



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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|---|---------------------------------|
| Field of study in Wageningen | Business and management studies |
| Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy) | 05/01/2023 until 25/04/2023 |
| Country (exchange) | Canada |
| City (exchange) | Guelph |
| University (exchange) | University of Guelph |
| Faculty (exchange) | Business |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Personally, I perceived my minor/electives decision as the perfect time frame to study abroad. During the four months of my exchange I was able to gain more knowledge in specific parts of my academical background, but perhaps from a different point of view. Another major reason why I went on study exchange was because I wanted to improve my English speaking, listening and writing.

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

Canada is one of the biggest and most influential countries in the world. The Canadian economy is multiple times bigger than the Dutch economy and different from the European approach. North-America is known for a lot of multinational companies and their success on global level. All of the reasons mentioned are relatable to my study interest.

Another reason why I chose Canada was because of the nature in this country and the approachable and welcoming Canadians.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Guelph was not easily accessible in comparison with the Netherlands. The main reason for this was because Canada is such a big and spread-out country. I travelled from Amsterdam Airport to Toronto Airport and from there I took an uber together with 3 other WUR exchange students.

The only tip I have is; book your ticket as early as possible.

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 | Individuals and groups in organisations | 6 | Organisational behaviour: motivation, conflict, reward systems. Lecture based and one group pitch | 4 | Great professor |
| 2 | Marketing in product development | 6 | Lectures and computer business simulation about NPD (new product development) | 5 | Practical application of learned knowledge |
| 3 | Foundations of leadership | 6 | Theoretical course and big self-assessment project | 3,5 | Leadership from an American point of view |
| 4 | Developing management and leadership competencies | 6 | Challenging course with a lot of information and an self-assessment project | 5 | Learned a lot of new things |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |

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

The workload was high. Higher in comparison with the WUR. The academic level wasn't easy either, but because of the engagement and enthusiasm of all of my professors it was taught very well! The lesson material was highly lecture based, but more practically focused than scientific oriented.

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?)

As I mentioned before, the professors were very approachable and passionate for their work. The culture at the university of Guelph is outstanding! Despite the fact that I was an exchange student, I have never felt more welcome. The local students were sincerely interested in me and my experiences as a Dutch student. I have never experienced any difficulties with study related concepts. The Canadian students and teachers were more than helpful.

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

The sport membership was only 50 euros where I had access to the best and biggest gym I've ever seen and self-register sport lessons (boxing/Zumba/pilates/swimming/bootcamp etc.). On campus the number one ranked Canadian food hall always served fresh food with a lot of tasteful and healthy options. There was also an on campus Starbuck and Tim Hortens.

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?)

As an exchange student, the university provided me with on campus residences. I could apply for multiple different residences (living with 2 or more people), but I was assured of a living place on campus. This took away a lot of insecurities before leaving.

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

The biggest culture shock I experienced through my exchange was with regard to the food. All the food contains a lot of additives like sugar and salt and fresh products are more expensive than processed foods. The rest of the Canadian culture surprised me in a positive way. Everyone says hello to each other and subsequently asks how it goes.

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

I paid 739 euro per month for a furnished room on campus, which was twice as much as what I paid in Wageningen.

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

The university gives you a student card which allows you to have free travel in and around Guelph. All the places exceeding this area is for your own expenses. The public transport in Guelph is bad, since a lot of Canadians use their own car instead of the public transport.

Travel with GO-busses (for example to Toronto). Buy a week or weekend day pass (online) in advance which is applicable on every time you are willing to leave and it's cheaper.

6. Free time

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

Toronto and a blue jays baseball game or Toronto Raptors basketball game. Take the GO-busses with a bought day ticket in advance.

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

Algonquin provincial park, Ontario

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

Pottery painting in Guelph: the clay bar. A restaurant in combination with pottery painting

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Feeling alone in a completely different world

What was your best memory abroad?

All the new soulful people I met and became friends for life

8. Contact details (optional)

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