Preston Rieck

KU Leuven University – Leuven, Belgium (Fall 2015)

The mid-stay program was conspicuously invigorating experience that help young minds re-evaluate their perspectives on research. My studies have been exclusive to the sciences of academia and have shaped my views on viable research in a bias fashion. Through this program I was able to see other young researchers conducting projects in similar fields, but more importantly I was exposed to contrasting perspectives of research, in the humanities, economics, mathematics, etc. Not only was this excursion helpful in broadening my scope on research it also allowed young minds to collaborate on new waves of thinking in their respective fields and on current topics of the twenty first century. Every night I was in Stockholm I was up until the crack of dawn discussing with colleagues about our research, disciplines, and current topics and for me I could not think of better way to spend a night than to converse with intellects to share ideas without fear of judgment.

Despite being able to partake in some comradery the mid-stay program was nonetheless another culture adventure that I can add to my European repertoire. The Scandinavian culture had much to offer between the fascinating concept of "fika" (coffee and pastry break) – which by the way should become a custom in America- and the beautiful, widespread, and aesthetic landscape. Supplementary, it was a great pleasure to be in the midst of one of the tope medical institutes in the world- Karolinska Institute. They showed great hospitably and had amazing campus and facilities to gawk at. It felt like a welcoming and great fit to be and it was nice to know that they were an option to explore when it came to finding a graduate school to call home. Overall I am vehemently grateful for the EuroScholars program to allocate an opportunity such as this to us. I had a fantastic time and will never forget the memories made on this trip. Finally, I'll conclude with this "you want to fika?".



