



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bachelor Biosystems Engineering
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	21-08-2023 until 09-01-2024
Exchange destination: University	Chalmers University of Technology
Faculty	Mechanical Engineering
Country	Sweden
City	Gothenburg

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To learn more about mechanical engineering. This is something that the WUR doesn't offer. And the experience of studying outside the Netherlands.

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

They had interesting courses and it was in Scandinavia so the quality of education was expected to be on a good level. Also the level of English was good.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Go on the planned arrival day. Then you will get a free ticket to the city from the airport. And be sure to have a credit card. All the bus tickets need to be bought online.

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	Solid mechanics and Materials	7.5	Mathematics of forces in materials and theory about what happens inside the material on atom level.	3	Quite interesting and challenging course. It was not easy. Only one of the professors switched sometimes to Swedish.
2	Introduction to Mechatronics	7.5	Mathematics of electricity and electrical components	5	Super interesting and challenging course. The topics covered are quite broad. From circuit theory to electrical motors and computer logics.
3	Machine Elements	7.5	Mathematics of various machine components such as screws, transmissions and brakes	5	Easy but very broad and good to give you an insight on the working components of machines.
4	Machine Design	7.5	Reverse engineering of a coffee brewer. Focussing on the product design itself.	4	Has some overlap with the course Engineering Design but is broader on the mechanical engineering side. E.g. tolerance analysis, Live cycle analysis and market segments
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

To study at Chalmers is quite nice. There are normal lectures and lab work like on the WUR. The workload is a little less though. You are given around 4 sometimes 5 hours for an exam. Even though it only takes 3 hours to complete. So about some courses I don't think that they are worth 7.5 ECTS. The master courses are all given at campus Johanneberg and the bachelor courses at Lindholmen.

You normally have a course in the morning and afternoon or one on one day and the other on a different day. There is a possibility to have a schedule with a day off. The schedule itself is not that full. But it is smart to attend everything because you don't have to do much 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?

Everyone is very approachable. The professors are called by their first name and you can just go to them if you have any questions. The engagement with local students is not that high but they do really upon up if you have to do groupwork. With my first two courses I didn't have group work so I

didn't now any local students. But with my other two courses I had group work and with the course Machine Elements I knew a lot of local students.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There are sports facilities. But there is also a student sauna and swimming pool in the university building. There is also a music room, large sauna outside the city, large student restaurant for warm lunches, a bar and multiple places to get coffee related things.

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 is hard to find housing. There are two housing cooperations but I switched my room with an incoming student from Chalmers. I think that is the best option to find good housing in a short amount of time.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

In Sweden they really like their coffee. They have a word for it 'Fika'. It is a coffee break with something sweet. So every lecture has a small brake at 45 minutes sharp. In all restaurants or cafés the coffee just stands ready to be grabbed in a jar. Swedes themselves are friendly but more introverted.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Public transport is good organised. The city itself has trams and buses. Tickets can be bought using the app 'Västtrafik'. Here you can buy monthly tickets or a single ticket for 90 minutes. Costs around 3 euro's and then you're able to go on every tram or bus that you want as long as you stay in the same zone. So if you go further outside the city you have to buy a ticket for a different zone.

But if you live in the city itself there is also an option to rent bicycles. But everything is also doable by foot.

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.

Ticket there: equal

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 450 (higher)

Groceries: higher
Public transport: same
Restaurant/going out for dinner: higher
Daytrips/sight-seeing: equal

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Alcohol above 3.5% can only be bought in the Systembolaget.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

The islands, kronhuset, city museum, Skansen Kronan.

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

The free zoo in Slottsskogan.

The student sauna outside the city. You have to book it though. It is called: Chalmers Sportstuga.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Club: Yaki-Da (free entré and happy hour until 22:00)

café: café Husaren, Jacob's café.

Restaurant: Moon Thai Kitchen, Bombay express, Wijkanders.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Going to Lapland with all the exchange students I became friends with. There are trips organised by students that you can join but you have to be fast. Because they are quickly full. We joined a trip organised by an external organisation.

9. Contact details (optional)

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