



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Urban Environmental management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	12/08/2022 until 9/12/2022
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Stavanger
University (exchange)	University of Stavanger
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Science & Technology

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I have been on an exchange before, but this previous exchange was abruptly finished because of COVID. I really liked this experience and therefore wanted to do it again, but this time without COVID restrictions.

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

I wanted to go to a country that is well on its way with sustainability. Also, I always heard from people around me that Norway is a very beautiful country.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Ferry from Eemshaven (Groningen) to Kristiansand. This is a quite new ferry connection, but very nice. Then you can easily take the train from Kristiansand to Stavanger.

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	Urban Analysis & Planning Methods (BYG500)	10	In this course I learned how to do a spatial analysis of multiple characteristics a Norwegian town. This was mostly done in ArcGIS. Also, there were literature seminars.	3	Only the first half of the autumn semester.
2	Placemaking (BYG510)	10	Within this course, we had to make development recommendations on the town that was analysed in BYG500. We did this by making a 3D model.	4	Only the second half of the autumn semester and is a follow-up course from BYG500. It is hard to do when you not do BYG500 before.
3	New technologies + Ideas for sustainable city development (BYG655)	10	This course had mainly 2 hours lectures on sustainability. There had to be written a group paper.	3	This was online.. because there were too much students that wanted to follow the course and would not fit into the classroom.
4	Project Management (IND510)	5	This was a course in which theoretical knowledge was provided on project management.	2	One hour was spent on defining some terms; in the Netherlands we would spend max 5 minutes on that. That is one of the reasons why I dropped this course.
5					
6					

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

BYG500 had a lecture every week and a seminar every two weeks. This meant that the lecturer provided information during the lectures and that we had to prepare a presentation about a reading for every seminar. The lectures were of a good academic level. Also, there was a group project in which we had to analyse a nearby town. We had to do this in ArcGIS and also had to do a survey on the project site.

BYG510 was a follow-up course in which we had to make a development plan for the analysed town of BYG500. We had to make a 3D model (maquette) of this town of wood, with the help of a laser cutter. This was (for me) a new experience and therefore very exciting. The workload was pretty high since we had to present our ideas every 2 weeks, but before this had to a lot of work.

BYG655 was a course with 6 lectures which were not of a very high academic level. However, the academic level was higher in the assignment of writing a paper. The workload is also not very high since the only graded work is a group paper.

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?)

Since the classes were not very big, it was easy to communicate with the lecturers and ask them questions. Everything was on a much slower pace than in Wageningen. The fellow students were very nice (especially the Norwegians) and it was easy to work together with them.

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

There is a big gym where it is also possible to do climbing and different kinds of group lessons. The library is non stop open and there is a canteen with food and drinks. There is a student association for the whole university (SIS) that organises many activities like going to ice hockey games, pub quizzes, ice skating etc.

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 sign up for a room from SiS which is a kind of student organisation which also organises many nice activities. Make sure you do this as soon as possible when you receive an email about it. There is not a guarantee to get a room via this way. I received one only 3 weeks before the start of the semester. So make sure to also look for rooms on the private market (however, this is very expensive).

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

Overall, the Norwegians are very polite and don't want to interfere in other's lives. For example: almost no one says 'hi' when you are walking outside and see someone else. However, they are very kind. They do not have a really special cuisine, but it is very nice to try a cinnamon roll.

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

Housing from SiS is around 340 euros (so that it around the same as in Wageningen)
Private housing is around a minimum of 600 euros

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

As a student, you can buy a month pass which is 30 euros. You can then travel for free in the bus and train within one zone. Also, you can make use of the electric city bikes!

Since I lived only 10 minutes cycling from the university, I tried to take those electric city bikes as often as possible.

6. Free time

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

- Preikestolen
- Kjerag
- Dalsnuten
- Sola beach

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

Almost every spot is worth visiting. I really liked a beach hike close to Randaberg. I found this hike at ut.no; here you can also find a lot of other hikes.

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

Having a drink is quite expensive in Norway. On Thursdays you can have drinks for students prices in the student bar at the campus.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I found it hard to live together with people that did not care about a clean kitchen.

What was your best memory abroad?

I made many nice memories during my stay abroad, but I will never forget the introduction week at the beginning of the semester, hitchhiking on the Lofoten, seeing the Northern lights, doing the Kjerag hike and many more! I would really recommend to go to Stavanger 😊

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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