

Over the past two weeks, we have had the valuable opportunity to join this study program at NTNU. As a person who never have had a trip to northern Europe, I was so excited and as expected, experienced a great number of differences between two countries.

For example, the hardware facilities.

First, the laboratories.

At NTNU, I was really impressed by the well-funded and advanced laboratories. The labs here are bright, spacious, and open to students from an early stage. During our visit to the Trondheim campus, some local students explained to us that even in their first year, they could enter the lab with peers and practice blood collection whenever they wanted.

Compared to this, in China, we do not always have so much access to labs as undergraduates. Since the student population is huge, it is not realistic to open labs and expensive equipment freely to every undergraduate.

Second, the canteens.

The food in NTNU canteen is delicious and healthy, but I must say that the food in NKU is much cheaper. Of course, I understand this is related to the broader economic background. Norway is known for high welfare and high taxes, with one of the highest incomes in the world. But the cost of living is also among the highest globally. During these two weeks, eating at the canteen here, I really felt the price gap—my food expenses here are almost ten times higher than in China.

Third, the sports and fitness facilities and student activity center

As someone who cares a lot about exercising and enjoys trying different kinds of sports, I found NTNU's gyms very impressive. The equipment is rich and diverse than in Nankai. And what surprised me most was seeing the indoor climbing wall at Trondheim campus. I love the swimming pool in Jinnan Campus. But I think the gym facilities still have a lot of room for improvement.

Student activity center in Trondheim is a large building only run by student and every stuff there are volunteered students. For the record, I was really shocked hearing this. It gives them a high degree of independence and greatly improves their skills in management, organization, and operation.

To sum up, experiencing both sides gave me a broader view of how universities can support students in study and living.

Now I would like to talk about my feelings of this travel in Norway.

Huge amount of feelings, really.

Huge amount of impressions. For example, there are so many people here who keep big dogs. I really love large dogs. The pine trees here seem quite different from the ones in most part of China. They grow really tall and slim. Look, they are incredibly tall. Then the most surprising one, People here are not as cold as I imagined before coming. In fact, Norwegians' passion for parties really surprised me. Look at this long turn. When we stayed in Trondheim, we could hear the noise from bars almost every night. Sometimes, after our evening activities, when we took the bus back to the hotel, a big group of students would get on after finishing their parties—usually after drinking a lot. I never expected that people in Northern Europe could be that loud. On the bus, I was less than one meter away from my friends, but we had to shout

to hear each other.

A special thing of this trip in Norway, is that we have more chances to talk to local students, even experience part of their lives. Also, this part, I mean, the communication part, is the most impressive thing for me in this period of time. I remember one of my new friends in Norway is a girl who's born in Guangdong, China but was abandoned, and fortunately adopted by her Norwegian parents. Her experience made me think of the changing but so far not so good situation that Chinese women are in. Me and my Chinese friend talk about the situation with a Norwegian friend. She was so astonished by the cases, but I also said that I believed it will change one day, through our efforts, through our strength.

The last day in Trondheim. We just finished our party in student's dorm, and wait for the bus. It's cold outside so we gather together and shake our bodies. At that time, me myself—a person who don't have a thing for social and party—understand the magic of it. When with friends, when without stress, all of those annoying things could be cheerful.

Trondheim is the third biggest city in Norway. And before I came to Ålesund, I asked professor Cao if this is a big city. She said it's just a small one. I was a little disappointed because I have a thing for big city. But, after I came here and walk around, I found that unless small cities in China, it has everything, enough to support most of the people's hobbies and spiritual needs. And it's really fun to explore here.

Me and my new friend bump into a special shop at the see shore where sell everything old, you see, everything old. It's owned by an old elegant lady.

We both love vintage store and in Ålesund, there's a lot. In one shop, I saw people playing ping-pong inside and I encouraged my friend to join them, and jokingly told her that one of the guys cheering nearby looked just like Wolverine—Hugh Jackman, you know. Compared to Shanghai, the prices in European vintage shops are much more reasonable, and I could really feel how popular the idea of recycling and reusing is here. It is not just a slogan. But in China, this kind of concept are not so popular yet.

I also came across a record store. Inside, I saw many familiar albums, but this time not as digital songs on my phone—they were real vinyl records.

Another shop that caught my eye was an art supply store. The entire wall was covered with paint tubes in every possible color. But I know how expensive art materials can be. So, in the end, I treated myself to a watercolor sketchbook.

All these little discoveries and moments made me fall in love with this small city. Ålesund, with its charm and creativity, left me with so many warm memories.

The last night in Norway, me and my friend decided to climb the mountain where we lived. We hit the road. We bump into a live show. We were refused to walk in because we don't have a ticket. We continued climbing. We met a group of teenager slapping on each other's face. We caught a heavy rain but went home happily. Because we feel free that night, in Norway.