



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal Science
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/08/2019 until 21/12/2019
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Uppsala
University (exchange)	SLU
Faculty (exchange)	Animal Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I wanted to step out of my comfort zone and explore university education abroad.

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

I went on holiday to Sweden last year and fell in love with the country. Furthermore, I really liked the fact that they have a highly recommended Animal Science program and I wanted to check that out.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It was pretty easy to get from Arlanda to Uppsala central station by bus (11 euros) or by train (faster but more expensive).

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	Animal Nutrition – health, behaviour and welfare	15	Integrated course of mainly nutrition and health but welfare and behaviour aspects are also discussed and integrated with each other	4	Liked the course and the field trips and discussions, but I would not say it is a master course, the lectures were pretty basic and I would have liked to have some more in depth lectures about the subjects.

2	Animal welfare and behaviour	15	Through weekly PBL cases and an ethics module, you get a different view on animal welfare and behaviour.	5	I thought the level of this course matched my expectations better and I really liked it. Practiced my presentation and writing skills and doing PBLs every week was a nice new challenge.
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

Compared to the WUR, the workload was a lot less than what I am used to. This was pretty nice, because I had time to explore Sweden and its culture, but I did miss the challenge and I was not that eager to learn anymore. So I would have liked it to be a bit more challenging. The exams were, on the other hand, definitely at a right academic level, so in the first course there was a bit of a level mismatch.

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 teachers are so friendly and approachable, just as at the WUR. They were a bit more chaotic, so contacting them was a bit of a challenge sometimes. Other than that, the whole university is so relaxed, where the WUR can be a little stressed sometimes, so I really liked that. But they were sometimes too relaxed, creating no challenge for the students, and I love a challenge (the WUR always provides that).

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

There was a great gym at the campus and there were a lot of restaurants/cafes. Also, there was enough space to sit and almost one microwave per student. Great facilities :).

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?)

The SLU gives you an accommodation. I had a great apartment close to the university, but you can also get an apartment in the city, which resembles the Haarweg a bit. It is fine and all the apartments for exchange students are fully furnished so that is great.

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

The Swedish people are way more relaxed than the Dutch and they are very polite. The efficiency is lower than what I am used to in the Netherlands, but it is great for an exchange period to be around these people.

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

I would say Sweden is a bit more expensive than Wageningen, but not much.

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

Since Uppsala is a big city for Swedish standards (4th biggest in the country), the infrastructure is perfect. You can take a lot of busses to campus or the city centre. Outside the city however it can be a bit of a struggle, if you want to go away from the city area. Luckily the nature is beautiful so you don't mind the walk that much. Going to Stockholm is super easy as well, it just takes you about an hour by train and it is quite cheap if you book smart.

6. Free time

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

I can definitely recommend Stockholm, I have been there four times and still love the place. Even though it is a capital it is super relaxed and there is much to see. Furthermore, we rented a car in one weekend and did a road trip to Norway, probably the best weekend ever 😊.

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

There is a big lake close to campus, Lake Ekoln. It is very pretty and you can walk through the forest that goes around the lake.

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

Swedish people love Fika so definitely learn what this is and experience it!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I get homesick pretty easily so this was a challenge for me. However I met some great people and had some friends from Wageningen so I still had a great time.

What was your best memory abroad?

The Lapland trip for sure (arranged by the international committee, and even though it is quite expensive you have to do this!).

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	renske.oppers@wur.nl	

