



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	23/09/2021 until 14/01/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Gothenburg
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Gothenburg
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Earth Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience studying on a different university to experience a new way of studying and atmosphere. On top of this, I wanted to have the experience of living in a different country for some time to grow as a person and challenge myself a bit more.

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

I chose Sweden because I was very curious about living in Scandinavia and I knew the level of education would be good enough. I also was really happy there was a lot of nature around.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Going by train is a ride of 15 hours, but very doable if you pack right for it (not too much stuff to carry for every switch). So for environmental reasons, and the fact that you see more of the landscape by train, I recommend going by train.

## 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	NG0210 Subartic Field Course	15	The course is about the effects of climate change on the subarctic, mostly looking into geography effects and ecology.	3	Because of corona we couldn't do the field trip which was a disappointment. And a big part of the course (about half) was groupwork, which I didn't like too much either. I would have enjoyed the course more if there was some more in depth lectures than more groupwork, especially because we missed the field trip. However, I did enjoy the lectures a lot and learned some new material there.
2	NG0230 Climate change: a geographical perspective	15	The course is about the geographical impacts of climate change, how it affects different areas. It also includes discussions and possible solutions.	3	Interesting course, contents were quite basic but nice. It could have been more in depth, most of the contents was things I already knew or had just learned in the Subarctic Field course. But I really enjoyed the discussions we had.
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### How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The study form is a combination of lectures, groupwork and some field work. The academic level is a bit lower for the two courses I did than on Wageningen University, which made the workload lower. The examination was fine, the test was clear, the only thing I would improve is for it to be possible to look into your exam and be able to see if it was corrected well. The lesson material was similar to Wageningen.

### 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?)

Lecturers were very approachable which was really nice, and we would call them by their first name. Local students were mostly in my second course and they would keep together a lot, but through group projects this mixed up a bit. Although I would suggest not making the groups yourself but mixed everyone up with everyone so that you meet some people you would normally maybe not do

groupwork with, like locals. On the WUR I do normally engage more with international students so this is a bit different.

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

There are some little kitchens on campus which was very nice, but not much more that I'm aware of.

## 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?)**

Really well done, the university gives them first to international students, it was very easy to get a room. The instructions were very clear

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

The biggest difference I would say is that people are a bit more to themselves than Dutch, and they keep together more, but if you approach them, they are very very friendly. Local cuisine was similar to Dutch, with potatoes and meatballs, but the patisserie was a bit different and they had some national holidays that don't exist in the Netherlands (Three Kings day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January and Santa Lucia on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December

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

It was a bit more expensive than the average in Wageningen, about 100 euros on average

**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 very well done, I had a bicycle though, so I didn't use it as much. But the times I used it it was very on time and very accessible, but it was quite expensive, unless you had a subscription and you would use it a lot.

## 6. Free time

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

The islands around Gothenburg are really nice, very cosy as well, especially around Christmas, with some small Christmas markets. Also lake Desjon is very beautiful, and if you are lucky it is even frozen in winter to ice skate on! Because it was not too far I also visited Norway in between, which I would highly recommend. And Stockholm is a beautiful city to visit too, about 3 hours train ride from Gothenburg.

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

The little nature area next to the Botanical garden is beautiful and far bigger than I initially thought, and it is really nice to go there for an afternoon walk.

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

Cooking most of your food yourself will save you a lot of money, but I would recommend going on fika (Swedish coffee/tea time with cake) with friends after uni, because it is so cosy and a great way to get to know people a bit more.

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

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

One of the challenges I experienced was that I felt like I had to do everything at once and make the very best of this experience. This is partly true ofcourse, however I realised the experience was far more enjoyable and better to take in when I started doing things at my own pace.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

Going to Norway with two friends and realising that the people you meet, are really everything that make the experience of so wonderful 😊

## **8. Contact details (optional)**

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	willemijnmulder@gmail.com	