



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biotechnology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	7/9/2022 until 22/12/2022
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Vancouver
University (exchange)	UBC
Faculty (exchange)	Chemical and Biological engineering

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to step out of my comfort zone from my normal life in the Netherlands and Wageningen. Also, I wanted to improve my English, get to know new people and experience a different university and study culture.

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

I wanted to go to Canada because I am half Canadian and therefore I wanted to get to know the country better. I chose for UBC, because for me it was the best option of all the partner universities in Canada that WUR has. It is an enormous university, that is internationally being regarded as a good university and that has an huge and big campus. Also, I liked to go to Vancouver since I had heard stories about how nice the city and the surrounding nature are.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Not specifically, take the plane since there is not really another option unfortunately to get to Canada. Vancouver has a big and nice airport.

## 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	Sustainable engineering (CHBE370)	6	Learning about life cycle analysis	2	Course not really engaging.

2	Environment and sustainability (GEOG300)	6	About how to reach people, old growth forests, restoration and conservation	2	Different content then I expected.
3	Visualizing climate change (CONS210)	6	Learning basics about climate change and climate change communication	4	
4	Global challenges: a chemical perspective (CHEM341)	6	Amazing prof and very interesting content.	5	
5	Introduction to politics (POLI100)	6	General and broad introduction to the different political ideologies.	4	
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**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

Studying is a bit more like high school at UBC. You take all your courses for the 4 month-term at the same time, so you follow around 5 courses at the same time. Additionally, you have a lot more of deadlines and assignments than at WUR and therefore you are quite busy throughout the term. However, the final exam therefore doesn't count that much (around 30% normally).

**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 lectures are in general quite informal, and you can easily approach the lecturers. You can often ask questions in class and engage in lectures. Here there are not much differences with the WUR I would say, except that classes are sometimes a bit more engaging at UBC than at WUR.

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

On campus, there are a lot of places to get food. The residences on campus all have laundry facilities. Also, there are two fitness centers on campus. However, they are almost always busy (a big new one is in construction now). There is a supermarket close on campus but this one is a bit expensive and small; to go to a bigger one takes a 20-minute walk (and is also still quite expensive). Best is to take the bus to a supermarket (Nofrills) that is not on campus. The campus also has an amazing and quite new pool where you can often swim for free as a UBC student and the campus has a lot of nice libraries and/or with study sports.

## 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 can sign up for on-campus housing, but the chances to get this housing are only around 50%. Also, it is quite expensive to the Netherlands, around 700 euro's per

month. If you don't get a residence on campus you can look for a place on Airbnb (be careful since some rooms are not what they promise), sublet a room (use Facebook marketplace or Craigslist) or stay in a hostel (personally I don't like this).

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

Very friendly people and people in Vancouver are generally very sportive and outdoor. They like to do a hike (do this when you go on exchange here too!) and wear sportive clothes like Patagonia and Arcteryx. At UBC a lot of people buy and drink coffee from e.g. Starbucks and Tim Hortons.

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

More expensive. For on-campus residences it is around 700 euro's per month, but for off campus you can also end up more expensive (also cheaper). Housing is quite expensive in Vancouver.

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

Public transport in Vancouver is very easy. There are a lot of busses that drive to and from campus and you can get easily to downtown (which takes about 30-40 minutes by bus). If you go to UBC, it is mandatory to buy a public transport plan (I believe this is about 200 dollars for 4 months) and with this you can use public transport unlimited.

## 6. Free time

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

One of the things you must do (according to me), in your free time, are hikes. I personally really liked the Garibaldi Lake hike, it is definitely worth the distance of the hike (+- 26 kilometers). But also other hikes are amazing such as the Chief Maitland's trail next to Squamish. I recommend to visit an ice hockey game. I visited with a group of exchange students Banff, where we went to Moraine Lake and Lake Louise and I see these visits as highlights of my trips. Also, I really liked my short visit to Seattle.

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

Rain or Shine ice cream located on campus, the Museum of Anthropology, Jam Café in Kitsilano (amazing brunch), Ground for coffee (best cinnamon buns).

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

See above. Also go to downtown and maybe try to eat a poutine (Canadian food that comes more from Quebec). I really liked doing sports at UBC and the surroundings are amazing to go for a run along the shore. I joined the UBC triathlon club, where I did the track trainings and swim trainings, which I really liked. Try to spend weekends doing activities with other exchange students, make new friends, do new things and see new places (next to studying sometimes of course).

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

Also building in some rest time from time to time for myself and reminding myself that I was not going on exchange for good grades in the first place, but for the experience.

### What was your best memory abroad?

The two trips with my big group of exchange student friends to Banff and Oregon.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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