



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	15-8-2023 until 14-1-2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Gothenburg
Faculty	Science
Country	Sweden
City	Göteborg

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Experience different cultures and broaden horizon studywise.

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

I wanted to go to a university in a country where I could learn about geology, climate and experience nature and mountains. Different countries and universities were on my shortlist, but I've chosen GU because of their courses in combination with their fieldtrips.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I chose to go by plane out of convenience, I didn't bring a lot of stuff. Going by train is certainly possible however, a large portion of especially the Germans I met travelled by train.

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	Regional Environmental Earth Science	7.5	Geology, glaciology and learning about the gamogenesis of Sweden and especially geology and environmental issue's around Gothenburg	4.5	Involves a 5 day Fieldtrip by bus to Norway where we've visited and walked on glaciers, did a lot of mountain hikes and took a dip in a Fjord. Studywise, I would have liked some more structure.
2	Hydrology and hydrogeology	7.5	You learn about hydrology and hydrogeology.	4	It was a good well structured course. However quite some overlap with hydrology courses from the SWA bachelor. You do learn some new stuff tough and have some nice day excursions.
3	Climate change, a geographical perspective	15	Learn about system earth and the current and future climate. Special focus on Catalonia, Spain.	4.5	Involves a project where you can focus on a self chosen research question, related to climate change. Furthermore there is a fieldtrip of 8 days to Catalonia. With some other exchange students we went earlier to Barcelona to for a tourist visit. The course ends with an exam. Study pace is low which gives lot's of time for fun activities.
4					
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

What stands out the most is way less contact hours than at WUR and the workload and examination is quite low. We never had to buy a book or reader. Most lesson material are the lectures, so make sure you visit those!

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?

Lecturers are very approachable, maybe even more than at WUR, which has already a high level. I had mostly contact with other exchange students, but Swedish students are certainly approachable as well.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

I found that university sport facilities we're lacking. But, the vast amount of nature compensated more than enough (hiking!).

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?

Practically all exchange students I met had no problem finding a room via the University.

You can choose in a range from roughly 300-650 EU.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

It took me some time with the Swedes to make decent contact, but I guess that is also somewhat true for the Netherlands. Also, learn about snus and fyka.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

There is a good tram/bus infrastructure which is not too expensive when you buy a subscription and brings you everywhere in the city, even to the awesome Islands.

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.

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: roughly the same

Groceries: fresh vegetables and fruit are expensive. Buy frozen!

Restaurant/going out for dinner: Expensive

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

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, especially in the summer (swimming!). Furthermore hiking near lakes like Stora Delsjön and other awesome nature hikes.

- Botanical gardens
- Liseberg theme park
- Musea, most of them for free as a student

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

I didn't look into travel guides, but definitely organize an evening in one of the karaoke bars with Swedish students.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Andra Langgatan, most bars are here. Every Friday night at Kings Head you can eat decent diner for free.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Organizing stuff for my room. It was not as furnished as I expected.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Feeling at home.

9. Contact details (optional)

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