Hei hei! Enjoying your Californian sunshine days? Here in Oslo, winter is approaching after a round of rain season. Daytime is shrinking and nighttime is stretched out. It begins to turn dark at 4:00pm, while when I arrived here 3 months ago, the sun was always there up in the sky even after 22:00 pm. It also comes with rain, wind, and clouds. Be sure to prepare cozy and warm clothes for you to get through the coming winter times. So...I think it might be the time to share some helpful tips about living in Norway.

Staying in Oslo not only gets you meet people from all over the world, but also makes it easier to go out to see a bigger world. Most European countries are reachable within three hours by flight. After done with my term papers, I got time to travel around Europe and had a great experience. However, I would still choose Norway as the most suitable country of exchange for me after visiting other countries.

First of all, there is absolutely no need to worry about communication and language. Though the official language here is Norwegian, English is extensively used in Norway no matter in academic field or daily life. Almost everyone can speak fluent and nearly native English compare to people in other European countries, which did surprise me; and it truly makes life much easier especially for American students.

Norway is famous for its high regard of safety. There is no so-called "safe" or "dangerous" zones within the city. Even walking around city center in the midnight by two girls only, we did not feel any fear or uncomfortableness. (But being cautious is never a bad thing!)

Students in Oslo can enjoy many forms of benefits in aspects of sports, food, entertainment, art, etc., which encourages us to enrich our academic life with social, cultural, natural, and artist elements.

The well-developed transportation system also make Oslo highly liveable; fast and clean trains, buses, and trams commute you everywhere in the city.

As the country which always tops the chart of living expense, living in Oslo can be as expensive as 2-3 times comparing to living in the U.S. But, try to live like a Norwegian! One way is cooking in your kitchen and sharing it with friends from different countries. Life can be affordable and fun!