

Maame Debrah on Exchange to Oslo, Norway



In second year I applied to go on the Gender Studies Exchange to the University of Oslo. I was excited to be accepted into the program and could not wait to go to Scandinavia for a whole semester. Before I left, I had discussed my courses with the Gender Studies Undergraduate Chair so I did not experience any difficulty.



The school year started with an orientation program for new students. It was an enriching experience to meet so many students from all over the world and the European Union. In terms of academics, it was really different from what I was used to at Queen's. I took 3 courses, one in Norwegian, and Sociology and Gender Studies which were taught in English. There were no compulsory tutorial requirements or papers to submit during the school year. The entire assessment was based on final examinations at the end of the semester. The material was very interesting, connected to its context and more practical than at Queen's.

There were socials and special trips organized for international students. One advantage was the affordability of travel within Europe. But I was stunned by how



expensive Norway was. It was quite an adjustment getting used to the prices of food, books and transportation. Nevertheless, there were always free things to do and living on a student budget was doable. The weather is very similar to Canada though slightly colder in the winter. I was also very surprised how many people spoke English in Norway. Overall I had an amazing experience and I received a lot of support from the Centre from Gender

Research. I would recommend Norway to anyone who wants to go on the Gender Studies Exchange. It definitely adds an extra something to your university degree. If you have any questions, please contact me at 8mad8@queensu.ca.