HOUSING GUIDE
FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS
2020/2021
Contents

Finding accommodation in Gothenburg 3
SGS and SGS/UGOT 4
Returning after your exchange studies? 4

SGS/UGOT (student housing) 4
No housing guarantee 4
Should I register at the SGS website? 4
How do I know if I’ve been allocated accommodation? 4

Housing Anywhere 5
Beware of SCAMS! 6

Housing ads 6
Blocket.se 6
Facebook 6

Scams 7
I’ve been scammed - what do I do? 7
Have you received an offer or spotted an ad and wonder if it is safe or not? 7

Short-term housing 8

Further reading 9
Move to Gothenburg 9
Study in Sweden 9

Frequently asked questions 10
How do I apply for SGS/UGOT housing? 10
Does the University offer housing guarantee? 10
When will I know if I got SGS/UGOT housing or not? 10
What do I do if I find a housing ad but feel unsure if it is real or an attempted scam? 10
What happens if I don’t find somewhere to stay in time for the start of the semester? 11
Moving to Sweden with your family? 11

Public transport in Gothenburg 12
Ticket prices when commuting 12
Student discount 12

Map of Gothenburg 13
Finding accommodation in Gothenburg

Gothenburg is Sweden’s second largest city, hugely popular not only with students but also commercial ventures. Many people are moving to study and work in Gothenburg, and as a result we are experiencing a housing shortage.

As an exchange student you apply for the University of Gothenburg’s priority housing for exchange students (SGS/UGOT) when you fill in your exchange student application. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will be allocated an SGS/UGOT accommodation as the number of incoming students exceeds demand particularly in the Autumn. In the Spring, we usually have enough accommodation to meet demand. We will let you know if you have been allocated accommodation by end of November.

If you don’t want to wait until then, you can start reading up on private housing alternatives, such as renting a room in an apartment or villa. Although many students would prefer private student housing, renting a room from a Swedish family does have advantages, for instance in terms of getting familiar with Swedish culture and customs and learning the Swedish language quicker if you plan to pick up some Swedish while you’re here.

To maximize your chances of finding accommodation, we recommend that you should not limit your search to the city centre where the competition is the greatest, but widen your search to include areas outside of the city centre as well. Public transportation in the city is effective and offers wide coverage, so staying outside the city centre is not a problem.

Unsure of where to begin? This guide will help get you started.
SGS and SGS/UGOT

SGS provides student housing for students in Gothenburg. SGS/UGOT is priority exchange student housing offered by the University of Gothenburg through SGS. As an exchange student you should not register on the SGS website. Instead you apply for housing at the same time as you apply for exchange studies.

Returning after your exchange studies?

If you think you might return to the University of Gothenburg after your exchange studies finish, you may consider registering with SGS to start accumulating queueing time. That will make it easier to find accommodation when you return a few years from now.

SGS/UGOT (student housing)

SGS is the largest provider of student housing in the city. The University of Gothenburg offers exchange students limited priority housing through SGS/UGOT. The application for SGS/UGOT housing is integrated into the exchange student application process, i.e. you do not apply for SGS/UGOT separately.

No housing guarantee

Because of the severe housing shortage in Gothenburg, we are unable to offer a housing guarantee. Especially in the Autumn we have more students than there are available student housing.

Should I register at the SGS website?

No, you should not. There is no point in registering on the SGS website as the queueing time for regular SGS student housing is longer than one year.

How do I know if I’ve been allocated accommodation?

If you are allocated a student accommodation the University will send you instructions, including a code, on how to proceed and how to accept your SGS/UGOT accommodation. We will send you this information in the end of May/beginning of June.
Housing Anywhere

When local students decide to temporarily leave Gothenburg, for example to study or do an internship abroad, they often rent out their room or flat for the period they are not here. The HousingAnywhere platform gives you access to the ads for rooms that these students publish.

You can see an introduction video on how the system works here:

www.youtube.com/user/HousingAnywhere

https://housinganywhere.com
Beware of SCAMS!
Every year we hear from students who have lost money on housing that doesn’t exist. Please, be careful! Never pay anything in advance. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
You can read the Swedish Police force’s recommendations in this guide on page 7.

Housing ads

Blocket.se
The online marketplace Blocket.se lists not only books, bicycles and other things for sale, but also rooms and flats. Please keep in mind that Blocket.se is not curated and scams do occur. The website is unfortunately not available in English.

www.blocket.se

Facebook
The student unions have Facebook groups for international students. Some of the unions create new groups for each semester. You may want to join several union groups and the groups from the previous semester to get in touch with current of previous international students. Many of them will have been in the same position as you are now and may have invaluable experiences to share with you.

www.gu.se/studentbuddies

There are also several Facebook groups dedicated to the housing situation in Gothenburg and to helping people find somewhere to stay. Housing ads are common here and it is possible to find housing this way. Once again, however, keep in mind that while moderators will often try to remove fraudulent ads as quickly as possible, these groups are not curated and scams do occur.
Check out the links below for two popular groups: Find accommodation in Goteborg and Bostad Göteborg.

www.facebook.com/groups/accommodation.goteborg
www.facebook.com/groups/51849400997/
Scams

Due to the difficult housing situation in Gothenburg, housing scams have become an unfortunate reality. Please be careful when looking for somewhere to stay in Gothenburg and never pay anything in advance. Here are some guidelines from the Swedish police:

1. Form a picture of the situation, not the person.
2. Check with the property owner that the person is the occupier of the flat.
3. Require identification of the landlord and a tenancy agreement.
4. Never pay deposit or rent in advance before you have visited the accommodation and a contract is signed.
5. Be wary if the landlord is abroad or can not meet you.
6. Do not pay money via anonymous payment services.
7. Bring a friend or family member when you visit the accommodation. Four eyes can easier see through a fraud. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it is usually so.
8. If you have been the victim of a fraud, it is important that you report this to the police.

Source: Swedish Police

I’ve been scammed - what do I do?
If you become the victim of a fraud on the Gothenburg housing market, please report it to the police.

Call 114 14
or visit a police station

Have you received an offer or spotted an ad and wonder if it is safe or not?
If you encounter a situation where you are unsure if it is a fraud or a real offer, discuss it with friends or family and proceed with caution if you do decide to proceed.
Short-term housing

There are many hostels in Gothenburg and SGS, the largest provider of student housing in the city, offer short-term housing through their SGS Veckobostäder service. For very short stays on a tight budget, Couchsurfing may also be an option.

Hostels:

SGS Veckobostäder:
https://www.sgsveckobostader.se/en

Couchsurfing:
https://www.couchsurfing.com/
Further reading

Move to Gothenburg
Lots of good information aimed at people moving to Gothenburg. The website is primarily geared towards people moving here to work, but contains a lot of information which is useful also to future students.

www.movetogothenburg.com/

Study in Sweden
An official website aimed at people interested in studying in Sweden. The website is run by the Swedish Institute and has a lot of information useful both before you arrive and during your stay in Gothenburg. You can read about finding accommodation here: https://studyinsweden.se/life-in-sweden/accommodation/

https://studyinsweden.se/
Frequently asked questions

How do I apply for SGS/UGOT housing?
When you apply for exchange studies at the University of Gothenburg you are asked if you would also like to apply for housing.

Does the University offer housing guarantee?
Unfortunately not. Due to the severe housing shortage in Gothenburg we are unable to offer housing to all incoming exchange students.

When will I know if I got SGS/UGOT housing or not?
You will receive an e-mail in the end of May/beginning of June.

What do I do if I find a housing ad but feel unsure if it is real or an attempted scam?
As a rule, never pay anything in advance. Wait until you have seen the flat and have the keys before paying anything. Read more under Scams on page 7.
What happens if I don’t find somewhere to stay in time for the start of the semester?

Sometimes it is not possible to find housing in time for the start of the semester. In that case you may have to start the semester in a hostel or staying with friends. Fortunately, finding a place to stay is easier once you are here in person.

While finding somewhere to stay at this point may feel rather hopeless and impossible, experiences from previous years are positive suggesting that it is possible and indeed probable that you will find somewhere to stay within two weeks following the start of the semester.

If you have been limiting your search to housing in the city centre or near your faculty, we would recommend that you look outside the city centre as well. Public transportation in the region is efficient offers wide coverage, making commuting by bus, tram or commuter train a viable option. You can always move close to the city centre later on.

Moving to Sweden with your family?

If you are an incoming student whose family is going to be living with you during your time in Gothenburg we recommend, if you’ve not already found accommodations, that you first travel to Gothenburg by yourself and that your family joins you when you have your living arrangements worked out. Please be aware that finding accommodation for a family is significantly more difficult than for a single person.

Regardless if your family travels with you or joins you later you should still apply for your residence permit as a family to ensure that the processing time is as short as possible.

https://utbildning.gu.se/education/incoming-student/bringing-family
Public transport in Gothenburg

Västtrafik provide bus, tram, ferry and commuter train services in Gothenburg and throughout the Västra Götaland region, making it easy to travel not only in the city, but also to neighbouring towns and cities. You can read about ticket prices and check travel time on their website.

When looking for someplace to stay, it is important to consider areas outside the city centre and perhaps outside the city altogether. We have put together a graphic showing commuting time by train to the Gothenburg main train station (Göteborg C). Remember that you can always continue looking for something closer to your classes once you are here, if you are unhappy with the time spent commuting.

Ticket prices when commuting

When considering housing options outside of Gothenburg you will need to include commuting costs in your monthly budget. Period tickets are available for the Gothenburg municipality zone and for combinations of various other zones. You can find a complete list here:

https://www.vasttrafik.se/en/tickets/period-tickets/

Student discount

Västtrafik offers a student discount on some of their tickets. Please be aware that you will need to receive a digital Mecenat student discount card before you can use the student discount. It may take 2-3 weeks after the start of the semester before you receive your card.

There is a plastic version of the card as well, but only the digital one is valid on public transport.

www.mecenat.se
1. IT Faculty/Campus Lindholmen
   Forskningsgången 6
2. Faculty of Education
   Vastra Hamngatan 25
3. School of Business Economics and Law
   Vasagatan 1
   Faculty of Social Sciences
   Sprängkullsgatan 19
4. Campus Linné
   Seminariegatan 1
5. HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design
   Kristinehundsgatan 6 & Vasagatan 30
6. Academy of Music and Drama (Artisten)
   Fågelsången 1
7. Faculty of Humanities (Humanisten)
   Rennströmsgatan 6
8. Gothenburg train station (Göteborg C)