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The College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University works with our Education Abroad office to provide a variety of opportunities for students to study, volunteer, intern and research abroad. I was pleased to be able to attend the site visits with EuroScholars to explore research opportunities for our students at Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), University of Helsinki (Finland) and University of Zurich (Switzerland). Although I am not directly involved with scientific research fields I am involved with liberal arts topics and the advisors who work with students in these majors. Many students in our college and university look for research opportunities and I wanted to see what was available through the EuroScholars program.

Through the visits our group was able to learn about how students would live and do research in Helsinki, Stockholm, and Zurich. We were able to see presentations by students about the research they were doing in conjunction with their mentors or people they were doing research with. All the students were very involved with the research and appeared to be fully integrated into the lab or department they were doing research with. They all seemed very pleased with their placement and seemed to enjoy the people they were working with on their research. They also seemed to enjoy their time with other students. On one occasion, in Helsinki, we were invited to go to a Karaoke night with a group of students. It was clear from spending time with them that they were very engaged with their research and they loved the groups of students they had met and were making lifelong friends with from all over the world.

While at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) we were able to listen to an informative overview of the university and visited one of the locations students live in. We also were able to hear from several very interesting presenter and EuroScholars students on a variety of topics of research: Molecular and cellular mechanisms regulating sleep and biological clocks, Political Science, Medical Genetics, Physics in relation to the supercollider, and the Center of Experimental Rheumatology & Clinic for Rheumatology. All very interesting projects.

At Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) we had a lively overview about the Institute and we were able to meet in the Nobel Forum with a member of the group who determines who will get the Nobel Peace Prize. In addition other presentations and lab visits were with the department of Microbiology Tumor and Cell biology and a lab for Advanced Light Microscopy. We also met with a graduate student researcher who was a former EuroScholars student. Lots of great opportunities for medical focused research were presented.

While at the University of Helsinki (Finland) we met with a large group of EuroScholars consortium members and the 22 current students in the program. They have an extensive library and a great focus on teaching and learning for teachers. We visited a Cognitive Brain Research lab and listened to several presentations at a second campus where they focus on ecology, disease evolution, genetics, conservation biology, and biodiversity. One research project was focused on about butterflies and their tolerance to drought conditions over several generations.

At all of the locations the universities are located with easy access to students housing options. They all have reasonable meal costs and good support from the institution. All of them also are easily accessible by public transit. I was impressed that the students get a lot of interaction with other local and international students. A real positive!

I will certainly be an advocate for the EuroScholars program. I feel it gives students an opportunity to do research abroad with a supportive network and in locations that are safe and easily accessible.