

The accommodation was about 680 euro, which was pretty cheap for Reyjavik. Food and general goods were also more expensive than in Sweden. It was pretty difficult at times to cover the living costs with simply CSN, especially since the NORDLYS stipendium ended up being much less than ERASMUS (about one third if I remember correctly), something that might be informed about more clearly in the future. Overall, it was an expensive experience, but also incredible. It was worth living a bit sparse, and I could imagine moving back considering the beautiful nature and the calm but lively city.

16. LIFE IN A NEW COUNTRY/CITY/CULTURE: Location of the university? Non-academic activities organized by the university? Tips for future students? *

The university is located about 15 min from the city centre, which although being pretty close, can be perceived as a long way to walk when there is a snow storm. The weather in Reyjavik was at times difficult, especially if you were not previously used to such climates. This prompted for more organized activities indoors, such as bar evening at the student cellars, yoga, and knitting clubs. But, there were also many student groups organizing (not by the university) outside activities, such as hikes, small trips, and swimming in the hot pools. An advise to a new student is to perhaps socialize a little in the beginning and go to different organized events, but to not feel stressed about it. The community of exchange students in Iceland is pretty big, and inclusive, so you are bound to meet people with similar mindsets and interests from different countries.

17. OVERALL EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE: Sum up your experience on the whole. If you have any comments or tips for future students please include them here. *

My exchange semester was a very interesting and fun time in my life. The possibility to study at another school in another country gave me a new perspective and increased my understanding on different subjects. It also forced me into new situations and built up my confidence in not only the language but the ability to live abroad. Naturally, Iceland is an expensive country, and it would have been great to have a larger budget. I would therefore recommend saving a bit of money before going, but in the end it was possible for me to finance it largely on CSN.
Covid-19

Due to the current pandemic we have some specific questions regarding how the pandemic have affected your exchange.

18. In what way were your exchange studies effected by the Covid-19 outbreak? *

- The Host University closed and I had to return back to Sweden
- I participated in remote studies from Sweden
- I participated in remote studies in the host country
- I had to self-quarantine before I started the exchange
- Other

19. How do you think the Host University handled the Covid-19 situation? *

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20. Additional comments

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21. If you took part in remote studies at the Host University, how would you rate the quality of the remote studies?

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22. Additional comments

Inget svar angavs.

23. How satisfied were you with the information and support that you were offered by the Host University *

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29. I agree that this report can be published on the University of Gothenburg website

☐ Yes, with my name and email address

☐ Yes, but anonymised (no name and no email address)

☐ No