

Report about my time with NordPlus

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Home institution: DMJX Aarhus

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Place I went: Stockholm, Sweden

In May 2014 I went to Stockholm for 5 days with an Express Mobility scholarship from Nordic Stipend. The purpose of my visit was to write a story about football hooligans in Sweden. I attend the Danish School of Media and Journalism in Aarhus and as a final project we were allowed to travel within Europe for a problem oriented story.

The scholarship helped me a lot, because without it, I would not have been able to go to Stockholm and I would have missed out on a lot of experiences. It was my first time to travel abroad alone for a story, so that was exciting. I had to figure out everything by myself, that is not really hard, but the part of having no one for some help, did help me to become more independent.

In Stockholm I had interviews planned and I was set to visit a match from Djurgarden IF against IFK Göteborg. I specifically chose this match, since it is a derby and often hooligan related things happen. The interviews I had planned turned out fine, except for one with a government official. She didn't want to meet anymore.

The match went extremely well for me. It had two big accidents with the fans. A pyroshow and a lighter thrown at a linesman caused for in total a 45 minute delay of the match and a lot of uproar in Swedish media. Because of NordPlus I was there to record everything and get the footage I needed.

I put it all together to a multimedia story that might get published. That depends on how contact goes between me and some news outlets.

I learned a lot, next to just working all alone. It is harder to get in touch with people from another country, they might not speak the same language as I do or just not willing to cooperate in English or with a student. This worked out after a while, but I learned that it could give you troubles. A lot of sources were not that eager to reply and it took me a lot of convincing before they wanted to cooperate. That is nothing new, but when I can talk my native tongue(Dutch), that makes it easier. Now we both had to speak a language that is not our first.

Besides the lessons I learned and the story I wrote, Sweden is an amazing country and Stockholm a beautiful city. I am definitely visiting again, but then with more free time on my hands. It looks like a Southern-European city, with all the palaces and statues, but then with a bit of Sweden in it, with a lot of parks and trees. The water based capital of Sweden is a wonderful place. Getting to see a bit of the Swedish culture, football culture mostly, was interesting and I am glad I had the opportunity to do that.

I would really like to thank NordPlus for this opportunity they gave me. It gave me a lot of good things and I am just really glad I was selected for it, since there were a lot of other candidates with good story topics.

Casper van Es