

REPORT

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Scholarship for research at the Uppsala University (Sweden, Uppsala)

Preparation and first days

I decided to start this report from the stage of the preparation for the scholarship and several general moments.

When I applied for the scholarship the Head of the Foundation Disa Hastad supported me in questions of accommodation and advised me to contact Associate Professor of Uppsala University Anna Jonsson Cornell. I did it and found that Professor Anna has deep interest in the research of Russian law and especially constitutional law and human rights. As well the doctoral student of Professor Anna – Asa Elmerot has the interest in the relation between national law and international law in Russia. I contacted Asa before 3 months of my arrival to Sweden and during all time in Sweden as well hope on cooperation in future.

As I said Disa Hastad managed with my accommodation in Uppsala and found great apartment for my living with the head of Smaland Nation of Uppsala University Victoria Linquest. I also managed with great bike in Uppsala, what after the internship I transferred to Oleg Semenov.

Visa process was fast – for three days I got the national visa type D. I opened the account in Russian Bank VTB for scholarship and got more than a half of it in February.

I flied to Uppsala 21 February 2014 and since 24 February had started my research activity in the University at Department of Law (Gamla Torget).

My first expressions were amazing because I have never seen the same level of university activity and the perfect quality of research organization. Advantages of Uppsala University in comparison with Russian system are:

- Educational environment (dormitories are near of University, bikes areas, students' nations, clubs, special events and holidays, places for different types of sport activities as well as the sport areas in city and sport clubs with 24 hours work)

- Practical-orientation of the education (for me this point is important and I observed the special practical courses in legal education as for example legal methods)

- Library (libraries with free access to books, e-library, the possibility to take the books for home using, the booking of librarian, the booking of room for research or group work, workshops, study in references management and publications)

- Research environment (different centers as USRC with multidisciplinary orientation and own research scopes; fellow researchers and lectures)

- High scholarship for students and salary for professors – this advantage allows the Uppsala University to attract the best students and professors

I have finished the activity in Uppsala University on 8 May. In the next paragraph I will describe the types of my activity in Uppsala and cultural events in Stockholm which I had a possibility to see during the scholarship.

Stockholm

The capital of Sweden is one of the most beautiful cities which I saw in my life. There are fascinating museums in medieval history, in ancient time and modern culture. I also was in protestants and catholic churches in Stockholm and near of this city together with Disa Hastad and other students.

The citizens in Sweden kindly helped me if I had problems with the right way to any street or building. I should say that Disa Hastad is the best host without doubt.

In Stockholm in May the OECD organized the conference in cooperation for economic and local development. Two days in conference I heard the reports and took part in workshops. My opinion is that many presentations have a positive orientation in improvement of local communities but Sweden has the similar problems with Russia here (just the levels of the problems are different): communication with the business for financial support of local programs.

It was a great time in Stockholm for me together with other participants of the program and guests of the Disa's house, include the members of the Foundation Board. The dinner with ex-President of Nobel Committee Prof. Mihael Sohlman is unforgettable because of special atmosphere and talented persons around me.

Summary of the work done during internship

During the internship I completed several the tasks: collection of the materials for my term paper in Higher School of Economics as well as for PhD thesis at Siberian Academy of Public Administration; done interviews with students and professors about higher education in human rights and constitutional law and it's perspectives, strategies for development – this type of work is crucial for me as for future professor. In close cooperation with Prof. Anna Jonsson I start the special article about Russian constitutional interpretation for European journal and collected the material about European Convention on Human Rights and its status in Sweden.

I had prepared two lectures for students from Department of Law about constitutional justice in Russia and human rights protection. I found the discussion after the classes was fruitful for me and students. The legal culture of Sweden and

Russia are deeply different however the problems in sensitive questions as same-sex marriage, the limitation of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, etc. are similar. We need to cooperate for correct result in judgments and development of judicial activism. In this sense the coordination between scientists in law and practitioners is needed.

As well I had special opportunities to observe the methodology in lectures and seminars at Uppsala University and pointed out that in Russia we need to use the sharing of learning time in favor to self-preparation of the students with guidebooks (consists of cases, articles, questions, references to necessary literature). The course in judicial methodology is crucial for students. Unfortunately in current Russian universities the special course in it is absent, even the course in logic was excluded from national standards in legal education. I plan in future to use the contact with colleagues in Uppsala University for special study in legal education methodology for practical skills of my future students.

I took part in seminars of Uppsala Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, include the seminars with Richard Saqwa, Sergey Mejuev and noted that the political and legal characteristics and focuses to Russia from different states are sometimes completely opposite and included the provocations and simplifications in concepts. I hope for cooperation with several PhD Students in this center in future.

Among cultural events in Uppsala I took part in gasque of Smaland nations and in several concerts in the central Kyrka. The students' culture in Sweden is different to Russian and in my life I have never been a part of so effective and independent students' organization as nations in Swedish universities.

Skills and knowledge what were acquired during internship

I got a skill to collect the materials for research paper in international library; I practiced the teaching during the internship for one of my target group – students in human rights and constitutional law and understood that for them the international experience in human rights is highly significant for success in profession of activists, human rights defenders, etc. I found myself more confident in my theory of constitutional axiology theory and looking forward to develop this branch of constitutional science for establishing the rule of law and human rights priority.

Which challenges did you encounter during your internship?

Problem 1: special view on Russian policy in human rights and democracy of different students from Europe, which mostly based on mass media perception, without facts. It was hard for me to explain them my own view of such policy.

Problem 2: it is more challenge than the problem – that I need to publish more materials about Russian constitutional law and practice in human rights in English with insight view because there are no relevant to current context research materials in English for European researchers. As a first step here during this

summer – autumn I together with Pr. Anna Jonsson plan to publish the material about constitutional interpretation in Russia with base on recent constitutional decisions.

Your recommendations on the content and organizational side of internship

I like the methods of organization for my internship as the combination of cultural and research activities and thank kindly to the Foundation for possibility to have internship at Uppsala University, cooperate with brilliant persons of Sweden and hope for invitations for research aim or cultural one in the future.



(One of Uppsala's Street)