



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Communication & Life Sciences (BCL) with a forest minor
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2022 until 23/12/2022
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Edmonton
University (exchange)	University of Alberta
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I felt an exchange period would be fun and would contribute to my knowledge as well as my overall learning experiences at university. Furthermore, it was exciting and an adventure, it was a wonderful experience.

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

I wanted to go somewhere out of Europe because I felt this was a once in a lifetime chance to experience living in another continent in the world. Furthermore, improving my English was a big learning goal for me and I felt it would be a benefit to go to an English-speaking country. Also, Canada is a big country with a lot of beautiful nature to explore.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It depends on how much you want to spend but there is a direct flight from Schiphol to Edmonton. From Edmonton you can take the bus to Century Park where you can take the train to university station.

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	Silviculture	6	“Forest regeneration principles and techniques, stand tending including fertilization, thinning, pruning and drainage; harvesting systems for reforestation, nursery practices; reforestation, the law and current practices.”	4	
2	Introduction to Sustainability	6	An introduction to the history of sustainability as a concept, contemporary sustainability issues, and the diverse perspectives that disciplines and professions take on while approaching sustainability.	4	
3	Indigenous foundations for environmental and conservation sciences	6	Introduction to the intersections of environmental and conservation sciences and Indigenous peoples, knowledges, practices and beliefs, histories and current issues relating to lands, resource management.	5	The Indigenous history of Canada is an important one. We don't learn a lot about it in The Netherlands so therefore I would really recommend taking a course here that covers some Indigenous content.
4	Northern exposures field school	6	The Northern Exposures fall field course will allow students to explore the natural and cultural history of the Yukon and to learn and apply interdisciplinary approaches to environmental, social, and economic challenges in this region.	5	There is a reading week during the term in which you don't have any classes. This course is given during this week. You go to the Yukon for 9 days and go on day trips as well as you have lectures in which you learn a lot about the area and its challenges. I definitely recommend this one if you have the chance, a once in a lifetime experience!

5					
6					

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

For me it was kind of the same as at the WUR. Personally, I only had classes from native English speakers, so I needed to get used to that, as some tend to speak a lot faster than not native speakers. I had less groupwork during my courses here than in The Netherlands. Furthermore, you have to submit more assignments/papers during the term, so overall the deadline stress is more spread out over the whole term instead of the last weeks. This requires more planning. I think the exam questions are a little less in depth and more about facts, but that depends on the course 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?)

The culture is great. The lecturers are kind and friendly, you can just walk up to them with questions or just for small talk. You can also always email your professor with questions. Local students are friendly as well. Overall, the ambience is great and I didn't feel like an outsider.

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

The libraries are great for studying! I recommend the Cameron library or Rutherford. Furthermore, there are plenty of places to get food or coffee on campus so make sure you take some extra money as you will be tempted by everyone walking with cups and food. If you live on campus you can go to the sport centre for free, and they offer a lot of different sports you can attend. Laundry is fine, you pay per wash or dry cycle.

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?)

If you sign up for an on-campus room before a certain date, you are assured of a spot so that's great and takes away the stress of searching for a room. On campus housing is more expensive than living off campus, but I think it's worth it.

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

People are nice and helpful. A big difference is that almost everyone gets around with a car. Distances tend to be long, and transit isn't the best. Luckily if you live on campus you can walk to almost all the university buildings and if it's not too cold you can walk to the grocery store as well. Furthermore, you can rent a car for trips to Jasper or Banff.

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

My room was around 800,- euros per month. Furthermore, groceries are more expensive, but this also depends on what you buy and how often you eat out.

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

At the beginning of the term you pay for a public transport card that you can use in Edmonton for all transit types so that's great.

6. Free time

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

- Banff
- Jasper
- The Yukon
- Vancouver Island
- Elk island national park
- River valley

With exchange friends you can rent a car and drive to some of those places for the weekend. To the Yukon and Vancouver Island you need to take the plane and the national park and river valley are close to Edmonton so nice for a day trip.

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

- Whyte avenue is the going out street (Beercade, Cook County, Hudsons, Pubs)
- Ice hockey game (at the University as well as to an Oilers game)
- River valley for a walk
- Ice skating, for free at Rogers Place
- Rent fictional books for free at EPL
- Sugarbowl a nice restaurant
- Festivals that Edmonton organizes
- Farmers market

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

There is nothing that really comes to mind. Maybe that the time flies, so you don't want to wait too long before planning trips and other things. There is so much to do and to explore outside the campus, so make sure you aren't studying the whole term!

What was your best memory abroad?

I think the week to the Yukon during the reading week. This was an unexpected but wonderful trip where I not only learned a lot but also had so much fun and it is so beautiful there!

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Floor.schinkel@wur.nl	