



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-01-2023 until 09-06-2023
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Oslo
University (exchange)	Universitetet i Oslo
Faculty (exchange)	Mathematics and Natural Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

It is a perfect opportunity to experience living in a different place and being completely on your own without any familiar people. It is really scary and lonely at times but it is a great opportunity to learn about yourself and to grow.

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

Norway is a beautiful country that has a lot to offer nature wise. The people are closed of which makes it hard to really connect. But it is an interesting culture to learn about.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I took the ferry from Eemshaven (now Emden) to Kristiansand and from there you can take a bus or train. On my way back, I'll take the ferry from Oslo to Copenhagen and from there I'll travel further by Flixbus. Although both trips are quite long, I find it quite convenient and fun to reach my destination this way.

## 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	Cloud Physics	10	The course focussing cloud micro and macro physics. It built on the knowledge I gained in courses like 'introduction	2 (as I'm not that into meteorology)	The professor is nice, and the content is nice if you're interested in it. I would say the course is less structured than what I'm used to at WUR but most courses at UiO are.

			atmosphere'. It is most important to understand every concept not to be able to calculate with it.		
2	Palynology, Palaeobotany and Palaeoclimatology	10	The course is about the evolution of plants. It explains how you can use plants (mostly pollen and spores) as climate indicators.	3	The course is given by a German professor who speaks Dutch as well. He is really friendly and chill.
3	Floods, Avalanches and Landslides	10	The course is split up in three parts, telling about these three hazards. The floods part is quite statistical but you don't have to calculate much. The avalanche and landslide parts are a bit more general and quite nice.	4	This course has a really nice 3-day excursion in March. You go to Finse. In March, there is still a huge amount of snow there and you go there to learn how to make a snow profile (like learning how to read soil horizons and profiles). You go there on skis but you really don't have to be a star on those things since you don't travel that far. The excursion is really really nice.
4					
5					
6					

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

I followed master courses. The level is not much higher than what I'm used to from the third year at WUR. I would say that it is very easy to pass the courses (if you put in some effort) but maybe it is hard to get the highest grade. The workload is less in general, but you are forced to do more work on your own since there are less classes. For most classes you have to write some report or paper. From my experience you do this alone, not in a group. The lesson material consists mostly of powerpoint slight and additional reading material. The examination is either written or oral. I had an oral exam for cloud physics, I didn't like this but I have to say that the teachers are really friendly and nice.

**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 courses I followed were small and lecturers were easily approachable and friendly. In that sense, it is similar to WUR. In my experience UiO and the courses are a bit less well organized and some teachers are not really good at teaching, although they are nice.

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

There are very nice sport facilities that are not too expensive and I really recommend that. There is a cafetaria, but that is not super cheap.

## 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?)**

It is really easy to get a room as long as you register on time at SiO. Most rooms are single rooms with shared kitchens and bathrooms just like the star flats in Wageningen. I think most student live in the student villages 'Sogn' and 'Kringsja' but there are a lot of other nice places and if you have the opportunity to live closer to the city centre, I would recommend that.

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

People are really really closed off, although it did get better when the weather got better. However, in my experience, Norwegians are extremely friendly and helpful. Local cuisine is horrible and food in general is expensive. I would say the culture is pretty chill in an uptight way.

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

Residence is quite comparable to Wageningen. I paid 3900 NOK (approximately €360) which is on the lower side but still quite common.

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

I bought a second hand bike at OK:sykel. There is still snow until March but the main roads are accessible by bike all winter. If you don't want to cycle I would advice you to get a monthly public transport ticket at which you get a discount as a student.

## 6. Free time

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

The forest around Oslo is very beautiful, so you don't have to go very far to see nice places.

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

Nothing really, although I would just recommend going to the forests around Oslo and the lake Sognsvann.

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

Join the sport centre of the university and a sports association. You can get a membership at the sauna and go to the saunas in the fjord.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

It is hard to connect to Norwegian people. And although it is easier to connect with other internationals, I still experienced quite some lonely moments.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Going on a cabin trip with a friend of mine and random Norwegian people and sledging down a hill! And another great memory was the excursion to Finse with one of my courses. My last great memory was doing a night hike in June to see the sunrise. That was a very special experience and I can totally recommended it (just in the forest around Oslo).

**8. 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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