



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Bachelor of Animal Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/09/2023 until 18/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University of Alberta
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences
<b>Country</b>	Canada
<b>City</b>	Edmonton

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

My reason for this exchange was to be able to follow courses and learn new content not offered by Wageningen University. Furthermore, I saw it as an opportunity to experience a different style of teaching, examination and overall university experience. It also allowed me to experience a new country, city, and culture and live abroad for a short period.

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

I picked the University of Alberta because it has quite a large agricultural faculty and they offered courses Wageningen University didn't. Furthermore, the quality of the university and the teaching seemed very good and they offered a lot of support for international students.

I chose Canada because they have a large livestock production system and their rules and regulations are different from ours. Furthermore, I always thought Canada was a beautiful country and I hoped that, because they speak English, the transition would be easier.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I got to the University of Alberta by plane and then by public transport. My best tip is to look into how public transport works and how you can reach your destination (what train/bus, how to pay, etc.). This definitely helped me feel more prepared and it was easy that when I got off the plane, I knew what to do.

## 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	Applied Poultry Sciences	6	This course is all about poultry (mostly chickens) and the Canadian production system. It talks about the different types of chickens, management, biology, and more. A very fun and informing course. This course has a group research project, which was a lot of fun!	5	
2	Applied Swine Sciences	6	This course is about the swine production system in Canada and what goes into managing a pig farm. It discusses the biology of pigs, management strategies, the health of pigs and humans, and more.	5	
3	Livestock Growth and Meat Production	6	This course is about (as the name implies) how livestock (mostly cattle) grows and how meat is produced. It goes into a lot of detail (at a cellular and hormonal level) and how different factors influence the production and quality.	4	
4	Natural Resource Economics	6	This course is about how we can put a value on natural resources and how the management and rules impact the availability and price of a resource. It is a	3	

			mix of theory and calculations.		
5	Inspired to Lead: Skills you need.	6	This course is all about the qualities a leader needs and how you can develop these qualities. You learn what a good leader needs or even what you need for a good team dynamic.	3	
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### **What is it like to study there?**

*E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.*

I really enjoyed studying at the University of Alberta. It is definitely different than at Wageningen University as some of the classes had a very small number of students (around 17) and the period/semester is longer (you follow all the courses for the whole 4 months). The second one took some getting used to, as I hadn't followed more than two courses at the same time for a while, but you do get used to this eventually. There are a lot more quizzes, assignments and projects at the same time and between the start of the semester and your final exam. All courses, except the leadership course, had a midterm exam as well, which was really nice to find out what kind of examination they use.

### **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 university has a very open and warm environment. The lecturers are easily approachable, especially in courses with only 15 students on average. Engagement with local students during the course is a bit difficult sometimes, as the students doing the full bachelor there have their own friend group. I noticed that meeting and interacting with other internationals was a lot easier, but once you do get into contact with a local students, they were very friendly.

### **What does the university offer students additionally?**

*E.g. catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?*

The university has many spots where you can get some food or a coffee. There are also two places on campus where you can go for a drink with some friends or have a snack like nachos. In addition, there is also a large gym (some houses have their own gym), a pool, and even a climbing centre. Each house has laundry facilities and if you stay in the HUB Mall, there is a recreational space with some sport facilities, table tennis, a pool table and more.

## **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?*

The university has an offer for incoming exchange students to sign up for a room on campus before a certain deadline. If you sign up, you are guaranteed a room on campus, which makes finding a room a lot less stressful. During this process, you can put down your top 2 choices of rooms and if you would like to live with girls/boys/mixed and some other preferences.

### **What is the culture of the country like?**

*E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?*

The people are very nice and very helpful. They will often try to make small talk, which took some getting used to but was very nice. A Canadian dish you have to try is Poutine (fries with gravy, cheese curds, and additional toppings if you want) and the Beaver Tail if you end up in Jasper or Banff.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

*E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)*

The public transport is quite good. There are a lot of busses and also some trains. For the bus you can either pay with cash, buy some type of tickets (there are a few options) or use the Arc Card. For the train it's very similar, but here you have to buy your ticket at the machines at the station. You can also use your Arc Card to check into the train. The Arc Card is a card you can get at the station and you can put money on this. However, the University of Alberta will charge you a U Pass fee, which will allow you to connect your Arc Card and travel for free for the semester.

## **6. Expenses**

### **Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

*E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.*

The Canadian Dollar (when I was there) was a bit cheaper than the euro (0.67 cents = 1 euro).

Insurances (extra, if applicable): equal

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: A bit higher

Groceries: comparable or a bit higher (depends on the quantity you buy and the type of product).

Public transport: equal or lower ('free' if you pay the U Pass fee)

Daytrips/sight-seeing: depends on what you do. I went on a trip to Jasper for 2 nights for 450 dollar (incl. Whistler Skytram ticket, ticket to get on the Athabasca Glacier, hostel, transport, lunch (1x)).

### **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

Be mindful of how much you spend but don't let it stop you from enjoying your time there. You are in Canada now, make the most of it!

## **7. Free time**

### **What are must-sees in the area?**

*E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

- The river valley (really close to campus and a very nice place for a walk).

- Royal Alberta Museum
- Art Gallery
- Festival/events (check websites for these)
- Ice skating at the Downtown Community Arena (free!!)
- Muttart Garden (botanical garden)
- University museum
- Elk Island

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

*Most of the sights in Edmonton can be easily found on the internet or in a travel guide, but definitely take the time to explore the River Valley walk. This is a beautiful walk along the river in all seasons. Furthermore, if you plan on going ice skating, the Downtown Community Arena is very easily accessible with the train and you can rent skate and skate for free. Lastly, if you are unable to rent a car, there is a bus service going from Edmonton to Calgary for 40 to 80 dollars one-way. It's a bit of a drive (4 hours), but definitely worth it if you want to visit Calgary.*

### **Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*Walk, ice skating, and checking out the museums in Downtown Edmonton. Also, keep an eye on the events the University organises and any kind of festival/event happening in the city centre.*

## **8. Challenges & best moment abroad**

### **What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?**

*The biggest challenge was the fact that I had three roommates but barely had any contact with them at all. This can give the feeling of isolation, so I made sure that I had something to do/see every weekend. It helped that there was another girl from the WUR there and we started to spend time and do activities together.*

### **What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

*My best memory is probably the trip to Jasper with other Internationals. This was so much fun and everyone was still quite new to the University, so everyone was trying to make friends :)*

*Also, the Poultry Science professor bringing his guitar to class to sing a parody of Let It Be by The Beatles. It became Letter B and was very funny!*

## **9. Contact details (optional)**

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