

Peiyu is a second-year Taiwanese student who has elected to go to Sweden to study. Taiwanese students are required to study abroad for at least one semester as part of their degree requirements for GHRM. Having worked with Peiyu many times, she is easily one of the best students and her insight into work and education in Taiwan is valuable. If you are looking to study abroad, Peiyu would be a great resource to consult. Peiyu will also be attending Nottingham Trent University as part of the dual-degree program offered by NSYSU.

What is the name of your school, and where is it?

Linnéuniversitetet, Växjö, Sweden

Why did you decide to go to this school instead of others?

It was entirely by chance. I didn't think too much into this before confirming my semester here.

What are some of the differences between your school and NSYSU?

There are quite a lot of differences. Sweden is edgy in many ways, both the teaching end and the learning end have full autonomy and are encouraged to question the school. The school is highly internationalized. Take the faculties of my program, for example, half of them are not from Sweden and the program director is German. The master level courses here are more like workshops with heavy information flow. Although the training is very much related to real experiences, it is, at the same time, very important to perform the assignments and seminar on an academic level. It is valued heavily to construct the assignment with strict academic rules and formats.

Aside from those mentioned above, it is easy to pass one course but relatively difficult to get a grade above a B even if one has fulfilled the criteria required (mostly because how strict they are about academic performance). Time is also an important issue. With the assignment submission system, it is not allowed to submit the assignment or the exam late, not even by a second. It may sound quite scary, but the courses are really informative and well-structured.

Lastly, the courses here work in blocks. One doesn't go to different courses during a week. In contrast, one attends the same class for 4-7 weeks, intensively. And the pace of courses differ from 50-100%. The ones with 100% pace are taught within 4 weeks while others can take longer and with a much looser curriculum (most master courses are at 100% pace).

What are some of the things you really enjoy about your school?

Status in Sweden doesn't matter at all. One can directly call their teacher/ professor by their first names. Even when writing emails, no titles are needed. The power structure in fields here is always horizontal. And that the school values the opinions of the students and is very open to suggestions and communication. They're willing to make significant changes and improvements.

What do you not like?

Classrooms change all the time. You don't go to the same classroom for one course. At the beginning of the semester, I had to look up the map of the campus to find my classrooms. One has to pay attention to the course timeline to avoid going to the wrong classroom.

The work delegation here in Sweden is very clear. You don't go to the international office for everything, instead, you will be told to reach to different offices for one simple issue. But I would say that's out of good will with clear job descriptions so nothing wrong with that.

What is something you wish you knew before you went?

Nothing really. Experiencing unknown things when living here is one of the things I enjoy the most.

Would you go to this school longer if you were allowed?

In terms of the school, yes. But the city where the school is located is rather inconvenient for people who want to travel. Although I don't travel that much, I find it a little too peaceful living here.

Have you noticed any difference in teaching styles?

Most of the things are mentioned in previous answers. But I will add something else to it. Here, the teachers are more provocative and want to inspire students' critical thinking and analyzing skills instead of solely focusing on data etc. And really, you cannot just bs and somehow still be able to get a good score, just think of how impossible it is to reference your bs. Referencing is deeply valued here.

How does the workload differ between your school and NSYSU?

The workload here is much heavier compared to Taiwan. Take my negotiation course for instance, during a normal week, students have to read 7-8 assigned readings. 3-4 assignments along with seminars are assigned throughout a master course. And plus dreadful final exams. I had one of my final exams for 9 hours (although being a stay-at-home exam), I had to write 3000 words excluding references.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Sweden is for cool kids