



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	15.08.2022 until 22.12.2022
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Trondheim
University (exchange)	NTNU
Faculty (exchange)	Multiple

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

When I started studying at the WUR I already knew that I wanted to go abroad. I wanted to experience living outside the Netherlands. An exchange period is also a great opportunity to make a lot of small trips and I wanted to do that in Norway!

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

I knew I wanted to experience the Scandinavian live. I focussed on Norway and Sweden but eventually only chose universities in Norway because the semester is finished before the Christmas break. This gave me the opportunity to become a ski teacher in Austria in period 3. Keep in mind that the semester also starts earlier, your summer holiday will be shorter.

Trondheim was my first choice because of its technical focus. I wanted to go to a university that had a different focus than the WUR. Despite of my lack of technical knowledge from previous courses, there were still enough courses I could choose from. Besides that Trondheim is a real student city. There's a lot to do organised by students. It also has the perfect combination of nature. The mountains are close by, the city has a fjord and you could see aurora and snow.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Trondheim is quite far away. It will take you 2/2,5 days by car and around 5-7 days by train (if you want to have some great stops). Therefore the most convenient way is to travel by plane. It isn't the most environmental friendly way of traveling, but saves you a lot of time and money. If you have the opportunity I would advise to go by car. That way you could visit more amazing places surrounding Trondheim.

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 Norway	7,5	Introduction to Norway is a course intended to help foreign students at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology to develop knowledge and understanding of different aspects of Norwegian history, politics, culture and contemporary society at a foundational academic level. This basic knowledge should also contribute to better educational and social output from the study period at the students home faculties and improve students integration into the Norwegian society and culture. The course also provides an arena for inter-cultural communication. The language of lectures, exam and other study activities is English.	4	The subjects were interesting, but most of the presentations were a bit boring. It's a low demanding course (no deadlines and do not have to be present), but you do need to put some effort in the exam. I think the course itself and the exam do not have the same level. Buy the book Norway society and culture as preparation for your exam, this makes it a lot easier.
2	Economics of Transport Infrastructure	7,5	Basics of transport economics and Cost/benefit analysis of transport infrastructure investments. Monetized impacts and assessment of effects. Estimation of costs under uncertainty. The relationship between construction, maintenance and operation costs. Optimization and Life	4	Nice course if you are interested in the topic. The beginning of the course has an equal level of VWO 6 economics, the end is more demanding. The exam is harder than the course itself.

			cycle costs, LCC. Value Engineering.		
3	Urban Facility Management	7,5	<p>The module gives specialization within the field of Urban Facility Management to give a foundation for good strategic planning and implementation of neighborhood, community or city level management, operation and maintenance of properties. It covers the principles of the built environment that enable maximising the economic, social and environmental opportunities of inhabitants, thereby laying the foundations for prosperity and health. The core attributes of the principles discussed are open governance, value orientation and community engagement. Main topics are: Urban Facilities Management, roles and organization of tasks, Value models (value sharing, value capturing, realization of gains, economic success which leads to societal improvements), Health and Well-being concept including safety and security, Sustainability, Urban ecosystem, Public Private People Partnership, Circular Economy and Social aspects (community engagement, culture identity, motivational aspects).</p>	4	<p>An easy course. The examination only consist out of a individual paper of 6000 words and a group paper of 6000 words. The lectures are not prohibited and do not help you with writing your paper. Therefore I feel like I didn't learn a lot from this course. This was my only courses that could be a BLP course.</p>

4	Global Production Networks	7,5	The course offers different perspectives on economic globalization and global production networks, together with discussions on how this influences actions and strategies of enterprises, national states and civil society organizations. Focus is on the business strategies and practices that occur at the interface between economy, politics and culture, and the implications of these strategies and practices for uneven development in the global economy. Case examples illustrate how global value chains are embedded in networks at various geographical scales and create values, and how transnational corporation interacts with states as they make foreign direct investments. Cases cover also relational and social aspects of global production networks including corporate social responsibility.	5	Interesting course and learned a lot. During the period you are working on your own case. This helps you with making the exam. Exam was doable and interesting.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The semester consists out of one period. All courses start at a different time and end at a different time. The pace during the period is low, which makes the workload low. The exams are quit comparable to the WUR. There is enough study material. The teachers are approachable.

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 comparable to the WUR. The university uses the Nordic model (google for more information). The mindset is that everybody should be treated equally and should be able to get the same grade.

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

The university offers a lot. You could sport at every campus, there are big cafeteria and it also organises it's own housing. You have a lot of associations which you can become part of.

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?)

Sit, an organisations from the NTNU, offers housing. In the fall semester the demand is big and there are not enough rooms for everybody. Don't expect that you will get a room from the university. There are some private organisation who also rent rooms. The prices will be around 6000 NOK (600 euro). I rented my room via Stifsstaden studentby. The room was 5600 NOK (560 euro) and had everything I needed. I lived with 11 others, had a really big kitchen and living room and shared a big laundry room with the whole building. I even had my own storage.

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

Norwegians are quit reserved. It is hard to get in contact with them. Your roommates probably won't spend a lot of time in the shared rooms, because they are used to staying in there own room. It is also not normal to eat together. Norwegian students eat a lot of frozen pizza's and mac and cheese. To become friends with a Norwegian you join associations. Norwegians can be very social in there associations but mostly don't mix them or invite you to join. But you will probably spend a lot of time with other exchange students, which all have their own habits and manners.

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

I paid 560 euro a month without deposited compared to 316 euro in Wageningen.

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

The buss network in Trondheim is excellent. At my place I could take a buss almost every 3 minutes (except for Sundays). The prices are comparable to the Netherlands. I also rented a bicycle but didn't use it that often because Trondheim is quit hilly. Don't tell this to the Norwegians, they will laugh at you because they think it's flat.

6. Free time

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

- Lofoten (minimal or around 5 day trip)
- Åre, skiing destination in Sweden
- Oppdal and its surrounding mountains, perfect for weekend trips

The best tip is that you can rent cabins via the NTNU. They are cheap, but also not that clean. You can also rent outdoor equipment via NTNU bumerang for free.

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

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

- Studentersamfundet in your first week. The new students will get crazy so an excellent place to party
- Bakklandet for a nice coffee or beer.
- Den Gode Naboen

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Norway is an expensive country. Think about your extra expanses before you will go. Especially alcohol is expansive. Norwegian love partying but are also used to the prices.

What was your best memory abroad?

The great adventures! Every weekend I would go on an insane hike or to an amazing cabin. I skied, cross country skied, surfed, ice-skated and hiked a lot. I loved how adventures and sporty all the exchange students were. Everybody was up for a cool new experience

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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