



[www.umu.se/english](http://www.umu.se/english)

# Study Abroad at Umeå University

One of Sweden's Top Universities

Melis Kucukoglu  
Molecular Biology/Forest Genetics and Plant Physiology  
TURKEY

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue denim jacket over a white collared shirt, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing in a greenhouse or nursery, surrounded by lush green plants. She is holding a small plant in her hands. The background is filled with various green foliage and metal structures of the greenhouse.

“There is so much going on here in Umeå”

**M**elis first came to Umeå University in 2006 on exchange from Turkey and had such a positive experience that she was determined to return. She entered the two year master’s programme in molecular biology the following year. Today, Melis is continuing her passion for plants in Umeå as PhD student.

“A major reason behind my initial decision to come and study here was due to the fact that Umeå University was one of the few that offered my field of study with English language instruction. I really enjoyed it and loved the student social life, as well as the cosy ‘fika’ culture,” says Melis.

The flat in the student corridor and the Buddy Programme helped her fit in and make friends easily. “We had students from a variety of backgrounds and different ages in my corridor, and everyone helped each other out. Umeå was also a much bigger city than I expected as there is always something happening. It’s also amazing how sports are such a big part of the lifestyle,” explains Melis.

The non-hierarchical system of academics at Umeå University was a breath of fresh air for Melis. “I really like the open-door policy here, where teachers are on the same level

“I really enjoyed it and loved the student social life, as well as the cosy ‘fika’ culture”

Umeå University

# Quick Facts

- Founded in 1965
- European Top 100 in Times Higher Education rankings
- 37,000 full-time, part-time and distance students
- We have students and staff from over 40 different countries.
- Campus Umeå is equal to 28 football fields in size.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sweden in student satisfaction (ISB ranking)
- Over 60% of the students are female.
- Bildmuseet is the contemporary art and visual culture museum of Umeå University
- 30 master's degree programmes taught in English.
- Europe's largest fitness and recreation centre is located on Campus Umeå..
- The university library has 1.5 million volumes and 300 public computers

as colleagues and friends. It makes it so nice to work with them. My field of study is especially advantageous because the group leaders are so internationally diverse.”

Melis has always been interested in plants, and hopes to teach one day. As for adjustments to living in northern Sweden, Melis had surprisingly few. “The winters here are so lovely, and the great social life helps you get through the darker periods,” says Melis. “My writing skills in English even improved dramatically, with thanks to lots of online chatting.”



## A word from our Vice-Chancellor

As Vice-Chancellor I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Umeå University. At Umeå University we believe that the future of education lies in international cooperation. We aim to increase the international student numbers through offering internationally competitive education at a university that is well prepared for servicing a diverse student body. In striving to achieve these goals we are very pleased to currently be cooperating with 446 partner universities in 57 countries around the globe.

Our university is open to everyone, regardless of background. We believe that international influences enhance the quality and diversity of the education and research at any institution of higher learning. We are proud to host around 1,500 international students and 150 international teachers and researchers every year. These students, researchers and teachers bring new perspectives to our classrooms and help to make our campus a more exciting, creative and culturally diverse environment.

A university education is an excellent foundation for life-long learning. We believe that acquiring part of your university education in Umeå will strengthen that foundation and help you improve such skills as adaptability, self-reliance and cultural understanding. As we live in an increasingly internationalised world, these skills are in great demand on the global job market. I hope that you will enjoy both your educational and social experience at Umeå University and I encourage you to make the most of your time with us. We will do our best to make your stay with us both academically and socially rewarding.

We look forward to meeting you at our university.

Lena Gustafsson, Vice-Chancellor



# Welcome to Umeå, Sweden!

Umeå is not only the largest city in Northern Sweden, but also one of the country's fastest growing cities. It is a vibrant city with a young population. Culture, outdoor activities and sports are celebrated in Umeå and you can enjoy top quality art, theatre, film, music and sports. The city is also home to world-class industries and research.

Umeå has been previously voted Best Student City in Sweden by the Swedish National Union of Students, and will also be the European Capital of Culture in 2014. Among other things Umeå has one of Europe's largest sports centres, IKSU and Sweden's largest indoor music festival, Umeå Open.

### A city of contrasts

As one of the fastest growing cities in Sweden, Umeå is careful to balance its environmental commitments with its trade and industry ambitions. The city has tremendous IT know-how and IT and communications industries are particularly well established here.

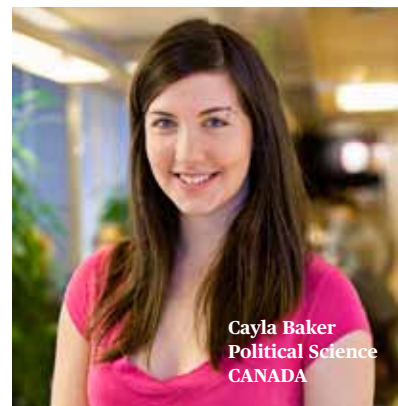
Umeå has four distinct seasons and you can enjoy nature and wildlife all year around - you will have the opportunity to ski and ice-skate in winter and take a swim in a lake in summer. For those who like outdoors adventures there are plenty of places to go rock climbing or white water kayaking. In Umeå, you will have the opportunity to live in a city but constantly be close to nature.

### Where different worlds meet

As the largest city in Northern Sweden, Umeå serves as an educational centre and as a hub for knowledge and business. Over half of the people who live here are from outside the region. More than 50 languages are spoken - with English widely used everywhere - and there is a thriving community of clubs and societies that represent people and cultures from across the globe.

With its two universities, over 36,000 students from all over the world and international research and business communities, Umeå is a place where different worlds meet.

**“The university buildings are of such high quality... everything is very modern.”**



Cayla Baker  
Political Science  
CANADA



# Campus Umeå

## Modern facilities and a creative atmosphere

Umeå University, founded in 1965, is a truly international university with students, faculty and staff from all around the world. Here you are guaranteed an international academic experience. You will enjoy a real university city with a large student community and an exciting campus life.

Campus Umeå is one of the largest single university campuses in Sweden. This is where researchers and students from various sciences and programmes are gathered within walking distance of each other. The beautiful and compact American-style campus is situated close to the city centre and getting around by bus or bicycle is easy.

The university library provides a modern and spacious study environment alongside the many comput-

er labs situated around campus. In addition, wireless Internet access is provided throughout the university campus enabling our students to do their work anywhere they please.

An inspiring environment is an important prerequisite for success in learning and research. Modern and state-of-the art facilities provide space for creative thinking and the campus pond offers a new green area for relaxation. This is evident not only through innovative research and education but also through the informal atmosphere between teachers and students. We are proud to provide an educational environment where our students do not hesitate to contact teachers and lecturers directly to ask questions or to engage in discussion.

**Umeå University is a comprehensive university with four faculties and eight specialized schools and institutes:**

Faculty of Arts  
Faculty of Medicine  
Faculty of Science and Technology  
Faculty of Social Sciences

Umeå School of Architecture  
Umeå School of Business  
Umeå Institute of Design  
Umeå School of Education  
Umeå Academy of Fine Arts  
Umeå School of Restaurant and Culinary Arts  
Umeå Institute of Technology  
Umeå Sport Science Centre



# How do I apply?

Exchange students must be nominated from their home university. To become nominated for an exchange term or a year at Umeå University, you will need to contact the international coordinator at your home university. Once you have been nominated, you will receive further instructions on how to apply to Umeå University as an exchange student.

[www.umu.se/english/education/exchange-students](http://www.umu.se/english/education/exchange-students)

## **Degree and independent students apply online**

Students wishing to study single-subject courses and degree programmes outside of exchange agreements should submit applications online through the national admissions site [www.UniversityAdmissions.se](http://www.UniversityAdmissions.se). You can also access our guide to making your online application and eligibility requirements on our website.

[www.umu.se/en/international-application](http://www.umu.se/en/international-application)

## **The Swedish academic system**

As a student at a Swedish university you will study one course at a time. Exams are given at different times throughout the academic year. One full week of study equals 40 hours of lectures, group work, seminars and independent study. One term consists of 20 weeks during which you will receive 30 higher education credits (ECTS). One ECTS credit is equivalent to 0.5 U.S. credits.



# Student Support Services

**The International Office** provides you with support concerning practical issues while you are getting settled in Umeå and preparing your life as a student at Umeå University. The International Office also arranges different activities and provides information about events that take place on campus and in the city.

**The Student Reception Desk** provides support and guidance for students who are unsure of where to turn with their enquiries. The well-trained staff can help you directly or refer you to the right person or department.

**The International Housing Office (IHO)** provides guaranteed housing for exchange students and tuition fee paying students in some of the main student housing areas. Accommodation offered through the IHO is located between a 5–25 minute walk from campus. Students live in “student corridors” consisting of 6–10 single occupancy rooms and a

shared kitchen and common room. The student corridors are always “mixed”, with both male and female students, Swedish and international students in the same corridor. All rooms have high-speed internet access. Find more information and how to apply for accommodation on our website.

[www.umu.se/en/housing](http://www.umu.se/en/housing)

## **Finding your own place – independent housing for non-exchange students**

The largest housing company in Umeå is Bostaden. They have a system for the allocation of rooms and apartments that awards those who have been registered with them the longest. In order to get the best possible offer of accommodation, you should register with Bostaden at the same time you apply to Umeå University.

[www.bostaden.umea.se](http://www.bostaden.umea.se)

**“Everybody is so friendly and speaks excellent English.”**



**Alfonso Daniel Cárdenas Davalos**  
Strategic Project Management  
MEXICO



# Enjoy an active campus life

Experience sport, music, activities and culture

**The Buddy Programme** is organised as a service for international students. The “Buddies” are Swedish students who volunteer to introduce new international students to the Swedish way of life. As a participant in the Buddy Programme, you will be part of a buddy group. The Buddy Programme involves the possibility to participate in a variety of activities such as sports, parties, and travel, or just having a cup of coffee with your group members.

**The Host Programme** provides our international students with an opportunity to meet regular Swedish people and to experience a little bit of Swedish everyday life. As a participating international student you are paired with another international student and the two of you receive one host person. Students and hosts

meet at least twice during the term. Your host will be an employee or a student at the university or an employee at Umeå Municipality.

**Culture on Campus** is the only one of its kind in Sweden. They arrange and produce free events on campus during lunchtime. They present many musical acts, but also literature, theatre, circus, film, photography, dance and art.

**The Student Organisations** and the student pubs at Umeå University are run by students who work on a voluntary basis. There is an extensive range of student organisations that cover all kinds of interests. We also have theatre groups, a comedy orchestra, an academic riding club, an international affairs club, the student radio station and the student newspaper.

## **Stay fit at Europe’s largest fitness centre - IKSU**

This may be the most popular meeting place on Campus Umeå for our students. IKSU Sport has several halls for team sports such as squash, basketball, and floorball, in addition to indoor pools, beach volleyball, facilities for many types of group training, a spacious and modern gym, a rock climbing wall, and a golf swing simulator. Through its outdoor – and alpine sections, they also offer a wide variety of affordable excursions and ski trips for beginner and more advanced skiers. You also have access to personal trainers, massage, physical therapists and other spa treatments.

[www.iksu.se](http://www.iksu.se)

# What can you study?

Umeå University offers a large selection of courses taught in English. All courses can be found in our online catalogue.

You can choose from a wide variety of single-subject courses and master's degree programmes that are taught entirely in English. Some bachelor's programmes are also available. You will receive a quality education from a dedicated teaching staff while enjoying a creative

study climate. Many international students from all over the world study at Umeå University every year and together with our Swedish students, they create a truly international campus where cultural diversity is part of the learning experience.

For Umeå University, it goes without saying that research and education go hand in hand.



## Subjects taught in English

Archaeology	Environmental Health	Nursing Science
Biology	Food and Nutrition	Occupational Therapy
Biomedical Sciences	Gender Studies	Physics
Business	Geography	Political Science
Administration	History	Psychology
Chemistry	Human Geography	Public Health
Cognitive Science	ICT and Learning	Social Work
Computing Science	Informatics	Sociology
Design	Law	Sports Pedagogics
Earth Science	Library and	Statistics
Economic History	Information Service	Swedish Tourism
Economics	Mathematical Statistics	<i>Subject to change</i>
Education	Media Technology	
Electronics	Medicine	
Energy Technology	Molecular Biology	
English	Music	

[www.umu.se/english/education](http://www.umu.se/english/education)

**“You will always find an open ear and a helping hand.”**

**Nadine Dedio**  
Teacher Education  
(English & History)  
GERMANY





## Umeå in Europe



Umeå will be the European Capital of Culture 2014, the EU's northernmost capital of culture ever. The theme 'Curiosity and Passion - the art of co-creation', is inspired by the eight seasons of the Sami calendar.

# Far Away, Yet So Close!

Northern Sweden is only hours away from the rest of Europe and there are many different ways to travel to and from Umeå.

You can wake up in Stockholm, have lunch in Umeå and go to bed in Berlin or London. A flight from Umeå to Stockholm takes only 50 minutes.

Umeå Airport is located within a ten-minute drive from both the centre of town and the university campus, and prices for flights are kept at a modest level by having three different airlines that fly the route to Stockholm.

[www.sas.se](http://www.sas.se)

[www.norwegian.se](http://www.norwegian.se)

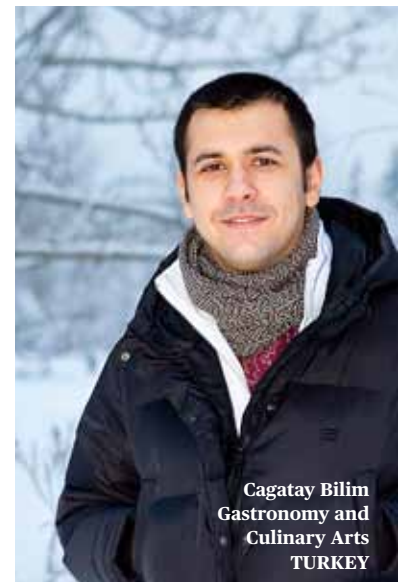
[www.malmoaviation.se](http://www.malmoaviation.se)

If you have time to spare and you want to save some money, you can opt to travel by Y-Buss along the Northern coast from Stockholm to Umeå. They also offer Wi-Fi on-board and a student/youth discount. [www.ybuss.se](http://www.ybuss.se)

For those who prefer environmentally friendly train travel, the high-speed railway up the northeast coast of Sweden is a must. It offers modern and fast train service that stops at a brand new station in Umeå adjacent to the University campus.

[www.sj.se](http://www.sj.se)

**“The mixture of unique nature and student life makes this place special.”**



Cagatay Bilim  
Gastronomy and  
Culinary Arts  
TURKEY

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# 10 Reasons to Choose Umeå University

1

## Satisfied students

91% overall student satisfaction rating according to the International Student Barometer, placing us 2nd in Sweden and 4th in Europe.

2

## Academic excellence

Well-trained and dedicated teachers along with world-leading research.

3

## First-class facilities and modern campus

Featuring the new Umeå Arts Campus, IKSU Sport centre, University Library, and free high-speed Wi-Fi.

4

## Breath-taking nature

Experience the Northern Lights, arctic landscape, endless summer nights and beautiful open countryside.

5

## Highly International

Students, faculty and staff from all corners of the globe. Over 52 languages are spoken in Umeå.

6

## City of Culture

Music festivals, theatre, opera and more. European Capital of Culture in 2014.

7

## Student support

Get the help you need with our International Office, Service Centres, helpful study advisors and Buddy Programme.

8

## Accommodation

Guaranteed for exchange and tuition fee paying students.

9

## Sports minded

Home of Europe's largest training and fitness facility (IKSU Sport) and many elite local sports teams.

10

## Wide selection

Over 150 courses and 30 degree programmes available with English language instruction.

## More information on the web:

Umeå University homepage  
[www.umu.se/english](http://www.umu.se/english)

Courses and Programmes in English  
[www.umu.se/english/education](http://www.umu.se/english/education)

Student Support Services  
[www.umu.se/english/education/student-support](http://www.umu.se/english/education/student-support)

About the city of Umeå and the surrounding region  
[www.umu.se/english/umea](http://www.umu.se/english/umea)

Videos: "This is Umeå University"  
[www.umu.se/english/about-umu](http://www.umu.se/english/about-umu)

Contact us on the contact form  
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