

Research Abroad at a Top European Research University



In This Edition:

[University in the Spotlight: Karolinska Institutet](#)

[New projects offered at KU Leuven](#)

[New projects offered at University of Zurich](#)

[Applications now open: EuroScholars 2016 site visit, Spring 2016](#)

[Upcoming conferences 2015](#)

University in the spotlight: Karolinska Institutet



Right now at Karolinska Institutet – The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015 is divided, one half jointly to William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura "for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites" and the other half to Youyou Tu "for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria". The award was explained in a press release from The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet:

Diseases caused by parasites have plagued humankind for millennia and constitute a major global health problem. In particular, parasitic diseases affect the world's poorest populations and represent a huge barrier to improving human health and wellbeing. This year's Nobel Laureates have developed therapies that have revolutionized the treatment of some of the most devastating parasitic diseases.

William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura discovered a new drug, Avermectin, the derivatives of which have radically lowered the incidence of River Blindness and Lymphatic Filariasis, as well as showing efficacy against an expanding number of other parasitic diseases. Youyou Tu discovered Artemisinin, a drug that has significantly reduced the mortality rates for patients suffering from Malaria.

These two discoveries have provided humankind with powerful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually. The consequences in terms of improved human health and reduced suffering are immeasurable.

Nobel buzz on campus



The announcement was an open event at Solna campus attended by students, researchers, teachers, the media and others. In December, students and researchers will have the opportunity to meet the Nobel laureates in open lectures that will be held on campus. These open lectures are popular and as they provide opportunities for students to ask questions and sometimes get a one-on-one encounter with the laureates.

An international university with a strong research profile

Karolinska Institutet is situated in Stockholm, Sweden and is a one-faculty university

dedicated solely to the medical and health sciences, with a reputation for top quality research and innovation. It is one of the world's leading medical universities – consistently ranking in the top 50 universities globally, and the top 5 medical universities in Europe. In addition, it is the largest centre for medical training and research in Sweden, accounting for over 40 per cent of Swedish medical academic research. Its mission is to contribute to the improvement of human health through research and education.

Karolinska Institutet has about 700 research groups working in 22 departments ranging from basic sciences to clinical and public health sciences. The number of fulltime students is 5,900 participating in about 40 study programs and over 100 freestanding courses. There are over 2, 000 PhD students of which one third have an undergraduate/master's degree from outside Sweden. The number of international students, including exchange students is about 450.

Why Sweden?



Sweden is one of the safest countries in the world, known for its innovation, focus on equality and a well organised public health system. Nearly 90% of the general population speaks English, and the climate is, despite the rumours, quite mild in most parts of the country, with four distinct seasons, making it a comfortable place to visit.

Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, is a child of many names, including Venice of the North and the capital of Scandinavia. It offers extensive public transport and history, culture, and business, surrounded by plenty of green space and blue water. It is also the largest university city in the Nordic countries and home of 80,000 students of which 5,000 are international students.

Find out more at: <http://www.sweden.se/> And check out the twitter account showing that there is more to Sweden these days than blondes, ABBA, Avicii and IKEA.

EuroScholars projects at Karolinska Institutet

Accepted students will take part in the daily work of a research group at Karolinska Institutet which includes practical lab work, journal clubs, going to seminars and literature studies. If you are interested in finding out more about Karolinska Institutet research areas you can find more information here: [Research Areas at KI](#) and via the [EuroScholars project search](#).

Interview with Jennifer Wilson from University of Alberta (Canada), EuroScholars student at Karolinska Institutet:



What do you think about Stockholm?

Jennifer: I love Stockholm. The city is composed of 14 islands, and after growing up in Vancouver I feel very at home being surrounded by water. It is a beautiful city with lots of nature to enjoy. My favourite things to do here include going for runs through the parks and having coffee with friends in the cosy coffee shops.

What do you think about Karolinska Institutet?

Jennifer: When I returned to my home university after my exchange, many professors were impressed that I had performed a research project at Karolinska Institutet. They would ask me how I came by such a great opportunity? Only then I realized the true significance of my experience. KI is a highly reputable university with many opportunities for research in the biomedical field. If you are interested in performing research that translates to the clinic, this a great place to start.

How is your lab where you are doing your research project?

Jennifer: I performed my EuroScholars research project at the Centre for Infections Medicine, at Karolinska Institutet's southern campus. My research group was fortunately very small, so I had lots of support with my project. I really enjoyed working at this research centre. Everyone was extremely friendly and I keep in touch with a couple of PhD students since my exchange ended. The relaxed and friendly environment I experienced in the lab

was a big part of my decision to come back.

What about housing and the Swedish course?

Jennifer: Housing was quite simple to organize. I found my accommodation with KI housing. I currently live on Södermalm, an island in central Stockholm. The location is perfect. I am right next to a very nice area for coffee shops, second hand stores and cool pubs. It is also conveniently located between both KI campuses and takes only half an hour to get to either one.

In Stockholm, nearly everyone speaks English. So with the aid of the course, I was able to order coffee and a cinnamon bun at cafes in Swedish, however it was difficult to practice the language since most people would switch to English for you. If you wanted to learn to speak it fluently I would suggest practicing at home before your arrival and finding friends who will speak to you in Swedish.

Do you have any advice to future EuroScholars students coming to KI?

Jennifer: Stockholm is a very expensive city to live in, so it is important to save up money for your exchange. But once you have arrived, remember that this is a once in a lifetime experience, and enjoy it as much as you can.

New projects offered at KU Leuven:

[Quantifying behavior in young children](#)

[Neural correlates of speech processing across age](#)

[Developing interdisciplinary training](#)

New projects offered at University of Zurich:

[Explaining the resurgence of the Taliban](#)

[Explaining Secessionism in Europe](#)

[The effect of precious metal inflows on historical development and conflict](#)

Applications now open: EuroScholars site visit, Spring 2016

Locations: [Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität](#) (Munich, Germany), [University of Geneva](#), and [University of Zurich](#) (both Switzerland).



Dates: week of April 17-23, 2016

During this week, the University of Zurich will organize the [EuroScholars MidStay program](#) for the students. Some activities will be combined with the Site Visit, and participants will get to meet current EuroScholars students and hear about some of their research.

Target audience: U.S. and Canadian faculty and/or administrators affiliated with university honors or undergraduate research programs.

The cost of the site visit is \$2500 and includes travel between the two countries (via train and air), accommodation (private rooms with internet), all meals from Sunday dinner through Saturday lunch, and international health insurance. Trans-Atlantic airfare is the responsibility of each participant.

Requests for site visit applications or questions can be directed to Andrew

Wingfield: awingfield@studiesabroad.com or 512.480.8522. Applications are due Friday, 11 December.

Upcoming conferences 2015:

November 11–15, 2015

NCHC (National Collegiate Honors Council), Chicago Illinois

<http://nchchonors.org/annual-conference/2015-conference/>

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