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2014-15 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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## Experiential Learning at Its Finest

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## 2014-09-30 Experiential Learning at its Finest



I'm really starting to get used to this Scandinavian lifestyle. It's interesting because these past couple of weeks the excitement of arriving in a new city, surrounded by a new culture, has begun to wear off, but a new feeling of excitement/bliss has taken over. The realization that I am living in this city that will ultimately help in forming my future and laying out life skills that I will use forever-- cooking, budgeting, experiencing new cultures, searching for a job in new places, and so many more. It is most definitely a little scary, but also very, very exciting.

For the most part, I have done a pretty good job of adjusting to the new culture and adjusting to the different lifestyle here in Norway, but there are still a few things I am getting used to. One of the main things I am still adjusting to are Sundays. Sundays in Norway are different than Sundays back home. Back home I spend my Sundays preparing for the week: grocery shopping, studying, cleaning, etc. Here in Norway, Sundays are a day for pure relaxation. All grocery stores and retail stores are closed, but everyone is still out and about, walking around the city, enjoying the scenery at the many city parks, hanging out at the cafes enjoying one another's company, and exploring the neighborhood flea markets. It's a nice change of pace from the stressful Sundays I'm used to back home.

In class, we have been doing cultural presentations on our countries' educational systems as well as brief overviews of our culture. Freddy (fellow Linfield student) and I recently gave our presentation, and it was interesting to see just how appalled everyone was by the cost of attending college in the United States. It sparked a very interesting conversation about the importance of school and a citizen's right to attend.

I am still loving this beautiful country and all it has to offer. The nature, the city, the people, Scandinavia is a wonderful place. I'm constantly reminding myself of how lucky I am to be living here for the next two and a half months.

Nick Konen