

Nihad Fdil

Exchange program report

Chalmers University of Technology. Gothenburg, SWEDEN



I was already studying abroad in Taiwan when I decided to take this exchange program as I believed it was a good opportunity to learn something new and to challenge myself within a new different country and continent.

In fall 2019, I studied in Gothenburg at Chalmers University of Technology. I had the chance to meet new friends and discover a new culture, I enjoyed the beautiful architecture that Gothenburg offers.

Spending a semester abroad was an academically, professionally, and personally enriching experience. By studying in Sweden, I was able to immerse myself in the culture of the Scandinavian countries. Additionally, I got the opportunity to visit Holland and France. Navigating foreign languages, cities, and cultures, and traveling, often solo, taught me independence and adaptability.

When I first arrived to Sweden, I stayed with a lady that I met on the internet. I was supposed to work as an au-pair with her, in return, I could stay and eat with her for free, but the plan didn't go as planned because I was only supposed to work part-time with her, but she turned out to be pregnant and needed more help, that's why she had to let me go. Finding another job was impossible, but thankfully I managed to find another house, because it was difficult to find a room and it was expensive, I had to take whatever I had found. I moved to my room after 1 month. It was a nice house in a nice neighborhood. I shared the house with an Indian couple and their 2-year-old son until the end of my stay. In the beginning, it was difficult to adapt to the new environment. However, everything was easy to use and understand, especially that everything was in English, such as public transport or markets. The people are also nice and friendly, when needed, they can help you.

In the first week at Chalmers, it was an integration week where we just met with professors and students and tried to know each other, we also had a tour in the campus in order to discover the different buildings, as well as choosing the courses.

My daily routine starts with waking up around 7am and take the bus for around 20 to 30 minutes to arrive to school, I use to take lunch with me since my day usually finishes around 3 or 4pm. I often stayed at university library to study and do my homework. Then I go gym for a couple of hours before returning home. Especially that their isn't much to do due to the fact that the day length was shrinking day after day.

I am so lucky having an opportunity to be a part of Chalmers University of technology, one of the world's most prestigious and reputable academic institutions. I did enjoy and learn so much, especially from the classes offered. I am not going to lie to you, it was not easy studying there. Chalmers students are so smart and career-driven. I was extremely nervous in the beginning and experienced such a difference in systems. As a Moroccan student coming from Taiwan, I was not used to that much participation in class. Yet people here put their hands up all the time and always give their thoughts about the lecture. Therefore, the class here is not just a normal lecture, but an effective two-way communication between the professors and students. By the end of the term I become also like them, I started sharing my opinion and discussing with the different professors or guests. I liked the courses i took in Chalmers, we had a platform called Canvas where we had the all the information concerning the course, the homework with all the deadlines and grades, where we also communicate with the professors. Despite the language barrier everything in Chalmers was digital and easy to access. For the most part, the teaching methods and environments were really interesting. All lecturers used power point presentations to assist with their teaching, and attempted to involve the students as much as possible through questions and discussions. I also like how the course was divided into projects, seminars and workshops, it was a good opportunity to read articles, to work within teams with different background and nationalities. Each week we different professor and new guests from different companies such as VOLVO

I took 4 courses at Chalmers over the entire semester, they have two study periods, each period can have a maximum of 3 courses, I only took two in each study period.

One of the funny moments in the course was when this guest (Ex professor) brought his dog to the lecture. It shows how people there are spontaneous and fun



It is really difficult to choose just a few highlights from my time here but this one semester exchange was a lesson I would do again anytime, it was just amazing to finally be wandering around this city I'd dreamed of visiting for so long.

I never regret any experience. An experience is always a good way to learn, even if it comes with bad events. In this particular experience I had so much fun and learned a lot of new things that will for sure help me in carrier.

I think what I have learned and gained the most from my exchange is to appreciate who people are and where they come from. Everyone has a different background, and sometimes we can't always relate to it, but I've found that it is important to understand the necessity to accept people for who they are. It is the differences between people and their cultures that make life more interesting, and I've had so much fun learning about other people, and what makes them who they are. I met a lot of good people from different nationalities with whom I used to go out sometimes in the city of the Gothenburg, I really liked the city with its beautiful architecture, weather and nature, its also a peaceful calm city, where you feel such a serenity.



