



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	21/08/2023 until 14/01/2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Gothenburg
Faculty	Faculty of science
Country	Sweden
City	Gothenburg

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted to have a break from studying at the WUR. And because it was very easy to go on exchange through the WUR. I wanted to see what it was like to study somewhere else and meet new people and truly live on my own.

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

Sweden was always a place I wanted to visit and when I saw Gothenburg it looked very nice. But another reason was also that on the site it was very clear what I could do as an exchange student and overall it was just very clear and easy so it felt good to go there. Also I wanted to live in a bigger city.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I was lucky that my parents could drive me by car but the train is also a very good option. Or flying.

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	Field course in the subarctic	15	The course includes a field trip to the subarctic, a week of lectures and groupwork. You learn about the subarctic landscape and other factors.	5	This is a very nice course to follow. You learn a lot about the subarctic landscape and how climate change is affecting it now. I learned some new stuff. The groupwork was very nice and the teachers were also great. The excursion is amazing.
2	Climate change: a geographical perspective	15	This is a very broad course about climate change and it focus on Catalonia, Spain with an excursion there.	4	The course is very nice but it was a lot of things that I had already learned before. It had some nice guest lectures and nice groupwork. The teacher is also very nice. The excursion felt more like an vacation.
3					
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What is it like to study there?

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

The workload is definitely less than I was used to in Wageningen. There were less contact hours in the week but you did have groupwork so I was at school every day. Academic level depends on the course but can be lower sometimes. The study form was a combination of lectures, seminars, group work and excursions. Examination was an exam at the end of the course about the lectures. Lesson material was the lecture slides.

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 lecturers are very nice and you can ask any questions. They are very open to students. I feel like the lectures that I had are similar to the lectures from Wageningen.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There was a restaurant in my building to get food but there were also a lot of microwaves to heat up your own food. I did not have any sports facilities. I think those this were outside of the university.

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?

There is one organization SGS where you can get a furnished room. It was very easy to get housing and there were also lots of options on where to live and what type of room you would want. My room was 18 m² with my own bathroom and furnished with shared kitchen for around 360 euros. It was located in Olofshöjd. It is a big student complex very close to the city. Took only 15 min with the tram to get to central station and it took around 25 min to get to school. Very good location and good price.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

It is very easy to talk English to any Swedish person can be old and young I had little problems with it. Swedish people are a bit more 'shy'. Was not that easy to make friends with them but they are very nice. Food was similar but also depends on what you are used to now. As a vegetarian there were a lot of options for food. In restaurants as well.

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 very good. There are a lot of trams and busses. It is very easy to get around the city with it. For students if you buy a 3 month long card it is around 60 euros per month. And then you can travel whenever you want in and around Gothenburg. You are even able to go to the islands with it and the ferry is also included in the pass. The app to use is Västtrafik. And you only have to buy a ticket for zone A. in the app you can also plan your route and see when trams and busses are leaving. You could also bike in the city but be aware that there are a lot of steep hills and it is a very rocky terrain sometimes and it is very easy to use public transport. I wanted to take my bike at first but I'm very glad I didn't. was very easy to get around without a bike. From my friends that live there only 1 or 2 road a bike to school, most people just use public transport. There are also rental bikes all over the city.

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: I went with the car so free.

Visa if applicable: no

Vaccinations if applicable: no

Insurances (extra, if applicable): no

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 360 euro, around the same as Wageningen.

Groceries: was more expensive depending if you eat out a lot for me around 300 euro a month

Public transport: 60 euro

Restaurant/going out for dinner: drinks are expensive and food is also expensive but the same as in the Netherlands. Drinks can be very expensive in bars but are cheaper in the alcohol store.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: if use public transport very good price. Lots of museum are either free or student discount. And a lot of other places also have student discounts so look out for that.

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Overall Sweden is probably more expensive but it is not a whole lot more expensive than the Netherlands.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

Would recommend going to the islands when it is nice weather. There is also nice nature around Gothenburg. I also was able to visit Copenhagen and Oslo when I was there. Was very easy to reach by train and bus. And you can visit other citys with the train. Liseberg is also very nice to visit. I went to the Christmas market when it was snowing and this was very magical at Liseberg. There are a lot of museums and Haga is a very nice area.

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

All the parks in the city are very nice and would recommend walking though them.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Haga is a very nice place with cafes and around Järntorget there are a lot of bars for going out.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

It was very hard to leave haha. I made a lot of good friends there and was sad to say goodbye. But I did not have any challenges, I mostly just had fun.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

All the friends that I made and the excursion to the subarctic. I got to see the northern lights there and I also saw them in Gothenburg it was very magical and got lucky that I was able to see them. And also seeing the city covers in snow is very magical it looks like a winter wonderland.

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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