



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bedrijfs- en Consumentenwetenschappen
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	12-01-2022 until 31-05-2022
Country (exchange)	Finland
City (exchange)	Helsinki
University (exchange)	University of Helsinki
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange? I have heard good stories from other students. And to make new memories.

What is the reason you chose for this country/university? I preferred one of the Nordic countries, and Finland seemed like an interesting one.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I took the plane, which was really easy. Just a direct flight to Helsinki and after that 20 minutes in the train.

Some people I met went with a ferry to Helsinki which is a more sustainable option.

4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	EC TS	Short description of the contents	Appreciat ion of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	<i>Fisheries Management (master)</i>	5	The concepts and models of fisheries management, uncertainty of fish productivity and fisheries, applications of Bayesian decision analysis models to fisheries management. National and international fisheries policy, management strategies and practical implementation of policy actions.	5	Really interesting course on a topic I have never learned before: fisheries. Because the course only had 3 students in it there was lot of interaction with the professor who had a lot of knowledge and was really passionate on the topic. We had to read articles, discuss them, do some excel exercises to simulate fishing stocks over time, and in the end write a report on a topic within the fisheries.
2	<i>International Environmental Agreements related to marine areas and resources (master)</i>	5	Basics of IEAs and game theory Gordon-Schäfer fisheries game Ruseski two-level fisheries game Coalition games Coalitions and stability	1	This was a weird course. Only two lectures per week with some optional exercises. In the end there was an online open book exam where you could choose to answer in words or with math. Really easy to pass for a master course.
3	<i>Agricultural and rural policy of the European Union</i>	5	Agricultural policy problems and objectives of the European Union; Policy decision-making process in the European Union (EU institutions); Instruments used to implement the CAP; Support of Agriculture in the EU: Pillar 1 of the CAP (direct payments and market support); Support of agriculture and the rural development in the EU: Pillar 2 of the CAP;	3	A really average course with lectures and some discussion exercises. The exam provided theoretical based questions. In the end I did learn here new stuff, but for me it was not really interesting. Just basic policy stuff.

			<p>The CAP and the environment: the environmental part of Pillar 2;</p> <p>CAP and international trade and development, Cost of the CAP: budget and finance;</p> <p>Evaluation of the CAP and rural policy;</p> <p>History, current state and future of the CAP.</p>		
4	<i>Sustainability and global food value chains</i>	5	<p>1.) What are value chains, supply chains, and why are they relevant?</p> <p>2.) Defining sustainability and discussing implications and applications in practice in the agri-food sector (for businesses, consumers and policymakers): the triple bottom line (environmental, social and financial sustainability) applied to value chains</p> <p>3.) Introduction to sustainability reporting standards: why food businesses care, what are their strengths and weaknesses? Which ones for whom? Examples from actual business cases.</p> <p>4.) Sustainability standards: what are their underlying ethical principles and theories?</p> <p>5.) Alternatives to sustainability reporting standards? why, for whom?</p> <p>6.) From sustainability standards to sustainability food labeling: implications for global value chains.</p> <p>7.) Sustainability, urbanization and urban farming: what is urban farming/ urban value chains/ urban alternative food networks – why do we care?</p> <p>8.) Promoting sustainable</p>	2	<p>For this course you only had to write two essays (one page each). The focus on sustainability was interesting for me, but not really a challenging course for a third years bachelor student.</p>

			global value chains through food labeling and Life Cycle Assessments?		
5	<i>Climate and energy policy</i>	5	The course provides a comprehensive economic approach to climate change: its origins, links to climate science, tasks of mitigation and adaptation, and economic instruments needed for both goals. The course places much emphasis on decision making on the EU level, international climate agreement and international instruments to implement the targets. Discussion on instrumented targeting emissions is complemented by an analysis of instruments promoting production of clean energy. The rest of the course is devoted to adaptation policies. Economic principles concerning tasks left to private agents and the society, respectively, are examined and so are the instruments promoting adaptation.	5	Nice course with only guest lectures, talking about climate, energy and sustainability in their fields. After each lecture we had to write a learning diary discussing and reviewing what we learned reflecting the information on our own experience.
6	<i>Economics of the Agri-food Sector and Agricultural policy</i>	5	Supply and demand analysis; Partial equilibrium models and their extensions; The firm as a price taker; Industrial Organization; International trade and basics of trade theory; Agricultural prices and markets; the economic approach to policy analysis; analysis of some policy instruments commonly used in the Agri-food sector.	3	Basic economics, but then with a lot of application on the Finnish economy.

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

Mainly a few lectures each week per course. The level is quite low and therefore easy to pass the exams. But the examination could easily also be essay-based where you had to apply the knowledge on a certain topic and write about it. I have never touched a book.

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?)

I have studied mainly online due to covid, but there were a lot of opportunities to ask questions. They even made specific time slots at the university to physically ask something to the teacher. Engagement with local students was low for me personally, but I think this was also due to covid.

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

The uni has a Unicafe where you can eat a LOT for only 2,70. This will save your wallet and your life. For 4 months of sports (gym, group classes, ball sports) I paid 100 euros. This Unisport had 3 locations.

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?)

Mainly two providers: Unihome and Hoas. The signing was really easy beforehand with the mobility online thingy.

I choose for Unihome with a shared kitchen (423 per month). This was 15-20 walk from my campus, or if you were lucky with a bus, 8 minutes. Unihome also provided studio's (so including a personal kitchen), this is more expensive.

However, in the end I should suggest to choose for Hoas. Here, you share an apartment with 4-7 other students. Way cheaper and more fun I think. Also the location is somewhat better. Also, Unihome chose to close the shared kitchen at 22.15-05.00h, and they try to charge money for a lot of small things (too much noise, keeping the door open, not leaving your room as clean as possible behind, losing your key (can add up to 120 euros), etc.

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

Finnish are really polite but also more shy compared to Dutch. However, if you start talking they are really normal and easy-going. The cuisine is quite similar.

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

A little bit more expensive.

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

The OV-card is really really cheap. Every bus and train is perfectly on time and you can go to a lot of places in Helsinki with them. If you are really lost in the night you could go for a cheap Yango.

6. Free time

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

I recommend just looking at internet for this question. There is not really a lot to see in Helsinki, but yes there are really nice things. I always preferred to bus or train to travel.

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

Teknikan Museet. Free on Thursdays.

Visit a game of HJK (football). Really cheap. Or an ice-hockey match (IFK).

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

There are some weeks during the year where restaurants provide meals for only 10 euros.

Basic bars: Old Irish Pub (cheapest beers in Helsinki during the week), Heidi's, Baarikarpanen

Techno/experimental jazz: Kaiku, Post Bar.

Chill bar: Black room

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Dealing with the high alcohol prices

What was your best memory abroad?

Making a group of friends overall, and doing nice stuff with them.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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