



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bachelor International Land and Water Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	9-08-2019 until 23-12-2019
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Stavanger
University (exchange)	Universitetet I Stavanger
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Science and Technology

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

My main motive to go on a study exchange was the experience to live and study abroad, getting to know its culture and exploring what a country has to offer. Also being out of your comfort zone makes you meet a lot of new and interesting people.

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

I chose for Norway because of the beautiful nature and the ability to go hiking and camping. Stavanger also lies relatively south and at the coast, so in winter time it isn't that cold or dark for very long.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Easiest way to reach Stavanger is by a direct flight from Amsterdam with KLM.

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	Structural Geology	10	Geometry, Deformation, Stress, Rheology, and tectonic structures such as faults and folds	5	Very interesting but intensive course with weekly assignments. Helpful and kind lecturer.
2	Astronomy	10	The historical development of our view on the world, planets of our solar system and the Sun, the birth, structure, development and death of stars, the Milky Way Galaxy, other galaxies and cosmology.	3	Interesting course with a funny teacher. Lectures can be quite boring with only mathematical and physical derivations.
3	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	10	Introduction of geo-information science through the use of data & software (ArcGIS)	3	Not a very challenging course, lectures are quite slow and boring. The final mapping project was the only interesting thing of the course.

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

One semester consist of 3 courses from start to end with exams weeks at the end. It depends on the course if you also have midterm exams or assignments. The main difference to Wageningen is that the study pace is lower but more topics could be handled in more detail, since a course lasts the whole semester. The overall workload is lower and lesson material is mostly books and slides.

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?)

There was a lot of interaction with the lecturers, only because I had courses with a maximum of 10 students. The university's culture is not very different compared to the WUR.

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

The university has large gym with climbing opportunities and saunas. The cafeteria has relatively cheap food and good coffee to offer. The university library is opened 24/7.

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?)

It is possible to apply for housing through the university, but no guarantee for a room. Rooms offered by the university are relatively cheap (same prices as in Wageningen) and are located on campus or in dorms outside the campus.

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

The Norwegian culture is similar to our own. You could say they are more towards themselves, but when getting to know Norwegians they can be very open and helpful at all times. Norwegians are also very sportive and outdoor oriented.

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

The costs of a room in an university residence is comparable with the prices of living in Wageningen. The public market is much more expensive and difficult to come by for a 1 semester exchange student since most landlords seek students who stay for a minimum of 1 year.

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

Public transport in Stavanger consist mostly of busses. Through the app Kolumbus Billett app a monthly ticket for youth 15-22 yr old can be bought for €30. You should avoid taking taxis, these are very expensive in Norway. There are several night busses at most locations. The app Entur is really useful for all public transport services.

Travelling to the university depends on where you live. Easiest by bus or bike.

6. Free time

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

Must-sees are the Preikestolen and Kjeragbolten, beautiful hikes with views over the Lysefjord. Touristic busses go to these destinations, but it could be more worth to rent a car and go there with a few people. Since these hikes are one of the most popular destinations in Norway, the trails can be crowded during summer.

What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?

Honestly, everywhere. Use the website ut.no for an overview all over Norway. Besides the famous touristic hikes, there are infinite well maintained trails to explore with much less people.

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

Restaurants are expensive in Norway, but you are assured of quality food. When going out, always ask for student discount when ordering drinks, you can save 30-40% when buying a beer. Also I recommend going to the 'Gossip bar' on Wednesday evenings where beers only cost 33 NOK, about €3,30.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I did not have a lot of contact with housemates, which was very different with what I was used to in Wageningen. Luckily, I met a lot of friends outside of my house to do things with.

What was your best memory abroad?

The road trip weekend to the Trolltunga was one of the highlights of my stay in Norway. Driving and hiking through the amazing Norwegian landscapes with amazing people.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Evert.verweij@wur.nl	