

University of Bergen

Exchange start semester	Autumn semester 2023
Study level	Undergraduate (Bachelor)
Home faculty at GU	Faculty of Social Sciences
Studies at GU	International relations

Courses during exchange

- Chinese history, culture and society-KIN100
- Youth and politics-SAMPOL234
- Democracy transformations in Europe: trends and implications- SAMPOL233

Main difference compared to studying at GU

The biggest difference was that we didn't receive a lot of guidance in our assignments and rather than having many smaller tasks that go towards your grade combined with a big exam we only had one big at the end. Also they have a bigger variety of exams, for example I had 2 in-class exams and only 1 paper, whilst at home I'm more used to only writing papers.

Arrival, orientation and housing

My arrival was a bit tricky at first because when I was going here there was a big storm. But once I got here it was easy to settle into my apartment (with shared kitchen). It's a student apartment that was given as a guarantee to all exchange students so in a big student area. When kick off week started I tried to be as active as possible with the different activities, however I did have kind of a hard time. With the difficult Bergen dialect it was hard to understand when people spoke Norwegian to me and everyone did because they thought 'well she's from Sweden we don't need to talk English then'. But all worked out.

Finances

The big difference I would say is simply how different the pricing is. With an extended CSN and the scholarship, I had no struggle living here. The biggest shock in that sense would be the sugar tax. Food is a bit more expensive but manageable if you plan it out beforehand. With the prices rising in Sweden anyway there is not that big of a difference. I even managed to put money into my savings account without living on the bare minimum here.

Life in a new country/culture

My experience outside the studies were really good. I joined the school swim team and had a lot of fun with them. Made friends with whom I'm gonna stay in contact with now that my exchange is done. I had a fun time!

Overall exchange experience

My overall experience was good I'd say, but it was mostly good because of the friends I met. I was not really a big fan of how the school was organized especially towards exchange students, they were not very good at communicating in the beginning of the semester. But with the help of friends, the semester turned around for the better and I'm sad that I'm gonna leave, not because the school but because I'm gonna miss the people.