



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Management, Economics and Consumer Studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2022 until 15/01/2023
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Uppsala
University (exchange)	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
Faculty (exchange)	Department of Economics

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

During my bachelor's degree, I had the opportunity to apply for an exchange period. However, back then, it felt too soon for me to go on an exchange and I was not ready, so I followed courses in Wageningen instead. The idea of going on an exchange semester never left my mind and during my master's degree, I felt like it was my last chance to apply. Therefore, I decided to just go for it and apply.

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

This university is my first choice because the academic level of the universities in Scandinavia is known to be relatively high. Moreover, the university offers a broad range of courses in similar areas of study as WUR, but the courses provided are slightly different. Therefore, I could deepen my knowledge in my field. Besides, Scandinavian countries have always appealed to me, especially because of their beautiful nature. I had never been in Scandinavia before so this exchange was also a nice opportunity to travel around a bit.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

For public transport in Uppsala, you have to download the UL app, where you can buy single bus tickets or for example a monthly ticket. The monthly ticket is available at a student discount. During the first months of my exchange semester, I mainly used a bike which I bought in my first week I was there. Uppsala has some hills, but you can bike everywhere.

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	Sustainability and Financial reporting	15	This course is mainly about corporate sustainability reporting and you learn about different types of reporting and the different standards and legislation surrounding it	4	This course was very interesting, but also relatively new which was noticeable. The course only had 5 participants in total. The course was primarily given online and we only had one seminar per week on campus. The contents were very interesting, but the teaching methods could have been better.
2	Natural Resource and Environmental Economics	7,5	This course is about environmental economics and policy, where you learn different methods to value the natural environment	4	This course was given mainly on campus, with a few 3-hour lectures per week. The contents were very interesting but remained at a superficial level, probably because it is a 3 rd year bachelor course.
3	Agricultural Policy and International Trade	7,5	This course is mainly about international trade, and you learn about the impacts of e.g. tariffs, subsidies, taxes, migration and investments on trade between two countries	3	This course was also mainly given on campus with multiple 3-hour lectures per week. The content was mainly focused on international trade and not so much on agricultural policy. However, they are going to change this.

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

For one course, we mainly had to read scientific articles and complete assignments and cases related to these articles. We had one seminar per week where we discuss these assignments. The assignments made up 50% of the course grade and a final exam made up for the other 50%. The workload for this course was okay, but sometimes having assignments every week could be stressful. For another course, the grade was

determined by one final exam, but the teacher already gave some questions away that would be on the exam. Therefore, it was really easy to prepare for this exam. We also had a book for this course, but it was not really necessary. For the third course, 20% of the grade was determined by a research paper written in pairs and the remaining 80% was determined by a final exam. For this course we also had a book, which was also really necessary for the exam.

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?)

In my experience, lecturers are really approachable and always willing to help you. During the introduction weeks, there was an international committee organising activities for international students. The mobility team of the university is also really engaged with the exchange students. Compared to WUR, there are less organisations on campus. There are different student unions which organise activities, but it is not very focused on internationals. Furthermore, you cannot join a committee for only half a year.

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

There are multiple restaurants on campus, but it is relatively expensive. You can also reserve an empty sports hall via time-edit and bring your own sports gear to exercise. Sometimes, sports activities are organised in this hall like badminton. Furthermore, Ultuna student union has an outdoor committee which organises outdoor activities. There is also a gym on campus, but it is not related to the university and it is quite expensive. Most nations in the city also offer sports activities.

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?)

SLU guaranteed housing for exchange students. You have to give up your preference for the location you want to live at. However, in my experience and that of many other exchange students last year, we received an e-mail very lastminute that they suddenly could not guarantee housing for all exchange students. They never even mentioned that there was a chance of not getting offered a room. I don't know how this will be next semester. Therefore, I recommend to also look for a room yourself. Rent rates differ a lot. I found a room through Facebook and paid around 400 euros a month for a studio apartment, which is relatively cheap for Uppsala.

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

The culture is not that different from the Netherlands. I think Swedish people are a bit more closed-off compared to Dutch people. Swedish people also love the outdoors and having fika (coffee with something sweet).

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

I think prices mainly range from 380-500 euros for rent. So it is a bit more expensive compared to Wageningen.

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

As mentioned before, you have to download the UL app to travel by bus in Uppsala. A monthly bus ticket with a student discount is about 55 euros.

6. Free time

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

Uppsala slot, the botanical gardens, domkyrka and the city centre are nice places to visit. There are also some museums. The buildings of the nations are also really nice.

Furthermore, Stockholm is relatively close. You can go there by train in 45 minutes to 1 hour. Public transport to Stockholm can be a bit confusing. You can use both the SL or SJ app, and you can get student discounts in both. Buying a train ticket with the SL app is cheaper if you also have a monthly UL card, but you have to take a train that takes a bit longer (+/- 1 hour).

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

The different cafés in the city centre.

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

The nations (student associations) are a very important part of student life in Uppsala. There are about 13 nations, all named after a certain region in Sweden. However, you can become part of any nation regardless of where you are from. I really recommend becoming part of one of the nations. When you are a member of one of the nations, you can join activities of all the other nations as well. Every nation has their own pub, committees, and some even have their own library. You can eat and drink at nations for a much lower price than in regular cafés or pubs.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Sometimes the course workload could be a lot, and I had to get used to the fact that in autumn and winter, it is very dark in Sweden. It can get dark at 15:30 already.

What was your best memory abroad?

The different trips I made, especially the one to Lapland!

8. Contact details (optional)

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