Basic information
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Winter / Spring 2017,
Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science

Vancouver
Nearly a million people live in this gem on the Pacific Coast. Amazing public transportation system that is really cheap for students and covers the city extremely well. Fantastic natural setting with hundreds of islands around the area as well as coastal mountains.

University of British Columbia
A very modern institution with a plethora of studying space, superbly-stocked libraries and great infrastructure. The atmosphere is a tad more formal compared to Lund University.

Arrival
I landed around midnight and had to take care of the transportation myself. Public transit can be confusing, so double check everything and check the timetables on https://www.translink.ca/

Courses
Much higher and more steady workload as opposed to Lund University. There’s usually daily and weekly assignments for each of the respective courses and significantly more reading. A semester starting January 3rd and ending April 29th makes 15 credits. At Lund I study Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science, but at UBC I had various modules at the same time, including Astronomy, Oceanography and Climate Change. There’s midterm and final exams which both make up significant parts of total course grade.

Accommodation
UBC provided my accommodation. The standard of living was very high as suggested by the prices. All exchange students are offered university accommodation if they apply. Don’t hesitate to communicate with UBC Housing via email and they will gladly explain anything that’s unclear: http://www.housing.ubc.ca/

Leisure / Spare time
During spare time I explored the city, went to concerts of which there were plenty and went hiking. A great resource for planning your hikes is this site: https://www.vancouvertrails.com/

Costs
Accommodation is extremely expensive and healthy food is quite a bit more expensive than in Sweden. Textbooks are also very expensive.

Other
Visa application for EU citizens is easy and the international coordinators in Lund explain everything regarding immigration very well.
Everyone is very polite. Expect a lot of thank you's and sorry's. People are more communicative and less reserved (compared to Sweden).

If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me an email at martynas@siliceousooze.com