



Exchange report: University of Stavanger, spring semester 2018

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## **Stavanger and university**

Stavanger is in south-west in Norway. It is known as the oil capital of Norway. Equinor which is the biggest company in Nordics has its headquarters there. Stavanger is a big and little city. There lives around 130 000 people and the near cities are also quite big. The city centrum is compact, and the wooden architecture is something, which you don't find from every city. There is basically everything you might need in terms of shops, restaurants etc. There is also an airport, where you can fly.

University itself is an all-around university. There is possible to study almost anything, except medicine. In engineering sciences, they have a strong focus in oil and everything related to that. There are almost 11 000 students.

## **Arrival and orientation days**

I arrived a few days before my actual lectures and program would have started in Stavanger. I already had the apartment and it was made easy to get the apartment, because keys were picked from airport anytime.

We had really limited orientation. We had only 2 hours orientation session, where they introduced some practicalities about university and international student union and ESN told about their activities. ESN was responsible for tutoring, if you wanted to have one. This tutoring totally failed for me, I never got tutor, nevertheless I applied one and afterwards told them, that I want one. Orientation and building social network was pretty much our exchange students' own responsibility. We organized by ourselves in university of Stavanger international students some social events to get to know each other. There were some people, who had been there since autumn semester and they told that they had two orientation weeks and a lot of parties. The quality of orientation varies a lot between autumn and spring semesters.

## **Housing**

Most of the people found housing via university. I lived in a shared flat. I shared kitchen with 9 people and bathroom with 1. The pricing was reasonable for Norway, 330 NOK, app. 330 Euros. Location was perfect. It was located next to a bus stop, which could take you to the university and to city every 10 minutes. There was also a shopping mall next to our accommodation. University has also flats very far from city at countryside, where public transportation is bad. I was more than happy with my location.

## **Start/end dates of studies (academic calendar)**

Some of the classes started already in the first week of January. My last class was at the end of April. You can look this up from the [student.uis.no](http://student.uis.no) and click timetables and look for your schedule. Just type your name and you will find it.

There are two exam periods: around the Easter and from May to June. Be really prepared to that you might have to do exam in June. It is also good to notice, that the exam dates are not fixed same way as in LUT. They might change exam dates near exam. They also have electronic exams which you can do with your computer at home.

I had almost two weeks holiday around Easter, because I didn't have any exams and around Easter there wasn't any lectures.

## Teaching and courses

I didn't have any courses related to my major in Finland, but I still think that courses I took are useful. I can recommend all of the courses. All courses I took were master-level.

### A posthuman era? New theoretical reflections on the human and its relations

This was a sociology course, which you could take without any previous knowledge about subject. I took it basically because I had to change one course since its exam was on June and I wasn't sure if I am able to attend it. This was chill and there was a lot of interesting discussions about environment, animals and science fiction. Although this was 10 credits course, it wasn't a burden. During the course we had to do 3 essays: 1 page, 3 pages and 6 pages. The course consisted a lot of reading before class, but I didn't really read the articles and did fine. The texts were hard to read and even my American classmate didn't understand those.

### Engineering assets, processes and performance

This course was also 10 credits course. This course was about managing engineering assets and making decisions about those and what to take account to make effective decisions. Assets are big complexities, for example, oil & gas production, manufacturing and infrastructure.

Compared to other 10 credit course this had a lot of compulsory assignments to do and articles to read to pass. We had to do two group works and get 80 % out of both. The assignment was to do maximum of 10 minutes video, which was harder than it sounds. Those who didn't succeed had to take an oral exam which had a lot of material to study, 100 pages of **difficult articles** per module (there was 4 modules, so one group work was 2 modules). Luckily, we passed. Everyone had to do a home exam alone. It took me 60 hours to do it and it consisted of 8 questions and we had to find suitable case examples to each question.

There were only 4 lectures, so this course was a lot of self-study.

## Operation and maintenance management

This was a problem-based learning course. We had to make a maintenance plan for a pump. Lectures were good and interesting. First the lecturer told about the topic and then we made a little case studies of our pump and he helped us immediately. It was recommended that every group gets a reference company. We were lucky to get help from Statoil (Equinor nowadays). We spent 3 days at their office and they told a lot of useful information about their operation and maintenance management. The only negative thing was that I was the only foreigner in our group and they knew that Finnish people try to learn Swedish, so all the presentations were in Norwegian.

There wasn't any exam, but everyone had to do an individual study, which took only one day to accomplish. I think that this was the best course I had at exchange. I recommend this strongly even though and because LUT doesn't have anything like this to offer.

## Condition monitoring

This course was strongly connected to operation and maintenance management. We used same case study to this. The idea was to learn how to monitor pump and its parts to get information about its health. For example, our lecturer gave us data, and we had to diagnose, what fault, where it is and how bad it is (how much time we have until it must be fixed). This was also a super interesting course and LUT doesn't have to offer something like this. I recommend this strongly.

## Norwegian

They had a Norwegian class for beginners two times a week in evenings. A course cost 750 NOK, about 75 € and course book 500 NOK = 50 €. For me personally this language course was waste of money, because thanks to mandatory Swedish lessons for 7 years, I basically already knew how to introduce myself etc. and tell what color my shirt is. If you want to spend time with your friends, it is a really good idea to take this class. There was also intermediate course, so I suggest that you learn those little differences between Swedish and Norwegian by yourself and take that class instead if you want to learn Norwegian.

## **Health care and food**

Since Finland and Norway are both Nordic countries it is easy to stay in another country. I didn't have to register anywhere. Public healthcare is available the same way to Finnish people. It is useful to have Eurooppalainen sairaanhoitokortti, if you are Finnish. You can also ask your doctor to write you recipes so that you don't have to take all your medicines with you from Finland. One thing to notice is that they don't have public dentists, so see your dentist before going if you don't want to pay a lot.

Public transportation is really good in Stavanger and cheap. It was 40 euros for student for one month. There are a lot of stories about that Norway is very expensive. It is if you like to go out, eat at restaurants and drink alcohol. Food in grocery stores is a bit more expensive than in Finland.

## **Free time activities**

In Norway I recommend going hiking. It is easy compared to Finland since the locations are near and public transportation is good. There are a lot of different marked hiking trails and maps can be found from the internet. Near to Stavanger is Preikestolen, which is a must.

There is also an airport, where you could travel anywhere in Norway. Norwegians fly more than other people in world, because fjords and mountains make travelling by car very hard. You can also travel by ferry to Bergen or Denmark.

I recommend going to Oil museum in Stavanger. It is the best museum I have ever been. It is very interactive and teaches everything you need to know about oil.

At university there is an excellent gym. There are a lot of different sport teams, group lessons and CrossFit gym. It was cheap for Erasmus students, I paid for one semester 70 euros. There are also saunas in locker rooms, if you miss it during your exchange.