



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	17/01/2022 until 03/06/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Alnarp
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Sveriges Lantbruksinstitute (SLU)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Next to engulfing myself in another country and its traditions, I also wanted to broaden knowledge in an area that interests me within my bachelor's degree.

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

I chose for Sweden because I was exploring the possibilities of following a master here (and maybe eventually emigrate). I specifically chose for SLU Alnarp because the courses taught here are really interesting.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Personally, I went here by car; easy and not that far and you can bring along more stuff compared to travelling by train or plane. During the semester, I highly recommend using the Skånetrafiken app. By using a debit-card you can purchase public transport tickets; which is really convenient for exploring the province. Most of the provinces from Sweden have their own app. To go outside the province by train, I would suggest the SJ app or website.

## 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	Urban Landscape Design	15	Look into design and research methods, the design process of the city context. Produce a urban landscape design.	4	This course was unfortunately due to COVID-19 still through ZOOM, however I really enjoyed the course!
2	The Cultural Heritage of Landscape Architecture	15	Delve into the concept of cultural heritage, historical developments and corresponding research methods.	5	I really learned a lot in this course! It was very small scale (only 14 students) and introduced the topic of cultural heritage in different, sometimes really creative ways (Paper writing, Excursions, Case study, Group work)
3					
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6					

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

I would say that the study workload at SLU is comparable or slightly less then in Wageningen for Landscape Architecture (Taking into mind that I followed master's level courses). I definitely experienced less stress here, mainly also because of the really personal teaching methods. The classes are small, with lots of seminars (This was completely new for me! But I really enjoyed them since they provide active learning) and smaller projects. Since the classes are small, you also form a bond with your class quite quickly. The lecturers were so approachable, helpful and provided great feedback

**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?)**

Everyone is very approachable, lectures a bit more then local students; but I guess that is also a really Swedish thing/personality. The culture at the university is really relaxed, with an even smaller scale then WUR. It is really appreciated if you think critically and discuss a lot during seminars and discussions, and they also encourage this active engagement. At first this felt kind of overwhelming, but I really enjoyed this active learning.

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

There are kitchens in the university buildings, and a restaurant where you can get lunch. For parties you would have to be a member of ASK (Alnarps Student Union)

## 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 get a room assigned through the university, so there were not a lot of problems or worries there as long as you follow the instructions. All the internationals are housed on campus which makes it really feel like a community.

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

Swedish people really love nature! So even if it rains, go outside! They also put off their shoes when going into a house. Swedish people are really relaxed, though they really have a sweet-tooth. They have the tradition of Lördagsgodis; on Saturday they buy and eat candy, so you will see a lot of candy in the grocery stores.

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

The rent differs a lot between the houses, the dorm that I lived in was 3160SEK/month, which means approximately 305 euros depending on the exchange rates. However, my dorm still had to be renovated; all the other dorms are around the 3800-4400SEK/month. For the other expenses besides rent it is really up to you, I saved some before I went on exchange so I could afford a bit more; but staying in budget is also possible.

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

During the semester, I highly recommend using the Skånetrafiken app. By being a member of the student union you can also get a discount; on top of the one when you travel in groups. You use a QR code when you enter the train or bus.

## 6. Free time

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

In the province of Skåne: Lomma Beach, Lund, Söderåsen National Park, Kullaberg in Mölle, Bosjökloster, Helsingborg, Stenshuvuds nationalpark

Outside Skåne: I recommend a Northern lights trip! I also visited Gotenborg, Ulricehamn and Jönköping

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

A local shop more towards the east called Helgagårdens Gårdsbutik (They have lovely coffee, pies, cheeses and they also sell Swedish winterclothing!),

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

Food at restaurants is not necessarily expensive, but the alcohol is (Count 8.5 euros for a beer). However, I highly recommend the Burgers at Lomma Krogen, a bar that is run by

a family. They have monthly burgers (with sometimes weird combinations) but they are amazing!

But in general, go out and enjoy the lovely Swedish nature!

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

### **What was a challenge you have experienced?**

The internet is not provided! So bring a Wifi cable/router that you can use if you want your own, reliable internet. I contacted one of the companies and had a deal of 310SEK a month, so if you want reliable internet definitely take this into account!

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

Making all the memories with people from all over the world and having lovely evenings with them! The trips in the area were also amazing. Alnarp has conquered a special place in my heart.