



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	Soil Water Atmosphere
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	08-01-2024 until 31-05-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	UNIS via NMBU
<b>Faculty</b>	Geophysics
<b>Country</b>	Norway
<b>City</b>	Longyearbyen

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To get deeper knowledge on the cryosphere, something sorely missing in BSW, also to experience the remote high arctic environment.

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

It's the only way to go to Svalbard, and its also a beautiful country which I want to keep visiting in future.

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

It's the only one in Svalbard.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Make sure you complete all the bureaucracy in time and choose a separate Norwegian university with which to come here, it doesn't matter which one. Don't be afraid to ask for help from exchange coordinators etc.

## 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	Air-ice-sea interactions	15	Sea ice dynamics and interactions	5	Great course with lots of nice physics
2	Snow and ice processes	15	Mostly glaciology and snow science	5	More descriptive, but still great

3	Arctic Safety Training	3	How not to die in the arctic	5	Great training, felt way safer
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**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):**

UNIS offers many courses of different disciplines in English.

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

If you're interested in the arctic, UNIS offers courses in all disciplines, from space physics to biology.

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

The courses had good level, appropriate for a bachelor student.

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

It's exactly what I was looking for and more, and now I know which direction I want to take in my academic life.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

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

It's great, the workload is manageable and allows plenty of opportunities to experience the high arctic and incredible Svalbard landscape. The professors are very good and all experts in their field, so you know you're getting instruction from some of the best out there. The oral examination and report for AGF211 is a good format to assess the course, whilst AGF212 follows a more conventional assessment form (exam + report) which is still good enough.

**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?*

Culturally, it felt quite similar, it's a very open university with a small campus where everyone knows each other. Since it's even smaller than WUR, everyone knows each other and it has a cozy vibe. The professors are very open and you can have a casual conversation with them (and might meet them at the bar, it's a small place).

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

There is a cantina but not much else, by nature of it being small. Nonetheless you can get by without much issue (laundry is part of the housing, for example, and there is a local gym).

## 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?*

The housing is organised through Samskipnaden and they ensure there are enough rooms. It's next to the campus and you have many options. It's about 500eur/mo when I went.

### b. What is the culture like?

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

Totally different culture, as could be expected from a tiny city at the end of the world. It's very small and tight knit, with a strong academic bubble (stronger even than Wageningen). There is quite a lot of international influence, so there is varied international cuisine there, manners are direct, as in the Netherlands, but people are quite closed.

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

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

Not applicable in Svalbard... there is a bus from the airport to town and that's it.

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	300
Visa - if applicable	0
Vaccinations - if applicable	0
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	90 NKBV mtn insurance
Daytrips/sight-seeing	30
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	550
Grocery costs per month	500
Public transport costs per month	0
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	0

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

Higher except for outdoor gear.

### c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

## 7. Free time

### a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Hikig/Ski touring... I recommend to visit all places around Longyearbyen and if you have a snows scooter to venture out to further reaches.

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

There's not a lot of information on travel guides, but just visit the mountains and go hiking/skiing a lot.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Cold... need good clothing (decathlon is quite good).

**b. Best memory?**

The first sunrise on the ridge of Nordenskioldfjellet... or learning to ski... or the cruise... there is no one best memory cause they were all incredible.

## 9. Contact details

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