



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BSc Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	21/08/2022 until 13/01/2023
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Gothenburg
University (exchange)	Gothenburg University
Faculty (exchange)	Department of Earth Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I love travelling and meeting new people, so I didn't want to miss this opportunity to live in a new country for half a year!

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

From previous travels I already knew that Scandinavia has beautiful countries, and while I was doing research about partner universities, I found out that the level of education is also high in Scandinavian countries. That's why I decided to look at the courses that were offered at all the Scandinavian partner universities, and the courses that were offered in Gothenburg really appealed to me.

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 I can totally recommend. I took an early train from Arnhem and travelled in one day to Copenhagen, where I slept in a hostel. The next day it was a relatively short (but beautiful!) train ride to get to Gothenburg. I used an Interrail pass of 4 days, of which I already used 2 days during the summer vacation, so this was perfect!

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	NG0210 – Field Course in the Subarctic	15	During a 10-day field trip to Lapland you learn all about the vegetation there, and you collect data to write a report later in Gothenburg.	5	The Lapland fieldtrip is absolutely amazing! In the end it's the exam that counts, and that exam is really quite easy so this course is all about enjoying your exchange!
2	GV0340 – Earth System Sciences	7.5	In this self-study course you learn at a very high pace about the origins of the Earth, as well as other geological processes.	3	This course doesn't really have lectures, so most days you're supposed to study at home. Not ideal for making friends at university, but it gives you more time to do other fun stuff.
3	GV2300 – Remote Sensing and GIS	7.5	Course about using satellite and drone images to do exercises with different softwares.	5	The exercises are not graded so they're purely informational which was a lot of fun. The (open book) exam was also very doable if you read the literature.
4					
5					
6					

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

It looks a lot like Wageningen: lectures, exercises, writing reports and group work and in the end you get an exam. Only the Earth System Sciences course was different, since it was only self-study and you have an exam every week to cover the topic of that week.

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?)

Especially during the fieldwork course, the lecturers feel more as your friends. It's a super nice atmosphere! Also during the other courses the lecturers were very approachable and respond quite fast to emails, etc.

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

There is one faculty with a café, but the Earth Sciences faculty only has coffee machines. There are also microwaves in literally every building, so you can always heat up your leftovers from the day before (that's what all the Swedish people do).

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?)

Exchange students can be offered housing from the university, but not everyone gets it. For example, I didn't get it, but I could share a room with a friend who was also going to Gothenburg. This way we could share the rent, which makes the Swedish life more affordable :)

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

I felt right at home! Gothenburg was built by Dutch people, so it has a bit of a Dutch vibe, except everyone is a lot friendlier. But Gothenburg is definitely a city for bikes so I can recommend getting one! And the public transport is also super good.

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

If you don't take additional trips into account (e.g., I made trips to Norway, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Lapland), I think the monthly costs would be about €400-500 per month. We paid around €350 for rent

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 super good all around the city and a period ticket for 30 days costs around €60. However, if you use your bike whenever it's possible, it's more feasible to just buy single 90-minute tickets (around €3,50). Or you can of course just hope that the controllers don't come into your tram/bus ;) (P.S.: they wear white caps/hats which say 'Västtrafik' so they're easily recognizable...)

6. Free time

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

Please visit the archipelago as soon as possible if the weather allows it. Brännö and Galterö are two beautiful islands which you can get to within 1 hour from the city centre. Furthermore I definitely recommend doing weekend trips to Copenhagen and Stockholm, and if you have enough time I would also plan a trip to Norway (to see the fjords) and Lapland. Closer to the city you have the Delsjön lake which is also very pretty!

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

The northern part of the city – Hisingen – is not a very touristic place but it has some beautiful viewpoints like Keillers Park and Slottsberget. You also have to make sure to watch sunset at Skansen Kronan. Then there are 3 parks which are all on walking distance from each other: Slottskogen (where you can see moose, reindeers, seals, pinguins, etc. for free!), the Botanical Garden and Änggårdssbergen. Änggårdssbergen is a nature reserve which is really nice to go hiking.

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

Hiking is free so make sure to do that whenever the sun is shining (which unfortunately is not that often...). Museums are free for students so you should combine that with a Swedish fika (= coffee with a piece of cake or Swedish 'kanelbulle').

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

In winter it is dark a lot of the time – the sun is only up from 9 until 15:30h. This can cause you to feel unmotivated and sad, but as long as you take time to still go outside and meet up with friends it's actually quite doable!

What was your best memory abroad?

I have many great memories, but my best memories are of the trips that I did. Especially the fieldwork in Lapland was amazing, as well as hiking around the fjords in Norway.

8. Contact details (optional)

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

I also have a blog that I wrote about my experiences in Gothenburg, so feel free to send me an e-mail to ask me for the link!