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The University of Gothenburg has approximately 37,000 students and 5,000 employees. It is one of the major universities in northern Europe. We are also one of the most popular universities in Sweden – the University of Gothenburg has the highest number of applicants to many programmes and courses. The University’s roughly 40 different Departments cover most scientific disciplines, making it one of Sweden’s broadest and most wide-ranging higher education institutions.

In an international perspective too, the University of Gothenburg is unusually comprehensive, with cutting-edge research in a number of dynamic research areas. Cooperation with Chalmers University of Technology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, society at large and trade and industry has been consistently strengthened and intensified over recent years, as have international contacts and collaborative projects with partners abroad.

The University of Gothenburg is an innovative, creative university that makes the most of its impressive breadth. Here, you will find the space you need in order to grow and take new steps.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE
Issues relating to the climate and the environment are crucial to the future of our world. All the University of Gothenburg’s faculties and departments are therefore committed to sustainable development. We offer many different courses on this subject, including both subject-specific courses and broader interdisciplinary programmes, covering everything from environmental psychology to marine ecology and atmospheric chemistry.

STUDENT INFLUENCE AND OPENNESS
The University of Gothenburg is known for its stimulating study formats and its innovative teaching methods, with a significant degree of group work. Student influence is extensive, and studies are devised on the basis of your own previous experience and that of former students. You will study in close proximity to industry, with advanced theory linked to practical reality. Your studies will feature open dialogue with respect for every student – without compromising on academic quality. We focus on your future career, and on the opportunities and skills that will give you a real head start.

OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS
As a student at the University of Gothenburg, you will benefit from a sense of dialogue and openness. You will have direct access to teaching staff and professors, within a spirit of equality that features respect for you as an individual and a student. Here, you will have a real opportunity to influence your own learning environment. The university is open to new influences, and you will enjoy unparalleled access to world-class research. You will meet researchers, sharing in their experience as part of your studies. Interaction is easy and straightforward. Not only will you be able to speak your mind – you will be expected to do so!
BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

VISA/ RESIDENCE PERMIT
If you are thinking of studying for more than three months in Sweden you may need a student visa which will permit you to stay in the country. It all depends upon your citizenship.

A visa is required by all students coming from countries outside the EU and EEA (European Economic Area: Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). Applications for residence permits are processed by the Swedish Migration Board, not the university. The application is your responsibility and you need a letter of acceptance from the university to complete it.

Students coming from EU and EEA countries do not need visas. However, if you are intending to study for longer than three months, you must register with the Migration Board within three months of your arrival in the country.

Read more at www.migrationsverket.se

INSURANCE
Before you leave your home country, it is advisable that you review your insurance coverage, enquire at your regional social insurance office and your insurance company.

The general student insurance
All students in Sweden are currently covered by the personal injury insurance (the general student insurance) that is obtained on behalf of universities and colleges within the State insurance system by the Central Student Grants Committee. The insurance applies in Sweden during school hours and during travel to and from the location where school hours are spent.

Find out more about the student insurance at www.kammarkollegiet.se
HOUSING

Göteborg is a major city and it may take some time to find a permanent apartment. A private room may be a good alternative at the start of the semester. As a student at the University of Gothenburg, you can apply for a student flat at Boplats Göteborg.

There are two major housing companies for student apartments in Gothenburg: Chalmers Studentbostäder and SGS Studentbostäder. Apartments from Chalmers Studentbostäder you apply for through Boplats Göteborg and apartments from SGS studentbostäder you apply for by registering in their own queue at www.sgsstudentbostader.se/en.

At SGS Studentbostäder you can sometimes at the end of the month find last minute apartments, called "Sista minuten". In this case the principle is first come, first served and not their regular queue system. Note that you have to already be registered with SGS in order to apply for Sista minuten apartments.


GETTING TO GOTHENBURG

BY AIR
There are daily direct flights from most major European cities. International flights generally fly via major hubs such as Copenhagen, London, Frankfurt or Amsterdam.

BY TRAIN
The train is a comfortable, economical and environmentally friendly way to travel. There are several express services each day from most cities in Sweden and Norway. From many capital cities in the rest of Europe there are daily trains to Gothenburg. There are also several bus routes from various destinations, with coaches of all sizes, to suit different travellers.

BY BOAT
There are daily ferries from Kiel in Germany and from Fredrikshamn in Denmark. Enjoy the beautiful archipelago, while arriving by ferry to Gothenburg.
CIVIC REGISTRATION
When registered with the migration Board, or when you have a residence permit valid for a year or longer, your next step should be to register as a resident at the nearest office of the swedish tax agency (skatteverket). Once you do so, you are eligible for swedish healthcare benefits and you will receive a unique 10-digit civic registration number (personnummer) or a coordination number. You will be able to use this number to simplify a whole range of transactions in the swedish society, such as acquiring an identity card, opening a bank account and visiting a doctor.

Website: www.skatteverket.se

WORK PERMIT
Foreign students are allowed to work in Sweden during their period of study. No additional work permit is needed.

BANK ACCOUNT
Different banks have different conditions for opening an account. The bank will require the following documentation when opening an account for you: your civic registration number or coordination number (see Civic registration above), your passport, your present address and a letter from your landlord confirming your residence. Certain banks only require a letter from your host to confirm your address.

SWEDISH ID CARD
Id cards are issued by the swedish tax agency. You can find information about how to apply on their website at www.skatteverket.se/privat/idkort/idcard.
HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE
There are local medical care centres (Vårdcentral) all over Gothenburg. They are listed in the phone book (blue section) and at www.vgregion.se.
In case of emergency – dial 112. this is the emergency number for ambulance, police and rescue and fire brigade. You will be asked to explain what has happened and to state your location.

Information and counselling
The medical information service (sjukvårdsrådgivningen), telephone: +46 1177, is a 24-hour provider of free healthcare information and consulting.

PHARMACIES
Non-prescription medicines, such as aspirin and cough syrup, are sold at pharmacies and at some supermarkets, grocery stores and petrol stations. A doctor’s prescription is required for stronger medications such as antibiotics. These medicines can only be obtained from a pharmacy (apotek).

DENTISTS
All medical districts have a dental clinic (folktandvården), usually located in the same area as the medical care centre (Vårdcentral). There is also a wide range of private dentists listed in the telephone directory. Dental care costs are partially subsidised if you are registered in the swedish social insurance system.

HEALTH SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY
The Student health centre serves as a complement to the public health system for students at the University of Gothenburg. Please turn to the centre for treatment of any problems originating from or aggravated by your study situation. Also foreign students who are not entitled to public health care in Sweden can receive medical treatment via the Student health centre, www.akademihalsan.se.
At the University of Gothenburg you can get different kinds of Student Support. These services are available for all our students, both International and Swedish. You will find information about all our services at www.utbildning.gu.se/education.

**STUDY COUNSELLING**

Many thoughts and questions can arise in the course of your studies. You may perhaps discover a new course that you want to find out more about. Is there any possibility of taking it? And for that matter how does the work market look when you have completed your education? In a situation like that, meeting a study counsellor can be of good help so that you can continue making your study plans.

The university offers study counselling centrally, at Student Affairs, and also locally, at the different departments and faculties. The study counsellors at Student Affairs can provide you with personal guidance when it comes to all kinds of higher education, when you have to make decisions about your choice of studies or your career. Most of the departments and faculties at the university also have local study advisors who will provide you with information and guidance concerning their specific programmes and courses.

**CAREER SERVICES**

The Careers Centre is the centre for working life at the University of Gothenburg. As an international student you can get help there in finding your way out into working life. You can turn to the Careers Centre with your questions if you are wondering about what kind of job to apply for, how to write an application, or where to look, etc. Apart from anything else, the Careers Centre has certain visiting hours when you can just drop in. The staff are available at those times to answer all kinds of questions related to careers.

The following are also available at the Careers Centre:

*Seminars/workshops on job seeking*
Interview training
Company presentations/study visits
Job listings
Tips about job seeking on the Internet
Computer and information room for job seeking

PEER HELP PROGRAMME
Students at the University of Gothenburg can receive help from another student. In the Peer Help Programme specially trained students help other students to advance and develop at the university.

Peer helping is based on the well-documented fact that students turn to other students when they have concerns or problems. The idea behind peer helping at the University of Gothenburg is to train and supervise older students so they can offer active listening, support and spontaneous assistance to their peers.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you are a disabled student with special needs you have the right to assistance. Your need for assistance will however be assessed individually so we ask you to contact Lena Borg Melldahl, the university coordinator for disabled students. You should do this at the same time as you apply to study at the university.

You must also contact the department where you are intending to study, well before the start of your studies. This is so that you can plan your studies with the study advisor and the teacher(s).

LANGUAGE SUPPORT
The Language Support service is available to all students who are interested in improving their oral and written language skills in English or Swedish for academic purposes. We offer tutoring sessions on an individual basis or in small groups as well as open seminars and workshops.
GFS - THE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS’ UNIONS IN GÖTEBORG

All the Students’ Unions in Göteborg belong to GFS – The Association of Students’ Unions in Göteborg. The aim of this organisation is to further the common interests of all students, first and foremost within the socio-academic field, so that each individual student achieves the best possible starting-point for carrying out his or her studies in a way that is positive for his or her development. Read more about their services at www.gfs.se.

Examples of what GFS offers:

*Akademihälsan*
– Health Service. You can turn to Akademihälsan with any problems you may have during the period of your studies. Akademihälsan is the students’ occupational health service. It acts as a complement to other health and medical services. It is free for students.

*Fysiken*
– Fitness centres (there are two) with a wide range of activities. Aerobics, ball sports, gym, dancing, water aerobics, outdoor pursuits, and a variety of courses. As a student you are entitled to a student discount membership.

*Child-care*
– Krokus is a nursery school for children between one-and-a-half and six years old, whose parents are students or doctoral candidates. Krokus is run with the participation of the parents, and it is therefore necessary for parents to have skills in the Swedish language.

*Legal counselling*
– Student lawyers provide free advice on legal matters and operate a drop-in reception.
STUDENT UNIONS
At the University of Gothenburg there are 4 student unions who organize the students. The unions represent the social and academic interests of their members and play an active roll in the shaping of the university at all levels.

In Sweden, it is optional whether you want to be a member of a student union or not. The majority of student unions, however, offers the possibility to get a little more of your time in Sweden - so take the chance and become a member! Which student union you should join depends on what your studying. Find out more about the student unions at www.gus.gu.se.

LIBRARY
The University of Gothenburg Library (Göteborgs universitetsbibliotek) consists of seven separate libraries.

The Central Library
The Biomedical Library
The Botanical and Environmental Library
The Earth Sciences Library
The Economical Library
The Education Library
The Undergraduate and Newspaper Library

Website: www.ub.gu.se
TWO TERMS
The academic year is divided into two terms. Normally, the autumn term runs from 1 September to 18 January, and the spring term from 19 January to 7 June. Classes are not usually scheduled between Christmas and the New Year, or on Swedish national holidays.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN SWEDEN
Studying a programme in Sweden usually means taking a number of short courses within the framework of your main subject, for example economy, arts or sciences. These short courses lead to a degree. Programmes vary in length, but most programmes taught in English are one or two years long.

If you choose to study full-time you must count on approximately a 40-hour working week. You will be spending many of these weeks on your own with your books.

ACADEMICAL CALENDAR
The Academic Year is divided into two terms.
*Autumn* 1 sept-18 jan
*Spring* 19 jan-6 june
TEACHING

There are many types of teaching at the university, which may vary from large-scale lectures to individual tutorials. The amount of classroom time also varies greatly from subject to subject. Some full-time programmes may have only 8 - 10 classroom hours per week, while others may have 30 or more, but individual work is the most important aspect of all courses. Full-time studies thus involve at least forty hours of work a week. Generally, teachers are there to guide the students, helping them to benefit from the extensive reading lists that accompany university courses.

Lectures
The classic form of university teaching, take place in large groups, sometimes comprising hundreds of students. Lectures help to structure the courses and describe for students the central aspects of the subject, present special problem areas, etc.

Classes
Probably the most common type of teaching today. Classes are held for groups of twenty to thirty students, and their purpose is for the students and teacher to discuss and work through the course literature.

Laboratory sessions
Are becoming increasingly common, especially in the natural sciences and in technology. In a lab session, students work alone or in small groups on an experimental assignment, and then generally submit a written report of the results.
**Seminars**
Are a type of teaching largely dependent on active student participation. Seminars are held, for example, to go through project work. Group work is also quite common in some subject areas. Student groups work independently on an assignment, but generally have access to a teacher for guidance. Reports on group work may be written and/or oral.

**Tutorials**
Are given to individual students or small groups. At a tutorial, the teacher in charge of a course helps to prepare the students for their oral presentations or reports and to plan their term papers and essays.

**Reading lists**
Most courses have extensive reading lists, and the books are mostly in either Swedish or English. Students are expected to purchase the obligatory course literature. Other literature used, for example, in group work and special projects, can usually be found in the library. As a rule, there is always a reference copy of each textbook, as well as several copies available for loan at the University Library. Each copy is registered in the local library catalogue which is accessible via www.ub.gu.se

**Examinations**
Each course and its subcourses are normally concluded by a written or oral examination. An examination may, however, take the form of an independent assignment such as a written report or essay. Usually, the grades given on an examination are Fail, Pass, and High Pass. Occasionally other grades can be given. A student who fails an examination has the right to re-sit this examination.
DEGREES
A degree is a proof that you have acquired knowledge and proficiency up to a certain level, by means of your studies. When you have completed your studies and want to collect your degree, you must yourself make an application to do so.

Degree Certificate
Your degree certificate will show which degree has been issued, which courses are included, your course grades and the date the courses were completed. The degree certificate is in Swedish and English. Besides this you will receive a Diploma Supplement which is an additional document describing the education and its place in the Swedish higher education system.

STUDENT PORTAL
The Student Portal is a personalized web service for students at the University of Gothenburg. The portal makes it possible to access the university web based services via a single login through the Student Account. Through the Student Portal you can access your e-mail/calendar and the LMS web bulletin boards of your courses and programmes, view your study results/registrations, receive an official transcript of records, download university-licensed student software, and search the University library catalogues.

GUL
GUL (the Swedish abbreviation for Göteborgs Universitets Lärplattform) is the learning management system (LMS) of the University of Gothenburg. In GUL, courses and study programmes have their own website (activity) that you reach by being logged on to the Student Portal.
A BIG SMALL CITY
Gothenburg is a modern city, but has managed to retain much of its small-town charm. Today, the city is an important Scandinavian hub for logistics, innovation and research. Architecture and design play leading roles, and the life sciences and communications cluster is an increasingly prominent feature of trade and industry.
Gothenburg offers plenty of opportunities to interact with others. You may want to seek out the laid-back atmosphere of one of the city’s hundreds of cafés and pubs, or the buzz of the annual film festival or the big music festivals.
The combination of an extensive range of cultural events and lively student life offers endless alternatives for filling your free time with a variety of different experiences. And all within walking distance.
Gothenburg is big enough to be exciting and challenging, but small enough to feel friendly and intimate. Gothenburg is spelled Göteborg and pronounced [yuhteborg] in Swedish.

GETTING AROUND IN THE CITY
It’s easy to get around in Gothenburg by tram, bus or boat or bike for that matter.

Tram, bus or boat - ticket information
You need to buy a ticket before you start your journey. You can buy tickets from Västtrafik Customer Service, from Pressbyrån kiosks and from 7-eleven kiosks. You can’t buy tickets directly from the driver.

Rent a bike
Try the new bike rental system in the city and get around easily! There are 20 bike terminal stations and bikes are available 7 days a week 24 hours a day.
The 20 stations are scattered throughout the city centre to enable easy access and use. Located in close proximity to each other, every station has a minimum of 15 stands making it easy to rent bikes.
Find out more at http://en.goteborgbikes.se
WHAT TO SEE
There is always something going on in Gothenburg. Concerts, sports, exhibitions and cultural events taking place every week. See what’s on at www.goteborg.com
THE OPEN ENVIRONMENT OF SWEDEN
Sweden is known for its natural beauty, with its forests and archipelagos, sea, coast, light and space. In Sweden, nature is something that everyone knows about and everyone can enjoy. It’s not just nature that features a sense of freedom and space – the same values are part of Swedish society. Equality is a matter of course. Titles are a thing of the past. Swedish society is open and relaxed, and flat organisations are a feature of both industry and academia.

Learn more about Sweden and the Swedes:
www.visitsweden.com
www.sweden.se

FACTS
Capital: Stockholm
Language: Swedish
Population: 9 million
Currency: 1 krona=100 öre
Area: 450,000 km² (174,000 sq mi)
Political system: Parliamentary democracy
ALCOHOL
Alcoholic drinks can be bought in the state liqour store called Systembolaget. Bring you ID (min age 20 years). Drinking and driving is strictly prohibited.

DRIVING
Sweden, like the most European countries, has right-hand traffic. In Sweden you have to be 18 years old to have a driver’s licence. If you have a licence from your own country, you can use it for up ti one year in Sweden.

DRUGS
All types of narcotics are prohibited in Sweden. There are strong sanctions against using and selling drugs.

CLIMATE
The Swedish climate benefits from the warm Gulf Stream. For this reason, the weather is much milder than in many other places at corresponding latitudes. In July, the warmest month, Gothenburg has an average (day-and-night) temperature of about +17°C (63° F), and in February, the coldest month, about −1°C (30° F). Gothenburg has a typical coastal climate with predominantly mild winters (relatively few days with snow) and quite a lot of rain.

CURRENCY
The currency in Sweden is the Swedish krona (international abbreviation SEK, in Swedish abbreviated kr). There are coins of 1, 5 and 10 kronor. Banknotes have denominations of 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 kronor. If you need to exchange money into other currencies, contact the exchange bureau ForeX at www.forex.se. They do not charge for their services and the exchange rates are good. There are several branches in Gothenburg, for example one at the railway station and one at Landvetter airport.
**ELECTRICITY**
The main electricity type in Sweden is 230 volts and 50 cycles (Hz).

**EMBASSY**
Not all countries have diplomatic representatives in Sweden.

**EMERGENCY**
For police, ambulance, fire department etc. dial 112 (free of charge in phone booths an mobilephone)

**HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS**
Bed linen, kitchen utensils etc. can be bought at for instance IKEA. You can esay go there by public transport. There are also several possibilities for buying second hand.

**LANGUAGE**
All Swedes speaks English. English is the second language in Sweden and almost everyone speaks and understands English very well.

**OUTDOOR LIVING**
The Swedish Law of Public Access to Private Land, *allemansrätten*, gives the right to roam in the Swedish countryside as long as you show respect for crops and wildlife. You are entitled to walk, job, picnic or cycle in any of Gothenburgs many parks and forests.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**
A list of important Swedish holiday observances is provided below. Note that the eve of a holiday is often as important as the holiday itself. Most Swedes have the holidays off, including many civil servants, bank employees, public transport workers, hospital staff, shop assistants and media workers.
The Swedish national holiday is celebrated on 6 June in memory of King Gustav Vasa’s ascension to the throne in 1523 and the signing of the Government act of 1809.

Official Public Holidays
- “Nyårsdagen”, New Year’s Day (1 January)
- “Trettondedag jul”, Epiphany (6 January)
- “Långfredagen”, Good Friday (the Friday at the beginning of easter)
- “Påskdagen”, Easter Sunday
- “Annandag påsk”, Easter Monday
- “Första maj”, May Day (1 May)
- “Kristi himmelsfärdsdag”, Ascension Day (40 days after easter)
- “Pingstdagen”, Whit Sunday (the seventh Sunday after easter)
- “Sveriges nationaldag”, 6 June – The Swedish national holiday
- “Midsommar”, Midsummer Day (the Saturday of the period 20 – 26 June)
- “Alla helgons dag”, All Saints’ Day (the Saturday of the period 31 oct – 6 nov)

SHOPPING HOURS
Shops are usually open Monday-Friday 10 am - 6 pm and Saturday 10 am - 2 pm. Some of the larger department stores are open later and a few hours on Sundays.
www.goteborg.com

WATER
The tap water is of very good quality and safe to drink.

Å,Ä,Ö
These are not printing errors. They are simply the three last letters in the Swedish alphabet.
When you decide to study at the University of Gothenburg you will come to Sweden’s second largest city with a population of half a million inhabitants. The University is everywhere you go in central Gothenburg. This means that most parts of the University are within walking or cycling distance of each other, which is why there are masses of cafés and restaurants jostling each other along the main student routes.

www.gu.se/english
www.gu.se/english