



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	MSc Urban Environmental Management
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	23/08/2021 until 16/01/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Uppsala
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (SLU)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Department of Forest Economics + Department of Urban and Rural Development

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To go on an adventure and meet new people from all over the world, as well as experience living in a different country.

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

The nature and culture of Scandinavia always seemed appealing to me. Some friends told me about Uppsala and that it is a great student city. I also liked the courses they offered.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Initially I wanted to go by train, but the journey would be quite long and expensive. I used the airplane instead (to Stockholm Arlanda) and then the train to Uppsala. But I heard later that there is also a bus (801) from the airport to Uppsala that is cheaper.

## 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	Introduction to environmental communication - Society, social interaction and communicative skills	15	Introduces theories for analysing (environmental) communication	3	Quite a lot of contact hours and discussions, but it was a nice way to meet new people and be on campus a lot (especially after/during covid)
2	Management perspectives for sustainable food systems	15	About sustainability marketing in the food industry. Focuses on social, environmental and economic dimensions.	5	The teacher was very nice and enthusiastic. The work was quite diverse (reading, seminars, group work, guest lectures)
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

For my courses, it was about 50/50 for online and offline activities. The workload was good, and the academic level was quite similar to the level at the WUR. I had various types of examination (group report, closed-book exam, home exam). Overall I think the SLU focuses a bit more on the personal development and learning in the examination than the WUR does. Lesson material was well accessible.

**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 lecturers are very approachable and friendly. I think the contact between lecturers and students is quite similar to the contact at the WUR. I had many Swedish students in my courses, and they were also very friendly and open to the international students.

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

There are good options for meals at the campus. However, I mostly took my own lunch with me because it is way cheaper, and there are many microwaves on campus. There is also a gym on campus, but you still need a membership for that.

## 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 have the option to ask SLU to arrange housing for you, which made the search very easy. There are multiple locations, some are near the campus, some are closer to the centre of Uppsala. I lived closer to the centre (in Flogsta), which I really liked. I shared a kitchen with 11 people, but I had my own toilet and shower. I think Flogsta is a great area to live, especially if you want to meet many international people during your exchange.

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

I would say that Swedish people are a bit more reserved but at the same time very friendly. Quite similar to the Dutch, but maybe a bit more polite.

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

The rent was around 430 euros per month. The prices in the supermarket are a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. Alcohol is way more expensive, especially in a café or restaurant. In the nations, it is cheaper to go out for dinner or drinks.

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

I did not use the public transport much, but when I did, it was always perfectly on time. I always biked around the city and to the SLU, which is very easy. Biking to the city centre takes about 10 minutes, but to the SLU it was around 25 minutes from my place. Going to Stockholm is also very quick and easy by train!

## 6. Free time

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

Stockholm (train)

Lake Ekoln (by bike), on warm days nice to swim, in winter you can ice-bath

Forest near Flogsta: Håga (bike or walking)

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

I don't know

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

The nations are cosy (and cheap) to go out for dinner, lunch, a beer, or a night out. For fika (coffee break) I loved to go to Storken in the centre, a very cosy café that is also nice for studying.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

Saying goodbye to everyone in the end of my exchange.

### What was your best memory abroad?

Making friends from all over the world (and planning to see them again). We also went on some trips together (e.g. to Lapland, to Tallinn).

On our last night in Flogsta, there were very strong northern lights visible from our rooms, which was very special 😊

## 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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