



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BPW
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/01/2024 until 31-06-2024
Exchange destination: University	Nord University
Faculty	Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture
Country	Norway
City	Bodo

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really liked the thought of a study in another country, especially in such a beautiful country as Norway. So that brought me there.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

Nature mainly, but Norway always has fascinated me.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

The subjects they gave at Nord University sounded very interesting to me to broaden my knowledge.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

It is pretty straightforward, but one tip is to buy a monthly pass for the busses prior to getting there. This can be done quite simply by using the Reis App. (that's how its called)

4. University and studying

a. 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	Understanding of ecosystems in marine environments and	5	One of the most interesting subjects I have ever followed, and it may have caused me to combine my study

			how oceans work in general.		with something related to this subject in the future
2	Evolutionary Behavioural ecology	10	What effects does evolution have of the behaviour of animals	3	Strange way of examination (a speaking exam is the only grade)
3	Ecology 2	10	Understanding of individuals in a ecosystem of a certain species	4	Quite interesting subject
4					
5					
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, there were a lot of choices of subjects, and all of them were given in English.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, I got the feeling that I learned quite a lot in the passed semester.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, I found the courses very interesting and glad that I followed them.

f. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

The workload is quite low in my opinion, this is mainly due to the fact that you're supposed to do more self study, which caused more free time in my case. This gave me the opportunity to do a lot of other things.

g. What is the culture of the university?

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?

The university was a lot smaller than the WUR, but this is not really a problem. Everyone speaks well enough English and there are enough international students.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

This was really good, the housing provided by the university was amazing, and they organised all kind of things.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?

This was no problem, the housing organization put you into a room, so I didn't have to do anything for my housing myself, which made it really easy and something less to worry about before going there.

b. What is the culture like?

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

I think there are not a lot of differences between Norwegians and Dutch people, which was quite nice.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Public transport was really good, everyone had a monthly pass for the bus which costs around 30 euros, which allowed you to travel through the whole province of Nordland, which is quite big.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	300
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Same price as here, I find it difficult to put something here because I did so many day trips, of which most of were free actually due to the bus pass
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	510
Grocery costs per month	300
Public transport costs per month	30
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	Same as here

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands: Higher

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

The prices are generally higher

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Lofoten, you can go there for free with the ferry, and ive been there a total of nine times during my exchange.

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

The island of Senja, so beautiful.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

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b. Best memory?

Hiking through snow storms, camping with northern lights above us, the many hikes I did in the spring/summer.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name & email address (if yes)	Mark Verdegaal (Mark123Verdegaal@gmail.com) (glad to help)	