Oslo, Norway
The Oslo School of Architecture and Design

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Capital city of Norway, around the same population as Dublin but a smaller centre. The centre is the train station and your exchange rate is right it’s just that expensive. There are no shortcuts really you just have to be prepared to spend to live there.

Oslo, and its people, are all about the nature. The city’s trams and trains can bring you out to the scenic lakes and mountains within twenty minutes. At night the winter, the surrounding mountains are lit up by floodlit ski slopes. There are no shortcuts really you just have to be prepared to enjoy the winter in the city. Snow cover is from November to late March, only April and May is easy enough to cope with because it is dry and cold and they are very prepared. Coldest we experienced was around -25 in February and earliest sunsets were at around 3.30pm.

Oslo is home to the Nobel Peace Centre, Edward Munch and the Holmenkollen ski jump among other things. There are definitely lots of activities to see here and highlights of the city include the scenic lakes and mountains.

The people are friendly and polite and generally there is a good atmosphere in the city. While it is lively most areas are clean and the student accommodation is that is suitable for exchange students. There is plenty of student accommodation to get a feel for the city, and we are constantly being told that we are the best housemates by the local residents which is the best house to stay in. With the right preparations Oslo is a great city and I'd do it again if given the chance.

The Oslo School of Architecture is attached to the design school. The research focus is on the ethics, and social and economic atmosphere of the school. The building and its facilities are second to none with specific building labs and workshops for specific materials. The semester is run with a studio course and an elective course. There is a wide range of options for both studio and elective courses which means that students can really dictate the type of degree they end up with. Each studio has a specific focus and allows the students to really focus on research and design. The semester is around sixteen weeks which seems long but there is a study trip included in it. Overall the students in Studio B3 could see as it was there a focus on research and getting to know Norway. The semester is run with a studio course and an elective course. There is a wide range of options for both studio and elective courses which means that students can really dictate the type of degree they end up with.

I really enjoyed my time in AHO from the people to the course content. The atmosphere in the school is relaxed and welcoming and I would have no real complaints with it at all.

Study Trip: California, Nevada, Arizona, April 2011.