



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Marine aquaculture and research management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/01/2023 until 19/03/2023
Country (exchange)	Sweden
City (exchange)	Uppsala
University (exchange)	Uppsala university
Faculty (exchange)	Biology Education Centre

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

The reason why I wanted to go on an exchange program is, to expand my knowledge and broaden my vision within the field of ecosystem ecology. I better wanted to understand the role of biodiversity ecosystem functioning and the underlying theory. Additionally, I wanted to experience other cultures to better understand different viewpoints and discretions between our communities on the related topic. I think this creates a valuable bridge between communities where understanding and communication can serve us in dealing with future challenges. Through connections and networking, you are able to create your own subset of relations who you might work/interact with in the future.

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

This was my second choice, regardless the course seemed interesting, irrespective of the country.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Whatever you do, do not take the car. The travelling expenses are not worth it even if you have a passenger. Tolls, expensive fuel and parking fees will bleed your wallet. However environmentally unfriendly, you are probably best off taking the plane, all expenses considered. From Uppsala you can take the bus, train or bike to get around.

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	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning	15	understanding the role of biodiversity for ecosystems, and on which factors in ecosystems that are of importance for biodiversity	4	Personal, on topic, where theory and practise are combined
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

It is a master course, workload is more than fine if you put in the effort, it is well structured in general and the teachers and adjacent research assistants really go out of their way to help you during the course. The examination is done through a test on the theoretical basis that you learn during lectures/seminars and a final presentation on the topic of your self-designed experiment.

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?)

Lectures and personal interaction within the course are fine, you are encouraged to engage in discourses through seminars, group work and experimentation. Local students are open and friendly towards incoming students, the culture itself feels more distant though, it takes time to be integrated outside of university.

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

Not much as far as I know, the biggest disconnection for me was that there was no overarching body that facilitated Erasmus students to come together, like ISOW or ESN.

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 sign up to their housing site, they will offer you a contract for a room, you can accept or reject on the basis of your preferences. I did not decline so I have no idea if they offer you another place a second time. Overall 10/10 arranged, compared to Wageningen this is absolutely great.

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

It doesn't differ too much from the Netherlands to be honest, food and climate wise, except everything is expensive. The biggest difference are that the days in winter are way shorter and you are going to spend a lot of time inside. This is apparently also in line with the culture, since I spent most of the time in my appartement. There is a 'clubbing' culture but it is a bit difficult to get integrated, here an overarching collective like ESN could help international students to find likeminded people more easily.

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

I paid roughly 420 euro a month here, in Wageningen, it was more expensive, and I got less for 470 euros a month.

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

The best thing is to buy a bike, I had a car but you pay everywhere in the city, no place excluded. There are plenty of busses available as well.

6. Free time

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

Preference of travel, car.

You can go to Stockholm with the train which is quite nice, additionally there are viking monuments and lakes not too far from Uppsala. Additionally, in winter you can travel up north to see the northern lights, or travel southwards to go snowboarding.

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?)

Snowboarding and northern lights in winter, visit Stockholm.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

For the better part of my stay here I felt quite isolated. I am quite extroverted and I really missed the social connection. Again, ESN or something that brings international students together could provide a solid way of integrating new and incoming students, since they are all in the same boat.

What was your best memory abroad?

Snowboarding with my flatmate

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	nickklmn@hotmail.com	