



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Forest and Nature Conservation
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/01/2022 until 09/06/2022
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Tromsø
University (exchange)	The Arctic University of Norway
Faculty (exchange)	Biology

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience building a new life abroad on my own, while also being specifically interested in living in the Arctic.

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

I liked the country and experiencing a new climate, and the courses seemed interesting.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Unfortunately there is no train station, so to reach Tromsø I recommend going by plane.

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	Marine Ecology	10	You learn about 4 themes: Phytoplankton, Zooplankton, Benthos and Fish	3	At the end of the semester you go on a cruise for a week, to collect samples and do research.
2	Ocean Climate	10	This course is more about the physical processes of the ocean: different forces, currents, climate impacts, etc.	4	For this course you also go on a cruise, I would recommend combining this course with Marine Ecology as they overlap and are interesting to follow together.
3	Ecosystem-Based Management	10	You learn about the socio-ecological system and different management strategies. You also get workshops from people working in the field and read many articles which you discuss in class together.	4	
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5					
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

You start the semester with mostly lectures and then gradually move onto seminars, practicals, etc. The workload is similar or lower than in Wageningen with a similar academic level. Most courses have an oral exam at the end, but often together with written exams and presentations.

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 lecturers are all very friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. I think they might be a little less organized than those at the WUR.

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

The student housing offers a lot of activities as well as the university, you get weekly emails with activities and events.

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?)

You need to get a room yourself, but it is very easy to get a room by signing up at Samskipnaden (the website is also provided by the university).

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

People are a bit more distant but friendly and helpful.

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

You should expect significantly higher prices. For example, if you pay 300 euros for a room in Wageningen, expect around 420 euros in Tromsø (for a room of 12 m²). Groceries are also 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?)

Buses are very accessible and you can get a busticket for a month for 30 euros. There are no trains, trams or metros. Taxis are a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands.

6. Free time

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

You can reach a lot of areas by bus, there are many hiking trails and beaches. I recommend Telegrafbukta and Fjellheisen to get familiar with some nice places in the beginning, and then just explore!

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

Ersfjordbotn is just outside Tromsø but you can easily reach it by bus.

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

I wouldn't expect to eat out much as it is very expensive, but some weeks there are really good deals. Most of the facilities for going out are in the city center.

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

While I was away, some stuff happened back home with my family which made it much harder to be away. Other than that, it was a lot more fun and easier than I expected!

What was your best memory abroad?

Seeing the northern lights for the first time :)

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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