



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Molecular life sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-09-2022 until 24-01-2023
Country (exchange)	Denmark
City (exchange)	Copenhagen
University (exchange)	University of Copenhagen
Faculty (exchange)	Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience how it is to study and live in a different country than the Netherlands and getting to know different cultures and people from all different nationalities. One of the reasons was to improve my English speaking as well.

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

I chose to go to Denmark because it is relatively close to the Netherlands and Denmark is known for being well organized. The high amount of English courses and the high level of English in Denmark and the university of Copenhagen were also reasons to go to Copenhagen. I also wanted to experience living in a big city compared to the small town Wageningen, that is why I chose to go to the university of Copenhagen.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I travelled by train, which took about 12 hours for me. I can recommend travelling by train, although you need to take in account that it is common for the trains in Germany to have a big delay. My train from Duisburg to Hamburg had 1.5 hours delay. When you travel by train you receive an Erasmus top-up, which is also nice. It is also possible to go by Flixbus, but that takes even longer.

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	RNA biology	7.5	This course gives an overview of the RNA processing/degradation and functions of all different kinds of RNA within a cell and organism. This course provides you with a whole different view on RNA in the cell, as you get to know the importance and great variety of functions of RNA in regulating processes within a cell.	5	This is a master course. I really enjoyed this course because I didn't realise that RNA is that important in the cell and it provides you with a whole new perspective considering RNA. During the course a paper of 2500 words needs to be written and a presentation needs to be given. The only downside of this course is that it requires a lot of reading among which a lot of scientific papers. This course has an oral exam.
2	Materials Chemistry (MatKem)	7.5	This course describes the relation between the molecular structure of solid state materials and the characteristics of these compounds. The molecular structure is mostly related to the electrical/magnetic properties of the materials. A big part of the course is also related to the characterization of the solid state materials by various measurements/analysis.	5	I really enjoyed this course as well as it provides a good overview of the inorganic chemistry and the application of solid state materials. This course also elaborates on other organic and inorganic chemistry courses I followed in Wageningen. For this course, a paper needs to be written as well and it has some group assignments/presentations. This course has an oral exam.
3	Immunology (Immun)	15	This course gives an overview/introduction to the functioning of the human immune system. This includes the innate and adaptive immune responses. This course also contains a small lab part, with three middays of lab.	3	The content of this course is nice, as it gives a good introduction into immunology. Although, I didn't like the way the course was taught, as the lectures were online and only the tutorials were on campus which was only 6 hours a week. The course also contains a lot of reading and the lab class was a bit disappointing.

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

I feel like during the lectures and tutorials the teachers expect a lot of input from the students. This requires and helps you to keep focused during the classes. The teachers are also very strict with the fact that after 45 minutes there has to be a break. During the courses I also needed to read more papers than I usually need to do. The academic level is the same/ a bit higher than in Wageningen. A lot of the examinations are oral or a combination of writing a paper and an oral exam.

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 courses I followed all had really small classes, that makes that the lecturers are more approachable and informal than in Wageningen. All the lecturers I had knew the names of all the students after just one week of class. The engagement with local students is fine when you work together with them in a group. In class they are a bit difficult to reach as they mostly stay within their friend group. Although, if you put in the effort it is fine.

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

The catering is good, as every campus has its own canteen with lunch meals and affordable prices. There is no student sport centre and I haven't heard of any student sport associations. But it is a recommendation to enrol in a regular sport association, in this way you will get to know a lot of Danes.

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?)

The housing foundation is probably the best option, on their website you can choose between different student flats. The housing foundation is quite expensive and I recommend you to look at the date on which the contract starts and ends carefully as some contracts start or end really early. It is also possible to search for a room via Facebook, but that is more difficult.

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

I didn't really experience a big difference in culture. Although I felt that the Danes are introvert and modest than the Dutch people.

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

I paid around 750 euros a month for a room of 12 m² in a flat shared with 3 others. This was one of the cheapest options, although it is located 25 minutes out of the city centre by bike/ metro.

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

Almost everyone bikes in Copenhagen, which is the most fun and usually the fastest way of transport as well. The public transport (metro, bus and train) is really good and has good stops close to all the campuses. Although, the public transport is really expensive. It is possible to buy a monthly public transport pass for 64 euros, which allows you to travel in most parts of Copenhagen. Keep in mind that the bikes are really expensive compared to the Netherlands and mine got damaged frequently. So I recommend taking a Swapfiets, as this will probably save you money.

6. Free time

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

Nice places in Denmark that are close to Copenhagen are Aarhus, Roskilde, the Louisiana museum and the castles in Hillerod and Helsingor. It is also easy to go to some trips in Sweden, to Lund or Stockholm or Oslo or Bergen in Norway for example.

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

A recommendation is Reffen, where you can sit by a camp fire and eat all kinds of street food next to the water and at night a really nice nightclub opens at Reffen. Another recommendation is Bastard café, where you can play boardgames and get drinks for a cheap price, which is nice on a rainy Sunday for example. Another recommendation is the winter bathing at Islands Brygge, where you can swim and enter the sauna afterwards. This free every first Sunday of the month.

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

Recommendations for cheap bars are the Studenterhuset, Barkowski and Leanowski, it is also nice to go to Friday bars, which are bars on the different campuses with really cheap drinks.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The first few weeks were a challenge for me as I was quite homesick and a bit nervous about how I was going to get used to the new environment. The first weeks also passed by really slowly. Although, after some time I got used to the life in Copenhagen, met new people and found my rhythm. After the first weeks, the time passed by very quickly and I wasn't homesick anymore.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory was how open all the new international students were. As all the new exchange students don't know anyone and try to meet as much people as possible. So everyone was very open and keen to meet new people.

8. Contact details (optional)

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