

**MFS REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**

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**Country for the project**

Bolivia

**Degree programme**

Degree programme in energy and environment

## Title, one sentence that summarises your exchange studies

### Before departure

I applied for minor field studies because I thought it would be interesting to try and apply what I've learnt in school in a more practical context. I opted for going to Bolivia because I have family there and therefore I have a strong personal connection to the country. I wanted to do a study in the country that could be a part in promoting sustainable development, whilst also expanding my network. As I've been to Bolivia a lot of times, I already speak Spanish and I had most of the vaccines from before.

### Upon arrival

We flew to Buenos Aires where we stayed for 4 days. Then we took buses through Argentina to reach Bolivia and on the way we stayed in the Argentinian cities of Rosario, Cordoba and Salta for a few days each. In Bolivia we visited the wine capital Tarija for three days before flying to Cochabamba where we lived for the coming two months. When we got to Cochabamba we were introduced to everyone at the office of the Center for Energy Research in Energy and were also given a desk where we could work on our thesis. Overall we felt very welcome to Cochabamba. We did interviews and observations in the village of Raqaypampa for a few of days.

### Financials

Bolivia is extremely cheap in general. A few key points to save money are; Eat at local restaurants, it is a lot cheaper than the international chains or touristic foods like pizza and sushi and often a lot better aswell. Take the trufis (minibuses) instead of taxis, they'll get you to the same place but for 1/5 of the price of a taxi. When travelling within Bolivia, take the long distance buses instead of flying. The buses are very comfortable (many of them have lie flat seats) and much cheaper than the flights.

### Accommodation

We rented an apartment from our contact person Johnny. It was a big 2 bedroom apartment in central Cochabamba. I paid a bit more than I pay for my corridor room here in Stockholm so moneywise it was a catch. Rents in Bolivia and Cochabamba are generally a lot lower than here in Sweden.

### Project

We looked into the capacity for biogas production in a village called Raqaypampa and also made an estimation of the energy consumption in the village. It was very interesting, and I could definitely work with something similar in the future! Our time in the village mainly consisted of doing interviews with key figures (a head teacher, a doctor and an agricultural technician). In Raqaypampa they speak the indigenous language quechua so we were accompanied by our colleague José at the

energy research center who spoke the language and he helped us translate when necessary. For the project we worked with a software called RAMP to estimate the energy demand of the village and we passed our RAMP-files on to people at the research center who would use it in their research .

### **Country**

I think that the biggest difference is how much less digitalised Bolivia is compared to Sweden. There are no timetables for buses, but they pass with even intervals so you can be sure to be on time anyways. And there are a lot of things that are passed on to you from people who know from experience, rather than from google as it is here in Sweden.

### **Leisure and social activities**

Cochabamba had 20+ degrees and sun almost every day of our stay which made for many nice days outdoors. There is a national park with beautiful green mountains surrounding the northern part of the city where we went for hikes. From up there we had an amazing view of the city. We also went for a lot of runs on the cycle/walking path that goes around all of the city and played some football with friends. We got to know a few people from Cochabamba who became close friends. We also met some other international people who were there on exchange studies or internships. Because of how easy bus travel is in Bolivia, we visited a lot of different parts of the country.

### **Sustainability**

Just as we wrote in our thesis, our project touched various different sustainable development goals but mainly access to affordable and clean energy, because the biogas produced in Raqaypampa would be produced from agricultural waste and it would be a clean and cheaper alternative to the electricity they use today.

### **Other recommendations and observations**

I can really recommend flying into a nearby country and going to your final destination by bus. This way you get to see another country without adding too much to your budget. And I also really want to recommend Bolivia for your MFS, you will have a lot of time to experience the beautiful and amazing country. 😊