



Sarah Collis from Australia first doubted that she could learn anything with the different methodology. But she changed her opinion.

UNDER THE SWEDISH FLAG

TEXT **ALEXANDER ÅKERBERG** PHOTO **THOR BALKHED**

Linköping University scores high in global surveys when international students are asked how satisfied they are with their university experience. Read about what four exchange students have to say about what it's like to study at LiU and how their studies differ from back home.

“LiU empowers the student”

NAME: Adeyemi Adedokun
AGE: 29
COUNTRY: Nigeria
CITY: Ibadan, Oyo State
STUDIES: Intelligent Transport Systems and Logistics



Adeyemi Adeokun from Nigeria studies Intelligent Transport Systems and Logistics. He thinks the examination system at LiU is too generous and forgiving.

“Sweden and Nigeria has very different views on failing. When you write an exam in Nigeria and fail you have to wait another year to write it again. In Sweden you can rewrite the exam up to seven times. I think this could result in some of the Swedish students not trying their best.”

With the exception of the above, Adeyemi has only good things to say about studying at LiU. He appreciates how the university has chosen to empower the students.

“Back home in Nigeria, if you don’t do as a teacher says they have the power to fail you. And there is nothing you can do about it. There are many awful examples of students who have been oppressed by their lecturers.”

“In Sweden, during written exams, the students are anonymous so the lecturer can’t tell who’s who. Also, at the end of every course the

students give written feedback to the university regarding the course and the lecturers. And the university takes time to listen.”

“I believe continuously taking feedback is a great way to improve the education. It also empowers the students and gives them an opportunity to be heard. This is something I would love to bring back to Nigeria. My time in Sweden has become something more than an education. Living and studying here has given me a whole new perspective on life.”

“The curiosity never ends”

Zahid Aslam from India studies Wireless Networks and Electronics. He became interested in LiU during his studies in Saudi Arabia.

“I am from India but I grew up in Saudi Arabia. I came across an interesting chart that showed countries based on factors like education levels, equality and freedom of speech. In the chart, Saudi Arabia was categorised as one extreme with a more conservative way of doing things. India placed exactly in the middle and Sweden was surprisingly on the other extreme. This made me curious about the country. When I understood a lot of the biggest companies in my field originated in Sweden and LiU I really wanted to study there.”

Zahid is astonished by how the project-based courses at LiU enable the students to exceed their goals and expectations.

“When we do a lab exercise or project in India we set fixed goals beforehand. This leads to the students only aiming for reachable goals and never delivering more than the expected, not pushing any boundaries. In Sweden a project can be truly time-consuming. You are free to go as deep as you want. In some way it feels like there is a never-ending support from the university, for as long as there is a need and you can justify it. At LiU the curiosity never ends.”

NAME: Zahid Aslam
AGE: 26
COUNTRY: India
CITY: Bangalore
STUDIES: Wireless Networks and Electronics





“Where’s my textbook?”

NAME: Sarah Collis
AGE: 22
COUNTRY: Australia
CITY: Sydney
STUDIES: Childhood education

Sarah Collis from Australia studies Childhood Education. On her first day at LiU she was worried she wouldn’t learn anything.

“After the course in teaching practice was due to start I thought: Where’s my textbook? Normally I would have prepared with notebooks, readings and textbooks, so I checked the course schedule and there wasn’t any textbook required. I was really worried because I

wondered what are we going to learn in class!”

Sarah was surprised about how differently the course was implemented and her opinion about the methodology changed.

“At first it felt a lot easier than it actually was. In Australia we read a lot on our own and then usually sit and listen to the teacher in a very traditional manner.”

“But after studying at LiU for a while it hit

me. Together, we as students can share and develop our philosophies and practices and really get to know the why behind the how. So even though I am doing less reading and work by myself I feel like I am owning my education now. Even on a bike ride home or during a break we bring up our university courses since it feels so natural to talk about them.”

“The social life is amazing”

NAME: Santiago Sanchez
AGE: 26
COUNTRY: Ecuador
CITY: Cuenca
STUDIES: Biomedical Engineering



Santiago Sanchez from Ecuador studies Biomedical Engineering, he likes the informal relation to the lecturers.

“The relation with the teachers here is more friendly and you call them by their first name. In Ecuador you need to use title and surname, which contributes to a more formal relation. In Sweden, when you have any questions you can just email the professor. I was really sur-

prised to receive an answer just an hour later. In Ecuador it would take at least a few days, when the questions no longer are relevant.”

When it comes to social life, LiU scores high in international surveys. Santiago is impressed with all the possibilities students have when it comes to social activities.

“The social life is amazing. Every single day there is something fun to do. You can easily get involved in social activities where you get

the chance to meet people from all over the world and learn from different cultures. I highly recommend people to study at LiU. The culture, the food and the educational system are very good. But new students have to be prepared to study hard and be ready for the cold winters.”