



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	27-08-2021 until 31-01-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Denmark
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Copenhagen
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Copenhagen
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Science

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To experience living and studying abroad and by doing so gain new knowledge, experience new cultures, and meet new people.

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

I chose for the University of Copenhagen because of the courses they offered in combination with it being a highly regarded university. In addition, the city of Copenhagen attracted me because of the ease of life and culture.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I've use the airplane to reach Copenhagen. The airport is pretty much in the city and with a 10-minute metro ride you are in the middle of the city. I lived in Frederiksberg, and it was about 20 minutes to reach the airport. The flight is about one hour and costs between 75-125 euro's excluding checked luggage. Between Amsterdam and Copenhagen there are apriority every 2 hours a flight. Especially the ease of use and because of the good connectivity I highly recommend taking the plane.

## 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	LNAK10084E - Theories of Urban Design	7,5	The course deals with theories, discourses and concepts for urban design. Visions and ideas for the good city and good urban life from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century to today are the focus of this course.	5	It was a really good course filled with excursions, practical teachings and discussions to interact and get to grips with all the theories.
2	LNAK10028E - Urban Ecosystems: Structures, Functions and Designs	7,5	The course is about obligations to international conventions, ecosystem services close to everyday life and reconnection with nature in cities, e.g., psychosocial effects, education, biological diversity (biodiversity) at different levels from the genome to ecosystem level. The course teaches methods to increase biodiversity and support wildlife of all sorts in urban surroundings.	5	Very interesting course to get an overview in the topic of urban ecosystems and everything that comes with it. Especially the excursions in combination with the written report and practical's make this course very nice to follow.
3	NPLK14011E - Tropical Botany B	7,5	In Tropical Botany, you are presented to a selection of tropical plant families and species. You learn the morphological characters of plant families, while also touching on the relevant phylogenetic relationships and	5	The course broadened my knowledge in plants. Especially if you are new into the world of plants this course can be quite a lot, but due to many hands on and the location inside the tropical greenhouses and the botanical garden you quickly learn and come to grips with the plants. The course is a lot of fun!

			covering examples of how species are used locally or on a wider scale as e.g., crops, timber, or ornamentals.		
<b>4</b>	NIGK14052E – Landscape and Restoration Ecology	7,5	The course is about Landscape ecology and Restoration ecology. Landscape ecology is about the multifunctionality of the landscape and how that influences the ecological process within it. Restoration ecology is about basic concepts, forms of degradation, restoration goals, trajectory, monitoring and evaluation, restoration policy.	5	With this course you travel a lot throughout Denmark, this makes the theories taught in the course very simple to understand and follow the course. Furthermore it is a great way to get out of the city and see Denmark.
<b>5</b>					
<b>6</b>					

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

The study forms are like The Netherlands. But the level of academic material and what is taught is higher. A normal day usually runs from either 8 or 9 to 12 in the morning and 13-17 in the afternoon. Usually there are 2 full days and the other days there are lectures or practicals in parts of the day. Due to the 8-week periods, 1 week of holiday in the middle and the exams in week 9 the workload is much more relaxed than in The Netherlands, this makes the higher academic level really good to follow and understand. But you have to keep track of the material and keep following the course. The examinations are either written or oral. Especially oral exams are a new form of examination. But in the end, I actually like it more than written exams. An oral exam is more like a discussion than just a question and answering it. The lesson materials are either distributed digitally or you can buy the materials in the academic bookstore.

**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 culture is definitely more international and urban than at WUR. Therefore the university comes across a lot more tolerant and open to everyone. Additionally, the groups are relatively small therefore you quickly know everyone you have lessons with and even the lecturers like to be spoken to using the first name. So, the culture is a lot more approachable than at WUR. The groups are approximately 65-50% Danish the rest is international which makes it easy to meet and interact with locals and the international community. The differences are especially the group size, social contact outside class hours is much more normal and the level of approachability of the lecturers.

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

The university is located in the middle of the city which makes that you can find pretty much everything really locally. The university itself provides if you wish housing, catering, and laundry facilities. Sports facilities are not provided but the city offers plenty. Additionally the student card offers discounts or even free entrance to much of the cultural institutions in the city.

## 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 university offers through their housing foundation either shared or individual rooms, in either shared apartments or solo studios. The rents are high, higher than Amsterdam, but don't forget you live in one of the most expensive if not the most expensive city in mainland Europe. But the process to get a room is really simple and if you are on it, you will get a room in the complex you'd like. I had a 27 m<sup>2</sup> square studio in the middle of Frederiksberg, it was on the science campus, so everything was within walking distance and the city centre was 5 min by bike and 10 with either metro or walking. It was not cheap, but I would highly recommend it. If you don't want to rent through the university there are multiple other options to get a room.

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

The culture is much more tolerant and much more community based. Instead of putting the individual central they centralise the society which can be experienced as a difference. This is especially visible in how they follow the rules, the procedures and quite clearly in that covid didn't affect my stay at all because everyone is bolstered and followed the guidelines for testing, testing testing. Additionally, the students are open, and you'll find yourself invited quickly to groups, get together and so on. The local cuisine is a lot more meat and fish based than back home but if you don't fancy this, you'll probably be able to find something you like in the city.

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

The prices are higher than in Wageningen. For instance for my weekly shopping I spend a proximally 60-70 euros while in NL about 40,-.

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

Throughout the city there is a wide public transport system, with a metro, busses, and trains. It costs in zone 1 and 2 15 kronen if you have a travel pas otherwise it is 25 kronen. The best way to get around the city is by bike, I got an Swapfiets and can highly recommend it. I could reach the university either by foot or if I had to go to another part with bike.

## **6. Free time**

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

I would say go travel around the country, traveling outside of Copenhagen is very easy. Even visiting Sweden is very easy by train or bus. I would say visit the countryside, Cliffs of Moen or Dyrehavn, cities like Aarhus, Odense, Malmo. Additionally the Louisiana museum is really worth a visit. The weekends and the holidays are perfect to explore the country.

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

Due to that the university is scattered around the city in 5 campuses, each campus has its own Friday bar. In total there are 10 Friday bars, and they are all worth a visit and you'll meet a lot of people and the prices are low.

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

I would say that this is very personal and depends on what you like. Danes are always willing to recommend the best places to go but it will depend on what you like.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

The biggest challenge for me was moving to a new country but once that was done it was smooth sailing. Especially the introduction days and living in an international dorm really help with getting settled in the city and to get to meet other students. The classes and groupwork were a good way of getting to know the Danes.

### What was your best memory abroad?

There is not one memory which is better than another. I would say the whole experience of living aboard in a foreign city, adapting to the new culture and way of living, meeting so many new people of so many different nationalities and cultures, exploring and getting to grips with the country are the best memories. It teaches you that within Europe we are a lot more similar yet there are subtle differences which make you aware of both your own and other cultures. It has been a great experience and I highly recommend it!

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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