Basic information
The exchange took place in Reykjavik University (Háskólinn í Reykjavík), in Iceland, during the autumn semester (August – December) 2017 under the Nordlys agreement. I performed my master thesis (Photoconductivity in functionalized oxide films) in the frame of my master program in physics.

Reykjavik
Reykjavik is a small city, almost a town, but very friendly, full of life and surrounded by breathtaking nature. It might not be the best destination for those who enjoy urban life, but I would highly encourage it for nature lovers. Socializing in pubs or exercising in geothermal swimming pools are among the most popular activities for locals.

Háskólinn í Reykjavík (Reykjavik University)
It is a small, but very well organized, private university. They are well connected with different industry sectors, and offer support for career development through a variety of activities. Their facilities are modern and well equipped.

Arrival
The welcome journey was organized in two days, where different activities – such as welcome lectures, tours through the city, lunch and parties – were held. The staff was always very helpful.

Courses
During my exchange, I performed my master thesis supervised by H. G. Svavarsson, who I would highly recommend to future students. While the equipment for experimental physics in Iceland is usually tight, the researchers are often creative, resourceful, dedicated and passionate. The project was held in a flexible environment with plenty of freedom to develop my own ideas.

Accommodation
Accommodation in Reykjavik is unfortunately a drawback for many exchange students, being the local housing market saturated. The important pressure of the tourism sector raised the prices of the rental market, and owners of accommodation often prefer to rent their premises to wealthy tourists rather than to students.

Leisure/spare time
Exploring the astonishing nature and swimming in the geothermal pools were among my favorite activities.

Costs
Accommodation is significantly more expensive than in Sweden. Students may expect to pay a monthly rent ranging between 5500 and 8000 SEK for a room. Besides that, the general cost of living is slightly higher than in Stockholm.

Other
Be ready for the harsh winter; vitamins intake and physical exercise might be helpful.