



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BSc Environmental Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	04/09/23 until 31/01/24
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University of Copenhagen
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Science
<b>Country</b>	Denmark
<b>City</b>	Copenhagen

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to further deepen my academic knowledge within environmental sciences, develop myself socially, and experience living in a different country with a different culture.

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

I enjoy the Scandinavian culture and lifestyle. It is not too shockingly different from the Netherlands, but still a very different way of living. The level of education in Denmark is known to be excellent and the university in Copenhagen offered courses on urban planning which are not covered in my programme, but I would love to learn more about. I chose Copenhagen because I wanted to experience life in a city and for me Copenhagen was the perfect size: it has all the benefits of a capital city but is not too overwhelming.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

On my way there I took the night flibus from Amsterdam which takes 12 hours. The journey is fine and if you buy tickets well in advance it's also quite cheap (and adding extra luggage is very cheap). I came back by train which was a big disaster and ended up having more than 24 hours delay and having to stay a night in Hamburg. This was bad luck, but I would say the train is more unreliable. Flying is of course fastest but also by car you can easily get there in one day.

## 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	Urban Ecosystems: Structures, Functions and Designs	7,5	Course about stormwater management in the urban environment. Theory combined with quite some field work and a big group assignment to design your own stormwater solution for a case area in Copenhagen.	5	The professors are great people. If you are interested in landscape planning and stormwater management you will enjoy this course. It was very nice to have a real case area and the possibility to have your design implemented.
2	Biodiversity in Urban Nature	7,5	Course about all the possible forms of biodiversity present in the urban environment.	4	A lot of guest speakers and weekly excursions make it a very interesting course. Quite a lot of readings and most of the students are biology students so there is a lot of 'assumed knowledge'. Oral exam.
3	Strategic Planning for Urban Nature	15	Course about the 're-naturing' of cities. Learn how to write planning strategies for nature. A lot on governance and policies. You work on a case study in Nordhavn, collaboration with the municipality.	4	Very demanding and challenging course. The professors are really great and the class is small but the workload is big and attendance is always mandatory. At the end you have created your own strategy for an area in Copenhagen which is pretty cool, but you are solely graded on the oral exam.

### What is it like to study there?

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

The university structure is very similar to Wageningen. It is a very flat structure with a lot of in-class discussions, group work and field work/excursions. I experienced the workload to be a bit higher than in Wageningen, but that was probably mainly due to the fact that I followed master courses in topics that were outside the scope of my bachelor. For my first two courses I never had homework apart from readings, but for the third course I had a lot of work at home.

**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 culture is also very similar to Wageningen, see previous answer. The only thing I had to get used to is that you have to call professors by their first name.

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

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

There is KU-sport, a big student sport facilitator where you can do all types of sports, but apart from that not a lot of special student facilities. The science campus has a cafeteria with offers good lunch, but it's still quite expensive.

## 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?*

It's most common to get a room through the Copenhagen housing foundation. Their rooms are nice (mostly studios but with common facilities in the dorm) but super expensive. But then again, everything is expensive in Copenhagen, so you need to be prepared to spend a lot. You can also try to find something via Facebook, but especially for one semester that is very difficult.

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

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

The culture is very similar to the Netherlands. Danes are very friendly people but not very eager to mingle with international students. And there can be quite aggressive when on a bike. Copenhagen is a very well-structured and safe city. After 23:00 it is basically quiet on the streets, and I never felt unsafe. It was unexpectedly not a super vegetarian-friendly country. You won't have trouble getting something in a restaurant, but the offer in the supermarket is quite limited.

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

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

Everyone does everything by bike! The city is really not that big and the bike infrastructure is very good so you can get everywhere fastest and cheapest on your bike (I recommend getting a swapfiets). But if you don't want to bike the metro and S-bahn are also very nice, but very expensive. In that case I would recommend getting a rejsekort (a kind of OV chipcard).

## 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.*

Just expect everything to be way more expensive (normal price for coffee is 7 eur). In addition, you need to account for the currency exchange costs to the Danish kroners.

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: dorm room ~800 eur

Groceries: ~30% more expensive

Public transport: a single metro ticket is ~3,50 eur

Restaurant/going out for dinner: a meal below 15 eur is very cheap in a restaurant (exception is Absalon, a communal dining place where you can eat daily for 60 dkk)

Daytrips/sight-seeing: The city has enough to offer!

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

I recommend getting a Revolut credit card to exchange currency 'for free'.

## **7. Free time**

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

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

There is so much to see in the city! E.g. all the bakeries in Copenhagen, Reffen, Tivoli, Go see a soccer or ice hockey game and Carlsberg experience. But outside of Copenhagen I would recommend, Roskilde, Dragor, Treetop experience, Mons klint, Arken and Louisiana! For trips I recommend Goteborg, Helsinki, and Tallinn.

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

Dyrehave (a nature park where you can see deer), Santa Lucia, Copenhill.

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

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

Every campus has its own Friday bar which is one of the few places you can get cheap beers. Studenterhuset is also good for cheap drinks. Absalon folkehuset is a great place to have communal dinner.

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

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

It was sometimes difficult to combine my demanding courses with all the fun stuff I was doing with my friends, but when exams are approaching and everybody has to study it is very fun to go to the library or a cute study café together to have some peer motivation and afterwards go for dinner or a drink together!

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

There's way too many things to pick one, but to name a few; having a silent disco in a zoo in the rain, sailing a boat, doing an orienteering run, J-day, winter bathing with sauna, watching the new king's coronation.

## 9. 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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