



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BAS
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	14/08/2023 until 20/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Nord University
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture
<b>Country</b>	Norway
<b>City</b>	Bodø

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I wanted to experience a new study environment. I love Wageningen as well but I also wanted to change it up a bit. I was curious about other cultures as well. I've also heard from other people that it's an amazing experience.

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

I chose Norway because of the nature! Bodø is also very close to the Lofoten and the ferry is free when you travel by foot. But I mainly chose the university because of the courses they offered.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I think it's also amazing to go to Bodø by train! I personally chose the airplane because I was traveling with my family in the first week but the next time I visit Bodø I want to go there by train.

## 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	Aquaculture	10	It's mainly about different fish species (especially salmon) and the aquaculture techniques	4	I personally really liked this course! The teacher had a lot of knowledge and I also liked learning more about the different aquaculture techniques. But it was also the most difficult one and the exam was quite detailed as well
2	Oceanography	10	This course was mainly about the (formatting of) different currents in the ocean and the properties of the ocean	4	I personally thought this course was the most fun to learn for. Some lectures were a bit confusing but the teacher was very nice and it's easier to follow once you now the bigger picture.
3	Aquatic Microbiology	10	This course mainly explains different microbes in aquatic environments and their contribution to the environment	4	For me, this was the easiest course to follow. Again, the teacher was very nice and enthusiastic about this course as well. The lectures were also easy to follow
4					
5					
6					

### What is it like to study there?

*E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.*

It's really different than it is from Wageningen. Personally, I thought the workload was lower than in Wageningen but maybe that was also because we only had 3 exams over the whole semester. I also think the lectures were a bit 'slower' than in Wageningen. But it was a bit more challenging to learn for the exams since there were a lot of lectures we had to learn for each course but the exams were doable. Some people are learned from the lectures but I liked to also use the books that were provided by the teachers.

### 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 very approachable and also very nice. They prefer it if you refer to them with their first name and the Oceanography lecturer even learned all of our names beforehand. The classes were also smaller compared to the WUR.

### What does the university offer students additionally?

*E.g. catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?*

There are different sports you can join and there's also a climbing hall nearby the university. There was also a cafeteria at the university. I personally didn't join any sports since I was more than happy to just walk around in the nature.

## 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?*

The university has student accommodations that are provided by Studentinord. People from abroad get a special code which gives them a priority for the housing. So finding a place to stay was very easy.

### **What is the culture of the country like?**

*E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?*

I think Norwegian people are very shy. They're also very helpful when you ask them any questions but I don't think they're very social. I personally really loved the Norwegian brown cheese which tasted a bit like caramel.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

*E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)*

There's an app called Reis Nordland which you can use to buy tickets from. You do need a credit card for this app but the monthly pass is relatively cheap (like 30 euros) and will allow you to travel all over Nordland by bus. Most student accommodations were a walking distance to the university but we needed to travel by bus to get to the city centre.

## 6. Expenses

### **Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

*E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.*

Ticket there: 300 euros with 2 big suitcases

Visa if applicable: Not applicable

Vaccinations if applicable: Not applicable

Insurances (extra, if applicable): Not applicable

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: About 400 euros per month, shared bathrooms, kitchen and living room

Groceries: 50-100 euros per week (really way more expensive than the Netherlands)

Public transport: 30 euros per month

Restaurant/going out for dinner: About 40-50 euros per person. But

Daytrips/sight-seeing: You can take the ferry to the Lofoten for free! With the monthly pass you can also go to Saltstraumen by bus which wouldn't cost you extra money. You

can borrow stuff like camping gear at Skattkammeret or BUA so I would say this was very cheap.

#### **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## **7. Free time**

#### **What are must-sees in the area?**

*E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

You really MUST go to the Lofoten. I personally loved Værøy the most, but you really have to spend the entire day there so it would be best to do in the summer. I also went to Reinebringen multiple times and the view is amazing. However the steps can be slippery when they're wet and you really need good spikes if you go there end of October. I wouldn't recommend going there in November or December if you want to go hiking. Saltstraumen is also really nice and there are a lot of mountains you should try like Keiservarden and Hunstadtoppen.

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

You can go to Svolvær when you take the fast ferry! I went there with some of my friends from a few days and it's really nice if you want to destress a bit. Svolvær has some nice hikes you can try and also some sightseeing tours that are definitely worth it 😊.

#### **Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

For restaurants, I recommend Tiger Sushi (cheap sushi!) and Burgasm (the burgers and shakes are AMAZING). I think the most popular club in Bodø was Dama Di but I personally didn't like the music too much. There was also a cinema in the city centre if you want to watch movies. Personally I spend most of my free time outside or hanging out with friends at our living room 😊.

## **8. Challenges & best moment abroad**

#### **What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?**

I got homesick after my family visited for a week and then they left again. Luckily I had amazing roommates and friends that lived in the same house that cheered me up. I also called my parents and grandparents a lot.

The darkness also was a bit of an issue, I think it's very important to go outside in the few hours it's still relatively light. And to buy lots of candles 😊.

#### **What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

I think all of my memories I made with my new friends. One time we walked up Hunstadtoppen and the we saw the Northern Lights all over the city and around us, that moment was truly amazing.

### 9. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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