



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	10-01-2022 until 10-06-2022
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Oslo
University (exchange)	University of Oslo
Faculty (exchange)	Geosciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I wanted to experience how it is to live in another country.

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

I wanted to go to Spitsbergen for the unique fieldwork opportunities there so I had to enrol for a Norwegian university. In case I would not be able to go to Spitsbergen I picked Oslo because they have a high offer for courses in geosciences in different fields.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I took the flibus back which is fine and it is cheap to take extra luggage with you.

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	GEO4171: Floods, Avalanches and Landslides	10	Nice introduction to geohazards. There are some excursions including a 3-day one to Finse. You will have to use a lot of different programmes for report writing which is nice but time consuming.	3	-The excursion to Finse were maybe my favourite days of the whole exchange -The course as a whole is a bit messy since they merged a few courses together and the lecturers probably didn't discuss a lot beforehand.
2	GEO4922 – Cloud Physics	10	A lot of physics and mathematics to	5	-The teacher for this course is really nice.

			explain processes in forming clouds and precipitation		-It is a lot of theory but the pace is slow so you'll be able to keep up if you invest some time in reading the material.
3	GEO5915 – Ecological Climatology	10	A very broad course combining geosciences and ecology. There are a lot of introductory lectures for hydrology, meteorology, climatology, ecology and more. Lots of time for discussion about climate change related topics. This year there was a fieldtrip included to Drobak where we did some climate programming. The exam was a presentation and discussion about a topic you could chose yourself	5	-I followed this course while it is designed for master/PhD students. Even though I really liked the course it is better to follow it after your bachelor. -The teachers really want the students to get to know each other which is nice, you'll have a pizza evening, nice lunches and the field trip. Also, the teachers are really interested in your point of view. -if you want to get up-to-date about climate change research, this course is definitely for you. -for BSW students there is quite some overlap with introductory courses from the first two years.
4					
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

-The workload was quite low in the beginning but in the end you have to study everything you learned in six month which is quite a lot at once. The academic level of the master courses is comparable to the hardest bachelor courses I followed.

-examination: I had two oral exams which I never had in Wageningen. Especially for master courses the change is quite high that you will have an oral exam.

-lesson material: more paper reading than I am used to in Wageningen. There were no readers.

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?)

-Norwegians are introvert people, not unfriendly but you will have to start talking to them and they are quite distant especially in the beginning.

-The lecturers are really nice and it is easy to go to them and ask questions. Only problem is that most of them don't respond to your emails.

-What surprised me is how easily they rescheduled things like exams and field trips. A lot of things were replaced or rescheduled lastminute.

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

sports: for 200NOK (+/-20 euros) per month you can do fitness, swimming, bouldering and more at SiO. There are some classes like Zumba but not as many as in Wageningen.

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?)

- SiO: sign up before a certain date to get priority on the list.
- rent rates: most of the prices are around 5000NOK per month including everything (except for laundry)
- I got an unfurnished room because there was not enough availability. I don't know anyone that didn't get a room but a lot of people got unfurnished rooms.
- Sogn is really nice if you want to live in an international student village
- Kringsja is nice if you like nature

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

- take Dutch cheese with you, the Norwegian cheese is tasteless
- as written before Norwegians are quite introvert but not unfriendly

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

Most rooms are around 500 euros in Oslo so more expensive than 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 Ruter app is needed for the public transport. One month is 50 euros and then you can use the bus, tram, metro and some boats and trains unlimited.

6. Free time

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

- train from Oslo -> Bergen
- make a cabin trip, it's really cheap when you become a member of DNT

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

- Bygdoy beaches
- Ekeberg park (good for sunsets)
- when you go during the second semester, you should go to the Ski jumping festival.

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

- in the winter you should enjoy the snow and ice. You could take ice skates or (cross-country)skis with you. BUA lends them out for free. BUA also rents out equipment for canoeing, camping and more.
- Oslo streetfood is relatively cheap.

-there are quite some nice clubs/cafes in Oslo: Youngs; Mabou for cheap wine on Wednesday; Café Amsterdam for bitterballen.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

What was your best memory abroad?

- field trip to Finse
- cabin trip of 5 days, walking from cabin to cabin
- ski jumping festival

8. Contact details (optional)

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

- It is useful to have a creditcard for trips etc. no one pays with cash in the city
- Finn.no is useful for secondhand cheap furniture, it is like Marktplaats
- for cheap groceries you should go to Gronland with the metro and then to the store: Grønlands Torg Frukt og Grønt
- It is useful to have Facebook since most Norwegians use it to communicate instead of Whatsapp.