



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Business and Consumer studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	31-08-2022 until 16-12-2022
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Guelph
University (exchange)	University of Guelph
Faculty (exchange)	

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to go on exchange because I wanted to know what it was like to go to university in another country and wanted to meet new people and travel around.

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

I wanted to go to an English speaking country and I chose for Canada because of its nature. I chose for Guelph because it is near Toronto, nearby national parks and the campus looked very beautiful.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

If you fly to Toronto, you can either get a cab from the airport to Guelph or get a ticket for the GO train to Guelph and then get the bus to the campus.

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	Introduction to Anthropology	6	"This course deals with humankind from a broad historical and cross-cultural perspective. Theoretical models, case studies and specific methods will be presented. Course topics may include the origin and transformations of human society, the relationship between biological and cultural traits, human language, variation in family structure and religion, the economic and political aspects of human society."	2	This course was a first year course so there were mostly first year students. Some course material was very basic knowledge, so I found this course a little boring.
2	Individuals & Groups in Orgs	6	"The course serves as an overview to organizational behaviour. It examines the individual, the group, the organization and how the three interrelate in order to enhance performance and productivity."	4	Interesting class about culture and behaviour within organisations, not very difficult.
3	Introduction to Gender Systems	6	"An introduction to the examination of the characteristics of gender relationships both historically and cross-culturally. Amongst the emphases are theoretical approaches to gender analysis, methodologies, case studies and attention to themes such as class and stratification, race and ethnicity, identities and global restructuring as these shape gender dynamics."	5	Very interesting course! I had to do a lot of assignments but that was a good and fun way to see the things discussed in class back in my own life. The professor was great, very interested in everyone and really wanted to help.

4	Sociology of Food	6	"This course is directed towards upper level students in sociology and related disciplines who wish to consider the variety of contentious issues surrounding food in the contemporary world. The course will encourage a sociological approach to food systems that is both historically informed and comparative in scope."	4	This course looks at the whole Canadian food system from a sociological perspective. It was a small class with a lot of group discussions which was very interesting. The only negative aspect of this course was that it was given online.
5					
6					

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

The courses were a lot more like high school than university. The workload was high in contrast to Wageningen but the difficulty level was lower. I had assignments and quizzes every week, and throughout the semester I had midterms, essays, groupwork, presentations and final exam. I only had lectures and self-study.

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 size of the classes differ per course. Anthropology was in a very big lecture room with 400 people while sociology of food was only with 25 students. The lecturers were very approachable, all lecturers had office hours I could attend or I could just walk up to the lecturer after class. In most classes it was easy to engage with the local students.

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

The campus is big, there are multiple food halls and different coffee spots on campus. There is a very big sport facilities on campus, which includes a big gym, cycling classes, pool, bouldering wall and track. There are also different sport teams you could join. Everything is within walking distance. Laundry facilities are present at the housing on campus.

Lastly, with your student card you can get the bus for free to go into the centre of Guelph. Busses go often and from the University Centre on campus.

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?)

Most international students sign up for campus housing. I ended up in West Residence in a private room where I lived with 2 other internationals.

There are 4 different campus housing. Most international students live in either West or East since the other two don't have a kitchen and then you have to eat in the dining halls every day.

International students were given priority, so most of the times you will get a room in campus housing if you apply for it.

Campus housing is quite expensive, around 1000 dollar per month, depending on the residence. Residence fees can be found on the University of Guelph housing site.

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

People are very friendly and interested.

Local cuisine is very North American, a lot of burgers with fries and fish & chips. But in the bigger cities especially, there are also a lot of restaurant with different cuisines.

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

Calculated back to euros, the rent prices are around 700 euros so that is a lot more expensive than in Wageningen but that differs per residence housing of course.

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

With your university card you can get the bus for free in Guelph. When you go outside of Guelph you have to buy a ticket. You can get a GO card which has student discount, to get the bus or train to Toronto. With your student discount, a single train ticket to Toronto is around 9/ 10 dollars.

6. Free time

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

Toronto is really nearby and very easy to go there by train or bus for a day. You can go to museums, just walk around, go to Kensington Market, the distillery district or Toronto Island with the ferry.

The Niagara Falls is an 1.5 hour drive, best way to get there is by car. It is really easy to rent a car in Guelph.

For a weekend away: Algonquin Provincial Park, Montreal and Nova Scotia.

I also went to Quebec for a week and went to a lot of national parks there in the area, which I would really recommend.

Some people also went to the US for a long weekend, for example to New York, Boston or Washington DC.

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

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

Follow Instagram accounts of the university because the university organises a lot of things around campus, especially in the first weeks. There is a restaurant on campus 'Brass taps', where they organize a pub quiz every Tuesday night.

Look what you can do in the area, I also went to a pumpkin patch farm, an ice hockey game and there are also some hiking/ walking trails in the area and in the surrounding cities.

There are multiple clubs in downtown Guelph where you can go out, but I would definitely go to the Ranch at least once. It is a country bar with live music and line dancing, which is really fun to experience.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The first week of classes was harder than I expected because I was in a classroom filled with native English speakers. This was very different than a Dutch lecturer speaking English. So it was a little hard to keep up the first week but I learned a lot.

What was your best memory abroad?

Definitely the people I met and all the trips I made. The nature in Canada is beautiful.

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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