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During the period of 2 months of my staying in Sweden based on the scholarship provided by Sverker Åström Foundation, I have explored Sweden in my own way and was involved in numerous activities of different nature.

Starting from the **academic activity** I have experienced in Sweden, I was kindly met at the Faculty of Law of Stockholm University and presented to the staff upon my arrival. The topic I develop in the framework of my PhD thesis attracted attention of other PhD students and several professors who expressed their intention to meet up and discuss it. Besides the University staff I also met some practitioners and servants of Swedish government structures, whose area of interests is also International Law of the Sea. Among them I would like to emphasize the meeting with professor Marie Jacobsson, the Ambassador, Legal Adviser at Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Member of International Law Commission and professor David Langlet, Professor at the University of Göteborg whose topic is very close to mine. I've made a presentation of my theme and received valuable advices and directions of how to continue my research. In addition to developing my own theme I have also attended several lectures and seminars on International Law and took part in discussions.

One more interesting activity taking place at the Faculty of law on the regular basis is so-called "International Law lunches", ruled by the Vice-dean of the Faculty of Law Professor Pål Wrangé. These are informal lunches during which somebody is presenting his or her project or recently achieved results and is able to get recommendations and advices from the colleagues in informal environment. Professors as well as students and guest lecturers are also welcome to speak at such lunches.

The thing I can't miss in describing my academic activity at Stockholm University is the ability to visit University Library. One of the best in Sweden, due to description of my colleagues, it proposes variety of literature in English language. Here I have found the books to which I didn't have access in Russia. That is, for instance, very useful but rare "Commentary to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea". I was looking for this book for more than a year and here was able to take and read it in a hard copy. The same is applied to several other books devoted to International Law of the Sea. Finalizing the academic part I would like to mention regular "Fika" taking place at the Faculty of Law every Thursday. The good thing about this institution especially at the Faculty of Law is not only tasty cookies, but also that during "Fika" people don't talk about work, but rather chat and share some latest news, which has appeared to be more social than formal event.



Regarding the **cultural component** of my life in Sweden, I was lucky to be in Stockholm at the time of “Stockholm Culture Festival” in the middle of August. During the Festival free concerts including participation of Swedish music bands, street activities and markets were taken place in the city center. I have also watched Royal Opera’s “Midsummer Night’s Dream” ballet at the opening ceremony of new theatre season. In Uppsala, where “Culture Night” (Kulturnatten) full of events took place in September, I attended several of them. They offered excursions (I was hearing the one in Uppsala Domkyrka about the history of Medieval Sweden), free admission to several museums (Linnaeus Museum, Uppsala Universitet Museum Gustavianum), street concerts, food market and short movies festival.

I would like to mention especially the variety of museums which city of Stockholm offers to its inhabitants. Living in the city center gives you an opportunity to easily access almost all of them, so I took my chance and have visited many. Finalizing this part, I would like to mention Stockholm Jazz festival, one of the oldest and largest festivals in Sweden taking place in the beginning of October. The last days of my scholarship were at the time of this event and I spent my evenings visiting festival’s sites.



Social component of my staying in Sweden mostly connected with outdoor and travelling experiences. The weather allowed me to travel during the weekend and the destinations were: Drottningholm Palace, Nyneshamn – the southern part of Stockholm archipelago, Sigtuna – previous capital of Sweden, Uppsala - student’s city, Vaxholm – “heart” of Stockholm archipelago and others. That was the chance to inquire not only the Sweden’s capital rhythm but also how life goes in countryside and small villages. Combining travelling with other outdoor activities enlarged my general knowledge about Sweden. Several times I had been hiking and bicycling in the company including Swedish people, which familiarized me more or less with their views and ideas. I spent a lot of time enjoying the nature – Swedish countless forests, pure lakes, pines and rocks. Nacka nature reserve, Tyresta, G6msta, Nyckelviken, Norra Lunsen, Storskogen natural reserve near Uppsala – it is not the full list of nature reserves I have visited.

In conclusion I would like to thank organizers for electing my application to this scholarship. Sweden brought new people, ideas, thoughts and feelings to my life and I am thankful for it. Though I stayed in Sweden for 2 months instead of 3 (usual duration of scholarship) I tried to take all that Sweden can offer at the maximum extent.

