

EuroScholars Midstay

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The fall 2015 Midstay in Stockholm was an amazing experience. In a whole continent of new cities and exciting places it can be hard to pick out any one place as being any more amazing than the rest, but the city of Stockholm stands out prominently in my mind as one of the best I have visited. From the beautiful sunsets reflecting on the wide rivers separating the many islands that compose the vast city to the exciting night life, winding and narrow streets of the old city center to the modern and energetic Himlen skybar, the city positively shines. Of course any experience is made by those who you share it with, and the 2015 EuroScholars students were a good group to be with. From bowling to bars the group traveled together and enjoyed each others company, and thanks to the “local” EuroScholars we knew places to go and ways to get there.



The Karolinska Institute and staff were gracious hosts, and the workshops and exposure to some of their graduate programs definitely opened my eyes to the possibility of pursuing graduate programs outside of the United States. The tour of the SciLife labs also really opened my eyes to European medicine, the labs are equipped with cutting edge instruments and the building and location was very pretty.

Being in Stockholm was also great for exposure to Swedish culture. I was particularly intrigued by the no small talk culture. The separation between the public and private sphere is definitely distinct in the Scandinavian countries, something that I know I would struggle with. It was also a challenge to accept that the sun sets in the winter at 3:30pm, but that left plenty of time for seeing the beautifully lit city center by night. I want to thank the EuroScholars coordinators and our hosts both students and staff for an amazing experience.