



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-01-2023 until 08-06-2023
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Bodø
University (exchange)	Nord Universitet
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I wanted to broaden my personal experiences. I thought it would be great for meeting new people and getting to know new cultures.

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

I already fell in love with Scandinavia a few years ago when I visited Iceland, Sweden and Finland. Norway was actually the only country I did not visit yet. So it was the perfect opportunity for me since I also really liked the courses over there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I would honestly suggest going by plane or boat, but that is pretty expensive. The trains are very easy as well. You could for example fly to Oslo or Trondheim (both direct flights from Amsterdam) and take the train from there. I think it is a big hassle to carry all your suitcases from train to train if you start in the Netherlands.

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 Biology	10	You will learn about how oceans work, what different environments in marine life are and different kinds of animals .	3	When I was on exchange the course was taken over by a PhD student instead of the original teacher because the original teacher got sick. Because of this, the course was messy and chaotic.
2	Evolutionary Behavioural Ecology	10	You will learn about different hypothesis of famous scientists about why animals behave why they do	4	I really liked the material of the course. The teacher gave boring lectures though, which I did not always attend.
3	Ecology 2	10	You will learn about different mathematical equations created by famous ecologist that explain a little about the ecology	5	I loved this course. It was very clear, the teacher was amazing and the material was really interesting.

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

Looking back at it, I think the education was somewhat easier than Wageningen. Nord Universitet stays more on the basic level of this, while Wageningen wants some more depth out of your knowledge. In Wageningen, your agenda will be full during the week, while at Nord you will have 3 lectures a week, and the rest of the time you need to fill with self-studying. It was a little hard to get used to, but I loved the library, so that made it easier.

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 overall are pretty shy at first, but once you get to know them, they are really nice.

Speaking English is a little bit of a problem for the Norwegians sometimes, because they are just really insecure about it, but most of the time, the conversations are great.

The teachers are lovely and really invested in their students. So, do not hesitate to ask any questions.

Next to that, there are a lot of international students hiding, but you will not always see or notice them on the spot. So try to join some international activities!

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

There is a really nice (but expensive) café at the university! Also, there are some sport associations and other associations you can be part of to experience more of Bodø!

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?)

Studentinord is great for renting rooms. Do not even bother to search for a room yourself. I think it is a waste of time and you will probably get a bad location all the way into the center. I think Mørkvedveien is the best location they have!

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

Norwegians do not really instigate a conversation. You will have to be a little extra social yourself. For example, in my shared kitchen, I always greeted them, introduced myself, asked about their days etc. Also, Norwegian students are not the best cooks, so don't be shocked when you see them eating mashed potatoes with meat.

A big shock for me is that Norwegians aren't that environmental friendly as I thought. Meat and fish are big things in their cuisine for example and they will easily travel by plane.

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

It was about 500 to 550 euros, depending on the share price.

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

The best way to travel in by public transport, so bus or train. However, be prepared to have to rent a car or go on foot to visit places that are not on main roads. A monthly travel card by bus is around 30 euros. To the university, I travelled on foot (5 minute walk).

6. Free time

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

Well, go on the dog sledding tour of Nordland Adventures. They are such lovely people and you can ask them so many questions about places you need to visit in the neighbourhood. They bring you to the dog sledding company, visit Saltsstraumen if you want to, and try to show you wildlife like mooses and reindeers. Preferably do this when there is snow (even though you can also do this when there is none).

Next to that, try to do some hikes in the area and visit the Lofoten! It is very easy to reach with a ferry that leaves in Bodo centre. Amazing experience!

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

I think learning about the Sami people is very interesting, so maybe visit some museums about that?

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

Learn to knit or to crochet. It is so much fun and it is a hobby of many Norwegians. There is also a

knit café every Tuesday where they give you materials to work with.
You can go out at Samfunnet or in the city centre.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I think the quiet Norwegians. I really felt like they didn't like me at all, because they never spoke to me or tried to make conversation. Later on, I noticed that they were getting more social and they even organised some things for me to experience some Norwegian food and culture.

What was your best memory abroad?

The 15 day roadtrip that my international friends and me did to the North Cape. The nature is so beautiful there!

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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