



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Biology
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	15/01/2023 until 02/06/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Göteborg
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Gothenburg University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Marine Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I felt like I followed all courses at WUR I found to be interesting, and the WUR could no longer offer me more knowledge and experiences in the field I want to get more familiar with.

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

I want to get into marine sciences, and Gothenburg University has a marine sciences department. Also my application for Tromsø got rejected and this was a less extensively informed second choice.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flixbus is cheap, but tiring. Get a seat in the middle of bus as the temperature will be best there. Transfer busses in Copenhagen (as opposed to Hamburg), and travel the Amsterdam-Kopenhagen part during the night as the stops are the furthest apart here.

## 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	Ecophysiology in a Climate Perspective	15	Discusses different adaptations of animals to various different climates	3	The subject matter was interesting but the information density was very low. I'd have liked to learn more. Additionally the

					course organisation was very chaotic. While presented as a MSc level course it felt more suitable for BSc students.
2	Chemical Dynamics in the Sea	15	The first weeks teach background knowledge about chemical processes happening between the sea-air interface, the sea-sediment interface, and in the water column. In the second half this knowledge is applied in a short cruise on a research vessel and used to write a report on the cruise' findings.	5	While still learning things that were very new to me, the focus of this course was rather on the experience of what a research cruise is like than learning actual theory. Great experience.

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

There seems to be a preference for group discussions rather than lectures, with a lot of repetition of the same material instead of introducing new information. In general my study days were very short (10:00-15:00). Examination at the end of the courses was done through a report, with an intermediate test early / in the middle of the course.

**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 similar with WUR where everything is on first-name basis. In bigger groups the Swedish students tend to stick to themselves, but in smaller groups the Swedish and international students mix nicely.

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

There's a bunch of microwaves in each canteen for people to warm up their lunch. While there are no caf  s in each building like here at WUR, there are drip-coffee machines for everyone to use.

## 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?)**

I got offered a room through the university. Rent is similar to if not cheaper than in Wageningen.

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

Swedish culture is way more held back than Dutch culture. People tend to not want to stand out, and rather avoid confrontation (e.g. when someone doesn't properly participate during group projects they'll go to the course coordinator after a course ended instead of talking to the problematic group member during the course itself). The main spices they have in their food are cinnamon, kardemom, and salt (so much salt). However, they have a culturally diverse population with plenty of authentic places to eat out at, which is much cheaper than it is in the Netherlands (still not *cheap*, but definitely less expensive & more viable).

As soon as the sun starts shining around april you start seeing people picknicking or barbequeing or just chilling and reading outside in many of the parks around the city, which is also perfectly acceptable to do alone and people tend to do quite a lot.

The work-life balance is way better in Sweden than in the Netherlands, and people seem less stressed / rushed in general.

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

Fresh produce is more expensive, but overall it's roughly the same price, especially after the inflation in Wageningen of the past year.

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

A monthly tram subscription to travel all around Göteborg costs ~60eu. However, a lot of people don't pay for public transport and just get out of the tram to take the next one when ticket inspectors get on board (recognized by their white cap and/or light blue Vasttrafik jacket). The cheapest (and fastest) option is to buy a secondhand bike at one of the bike-kitchens for 100SEK (~10eu) when the weather allows it. Travelling by bike cuts your travel times in half. You'll get used to the hills.

## 6. Free time

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

The botanical garden is very nice to visit throughout the year. Especially in early spring there are lots of cherry blossoms that are just stunning, but during early summer there are also lots of amazing smelling flowers.

If you like bouldering you can go to Utby (a forest close-ish, lots of granite with sharp quartz crystals), but I recommend going to Ersdalen on the island of Hönö when the weather allows it. You reach the free ferry by bus from Göteborg.

Going to watch ice hockey matches during winter is also very fun.

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

The lake Delsjön, it's pretty all year round and has various fireplaces for bbq.

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

There are a bunch of not-too expensive restaurants, make a list with the ones that appeal to you and go by as many as you can. My personal favourite is Gansu köket near Linnéplatsen, which has 3 menu items but all taste amazing.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

The first few months were tough since I had a lot of free time but didn't have a big social network to spend my free time with. However, this got better each passing week as I made more friends and spent more time with them.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

The research cruise for the Chemical Dynamics course.

## 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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