

Gustavus Exchange - MORA FOLKHÖGSKOLA

MORA, SWEDEN

THE TOWN AND SCHOOL

Mora is a town of about 20,000 people, and though pleasantly located in a relatively rural area in the middle of Sweden, it is well connected by train to larger cities and airports. Mora has long been an important area to Sweden, and it was here in 1520 that King Gustav Vasa convinced men to fight the Danes. Mora is also the finish line for the world-famous “Vasa” ski race (*Vasaloppet*) which commemorates this event.

The school offers young people and older adults general education and job preparation, as well as a base for further studies and opportunities for personal and social development. Many students attend Mora for a “gap year” between school and University.

Each Swedish folk school has its own particular strengths. Skeriol is strong in traditional folk culture as shown through folk art. The county of Dalarna is at the center of a rich folk culture in music and the arts, including fold fiddling, loom weaving, birch bark weaving, ceramics, painting, carpentry and even blacksmithing. The rich outdoor life of Dalarna offers study of ecology and conservation.

Though there are students from countries as diverse as Poland, Japan, Iraq and Togo, most of the student body is Swedish; Skeriol's special relationships with Poland and Estonia provide an opportunity to learn more about those countries. Students range in age from 18 to 60, though around half are typical University age. The small student community (about 150 students) is called upon to participate in daily life through study trips, theme days, cultural programs and a “May Term” (similar to Gustavus January Term), which are all planned by students. Students share responsibility for decisions regarding curricular and social activities. Two major vacation periods of ten days each during the semester provide time for further travel around Europe.

There are two area orchestras as well as choirs which welcome visitors with skills to contribute. They also provide an opportunity for improving language skills and learning about Swedish culture.



ACADEMICS

Full enrollment at Skeriol requires 27 minimum hours, which is roughly equivalent to 4 Gustavus credits, and will transfer as such. The Mora Folkhögskola May Term fulfills a Gustavus January Term requirement.

Students are encouraged to combine classroom work with an activity in one of the handcraft programs. Academic courses offered include Swedish, science, history, math, English, environmental studies and history.

*At least three semesters of Swedish are required before enrolling in the program. All course work at Skeriol is done in Swedish. However, higher-level Swedish language classes are offered to continue the formal study of the language.

ACCOMMODATION

Students are housed on campus in one of two accommodation options: single room with a bathroom shared by seven people on one floor, or a single room with a bathroom shared by one other person.

Each house has a kitchen, living room and cost-free laundry room.

Students receive meals in a common dining room during the week, and weekends are self-catering.

COST

Students pay their Gustavus tuition as normal, and room & board are paid on site. Generally all financial aid applies except work study and certain scholarships that require participation on campus. Cost of transportation is the student's responsibility. A \$250 deposit is due upon acceptance.

DATES

Semester dates at Mora Folkhögskola correspond roughly to semester dates at Gustavus. Spring term begins in January, but students fulfill a January Term requirement by taking a Mora May Term course.

GAC Application deadline: March 1st for the following academic year; fall or spring semester or year options

Applications are available in the Office of International Education.

For more information please contact:

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A shot of the Skeriol campus



Bird's-eye view of Mora and Lake Siljan

I'd definitely recommend Mora to a student who is interested in the Swedish language and culture, and who is looking for a not-so-run-of-the-mill study abroad location or experience."

-Maren Stoddard, Gustie exchange student 2003-04