

Feedback on exchange program to JIBS, Sweden

A. Ways of getting scholarships either in India or abroad and getting other funding there (Rooms, grants)

We didn't come across any possibilities for scholarships or funding available either from the embassy of Sweden in India or in Sweden. However, we strongly advise all students to carry ISIC student cards with them. They can avail handsome discounts on train/bus fares as well as quite a few youth hostels. ISIC cards can be made in Delhi/Mumbai by producing ID cards, at an annual fee of Rs. 200.

B. Visa Requirements

Students have to apply for the visa at the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi. The application can be collected from the Embassy itself. The application takes 8-10 weeks in processing and costs around Rs. 6000. We strongly advise students to apply for visa as soon as they receive their acceptance letters from JIBS.

C. Lodging Details

JIBS gives an option of accommodation being arranged by the school. We advise students to avail this option as searching for accommodation on your own is quite tough and students will miss out on a wonderful opportunity of interaction with other international students. The school arranges accommodation in shared apartments, with one private room and a common kitchen and bathroom. One apartment generally houses 3-4 students. Monthly rent is approximately Rs. 10000. Other benefits of staying in these apartments include the tremendous opportunity of interacting with other international students. We recommend students to stay at the apartment complex called 'Raslatt' that offers excellent amenities of washing, cleaning, sports and entertainment as well a heavy discount on the bus fares.

Apart from Jonkoping, students might think is wise to arrange for some accommodation in Stockholm in case there journey to Jonkoping involves a day stay at Stockholm. Youth hostels in Stockholm can be found on the net and bookings can be made using a credit card. We advise students to carry YHA membership cards in order to avail students prices at youth hostels across Europe.

D. Supermarkets and shopping

The apartment complex is like a small township having amenities like a supermarket, banks, hospital and post office within walking distance. Food is reasonably priced. Varieties of Vegetarian as well as Non-Vegetarian food is available.

While food at the supermarket was reasonably priced, eating out and shopping is quite expensive. A McDonalds meal would around SEK 45 (Rs. 270 approx)

E. Transport

JIBS arranges for a discount on the bus passes for all students staying at the apartment complex 'Raslatt'. A monthly bus pass that costs SEK 450 (Rs. 2700 approx) comes at a discounted price of SEK 180 (Rs. 1080 approx). The bus pass is valid all over the city for unlimited travel. Other modes of transport are taxis that are extremely expensive. There is no inter-city train transport at Jonkoping.

For those students who intend to travel in Europe, there are plenty of options to choose from. Buses, Trains or Flights. Ryanair is the best, cheap-fare airline.

F. What to take from India

We advise students to carry all medicines that they might require (as medicines are extremely expensive). For those who enjoy Indian food, it is advisable to carry 'masalas' and spices used in cooking food. All students cook their own food. All crockery and utensils are provided in the kitchen. As it gets quite cold November onwards, students will require warm clothing like gloves, caps, muffler etc. They might like to carry a thick jacket or might like to buy one there (for approx SEK 500 = Rs. 3000). Also, they should carry some Indian gifts for friends and teachers that they would meet.

G. Cheapest way to get currency

The national currency of Sweden is the Swedish Kroner (SEK). SEK 1 is approximately equal to Rs. 6. Sweden has, as yet not accepted the 'Euro'. The easiest way to get local currency is to carry TCs. However, conversion of Dollars, Pounds or Euros to Swedish Kroners can be easily done at any of the Banks at a conversion fee of approximately SEK 30 (Rs. 180).

H. Professors to contact there

Leticia Lovkvist is the Coordinator for International students. She can be reached at Leticia.Lovkvist@jibs.hj.se

JIBS is famous for its Entrepreneurship discipline. Prof. Per Davidsson, in particular, was extremely impressive. We suggest that students interested in 'Entrepreneurship' should definitely pick up his courses, notably 'Entrepreneurial Creativity' and 'New Venture Development'

I. Possibility of Research Assistantships

Research Assistantships are not offered for the stay of 3 months. But some professors do offer the same, for a two year period, once students finish their MBA.

J. Name of the Administrative Coordinator

Leticia Lovkvist (Leticia.Lovkvist@jibs.hj.se)

K. Good courses

JIBS is renowned for its research and work in the field of 'Entrepreneurship'. Course offered in the field of Entrepreneurship are particularly good. Examples: 'Entrepreneurial Creativity' and 'New Venture Development'. Few courses on Marketing and Strategy are different from those offered here for example Business to Business Marketing.

The structure of the courses is as follows. The curriculum for the entire term is divided in two segments. The first segment is from end of August till mid October. The second segment starts in the last week of October and goes on till the end of the term. 2 courses are offered to international students in each term totaling to 4 courses in all. Because JIBS and IIML have an agreement between each other, we were allowed to cover 5 courses in all.

L. Dates for arrival and departure

Arrival - Last week of August

Departure - Around 22nd December

M. Comparative experiences of students of other IIMs (If different from IIML students)

We had students from IIM Calcutta with us. The first difference in their and our experience that we would like to share is, that students from IIMC were able to start the term at JIBS, 2 weeks before us. The first week at JIBS is an orientation week. We feel that it is extremely important to attend the orientation program at JIBS as one becomes aware of many issues and is able to make friends early and be part of cross cultural project teams. The other disadvantage that we faced by arriving at JIBS two weeks late was the classes that we had missed and the denial from picking up the course 'Entrepreneurial Creativity'.

Towards the end of the term, the IIMC students had enough time to return to India, spend 4-5 days at their home before their term at IIMC started. We, on the other hand, had to rush back to Lucknow as soon as we arrived in India since we had already missed a week of classes.

The most interesting difference that we experienced was that in spite of the fact, that all of us came from equally reputable schools in India (IIMC and IIML), we were following different systems of course credits transfer. IIMC recognizes the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and thus they were required to follow the JIBS system of course selection and cover 4 courses in all. Since IIML follows the system of classroom contact hours, we had to cover 5 courses.

We would like to make an observation here. JIBS followed a very different system of teaching and examination. Some courses had an oral exam while others had a written exam. The project and assignment pressure in some courses was even greater than IIML. So, while a course like 'New Venture Development' had only 20 classroom contact hours, it is one of the most intense courses offered at JIBS. Hence we feel, that perhaps the contact hours system of course credit transfer is not ideal.