



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	30-08-2021 until 16-01-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Gothenburg
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Gothenburg
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Department of Earth Sciences and Department of Marine Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to travel and study in a completely new and different environment on my own, meet new international people, live close to nature and do some slightly different courses.

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

I already knew that I wanted to go to either Norway or Sweden. Gothenburg was described as a big city, but also very green with lots of nature around it and this especially appealed to me.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Very accessible. It is of course easiest to go by car, especially for bringing stuff, but you can also go by train and ferry, Flixbus or 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	Physical Oceanography I	15	<p>About mathematical/ physical formulas needed for water calculations. The first half is quite easy with a lot of repetition from wur courses but the second half was pretty difficult with new knowledge.</p> <p>Every day, you switch between having either a lecture or tutorial and this for two months straight.</p>	1.5	<p>Hardly anything was applied to oceans: it was more a physics than an ocean course.</p> <p>Also, the exam did not really test whether you knew the material well: it was just a repetition of the exercises in the tutorial and these exercises were way to hard to solve on your own but you could just copy the corrected version from your notebook on the open book exam. So it felt more like learning specific exercises than being able to solve them yourself.</p> <p>I did become quite experienced with mathematical water formulas so that was a plus.</p>
2	Climate Change: A geographical perspective	15	About the impact of climate change on different regions of the world. Lots of different teaching techniques such as lectures, literature seminars, computer practicals, group work and a field trip to Spain.	4.5	<p>Really nice and varied course, especially liked the guest lectures were locals from different countries talked about the climate change situation in their country. And off course the field trip to Spain was really nice.</p> <p>Sometimes a bit too easy with straight forward knowledge.</p>

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

The workload was way lower than at the WUR, especially for my second course. The academic level for the first course started really low but became much harder in the second part. The level of the second course was also lower. Both courses had an exam at the end but for the second course, a group report, presentation and more is also included for the examination.

**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 engagement with lecturers is really good, they are very helpful and friendly. I had much more contact with other exchange students than local students but I especially got to know a lot of nice Swedes on our excursion to Spain.

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

With an SCB sport membership of approximately 100 euros per month, you get access to multiple normal gyms (with a small sauna!), group lessons and three climbing gyms which is off course very nice if you're a climber but otherwise it's also nice to just try out bouldering (a lot of my friends did this and enjoyed it). Laundry was for free and included in my student accommodation. Catering at the university was non-existent but I found it really nice to go to nearby cafes instead.

## 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?)**

You sign up for a room via the exchange form and when you get a room (almost everyone does), you should just wake up in time and then you can choose between hundreds of rooms. Rent rates are really okay, I lived at Olofshojd and paid around 380 euros a month for a room with private bathroom and shared kitchen.

Go for either Olofshojd or Helmutsgatan, most exchange students live here and it is a convenient location.

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

Very similar

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

Normal groceries have quite similar prices. Eating/drinking out can be quite expensive, especially alcoholic beverages.

Also be prepared to do a lot more activities and go on weekend trips for which you spend way more money than in the Netherlands.

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

I recommend buying a cheap second hand bike, it can be quite hilly but really worth getting everywhere at any time easily, and for a nice bike ride to beautiful coastal sites a bit further.

Public transport in the city is quite good and about 50 euros per month.

## 6. Free time

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

There's sooo much nature around. I especially loved the area Vattlefjall and the Archipelago islands (Hono was my favourite, really nice hiking and you can also go bouldering outside here). Delsjon is a really nice lake and has a nice running distance around it of either 7.5 or 10 km (again, be prepared for hills).

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

No idea, but you'll figure it out when you get there 😊

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

Overnight hiking trips in the warmer months, they are so much fun and there are a lot of free open air huts with a fire place where you can stay during the night. Most exchange students go to 'Yakida' on Wednesday nights, you can get in for free before 22:00.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Becoming lonely on some days as it is really easy to meet people and make friends but they were often not very deep.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Field trip to Spain, doing an overnight hike and sleeping in a bird shelter on one of the islands, climbing and all the beautiful snowy days in November.

## 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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