

# Erasmus Staff Exchange Week at Linköping University

## May 16 through May 20, 2016

### Faculty of Arts and Sciences



#### 1) General:

The International Staff exchange week at Linköping University (Li.u) was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Mainly international coordinators at partner universities but also interested staff was granted access to this informative and well organized 5-day meeting. Linköping as a study destination and the way they work with foreign students were the focus of presentations and workshops.



#### 2) Where is Linköping:

Linköping is the 5th biggest town in Sweden. It is located in central Sweden in the county of Östergötland, about 200 km to the south-west of Stockholm or better mid-way between Gothenburg and Stockholm – and is developing into Sweden's 4th metropolitan area. The town and its surroundings counts about 130,000 inhabitants and is more or less the same size as our hometown Erlangen. Should you feel to go there, you can take a bus or train from Stockholm or from Gothenburg, it is quite easy to reach by flight and public transport. There a numerous hotels of high standard as well as B&B's - not to forget the typical Swedish "vandrarhemma".

The town gives a nice impression of Swedish living, with traditional houses, shops and restaurants in the city center as well as up-to-date housing areas, a huge modern university campus and industrial suburbs hosting international companies such as Ericsson, Saab and a variety of military and aviation grounds. People are very relaxed, helpful and friendly - as most of them speak English or even German it is quite comfortable to move around.





### 3) The University - Facts and Figures:

- A comprehensive university pioneering in interdisciplinary education and research
- Ranked among the top 50 universities under 50 years of age by “The Times Higher Education and QS”
- Employability: Li.u alumni have the highest employment rate among new graduates of Swedish comprehensive universities (The CEO of Ikea graduated from Li.u)
- Exchange agreements with 500 universities in 50 countries
- 900 incoming students and 500 outgoing exchange students
- 27,000 students (!)
- 160 study programs, 35 taught in English
- 4 campuses in Linköping/Norrköping (a bit similar to Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- 300 professors
- 1,300 PhD students
- 4 faculties: Arts & Sciences, Educational Sciences, Medicine & Health, Science and Engineering
- 14 areas offer courses in English, amongst them: Analytical Sociology, Applied Ethics and Philosophy, Business Studies, Cognitive Science. Commercial and Business Law, Ethnic and migrations Studies ....a.s.f.
- Courses in English are taught at undergraduate and master’s levels.
- Swedish language and culture courses are offered in addition

These impressive figures and facts were underlined by the extensive program that was made up for our international group.



### 4) The program for our international group:

Our group comprised 13 people coming from all over Europe and the USA.

On Monday we were offered a welcome dinner in a traditional restaurant down town. The staff of the international Office as well as some teachers made sure that we got into contact quickly and relaxed from the journey in a very friendly atmosphere.

The second day we were given a presentation about the University and its faculties. A workshop focusing on the structure of internationalization followed. Those were given by the Head of the Central Office and die Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts. The dean herself took us on a journey through the campus – it was a good walk – at this time we got to know also the system of going by bike on the campus – everything very similar to Erlangen. The lunch was prepared for us at one of the campus restaurants. We started into the afternoon with a workshop in Swedish held by a wonderfully motivating teacher who also gives Swedish classes to incoming exchange students. Last part of this day’s program was a visit to the students’ housing area. In general 2 students share a room – at least in winter. 8 rooms per floor share a kitchen and a type of recreation area. The rooms have a little bathroom and of course WiFi.





On Wednesday we took the “university commuter bus” to Norrköping. This part of the university is completely different, as it is mainly spread over old brick buildings in the center of this little town. Formerly, it was an old industrial site and was refurbished for university needs. Inside, every building is very well equipped with high-tech facilities. We were lucky to listen to a presentation on all aspects that incoming students might be interested in. It was held on the top floor of the main building with a superb view all over the town. Workshops about “Welcome activities in different countries and support” as well as the topics “course offers and course choice “,” communications with exchange students” followed. After a lunch in the Norrköping university restaurant –especially prepared for us - we had a walk around the town. And finally we took the bus back to Linköping where we all lived in various hotels.



Thursday was a day for individual programs and personal tutoring. My choice was listening to Johanna who gave us a presentation about outgoing students of Li.u. Some others had individual meetings with their students who are studying at Li.u. After lunch we all joined again and took a historic train to an old open air museum where a guide took us on a tour into history. It was just splendid and we enjoyed ourselves in looking into old houses of the former village Linköping grasping the idea of life might have been around the turn of last century.



At the end of the day we were recommended to buy chocolate from one of the most well-known companies in Sweden called “Chloetta”. Of course, we did as recommended! Not to forget that after our sweet experience, the Dean welcomed us at an old “Värdshus” where the whole team of the international office joined us for a farewell dinner in a real cosy spot.





On Friday some of the group went back to their home countries and some even took the chance to continue the Swedish experience by going on a holiday in Sweden.



To sum it up: apart from the weather, which was not too bad at that time of the year, the Swedish experience was just great. I met very interested, open, friendly, highly professional people at Li.u with a lot of attention towards our group – and the same holds true for the single members of this international visitor's group.

If I were a student I would very much like to go to Linköping for an exchange term.



*Thanks to the Swedish team!*



*Thanks to my boss who is always so encouraging and supportive when it comes to making experiences abroad.*

*Susanne Galsterer, Lehrstuhl für Praktische Theologie, June 2016*

