



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/08/2021 until 15/01/2022
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Alnarp
University (exchange)	SLU
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Science (LTV)

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience living abroad and I knew that this was a relatively easy opportunity for me to do so. Living in another country is so different compared to going there on holiday, you really get to integrate in the day to day life which is an amazing experience.

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

I instantly knew I wanted to go to Sweden, I've been there on holiday with my family before and I really like the country, to be able to live there for half a year without having to move permanently felt like a great opportunity. SLU (university) matched really well with the course contents I was interested in.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

SLU Alnarp is very easy to reach by train/bus. Because this is way better for the environment compared to flying I highly recommend to go 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	Agroecology Basics	15	The course is the first course of the master programme 'agroecology'. It provides the students with a basic inside to the theme of agroecology. It covers topics on social sciences and natural sciences. It is meant to be the foundation for the following courses in the masters program.	4	I really enjoyed the course, the teacher was great and it was a whole new world that I was introduced to! I did expect to have a bit more hands on experiences with crop production/farming systems, that was lacking a bit. But ofcourse that was also partly because of Covid-19
2	Agroecology and sustainability of production systems	15	The follow-up course on the agroecology basics course. It goes deeper into the topics of agroecology, however there was some overlap with the previous course. It is also meant to let the students discover where their interests lie within the topic of agroecology	4	It was a nice course, a bit more distanced than the previous course. The lectures were nice but sometimes there was some overlap, also with the previous course. The final assignment was very nice since we got to choose our own topic within a very broad range. So you could really write about something you thought was interesting.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload was good, you had enough things to do, but also time to process everything. There were lectures, group work, farm visits/interviews, presentations and writing assignments. Lots of diversity which was really nice.

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?)

I felt like SLU is the Swedish version of WUR, the culture is very similar. Lectures are very approachable. A thing that is a bit different is that at WUR I feel like there is a bit more pressure on results compared to SLU.

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

At the campus in Alnarp there is a really nice forest/park where you can go for walks. Every week there is a language course in the library you can attend for free if you want to learn more about Swedish culture and language. The student union organises regular parties. The campus is very small, so there are no big sport facilities. However you can go to Malmö (half an hour bike ride) and find everything you might need. There is a restaurant at campus and also a café and canteen where you can warm up your own food. It depends on your housing whether you have your own laundry or not. But the laundry will not be further away than a 5 minute walk.

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 can apply for a room on campus, the landlord is easy to talk to and very helpful. There are different types of rooms (houses for 2/4 students, and dorms for 12/24 students).

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

The culture is similar to the Netherlands, the main difference is that life in Sweden is a bit more relaxed. Cuisine is also very similar, people tend to go outside more. For example have picnics even when it is 5 degrees outside.

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

I think it might be a little bit more expensive to live in Sweden, but not too much. Public transport is waaaaay cheaper in Sweden (especially in Skåne, the southern province).

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 is way cheaper in Sweden. When you live on campus you can walk everywhere. I recommend getting a bike for groceries shopping (nearest store is 20 minutes walking). They have discounts for students on public transport, and also when you travel with more than 1 person. A credit card would be a good recommendation to get when going to Sweden, if you want to buy something online you will need it.

6. Free time

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

The beach in Lomma is nice to go to, you have good view on Malmö city. Malmö and Lund are nice cities to visit. Furthermore there are lots of nice forest nearby and

accessible by bus which I highly recommend for hiking (Skrylle, Dalby, Soderåsens, Falsterbo, Kullaberg)

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

The forest in Skrylle has a really nice hiking trail (the white one). If you go there in the fall, you can pick your own mushrooms!

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

Jalla Jalla in Malmö serves the best fallafal! Leve, a bakery, has the best Kanelbullar (cinnamonbuns), the food hall in Lund is also nice to go, as well as Waynes (café). I would recommend to set a goal to visit a new place/go somewhere exciting every weekend, maybe with a group of friends, so you make the most out of your time. It's easy to think you have plenty of time, but it flies by so fast!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The biggest challenge was to be away from friends and family, however you quickly overcome this by making new friends.

What was your best memory abroad?

The best memories are from the weekly weekend trips I made with a few friends. We would visit a new place every weekend to explore. We made so many beautiful hikes!

8. Contact details (optional)

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