



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental studies
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	07-01-2022 until 07-06-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Norway
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Oslo
<b>University (exchange)</b>	UiO
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience how it would be to live abroad for a couple of months.

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

I wanted to go to Svalbard and to apply for this university, first you have to apply for another Norwegian University. But in the end, Oslo was the best decision ever. It's an amazing city, not too big, not too small and you have beautiful nature in the surroundings and there is a lot of stuff to do with amazing people.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by plane, but nowadays you can also go by boat (better for the environment!!)

## 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
<b>1</b>	GEO4171 Floods, Avalanches and Landslides	10	The course is split into three parts focusing on the most common geohazards in Norway: floods, landslides and avalanches. Extreme precipitation, flooding and landslides are ultimately connected	4	Especially the fieldwork to Finse was amazing! Here we learned more about avalanches and the stability of snowpacks.
<b>2</b>	GEO4432 The Surface Energy Balance in Cold Environments	10	The course introduces energy exchange processes at the Earth's surface, connecting the coupled cycles of water, energy and greenhouse gases of the atmosphere and ground.	3	The teachers were really nice and I also enjoyed the lectures. The programming labs were not so interesting for me.

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

The academic level of the courses and the workload were lower than back home in the Netherlands. Only when I had to hand in some papers or assignments I had to work a bit. But in general I had a lot of spare time. I never had oral exams before, so that was a new way of examination for me. But it was totally fine in the end.

**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 professors were really approachable and they put a lot of effort in the students which is really nice. Sometimes it was a little bit difficult to get involved with local students, but everyone was super nice and friendly and could speak English pretty well. There were also some international students doing their fulltime master here, making it easy to get in contact with them.

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

The university has a lot to offer to students. The catering is expensive, but there are a lot of sports facilities which is not expensive at all. The university is always willing to help you and everything is clear.

## **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 can sign up for a room arranged by the university, which is really easy! Or otherwise you can also try to find something by yourself on Facebook.

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

I think Norway is quite similar to the Netherlands when comparing our cultures. People are only a little bit more closed and its more difficult to get in touch with them.

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

Since I am living in Amsterdam, housing was cheaper. But in general its more expensive in comparison with living in Wageningen (think about 500 euros each month for housing).

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

The public transport infrastructure is really nice and easy. As a student you pay only around 45 euros for 30 days of unlimited public transport.

## 6. Free time

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

There is a lot to see in the surroundings of Oslo. You can go hiking, hammocking, sledging, snowboarding and going on cabin trips. It's also possible to do bigger trips, going to Stavanger, Bergen, Tromsø, or the Lofoten. I planned these trips with my exchange friends. Sometimes we went by train, sometimes by car and sometimes by plane.

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

Sognsvann lake! It's beautiful there and go especially to Vetakollen, you have an amazing view of Oslo city from there.

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

Every Wednesday Mabou has happy hour. In general alcohol is pretty expensive in Norway but from 10-11 pm you pay only 3 euros for a glass of wine there (ofcourse the quality is not good at all, but that doesn't matter).

I would also recommend to become member of DNT, the hiking association in Norway. You can go on cabin trips and sleep in their huts, it's amazing and not expensive at all.

## 7. Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Leaving Oslo haha. I had the best time of my life and it was so hard to say goodbye to this amazing place and to all the amazing people I met. And ofcourse, sometimes you will have some moments that you miss home, try to accept your feelings and be nice for yourself and then you will see that the next day you will be happy again.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Going wild camping every time and all the nice bonfires we made. I don't know, just the feeling of freedom and having no responsibilities at all.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Maartje Wadman, maartje.wadman@wur.nl	