



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER
CAMPUS BOX 3130
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3130

T 919.962-7002
F 919.962-2262
studyabroad.unc.edu

September 1, 2017

Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Scandinavian Student Exchange Programs – Stockholm University, Gothenburg University, and Aarhus University

Dear Colleagues:

The Curriculum in Global Studies and the Study Abroad Office are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish three new student exchange programs with the following universities in Scandinavia, to begin in Fall 2018:

Stockholm University, Sweden (SU) - <http://www.su.se/english/>
Gothenburg University, Sweden (GU) - <http://www.gu.se/english>
Aarhus University, Denmark (AU) - <http://www.au.dk/en/>

Rationale and Support

Currently, UNC-CH's study abroad portfolio in Scandinavia includes student exchange partnerships with Lund University (Sweden), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Oslo (Norway), and University of Helsinki (Finland). The first three exchange programs are long established while the latter was launched in Spring 2017.

Student demand for exchange programs in Scandinavia has significantly increased in the past few years, and, even with the addition of a fourth exchange program with the University of Helsinki, we have not met demand. Each cycle, more students apply for these programs than we have exchange spots available, forcing us to consistently turn qualified students away from Scandinavia. It is important we continue to grow the program portfolio in this region by adding new programs to accommodate student interest.

SU, GU, and AU are all high-ranking universities with extensive course offerings in English, and all are also in need of a new exchange partner in the United States to satisfy their own growth in outbound mobility.

The Curriculum in Global Studies supports this program proposal. Dr. Jonathan Weiler, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Global Studies, reviewed the course catalogs at SU, GU, and AU. He confirmed the courses will satisfy major requirements in all four thematic concentrations and the Western Europe area requirements. Specifically these programs will attract students who want to learn more about the Scandinavian welfare state, migration policy, health care, environmental policies, and culture.

In addition to serving Global Studies majors, these exchange programs will be available to *all* students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Emily Marlton, Northern Europe and Oceania Programs Director in the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office, is reviewing the course catalogs with UNC-CH departments and curricula that are likely to have academic overlap and interest in taking advantage of the exchange programs. The Chair of the Global Film curriculum, who visited SU in 2016, reviewed the English-taught Cinema Studies courses and determined SU is a good academic fit for Global Film students. Emily will engage other units such as Communication Studies, Environment and Ecology, and Marine Sciences as the review continues in the 2017-18 academic year. The programs would not be limited to these fields of study, but may be worth highlighting as a strong academic option for these students.

Emily Marlton conducted a site visit to SU in April 2017 and will visit GU and AU in the 2017-18 academic year to confirm arrangements and information discussed and agreed via email.

The Program

The programs will be two-way exchanges, with semester and year-long options.

SU, GU, and AU will nominate students to study in UNC-CH's College of Arts and Sciences. UNC-CH will nominate students from the College of Arts and Sciences to take courses across the host institution's relevant Faculties.

The minimum GPA requirement for admission to these exchange programs is 2.75, and students must have completed at least one year of university study at the time of application. Students must enroll in a minimum of the equivalent of 12 US credit hours and will receive transfer credit for courses taken abroad. The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

As UNC-CH students will take all coursework in English, and English is widely spoken in Sweden and Denmark, there is not a language requirement for these programs. As with our other programs in Scandinavia, we will encourage students to take a language and/or culture course at the host institution, but it will not be required. Though the courses will be of interest to some students, they are not necessary for the experience. With English as a *de facto* third language, it is commonly used both in and out of the classroom among students, faculty, and staff at these universities.

Exchange students have access to student support services, facilities, and student life just as the degree-seeking students do. Exchange students received additional support from the International Office, departmental coordinators, and an optional buddy/mentor program. The International Offices organize a comprehensive orientation program at the beginning of each term.

Stockholm University

The university: Founded as a college in 1878 and granted university status in 1960, SU is one of the top 100 universities in the world. Enrollment exceeds 60,000 students in four faculties: law, humanities,

social sciences, and natural sciences. SU has a contained campus easily accessed from Stockholm's city center.

The city: Stockholm is a dynamic capital city, ranked in the top five in the world when it comes to intellectual capital, innovation, and quality of life. Stockholm is easy to navigate. Comprised of fourteen islands, with a public transit system that travels across waterways, the city is well connected. Stockholm has been rated as Europe's safest capital and a top student city.

Housing: SU offers housing for exchange students in two residence halls – one adjacent to campus and one 3km north of campus. Students have a private room and bathroom and shared common space and kitchen.

Gothenburg University

The university: Founded as a college in 1891 and granted university status in 1907, GU is generally ranked in the top 200 universities in the world and is one of the most comprehensive in Sweden. Enrollment is approximately 37,000 students across eight faculties: Creative Arts, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Education, Information Technology, Business, Economics and Law, and Health Sciences. GU is considered an urban campus with the various buildings spread throughout Gothenburg's center.

The city: Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city with 500,000 inhabitants, is located on the west coast of Sweden. Gothenburg has a reputation for being a welcoming city, and with the university's close connections to the local community and companies, the entire city serves as the campus in this student-friendly city.

Housing: The University offers 450 rooms and flats for exchange students. Since demand for housing exceeds supply and not all students are afforded university housing, the University assists students in finding private housing if needed.

Aarhus University

The university: Founded in 1928 and with enrollment now exceeding 44,000 students, AU is ranked in the top 100 universities in the world. AU offers at least 1,000 courses in English each year within the areas of Arts, Science and Technology, Health Sciences, Business, and Social Sciences. The main campus is located in central Aarhus, with smaller campuses and departments located throughout Aarhus.

The city: Aarhus is located 116 miles northwest of Copenhagen, in the geographical center of Denmark. Aarhus is the second largest city in Denmark with a population around 300,000, and it has the youngest demographic of any Danish city as well as the greatest concentration of students. Aarhus was selected as the European Capital of Culture in 2017.

Housing: Exchange students can apply for a single room in a residence hall or an apartment through AU Housing. Because housing is limited and therefore not guaranteed through AU Housing, students are encouraged to also explore private housing options based on suggested provided by AU.

Health and Safety

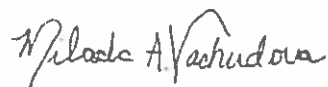
The UNC-CH Study Abroad Office enrolls students in international accident and health insurance through GeoBlue (<https://www.geobluestudents.com/>) for the duration of the program. There are no immediate health concerns in Stockholm, Gothenburg, or Aarhus. Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Sweden and Denmark.

According to the U.S. State Department website, all European countries, including Sweden and Denmark, remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. The national governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks, but U.S. citizens should be aware that attacks could take place without warning. The U.S. State Department website also reminds tourists that there is some risk of theft of personal property and pickpockets.

In the mandatory pre-departure orientation sessions, the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office discusses the potential for terrorist attacks in Europe and covers general safety precautions.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Milada Vachudova
Chair, Curriculum in Global Studies



Robert Miles
Associate Dean, Study Abroad and International Exchanges