



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	
Study period exchange (06/09/2022)	until 22/12/2022
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Vancouver
University (exchange)	University of British Columbia
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Land and Food Systems

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience living and studying in a different country. I wanted to broaden my experiences and see new things.

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

I thought Vancouver would be a good place for me. I wanted to experience living in a big city, but also wanted to see a lot of nature. Vancouver is the perfect place for this. Also, UBC is a big and good university with lots of students from different backgrounds.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Ofcourse by plane. In Vancouver you can take the skytrain. In Vancouver the bus system is good so you can use the bus to go anywhere in the city. Outside of the city take an evo car.

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	Introduction to Wine Science 1	6	You learn everything about wine. What different types there are, how the grapes are grown and harvested, how the wine is produced, and wines from different regions. Also there are 'lab sessions' every week where you taste wine.	3.7	I really liked this course in general, and the wine tastings were very nice. However, next to the lab sessions, there were only lectures, which were very dry and the professor was not engaging.
2	Critical Perspectives on Consumer food Practices	6	You read articles on aspects of food and eating and discuss this in groups. You are really encouraged to express your opinion and think about topics critically	4.8	I really liked this course. In my previous courses, I was never encouraged to really write down my own opinion on topics and not think too scientifically. I learned a lot, it was very interesting, and the discussions were a lot of fun. However, at the end of the course it was a bit much of the same and became a little boring.
3	Personality Psychology	6	Lectures on types of personalities, research on personality, theories, and more	5	The professor was very good and kept the lectures very interesting. He also really listened to what the class wanted and adjusted his teaching accordingly. The content was super interesting and it was a fun course.
4	Psychology of Sport	6	Lectures on aspects of sport psychology and weekly quizzes. We also had to hand in 2 big essays	3	Even though the beginning of this course was interesting, the content was very easy and repetitive. I thought it moved very slowly and it was not really necessary to attend lectures to pass the course.
5					
6					

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

The courses can be very different from each other. Many courses consist of lectures with a lot of people and they often try to include some form of discussion in this. You are encouraged to talk to your professor and engage with the course. I think the courses are in general a bit easier than they are in Wageningen, but the workload really depends on how many courses you take. Many students choose to take 5 or more courses, which can lead to a very busy schedule.

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 very approachable, but if you are struggling with something or have questions you really have to reach out yourself, and they will try to help you as best as possible. The local students are all very nice and approachable. There are many exchange students, but also the Canadian students are usually very interested in exchange students and always open for a chat. I would really encourage people to talk to other students as it can lead to great connections and it's nice to have a friend in a course.

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

The university has sport facilities (gym, classes) and I had a membership for the classes. The classes are very nice and relatively cheap. There are many places on campus to buy food, however they are usually quite expensive. For people that live on campus there is laundry and other facilities.

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 to get a room on campus, however, when I was signing up only 50% of students were assigned to housing, and I wasn't. Therefore, I looked on facebook to find a room off-campus. This process was very difficult and frustrating, since housing is very wanted, expensive, and there are many scams. Eventually I found a place off-campus, and I was actually very happy that I was not living on campus, because it gave me the possibility to really experience living in Vancouver and I didn't get stuck in the UBC bubble. Also, I lived really close to the beach which is awesome!

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

People are in general very nice. It's very easy to make connections with local students. However, in Vancouver there are also a lot of homeless people, and especially when you are going downtown or in the bus, you can see people acting very strangely, but they're not dangerous.

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

Residence is much more expensive than living in Wageningen. Living on campus is the cheapest option (around 630 euro per month for an apartment with 5 others). But when you live off campus you can expect to pay 1000+ Canadian dollar per month.

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

Via UBC you get a U-Pass membership, which allows you to travel as much as you want via bus for a fixed price. A lot of busses go to UBC. If you are searching for off-campus housing, really consider how far from UBC your house is. The further away the rent will be cheaper, but travelling for a long time every day can be very exhausting.

6. Free time

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

You can go on trips every weekend! Rent an evo car, find some people and go into nature. There are a lot of beautiful hikes very close to the city and other things to see. I also spent a week on Vancouver Island which was amazing.

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

Most good sights can be found online, but I would really recommend trying some hikes. Personally, I never really hiked before I went to Canada, but in Vancouver, the sights are so beautiful that it's all worth it! It's also a really nice way to get to know friends as you can spend the entire day chatting with each other.

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

There are lots of cute coffee shops and bakeries in Vancouver. During the week I often met up with friends to get some coffee and chat. Also try some restaurants! There is lots of great food in Vancouver.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

At first, it was very stressful to find housing, but when I actually got to Vancouver, I could go to potential housing in person and I found something very quickly.

What was your best memory abroad?

Spending the weekends with friends going on day trips!

8. Contact details (optional)

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