



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BSW
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/08/2023 until 21/12/2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Oslo
Faculty	Geoscience
Country	Norway
City	Oslo

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

There are multiple reasons for me why I chose to go on an exchange. First of all, I like to meet new people from different countries with different cultures and learn about their view on life. Second, for my study programme it is quite relevant to explore different landscapes and how they form, for which an exchange is the perfect opportunity. Third, I thought I would really benefit personally from spending one semester abroad and get to know myself more. A new environment and new people can stimulate personal growth.

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

Norway has always been a country that intrigued me, with its beautiful mountains, fjords and lakes, a very different landscape than in the Netherlands. I was curious to know what the processes are behind this scenery. The University of Oslo offered more in depth courses in the field of geology and primarily focusses on the processes relevant for Scandinavia. I was keen on learning more about this in courses such as Glaciology and Geohazards. Extensive geology courses are to a lesser extent included in the curriculum at Wageningen University. I thought studying in Oslo would be a great fit for me because of the city itself as well. What I liked about Oslo is that it is a big city, but nature is always close. It is also easy to travel to the rest of Norway from there. For these reasons I chose the University of Oslo as my exchange destination.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

It is easiest to reach the city by plane but there are also nice options to get there by flixBus.

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	GEO4034 Geohazards	10	In this course I learned about different geohazards that can occur, eg avalanches, floods and extreme weather events. It was not only focussed on hazards that occur in Norway but also in other countries.	4	The course was well organised and the form of teaching was nice (flipped classroom). The excursion was a great addition to the course. What I didn't like about the course is that the course load was not well distributed throughout the semester and the things learnt were not very in depth, which you would expect for a master course.
2	GEO4420 Glaciology	10	This course is about glaciers, how they flow and how to quantify/ model that. A large focus was on the impact of climate change on glaciers.	3	The excursion and the lab exercises were really nice. My main point of critique was that the course was organised badly and it was not clear what was expected of us.
3	GEO4902 Numerical weather prediction	10	This course is about using numerical models to predict the weather.	4/5	Very interesting course, I learned a lot. Lab exercises were long but useful.

What is it like to study there?

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

I would say that the level at the University of Oslo is about the same as in Wageningen. However the pace is a bit slower. It also depends on the course. The Geohazard course was much easier and the Numerical Weather Prediction course was a bit harder than courses I had in the first two years of my bachelor's degree. In general, the communication and organization of courses is also a bit better in Wageningen in my opinion.

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?

I had a positive experience with lectures and local students. Lecturers were easily approachable and are always open to help. I also feel that local students really try to include international students. Maybe sometimes they switch to Norwegian but this does not happen often.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There are a lot of sport facilities, which are organised by SiO. There are a lot of student associations etc. which you can join. Food on campus is quite expensive.

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?

If you register before the deadline you will most probably be able to find a room via SiO. Most international students live in a so called 'student by'. Song and Kringsja are popular. I paid around 475 euros for a fully furnished single room with a shared kitchen and bathroom in Song Studentby.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

There are not a lot of cultural differences except for the fact that Norwegians are a bit more quite in public and less direct maybe. Local cuisine is comparable to the Netherlands. However, in the supermarkets it is hard to find affordable vegan/ vegetarian products.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

I mostly travelled to the university by foot (20 min walk) or by bus. Ruter offers a monthly student ticket for around 45 euros. With this ticket you can travel within the entire city.

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: 50 – 150 euros

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 475 euros for a single furnished room

Groceries: 200 euros

Public transport: 45 euros

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 100 euros

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 200 euros

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Alcohol is very expensive, you already pay 3 euros for a beer in the supermarkets and around 10 euros at a restaurant.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

Jotunheimen (August – September)

Gaustatoppen for hiking (August – October) or for skiing (October – December)

Gygrestolen (August – October)

Nordmarka and Ostmarka are beautiful foresty areas around Oslo

Bit further away 6 hour drive or longer:

Preikestolen (August – October)

Lofoten (August – October)

West Norway (August – Beginning of October)

It is easiest to travel by car.

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

Gygrestolen: beautiful rock formation around 2 hours from Oslo.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Cheapish food:

- Oslo Street Food
- Girotondo (best Italian pizza)
- Cultivate food (vegan restaurant)
- Pust (nice study café)

Going out:

- Kulturhuset
- Café Sara's
- Amatøren student bar

Swimming:

- Songsvann + smaller lakes around it
- Aker Brygge
- Huk beach

Sightseeing:

- Operahuset
- Radhuset
- Botanical gardens at Toyen
- Geology museum
- Aker Brygge

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

In the Netherlands most people are quiet direct and say what they want. In other cultures this is not very normal and because of this I sometimes had trouble communicating in a way that everyone would feel comfortable. In the end I was also missing the people back home a lot because it is sometimes easier to talk to someone that you have know for a longer time.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

My best memory of my time abroad is probably walking on a glacier during the excursion with the course Glaciology. I had never done this before and it was amazing!

9. Contact details (optional)

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