



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Marine Biology (MAM master)
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/08/2022 until 8/01/2023
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Goteborg
University (exchange)	Goteborg University
Faculty (exchange)	Marine sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Since I was young, I already knew I wanted to go on Exchange to study at a university abroad. I wanted to see how life outside the NL is and if I would like to live abroad and find a job somewhere else. Besides that, I felt like this was a great challenge and adventure, and to meet new people.

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

I have already been to Sweden before, and was curious how it would be to live there. My exchange time was in Goteborg was also my first time there, but I absolutely loved the city and environment since there is a great and relaxed atmosphere. Furthermore, I love nature and in Sweden there is an excess of it. Last, Goteborg University had a lot of interesting courses related to marine sciences, so the choice was easily made.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I can really recommend to travel by train To Goteborg, you even get compensation for green travelling and you will have great views (so win win situation!). When I moved to Sweden for 6 months, I started my journey by train via Copenhagen to Goteborg. Advantage of the train is that you can easily bring all your stuff as well without security checks.

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
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1	Marine Project- From Idea to Action	15	Groupwork, programming in R-studio and Python, Large data processing with Excel and statistical analyses put in practice.	4	A marine cruise excursion to a fjord was a great experience
2	Environmental management systems	15	Course about ISO labelling and auditing, legislations and lot of groupwork	2	The professor was not motivated to give this course unfortunately and almost no students showed up during classes.

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

The set up of courses is quite similar to Wageningen university and Researchg, although the scheduled time is really what you spend on uni, there are less strict deadlines and the professors and teachers are very flexible and willing to help you.

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 university staff and professors are very approachable and super friendly. If something is making you insecure or if you are facing any problems, you can easily reach out to them.

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

If you are lucky, you can get a room via Goteborg University. The room was completely furnished and everything (even kitchen equipment) was there. The pick- up day was organized very well and created an open atmosphere from the beginning onwards. There are many sports association organized by the university that you can join, from diving to dancing and climbing associations.

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?)

You can apply for housing via the university and they can provide a room to almost all exchange students. It is well organized. Otherwise, you can try Facebook or find a landlord.

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

An important time of the day is "Fika" in Sweden that means having a proper break and drink some coffee and have a nice pastry at a local café. The atmosphere in Goteborg is very chill and relaxed, Swedish people are a bit more quite and introvert, but I experienced that once you get to know them, there are so welcoming and sweet! I would therefore really try to integrate with your classmates for example (they also know the best places in

town and things to experience in Sweden 😊). Swedish food consists of potatoes, meat and some veggies (the typical Ikea meal) and they love sweets.

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

Housing costs between 450-650 euro's depending on the facilities and place you are staying.

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

Everything is accessible with trams and busses and bikes. Goteborg is a city made for cycling as well. I found a second hand mountain bike via Marketplace o Facebook (Tip!) and used it almost everyday to cycle to uni and sport facilities. If you do not want to cycle every day to uni (it is quite hilly in Goteborg), you can take the trams and busses. For a monthly students public transport card it costs around 60 euro's per month.

6. Free time

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

There are many museums in Goteborg, the archipelagos (the island near the coasts) are a must visit and every island has its own characteristics. Go to Haga neighbourhood to try the best fika (all pastries), climb the hill to skanse kronen for the best sunsets views and fireworks with new years eve. For clubbing I can recommend "Yaki Da", if you enter before 22h it is free (otherwise you need to pay 20 euro's) or try one of the great bars at Jarntorget. One of my favourite activities was kayaking on the sea, there are many rental places during the summer months.

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

Delsjon lake, Harlanda tjarn lake are great hiking area's and there are places to make a campfire and to do a bbq. In the winter you can go ice skating on these lakes if you are lucky. Join an ice hockey game in Goteborg and try bouldering in one of the many climbing halls. Visit the botanical gardens, and hike to the view point. The greenhouse called "botaniska Huset" is also worth a visit and the Salu food halls as well as magasinetgatan for the best coffee at Mattheo Kafe.

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

Kafe magasinet, husaren bar, there are many great sushi places, pizza places and bars in Jarntorget neighbourhood, avenue is the street with all the clubs.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The days are getting shorter and shorter very fast in Sweden, so be aware of this. But luckily there enough things to do even with bad weather or darkness. Swedish people are

really outdoor people, and it does not matter if it is raining or anything: they are always in for something outside, from campfires to winter bbq's or sailing.

What was your best memory abroad?

During my Exchange period I have made a lot of great friendships, from all over the world. I have so many wonderful memories, but one of my favourites is a hiking weekend in the South of Sweden in a nature parc with my friends group, watching the sunset near the rough coasts and swim in the sea and play guitar and staying in a cabin.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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