



EXCHANGE REPORT

Name

Linn Ekman

Year and semester for
exchange
2024 Fall

Exchange university

Grenoble INP Phelma

Degree programme

Masters in Nuclear Engineering

A Fall in the Mountains

Before departure

When I applied for an exchange semester, my main motivation was the opportunity to meet new people who were studying the same subject as me. It was a chance to experience a new place and learn in a different environment and I chose this university because it was one of the few options available for my masters. I didn't need much preparation—no language courses, vaccinations, or visa applications were required. The process was simple, making it easy to get started.

Upon arrival

I arrived two weeks before my studies began to take an intensive French language course (which I really recommend, and it is a good place to meet people). The actual school semester started a week later. In reality, there's no need to arrive too early since you naturally meet people once classes begin.

Financials

The cost of living was similar to Sweden in most ways. Restaurants were about the same price, but groceries and school lunches were definitely cheaper. The school offered good lunches starting at just 3.30 euros, which made eating on campus really affordable.

Accommodation

I found accommodation through a French Airbnb site called **MorningCroissant**. Since I lived together with another person (we were doing the exchange together), we could afford a bigger place. The process was generally easy, but we spent a lot of time searching to find the optimal location and price. The university also offered student housing, and many exchange students stayed there. The quality varied, but it was a convenient option. I lived close to campus, which was common since the city is not very big, and also most student housing was nearby. My rent was around 6000 SEK per month, but it was possible to find places as cheap as 3000 SEK.

University and studies

The university was very large and offered almost every subject, though most courses were taught in French (I only took courses in English). Compared to KTH, the biggest difference was the mandatory attendance. You needed a doctor's note if you missed class in most cases.

There was less focus on exams and homework—instead, being present in class was the most important part. Teachers had a lot of freedom to set and change course rules (even during the course), so your experience really depended on the teacher. If you had a nice teacher, things were easier.

Courses

Courses from my main program, the **Materials in Nuclear Engineering (MANUEN)** program were structured a bit differently. Each course was referred to as a learning unit (UE), which was then divided into smaller courses. While it was possible to handle this differently, I chose to match the learning units to full courses at KTH. Otherwise, the individual courses would have been too small (and some of the small courses weren't defined with corresponding ECTS).

I had planned to take another course to reach 30 credits instead of 24, but a couple weeks after I arrived, I found out it was an expedition course, and I wasn't eligible to participate. By then, it was too late to find a replacement course.

The course quality varied a lot and depended heavily on the teacher. However, in general, the workload was lighter compared to KTH.

Course Code	Name	Credits	Corresponding KTH
4PMNXMT3 (AMIS)	Modeling Tools and AI techniques in Material Science	4	Elective
4PMHSIE8 (AMIS)	Sustainability in Industrial Engineering	3	Research Methodology in Physics 3.0 credits
UE1 BLOC 15 (MANUEN) WPMUFAR0 WPMUMG40 WPMUMOL0	Fast Reactors Material in GEN IV Molten Salt Reactors	2	Generation IV Reactors (SH2613) 6.0 credits
UE2 (MANUEN) WPMUDDS0	Defects diffusion and simulation Irradiation ageing	6	Radiation Damage in Materials 6.0 credits

WPMUIRA4	Linear defects and simulation		
WPMULDS0			
WPMUPDS0	Point defects and simulation		
UE3 (MANUEN)	Materials in GEN III	6	Compact Reactor Simulator- Exercises in Reactor Kinetics and Dynamics 6.0 credits
WPMUMG30	Additive Manufacturing		
WPMUAMA3	Framatome		
WPMUFCO3	Components Manufacturing		
WPMUEDF0	EDF activity : PWR and materials		
6PMFI1S2	French	3	Elective
6PMFE1S2			

City and country

I really liked the city — the mountains were visible from every direction, which gave it a beautiful and unique atmosphere. The short distances to the ski resorts made it even more appealing, offering easy access to nature and outdoor activities. The mix of urban life and natural surroundings really created a nice balance.

It's worth mentioning that some parts of the city are affected by criminality. However, it didn't have a significant impact on my overall experience, and as long as you knew where to now be by yourself in the middle of the night, you were generally fine.

Leisure and social activities

My free time was mostly spent going on hikes or skiing with other students that I had made friends with. This was something almost everyone fell in love with and I will definitely go back to this place for this very reason. You could so easily take a bus (for free if you already had a monthly tram ticket), and 30-60 minutes later you were met with the most amazing views and hikes.

Sustainability

Grenoble is a really impressive city when it comes to sustainability. They've made it super easy to get around without a car, thanks to the tram system and tons of bike lanes. As an exchange student you could easily rent a car for 50 euros for the whole semester and get around anywhere. You can tell the city really cares about the environment — there are lots of

green spaces and energy-efficient buildings. They've also been working hard to cut carbon emissions and use more renewable energy. It's cool to see how the city combines innovation with nature. Plus, it was named the European Green Capital in 2022, which shows how seriously they take their commitment to a greener future

