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Having completed four years of study at UQ I decided that I wanted a break from the usual routine and take some time to live and travel abroad. An exchange to Sweden allowed me to combine travelling and living abroad while at the same time still being able to continue with my studies. Having met a number of Scandinavians in previous semesters studying at UQ, I decided to study in Stockholm, the largest city in Scandinavia. Being on the Baltic, Stockholm is a great city to live in and very easy and reasonably priced to travel to many destinations around Europe.

If you're considering studying anywhere in Scandinavia, don't be concerned about the language barrier as most Swedes, Norwegian and Danes speak English fluently. In fact, I learnt some Swedish before leaving Australia but ended up not needing to use it. All the classes I took while abroad were taught in English, which is also a huge advantage to native English speakers. This was even the case in one particular course where I was the only foreign student. In fact, be aware as you will often be considered an authority and your opinion called upon to answer many English language queries even during lectures.

My advice to other students planning on undertaking an exchange to Stockholm University would be to definitely consider doing as many student cruises as possible to the Baltic seas ports, Helsinki, Riga, Tallinn and St Petersburg. These cruises (with Tallink and Viking Lines) are usually run by student organisations and universities in Sweden, and hence are full of students (from across Sweden and other exchange students within Scandinavia), are very cheap- (usually about \$50AUD for a ticket) and are a great deal of fun.

My exchange was probably one of my most beneficial life experiences to date and I would highly recommend it to any student.

