



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Master Earth and Environment
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2022 until 17/02/2023
Country (exchange)	Switzerland
City (exchange)	Zurich
University (exchange)	ETH Zürich
Faculty (exchange)	Environmental Studies

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to discover a new country. I went to ETH as they offered courses that were not offered by Wageningen University.

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

ETH is a renowned university in Environmental Sciences. They have a lot of nice facilities and mountains close by (I'm a fan of hiking!).

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

There is the night jet that leaves from Utrecht and goes directly to Zurich, very comfy and cheap if you take your ticket in advance.

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	Aerosols I: Physical and Chemical Principles	4	Aerosols I deals with basic physical and chemical properties of aerosol particles.	3	Interesting but in the end a lot about measuring techniques and less about physics and chemistry of aerosols.
2	Air Pollution Modeling and Chemistry	3	Learn about models that deal with the transport within the atmospheric boundary layer, chemical transformation reactions and phase-transfer processes from gases to particles.	5	Very nice!
3	Analysis of Climate and Weather Data	3	Statistics used in forecasting and meteorology	5	Good to follow.
4	Cloud Microphysics	4	Interaction between clouds and aerosols and learn about microphysics	5	Course only given to 20 students, there is a selection, but do recommend this one!
5	European Climate Change	3	The lecture provides an overview of climate change in Europe, from a physical and atmospheric science perspective.	4	Interesting.
6	Information Systems for Engineers	4	discover why tables are so incredibly powerful to express relations, learn the SQL query language, and how to make the most of it. The course also covers support for data cubes (analytics).	5	Good if you want to learn the basis of SQL. Very good teacher!
7	Numerical Modelling in Fortran	3	This course gives an introduction to programming in Fortran,	5	Recommend it!
8	Renewable Energy Technologies	4	Renewable energy technologies: solar PV, solar thermal, biomass, wind, geothermal, hydro, waste-to-energy. Focus is on the engineering aspects.	4	Interesting.

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

For each course, you have 2 hours of lecture or practical per week. Most workload is in adding up December and January (Did the Autumn semester). Expect more workload than a normal exchange.

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?)

Lecturers are very helpful and nice. Difference with WUR is that during lectures there is less interaction, students don't ask questions and only teacher speaks. However, they do appreciate it when you ask a question.

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

There is a very cool sport facility, free for exchange students and different catering facilities where students get discounts.

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 apply through WOKO for housing. It's like Idealis but then in Switzerland.

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

People are very sportive, there is a "mountain-vibe" and are very open.

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

I paid around 500 chf for housing per month and lived in a WOKO residence with 170 other students (it was chaotic but also the cheapest you can find probably in Zürich).

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

I recommend buying a travel card (CFF) and then as a student you get discount. Very nice for if you go to the mountains (get like 50% off). I used to go by bike to uni, but if you can also buy a travelcard for Zurich region for 60 chf per month. I and a lot of other students got their bike from other students.

6. Free time

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

I did the most beautiful hikes in Pizol, Engelberg and in the Engadin region, it's a must do. Lugano is also very nice as it's always sunny there. Everywhere is beautiful over there.

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

The Engadin mountains and go for a hike around Spinass.

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

It's often quite expensive going out but there are a lot of nice bars along the river!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Workload was a lot in December and January.

What was your best memory abroad?

All the hikes and camping on top of the mountain.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	aude.prummel@wur.nl (Aude Prummel)	