



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/01/2022 until 27/06/2022
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Gothenburg
University (exchange)	University of Gothenburg
Faculty (exchange)	Life sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience studying abroad. I got the chance to do it, so I took it.

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

Sweden was on my 'to-visit' list. It seemed like a nice, clean, country. Not too different from the Netherlands, but just different enough to be challenged with the language and finding your way around. The university seemed to be in one of the most environmental friendly cities. Over the summer of 2021, I attended an online Summerschool at this university, and I felt in the right place. The Summerschool made me want to see the city by myself.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I wanted to travel in the most sustainable way. But I also wanted to be kind to myself. I choose to travel to , and from, the city by plane. It takes 1,5 hour of flight one-way. Unfortunately, my flight to Gothenburg was delayed, the luggage was delayed, and I arrived late at my apartment. But this is nothing compared to when you travel by train & bus. This can take around 20 hours. And you also need to transit often.

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) -	Remarks

				5(high)	
1	Plant physiology in a changing environment	15	The course starts with introduction lectures, which are repetitive of previous courses followed at WUR. Next, two practica, spreaded over multiple weeks, were done in duo's. The results were presented. Also, each week a discussion about an article was held with all participants of the course (9 in total). An individual report on a topic that is related to one of the lectures had to be written to finish the course.	3	It was nice to have a small group. The study material felt a bit to easy at some points. Also, the practica were not that hard. But the teachers are nice, overall. And there is more than enough free-time. This course does not have an exam.
2	Climate Change and Society	15	The course starts with lectures and forming groups of 6 for the project work. The project work starts at the beginning of the course and runs until the last day. Lectures are given until one week before the exam, which is halfway of the course. The exam is, however, not about the lectures, but about a book and the IPPC report. After the exam, the groups continue to work on the project, focussing on one of a selection of SDG's. There are three article-seminars during this last part. And the course ends with the final project presentations.	3	The course has given me many new insights in the problem of climate change. Some lectures contained new information. Most of them had information which I already knew, but it made more impact to hear it now again. The exam was harder than predicted. I passed it, but many didn't. The groups project was a bit hard. Communication was difficult sometimes. But in the end it worked out. Again, I had a lot of free time in this course. I also missed a challenge sometimes. The description I give here will probably differ from how the course is next time. The course coordinator said that he changes the course every time.

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

1. Lectures, reading articles for discussions, a discussion each week, Presentations for 2 practica, writing a small paper, paper presentation. Bachelor level. Very low workload in my opinion. There were also two small field trips. One through the botanical garden and one video about the greenhouse; online because it was closed this year.
2. Lectures (not mandatory) during the first 3.5 weeks, groups work, presentations, reading articles, reading a book and a report + written examination. To me it was intermediate workload. The group project was the hardest part.

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?)

Lecturers are engaged with the students. They are easily approachable after the lecture, for example. There are not many differences compared to my experiences with lecturers at WUR. There is a laid-back environment. And I think that the workload overall is lower in Sweden compared to the Netherlands.

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

The university does organize introduction events that contain information about many things, so everybody can take something from it. They were online this year. The university has many buildings throughout the city, and they are usually open during weekdays and weekends. In every building you can find kitchens with microwaves, fridges and coffee machines. And there are many places to sit. Both inside and outside. Each month there is an email with the events and recommendations for that month. What to do, where to go, or what is happening.

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?)

There is a handful of possible accommodation types around the city from which you can choose as an exchange student. I couldn't find any inside pictures of the accommodations. That made it a bit hard to decide what I wanted. But I choose the container building which have their own bathroom, and kitchenette. I don't regret it at all! Besides the containers, there are options to share a room, have your own room with bathroom and shared kitchen, or only a bedroom. There are also other rooms with their own kitchen and bathroom, but they were more expensive than the containers.

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

Most things are like in the Netherlands. But people are more on their own and want their privacy/less Smalltalk. In this respect, I fitted in well. Also, during the weekends and other free days, Swedes go outside to the parks in and around the city. They do like to picknick and go running.

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

I pay 400 per month

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 a good way to get around the city. The busses and trams come almost everywhere and come and go often. I would recommend getting a bike here to be more flexible in where to go. But, be aware of the hills! My everyday mode of transportation was

walking. I walked almost everywhere. And every now and then I used my bike to go a bit further.

6. Free time

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

I stayed in and close to the city. I recommend going to the botanical garden and the nature reserve next to it. I lived next to these parks, as well as Slottskogenpark. Being in nature is nice, and specially when it is right next to the city. Mölndals stadsmuseum and the mills in the river are also interesting to go to. Luckily, I had a bike which brought me to parks and places further away from the centre. Biking to the other side of the river via one bridge, and riding back over the other bridge was fun. You can do a lot of sight seeing by walking, biking or taking public transport.

I was lucky to have a friend coming past me on her road-trip to Norway. We went to the island Öckerö and I camped in my tent next to her van. If you are an island lover, you can visit a new island almost every day if you want in the archipelago. I would recommend walking around the city and enjoying the little things too. Many people only thing big: partying and visiting other cities in Sweden, while they haven't even seen some beautiful places in Gothenburg yet.

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

The Delsjön area has many lakes and a nice wind shelter with an amazing sunset view.

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

The Stora Saluhallen, and the restaurant in the botanical garden are recommended. Also the huge cinnamon buns in Haga are note worthy, café Husaren also has good grilled sandwiches.

Visit the botanical garden many times! Every time you come there, you will find something new. Whether it is a new flower or a new trail.

And if you are a book lover; you can get a free library card from the city library and have as many books as you want. Their English selection is broad. I also took advantage of the university library to read some study books in my free time.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

My first day here was long. I woke up at 4, had to be at the airport at 10, but the plane had a delay and I was so stressed about everything. In the end, everything worked out well because many people helped me at the airport & bus & key pick-up. You need to be able to spend long times alone. I value my me-time. But if you don't involve yourself in the plans of your neighbours, you will see very few people.

Valuta conversion is not a big deal; you divide the price by 10 for the price in euro's. The language is also understandable if you read it or if you listen very carefully. Many people do speak English.

What was your best memory abroad?

Seeing all the nature here. And having half a year of almost no obligations. This gave me so much time to just be and think about other things. I also met some amazing neighbours. Who I spent some time with.

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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