



February 2024, Floor Kuijer

SECONDMENT TO SWEDEN: TILL EN NY UTMANING!

February 1, 2024 was the start of my new adventure at KPMG Sweden. In the context of mutual collaboration, I was offered the opportunity to become part of our Swedish team for a period of six months and also experience the expat life.



Before leaving

Despite the fact that a large part of our work at People Services revolves around helping employers and employees set up and implement a secondment, I was nevertheless surprised that much of the practical process felt new to me - waiting on all the right contracts with signatures from various countries, finding an apartment and booking the actual airline tickets. And of course an A1 certificate had to be applied for; and then there was the conference call to discuss the assignment policy and what other actions were necessary.

Time to depart!

And then it was time to depart: me and my luggage off to Schiphol and from there to Stockholm. All the common problems of a move abroad reared their head: my luggage didn't initially show up on the luggage carousel in the arrival hall, the taxi was late and the apartment doesn't have a lift so I got to carry up all the luggage. Fortunately, such things are only temporary and after arriving I still had one day to familiarize myself with Stockholm before I had to report to work.

First week at work: a rediscovery

It had been some time since I had my first ever day at work, i.e. April 15, 2019 was when I started as a student intern at our office in Eindhoven. Despite the work experience gained in the meantime, the first day in Sweden felt very similar to that first day back in 2019. A new workplace where you try not to get lost, new colleagues and rituals (for example Swedish fika) to get used to and a lot of new impressions.

Fortunately, I was made to feel very welcome and was able to get straight into the custom of a warm meal at lunchtime and fika (coffee time with a traditional kanelbullar) that is part of the working day in Sweden.



Our colleagues in Sweden are currently busy with a pilot for renting additional office space, thus on Friday I was able to familiarize myself with yet another new office. The more the week progressed, the more I was able to develop my sense of direction and knowledge of Swedish customs. I'm looking forward to learning more about Sweden, Swedish tax laws and living as an expat!

If you'd like to know more about our office in Sweden or if you happen to be in Stockholm and would like a fika, feel free to contact me!

Floor Kuijer (floor.kuijer@kpmg.se)