



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Management, Economics and Consumer Studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	12/08/2019 until 20/12/2019
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Stavanger
University (exchange)	Universitetet i Stavanger
Faculty (exchange)	Social Sciences / The Norwegian School of Hotel Management

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to expand my studies with courses that have my personal interest, but that are not offered in Wageningen. This gave me the opportunity to gain knowledge in different fields of study, providing a good basis for the kind of work I am interested in.

What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

The most important reason for choosing Stavanger was the course offer and the presence of the Norwegian School of Hotel Management. I chose Norway as a country for exchange because of the high quality of education, familiarity with the language, and out of personal interests in the opportunities the country can provide one with beside study hours.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

Reaching Stavanger is easy by plane.

Tips for airlines:

For a direct flight, one can use KLM. Be aware to book well in advanced, as prices can be quite high for direct flights to Norway with KLM.

If you do not mind a transfer, flying to Stavanger can be cheap by using SAS youth fare (if you are under 26 years). You will most likely have a transfer in either Copenhagen or Oslo.

You can also travel by car by driving to Hirtshals in Denmark and taking a 2,5 hour ferry to Kristiansand. From Kristiansand it is a 3,5 hour drive to Stavanger. You will not need a car in the city, as bus transport is very good, but it might come in handy if you want to go hiking or visiting other places.

4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Adventure Tourism and Entrepreneurship	10	<p>This unit examines the complexities of the adventure tourism sector. As travel markets become more sophisticated, travellers seek more authentic experiences for their leisure, pleasure and recreation. The unit examines some of the ways in which growing demand is being met, the nature of activities designed to satisfy these expectations and the variety of locations in which this is happening. The course begins with an overview of changing markets expectations. The course continues by building understanding of the market and gives student knowledge on how to develop and run adventure tourism ventures. Further it is preparing the candidates for an industry in constant change by teaching about creativity and entrepreneurship. The course concludes with allowing the students to design a business plan either for their own future company or in order to develop an already existing concept.</p>	5	<p>I was lucky enough to have a very small class, which allowed us for field trips. This provided a nice link between theory and practice.</p> <p>The course coordinator was still developing the part about entrepreneurship, resulting in somewhat short and incomplete study material. I believe this will be improved for the semesters to come.</p>

2	Development and Management of Nature Based Experience	10	The object of this course is to explore central facets of contemporary nature-based tourism and its historical background. Further, it intends to prepare the students for the challenges of management and development of the organization and business aspect of nature-based tourism as well as the phenomenological and psychological experience of the tourist, both in a contemporary and a historical setting.	4	All lectures of the course were given within two weeks, since the lecturer was a visiting professor from New-Zealand.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The academic level is similar to the level in the Netherlands. The examination depends on the subject. One might get a 4 hour exam, personal assignments, group assignments and/or presentations. Adventure Tourism and Entrepreneurship had a mid-term exam, group assignment + presentation and 1-hour digital final exam. Development and Management of Nature-Based Experience did not have an exam, but both a individual assignment and a group assignment.

The workload is a little bit different than in Wageningen. As far as I experienced over two exchange periods on different universities in Norway, they expect you to do a lot of self-study. The contact hours for the subjects I followed were far less than I was used to from the courses in Wageningen. This means at the one hand a lot of free time to explore the country and to do fun things with fellow (exchange) students, and at the other hand a lot of responsibility. The last month before the exams, most students tend to read full days in order to prepare for the exam.

What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

When it comes to the culture in Norway, everyone is equal. It is therefore normal and very easy to approach lecturers, and call them by their first name. Lecturers are very kind and helpful, and will always find time to help you or just have an informal chat. Engagement with local students depends. I was placed in a Norwegian introduction group, and I am fluent in Norwegian, meaning I have engaged with local students a lot. Other exchange students might not have engaged with local students as much as I did, but from my experience, the local students are very inclusive and open. Therefore, most exchange students have had some kind of engagement with local students.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

There is a canteen with warm and cold food and drinks on campus. One can also find a smaller coffee bar in the same building. The university has a large sports centre on campus offering all kind of sports such weightlifting, performance area (crossfit), a bouldering wall, a climbing wall, group lessons and sports halls. Furthermore, there is a student nurse to assist in case of medical problems, and help in the case of psychological problems.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)

There is the possibility of student housing, both on campus and scattered around the city. Rates range from 3150 NOK for a shared or single room to 6500 NOK for a 2-room apartment. Apartments for couples and families are also available. **Note that some of the student housing is quite far from the city centre and the university, so check out the map if this is an issue for you.** I did not received a housing offer, and managed to find housing on the private market. However, one might encounter problems as many would like to rent out their rooms or apartments for a year rather than six months. Private housing can be found on www.hybel.no or www.finn.no. Rates range from approximately 4000-6000 NOK.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

A public transport card for a month costs 370 NOK for students, which you will have to renew each month (available in the app with a credit card, or a physical card from the Kolumbus office in the city centre. If you are under 23, get a youth card instead of a student card. This includes a much larger area. Public transport is very good in and around Stavanger, also during the night, and there are different (express) busses to the campus. I would advice against using a taxi unless you need to, as taxi services are very expensive in Norway.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

There are plenty of beaches in the area that are worth a visit. Surfing is also an opportunity here!

Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) is a must-see. However, be careful in rainy conditions, as it may be slippery. Note that there may be snow and ice on the trail from October to April, so check the conditions up-front. Busses are offered during the summer season, while a car is an alternative convenient transportation option (parking 250NOK/day).

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

Bring your outdoor equipment if you have any! Norway offers wide nature and plenty of opportunities to go hiking, camping or fishing. Cabin trips are another big thing in

Norway. You can use cabins from the Norwegian Trekking Association (DNT), or find some private cabins in the mountains.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was your best memory abroad?

The introduction week (Fadderuke) is something every student should take part in. Unfortunately this is only available at the beginning of the academic year, at the start of the fall semester. You will get familiar with the university, the city, your fellow (Norwegian) students and the nightlife.

The hiking and camping trips, offering the most spectacular trails and views, are experiences one will remember for a long time.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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