



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Environmental Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/01/2023 until 28/04/2023
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Kelowna
University (exchange)	University of British Columbia Okanagan
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I decided to go on study exchange to learn about different perspectives on my field of study.

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

I wanted to go outside of Europe to learn how environmental issues are perceived from a different perspective. I wanted to be in a cold country, in a city that had a water body. Choosing UBCO in Kelowna combined all those factors.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Simply fly to Kelowna airport and take the bus/a taxi to campus (if live on campus) or to Kelowna city (if you are not living on campus). The bus costs 2\$50 and only accepts coins. A taxi would cost around 20\$ to campus and 40\$ downtown (don't forget to tip!).

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	<i>Introduction to Writing Fiction and Drama</i>	6	This is a first-years course to learn how to write fiction/drama.	2	We didn't have a lot of physical lectures (once every 2 weeks), it was mostly individual work.
2	<i>Cultural Studies Practices</i>	6	The course covers topics of Gender and Women's Studies, and Cultural Studies. It's accessible and provides a critical lens on ideologies such as gender, sexuality, race, childhood...	4	This is a great course to get introduced to a range of cultural studies topics. We had lectures twice a week and needed to read a lot of texts.
3	<i>Feminism and Environment</i>	6	This course provides a feminist lens on environmental issues.	5	We had one lecture and one tutorial each week. The teaching methods are not very traditional, we would have lectures outside and the final assignment was a zine instead of an essay. We also needed to write "blog posts" during the course.
4	<i>Reading Across Borders</i>	6	This is a course that helps understand texts from the Global South. We studied different types of texts (movies, books, stories, poems, essays) and questioned Western perspectives.	5	We had two lectures per week. The teacher was amazing, I loved him. We had a lot of material to read/watch but it was all very accessible.
5	<i>Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Power I: An Introduction</i>	6	This course covers topics of gender, race, sexuality, and power. We covered a lot of things but didn't go too much in detail in each topic.	4	The course mostly consisted of pre-recorded lectures to be watched in our own time. We only met 1 hour per week for a short tutorial discussing the course content of the week.

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

I only had 3 courses with a final exam, most of my grades came from continuous assessment (participation in tutorials, reflections, critical assignments, essays,...). The reading workload was higher than in WUR but the lectures were easier as we would mainly discuss the readings in class.

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 lecturers are more approachable than at WUR, they want to be called by their first names and have many office hours during which you can go to their office to chat. Students are very academic and serious, there is not a big party culture (although you can definitely find ways to party! Especially with other exchange students). Students pay a lot of money to have access to education, so they consider their studies a priority.

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

If you live on campus you have access to a laundry facility and might have access to "the Meal Plan" depending on your type of dorm. There is a lot of sports that you can do and a gym you can access (you have to pay a membership).

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?)

I lived in a shared appartement on campus (with 3 other people). I paid about 600€/month. All the exchange students that I know were also living on campus. If you don't get accepted to on-campus residence you need to find an accommodation through the private market.

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

No many differences, Canada is as Western as The Netherlands. Maybe a bit more individualistic and consumeristic. There is also a strong colonial history in the country that influences Canadian culture a lot.

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

In Wageningen I pay around 400€/month for housing and here 600€/month.

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

You get a public transport pass (for buses) on your student card, I think I had to pay around 100€ for half the year. I lived on campus but you can take the bus from Kelowna to campus. Busses are ok but

it is North America so most people drive. Cities are designed for cars so walking around is not very pleasant.

6. Free time

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

Make use of long week-ends and the reading week to travel! I went to Banff, Vancouver Island, Vancouver, and Seattle. All were very lovely but I'd suggest doing your own research and think about what you want to see.

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

Knox mountain is a lovely hike that is only 30mins by bus from campus.

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

I loved Molly's Café to eat lunch.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Living with people was a bit challenging because the dorm culture is quite different from my house back in Wageningen. Housemates don't have dinner together; they mainly stay in their room. I got lucky and had a good relationship with my housemates but don't expect them to become your closest friends (although sometimes it happens!).

What was your best memory abroad?

Ice-skating on Lake Louise.

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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