



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	14-08-2023 until 21-12-2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Oslo
Faculty	Department of Geosciences
Country	Norway
City	Oslo

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Primarily because I wanted to experience to live in another country.

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

And I have always been fascinated by the Nordic countries. Besides UiO offered special courses focused on polar climates. Which is a topic BSW doesn't pay a lot of attention on.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I went there taking the Color Line Ferry. This is a beautiful ferry taking you all the way to Oslo. However, it is quite expensive. When you're short of money, I recommend flying to Oslo from Schiphol, this will only cost you about 80-100 euro's (without luggage).

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	Oceanography	10	Primarily focusses on quantifying ocean circulations and Ocean-Atmosphere interactions	4	Bachelor level
2	Numerical Weather Predictions	10	Focusses on the use of statistics to predict future weather and climate. You also make your own weather prediction models, which is a really nice way to learn	5	Master level
3	Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology	10	Focusses on learning how to make landscape surveys and use them to predict past processes. In the beginning you will go on an week excursion which introduces you to the landscapes of Norway.	5	Master level
4	Glaciology	10	Focusses on quantifying glacier fluxes. Such as, calculating its flow velocity, ablation rate, calving rate, erosional forces, etc.	3	Master level, in my year the course was quite a mess due to a lack of teachers. This could of course be different in future years
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

I felt like the academic level a little lower than in Wageningen. However the courses were taught in a really practical way, which makes that I learned more during this semester than during a semester in Wageningen.

What is the culture of the university?

The classes in the department of Geosciences were small (6-15 students). This created a personal atmosphere in the lectures.

What does the university offer students additionally?

When studying at UiO, you're automatically registered to SiO. Which facilitates all sorts of sports associations, 5 gyms, housing, student activities, study area's and more

5. Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

Sign up for SiO as soon as possible. You can give them your preferences, and they will try to find you a room you feel comfortable with. They offer a wide variety of housing types. The changes on getting to housing type you want most, depends on how fast you sign up for SiO

What is the culture of the country like?

The people are a bit shy and there cuisine is absolutely horrible. BUT! The great outdoors is incredibly accessible. Everybody is always doing outdoor activities like running, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, camping, hiking and so many more! The latter is what I loved most about Norway.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

Public transport is pretty awesome in Oslo. I lived in Kringsja during my semester, which is a student village at the border of Oslo. And I could reach the university in 10 minutes and the city centre in a little more than 20 minutes.

6. Expenses

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

Norway is way more expensive than the Netherlands.

Ticket there: 180 euro for the plane ticket (from Amsterdam to Oslo with 2 luggage items).

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 550 euros per month

Groceries: an average evening meal costs about 4 to 5 euro's

Public transport: 30 euro's per month

Restaurant/going out for dinner: It will cost you approximate 30-40 euro, ofcourse depending on where you go. By the way, Beers cost 10-12 euro's.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: If you go outdoors, everything is free. You can even rent outdoor equipment like a tent or ski's for free. If you take the train to places it can get quite expensive though.

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

Within Oslo I sincerely recommend Nordmarka, literally translated North park. This is a really big forest north of Oslo. You can just hike, run, ski forever there. In winter they

prep 500km of loypes there. For traveling outside Olso, I can recommend hardangervidda, Jostedalbreen, Jotenheim, Rondane, Tromso, Bergen, Stavanger and may more. To be honest, it doesn't matter where you go in Norway, awesomeness is pretty much guaranteed.

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

Rondane is usually not a place you will find on travel guides. But is in my opinion one of the most beautiful places in Norway. Also don't forget to check out Senja. This is a large Island near Tromsø. It is very similar to Lofoten, but maybe even more beautiful and not even nearly as many people. Within Oslo, make sure to hike to Vettakollen at least one time. The view there is unforgettable.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

Check out SYNG. This is a personal karaoke bar and it is free on Tuesdays. Its incredibly fun. They even have Dutch songs.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

UiO will only let you know if they allow you into a course the day before the course starts. So always have courses for your plan B.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Every single day

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	nils.reefman@gmail.com	