



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	27/08/2019 until 20/12/2019
Country (exchange)	Finland
City (exchange)	Helsinki
University (exchange)	University of Helsinki
Faculty (exchange)	Agriculture and Forestry

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I know that I am going to do my masters in Wageningen and wanted to have the experience to study in another city than Wageningen. I also wanted to experience what it is like to study abroad and do this all by myself.

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

I wanted to go to a country in the North because I really like the nature and know that the standard of education is very high in Nordic countries. I chose Finland, because I have never been there and heard good things about the country from friend who also did their Erasmus exchange there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Book your flight in time, the tickets will be cheap and book your return ticket while you are in your second period because the end of the second semester is very flexible. When you land, you can buy a train ticket very easily to get to the city (set your bankcard to worldwide beforehand).

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	Introduction to Sustainability Science	5	Very basic introduction to different aspects of sustainability science	2	Very easy, low work load (essay and presentation for groupwork)
2	Food Webs of Aquatic Ecosystems	5	Introduces all aspects of aquatic food webs	5	Very interesting, good lecturer (essay and presentation for groupwork)
3	Arctic Climate Change	5	Introduces all aspects of climate change in the arctic over different time periods	5	Very interesting, a bit higher workload (exam)
4	Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption	5	Theoretical side of sustainable consumption (social science)	5	Very interesting, good lecturer (essay and take home exam)
5	Sustainability in Everyday Life	5	Practical side of sustainable consumption (social science)	3	Less interesting (essay and presentation with own research observations) and a bit more time consuming
6	Finnish Education System	5	Different aspects of the Finnish education system	3	Interesting lectures and low work load (essay)
7	Fundamentals of Conservation Biology	5	Different aspects of biodiversity and conservation	4	Very interesting, online course (two essays)

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

I found the workload very do-able. That is why I chose to do more courses than what was asked of me. I had only one course for which I had to make an exam (arctic climate change). The rest were all essays, in groupwork or alone. Furthermore I had one "take home exam" with essay like questions.

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?)

The culture is very relaxed, the communication between students and teachers is very easy. The workload is lower and the students aim for lower grades than in Wageningen.

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

The cafeteria offers warm lunches for €2,60, which are very nice.

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?)

Take the room you get appointed, I had a studio from Unihome because you will not get another offer and it is very hard to find a room yourself. The room is around €600,- and many other exchange students will live in the same building.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

Very nice people and the culture is a lot like Wageningen.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

Expect the prices to be a little bit higher than in Wageningen. The alcohol is way more expensive, but if you know the right places it can be very affordable.

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

Download the HSL app, this is much like the 9292 app in the Netherlands. Everything is very well accessible via train/bus around Helsinki. Outside Helsinki you can take the Onnibus which has good offers.

6. Free time

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

Suomenlinna, Turku (Turku castle), Porvoo, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Allas Seapool, free Helsinki city tour.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Living alone, before this I have always had roommates.

What was your best memory abroad?

Weekends away in the middle of nowhere in an Airbnb with other exchange students.