



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	International development studies
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	29-08-2023 until 15-12-2023
Exchange destination: University	Guelph University
Faculty	College of arts/ College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Country	Canada
City	Guelph

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience studying in a different environment. Furthermore, I wanted to meet people from different countries and backgrounds.

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

I chose Guelph mainly because of the courses they had to offer which seemed really interesting to me. Furthermore, I have always wanted to go to Canada to explore the natural beauty.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Unfortunately flying is the only realistic option to get to Canada, from Toronto you can either get an uber or cab or the train or go bus to Guelph.

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	Modern Middle east	6	This course is about how European imperialism affected the region leading up to World War I. Furthermore, it is about indigenous religious and secular movements that attempted to meet the challenges posed by Western encroachment in the Middle East. The course goes into the rise and fall of the ottoman empire, and the creation of Israel and the following conflict because of this.	5	It was highly relevant because of the current conflict in the Gaza strip, this was by far the most interesting course I followed.
2	Modern China	6	It is about the history and culture of China. Starting with Confucius and ending with modern China. Economics, gender, imperialism, militarism, politics, and religion are the most important themes in this course	4	It was really detailed, for how much time the course covered.
3	Political China	6	This course is a detailed study of the political history of modern China and its current politics. The main objective is to assess the extent to which the Chinese Communist Party has fulfilled its mandate, which is to build a sovereign and united China as well as to modernize the country within a socialist framework.	5	Really interesting, there are a lot of readings and documentaries you have to watch.

4	Poverty and inequality	6	This course explores the nature and determinants of poverty and inequality at the local and global levels and the interrelationship between these. It examines the patterns and dynamics of poverty and inequality, for example over time and geographically.	4	This was a very easy course, especially when you do international development studies.
5	Towards sustainability	6	This course will introduce students to the complex and interrelated issues of sustainability. It will explore why it is important to understand the environmental, economic and social issues of our world and why they must be addressed in a holistic way. It will allow students to realize the impact they will make on the world and give them the knowledge to develop values that will help chart their career. This course will provide the opportunity to understand issues beyond their chosen discipline.	4	Lots of groupwork and interesting guest speakers
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What is it like to study there?

There are not that much exams, there are some midterm exams which is not really common here. But in general there are less exams and the focus is more on essays and exercises. The workload was very doable for me, however this also depends on the courses you take. I would say the academic level is a little bit lower than in The Netherlands, I found the courses easier than in Wageningen.

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

What is the culture of the university?

Lecturers are very approachable, you live on campus which means there is lots of engagement with local students. At the WUR there is no on campus housing which is a shame because it makes it much easier to make friends.

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The university of Guelph offers lots of different sport facilities, you can basically do any sport you like on the campus, furthermore there is a huge gym which only costs 50 dollars for a semester. There is a laundry room available where you can wash and dry your clothes. Furthermore there are lots of restaurants available on campus.

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 international students you are almost certain to get a room on campus, it is quite expensive but it also includes a bus pass, internet, and gas.

What is the culture of the country like?

I would say the difference is not that big, in Canada everything is much bigger, roads supermarkets, cars are all a lot bigger. Furthermore, there are not really bike lanes so most people take the bus or drive to the store. Lastly Canadians are very friendly so the stereotypes in this instance are right about Canadians.

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

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Your fees include a bus pass, you can travel for free in Guelph the whole semester.

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: 800

Visa if applicable:15

Vaccinations if applicable:-

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 3927 for the whole semester including the bus pass

Groceries:300 per month prices are much higher

Public transport: -

Restaurant/going out for dinner:50

Daytrips/sight-seeing:250

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?

You have to visit Toronto at least once, Montreal and Vancouver are also great. There are some amazing national parks you should visit including the Niagara falls. And if possible get to New York or other American cities

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

Go watch different sports, ice hockey is big in Canada but baseball and American football are also interesting to watch.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

Guelph has multiple clubs I would recommend Franks

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

It was hard to get to know new people, but sometimes you have to be brave and take the first step. It gets much easier after that.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Making loads of friends from all over the world.

9. Contact details (optional)

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