



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	MSc Earth and Environment, Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/09/21 until 21/12/21
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Vancouver
University (exchange)	University of British Columbia
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Experience a new place, meet new people (Wageningen is small), explore possibilities for moving there in the future.

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

I have always wanted to visit Vancouver, was almost going to go there for my BSc and also MSc but got a bit scared to go so far away both times 😊

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flight was very smooth

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	Paleontology	6	Looks at the evolution of biology on earth starting from first life to homonids	5	The coolest course, touched dinosaur bones, saw so many fossils
2	Waves, Currents, and Ocean Mixing	6	Physical oceanography, modelling currents and tides in matlab,	5	Learned so much
3	Biological Oceanography	6	I thought this would be about fish but it was all about phytoplankton	5	I never thought I would be passionate about plankton, but after this course I can say that I am
4					
5					
6					

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

Very intense workload! I was only taking three courses, but because they were all outside of my field I had to do quite a lot of catching up outside of class. There were midterms around November, and final exams in December. Often classes had a small quiz or worksheet after every class on topics covered, but this was mostly just to check attendance. Each class had a group project and an individual project as well.

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?)

Engagement was really great, lecturers were so friendly, my class sizes were quite small which was great and really engaging. Much more interactive because of this.

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

SO many, too many to list. The campus is HUGE with everything you need. Its like its own 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?)

Was quite tricky to find housing, I got lucky to find a cheap room in a student house with great people for a cheap price by looking on Facebook Marketplace.

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

Canadians are amazing and so friendly.

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

You will pay more than in Wageningen, I paid 600 CAD for a great neighbourhood which is very low compared to what some people pay for worse neighborhoods.

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

Great bus infrastructure, and the cost is included in tuition so you basically get free transport. Its around 100 CAD for one term if I recall. Otherwise they have Uber and a car-share platform called Evo that is great, you can rent cars for quick trips to the mountains or even to the supermarket.

6. Free time

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

Of course, the mountains. Whistler! Cypress, Grouse, and Seymour. There's so many beautiful hikes.

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

Main street and commercial drive. Super cool mix of people, local and independent book and music stores, lots of cafes, and just a great vibe. The top of Queen Elizabeth park on a clear day has the best view of the river and mountains, and there is a bird conservatory at the top!

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

There is something for everybody, you just have to go out and find it. Important here to be proactive, otherwise it is difficult to meet people.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The biggest challenge was honestly going back home.

What was your best memory abroad?

Being able to drive for 2 hours and be in one of the best ski spots in the world ☺

8. Contact details (optional)

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