This summer I undertook a Erasmus Exchange programme with Stockholm University. The summer school was themed around Competition Law and Human Rights law – both two areas I am actively interested in but have not yet had a chance to study at Queen Mary. The summer school was a real primer for my interest in these areas – and I am now keen to take them further at QMUL.

I flew out bright and early from London Heathrow on a Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) flight to Stockholm Arlanda. This was something that the Expeditions Fund handily paid for and saved me the pain of a dreaded Ryanair flight.

Having only got my first passport this year I’ll admit I was nervous about the trip as a whole but the support from both QM and Stockholm really put me at ease about it. There was a really active social calendar that included the Vasa Museum, barbeques and traditional Swedish activities like Kubb (also known as Viking Chess) and Fika – which is almost a way of life in Sweden.

As well as the organised social calendar, we explored a lot of Stockholm on our own. We visited the world’s largest Ikea, sampled many of the bars Stockholm has to offer and even Kayaked around the archipelago, which was by far the highlight of my trip.
Expeditions Fund Report: 
Legal Summer School at Stockholms Universitet

LLB(Hons) Class of 2021: Queen Mary University of London
Summer Exchange Class of 2019: Stockholms Universitet

All of my classes were based at Campus Kräftriket (which after many attempts I still do not know how to pronounce). The campus had lots of breakout spaces and was a really great space for us to socialise. I had quite a heavy course-load over the month so ended up spending a lot time here.

The classes themselves were really interesting and innovative. We focused on practical aspects of the law that a traditional law degree tends to omit. Our materials were all provided for us and while there was a lot of reading (as you’d expect with any sort of legal subject) it was all accessible content and engaging.

The assessments were really accessible too. Instead of having to sit an exam our final grades were based on class participation and oral exams. In the human rights module this was a human rights submission to a body of your choice. I chose to submit a plea to a rapporteur regarding the administration of the death penalty in the United States. For my competition law modules, the oral exam were submissions to the European Union’s Director General for Competition. I wish these sorts of assessments were implemented at QMUL, as they are really innovative and play much more to my skills.

All in all, my experience in Stockholm was incredible. As my first real trip abroad, it has really opened my eyes and instilled a travel bug in me. As a result, I’ve committed to visiting two new countries every year, and am excited to see where my next trip will be!