

The Sweden Survival Kit

-by DMNo11K-

This is a guide covering a bunch of things most new students have to find out the hard way about life in Gothenburg, Sweden. We'll try to make it easy on you this year by providing you with a plethora of random miscellaneous information to fill your skull with, and hope you learn some good stuff from it.

1. Student union membership.

We love unions. Everything has a union out here. Everyone is part of several unions, sometimes without even being aware of it. As a student at Chalmers, you are automatically enrolled in the student union. Except not really. You aren't fully part of it until you pay your union dues, which is 240 SEK. Pay this as soon as possible, online or at the reception desk in the union building. After getting your student card, paying the union fee gives you a bunch of discounts at shops on and off campus, and even for online shopping

.
Most importantly, you need to have your union dues paid or else you won't be able to go to exams.

2. Banks

We love banks. You can get yourself into crippling debt with a few signatures and a handshake. Except banks hate students. We don't have the money to pay back that crippling debt, so they refuse to create accounts for you. But don't worry, someone has been to multiple banks and found one which won't shoo you off.

Nordea Bank will let you make a debit account. It takes about 1-2 weeks. You show up, ask to open an account, they ask you for a bunch of info and papers and schedule a meeting in a couple weeks. After that, it takes a couple of days for you to get your fresh physical card by mail.

Swedbank will not accept students without proof of salary.

HOW DO I SEND MONEY!!? WHAT IS THIS SWISH THING.

The Swedish banking system is relatively closed and regulated. You can spend your cash using any debit card you might have, at supermarkets and large establishments. However, to send money to your friends and less uh, 'commercial' entities (i. e. Buying drinks at a campus party), people use **Swish**. You need a Swedish bank account to use Swish. As you just saw, that takes a while to get. For DMNollK events, we have you covered with an alternative. You can use Revolut with any international bank account. Just transfer some money to your Revolut account before an event. Around 50-100 SEK should be enough for any extra booze your heart might desire.

We'd love to include free drinks at the events but the GOVERNMENT refuses our God-given right to spend education budget cash on alcohol.

3. Weather

Gothenburg is a **W E T** city. Around half the days in the year it will rain. Make sure you have umbrellas, raincoats or weather-resistant clothing if you head out for longer periods of time. When the temperature drops, the water is replaced by cold white flakes that bite into your skin and want to kill you. Make sure you have at least a pair of nice and tough boots (especially if you like hiking) to get through the snow and the slippery frozen asphalt, and make sure you have a reasonably thick and warm winter jacket.

Another thing you'll notice is that the day gets shorter and shorter, until you feel like the sun just disappeared. It hasn't. It'll be back. Days get short as you advance into winter, and longer as summertime comes. In summer the days get so long you'll find yourself falling asleep with the sun still out.

Extra tip, if during winter the public transport gets shut down for the lines you use to get back home or to the university, and you have to take an Uber or taxi, the transport agency will refund your trip costs up to a certain point, if you have a period ticket.

4. Food, Furniture, Fashion

The most widespread supermarket chain is ICA. A cheaper alternative is Lidl. THE cheapest alternative is random food markets around the town. A very cheap and cool place is Göteborgs Orienthus, where you can go and buy a 2kg bag of chicken for almost half the price you'd get at other shops. Filled with oriental food and spices. Go there for a supply run if you're ever feeling like money is getting tight.

On-campus you can get food from a bunch of student restaurants scattered all over the place. The cheapest one is Express, where you get a HIGH-CALORIE surprise casserole every day. They also sell julmust in winter, which makes it automatically the best restaurant. The almost-complete list of restaurants and their menus can be found here: <https://mat.dtek.se/>

Furniture you can get at the ever-present, all-powerful IKEA. More than half the furniture and dishes you'll ever see come from this magical place. Relatively cheap and always good quality.

You can also get hand-me-down dishes and cutlery from other students at sale events.

For your burning desire for fashion and tight fits, H&M has you covered with some good prices and quality. Stadium for sport clothes, jackets and thick boots.

5. Communication

Most people in Sweden use Facebook and Facebook Messenger to keep in touch. It's time to dust-off the old facebook account you made when you were 12. Everyone else probably has WhatsApp.

All the events will be announced on our official facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/dmnollk>

And also on Discord:

<https://discord.gg/QxhYre8Gps>

This is the Discord channel used by the whole Dtek committee (computer nerd software engineering students), of which DMNOLLK is part of. We are the master computer nerds.

Our channels are: **mpalg**, **mpcsn**, **mphpc**

6. Transport

Lots of things are free in life, but unfortunately transportation is not one of them. The transport agency, Vasttrafik handles buses, trams and even ferries. Once you get your student card, you can buy a discounted 'youth' ticket from them.

If you're feeling brave, the fee for riding without a ticket is 1500 SEK, and the ticket inspectors wear either full-white caps or dark-blue vests. If you saw a bunch of people hurrying to leave the bus once someone with a white hat got on, now you know why.

Gothenburg is split in half by a river that separates the city like a gaping wound. And guess what, the two sides of the Chalmers campus, Johanneberg and Lindholmen? Why, they're on different sides of that river. So if you have course hours that need you to go to another campus, you better get on the ferry.

There should be 2 ferries constantly running, as well as bridges that connect the city. Again, ferries are included in the ticket, you don't have to buy a separate ticket anywhere for them.