



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Management & Consumer Studies
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	16/01/2023 until 02/06/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Sweden
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Uppsala
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences / Department of Economics

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I decided to go on exchange, because I felt like I was ready for a new challenge. I wanted to experience what studying was like in another country, and the student life and culture. Also it is an great opportunity to practice your English.

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

I chose SLU Uppsala, because it is also an agricultural university like WUR, and highly recommended. Moreover, there is a big student life in Uppsala and Sweden is of course a beautiful country.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I took the train from my hometown to Uppsala, which took me four days. I made a stop in Copenhagen and Stockholm to discover the cities. It is a quite long and intense train ride, but a fun experience. But the plane and bus/train is a quicker alternative!

## 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	Microeconomics and its Applications in	15	Lot of microeconomic theories and	4	It is also referred to as Microeconomics 3, so it is

	Agricultural and Environmental Economics		calculations with a few tutorials about agricultural and environmental articles		good if you already have some pre knowledge. Otherwise, it is just a lot to study at once, but with a lot of studying it should be possible.
2	Agricultural cooperatives	7.5	Mainly theoretical lectures about cooperatives, guest lectures from agricultural cooperatives	4	More of a just listening to lecturer class, guest lectures and excursion really nice.
3	Innovation and Sustainability	7.5	More of a discussion-based class with a few theories and examples of innovations	4	Only a few lectures, not so intense, but it is really about your own input.

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

During the semester I had classes 3 days a week, so with a bit of smart planning, you can have enough free time.

Lectures don't get recorded, but PowerPoints are uploaded online. They make use of Canvas which is similar to Brightspace, and there they upload all the study materials.

Lectures are a bit longer than mostly in Wageningen. Most of my lectures were 2 hours and 45 minutes, with two times a 15 minute break.

**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?)**

All my courses were a bit smaller than I was used to in Wageningen (8-20 students), so there was enough personal contact between the lecturer and the students. In my first course, everyone was Swedish (and they can be a bit less open), but when I got to know them a bit better, they were very nice. My other two courses were more mixed.

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

At SLU there are no study associations, but one big student union, which organises fun activities, like dinners and theatre plays, but also lectures (mostly in Swedish though).

The sport facilities are not that big, there is one gym on campus, but SLU is not really known for sports.

There are also two buildings with lunch/buffets, but I have no experience with it.

The campus is a bit more modern and further away from the city centre, but reachable by bus or bike.

At the beginning of the semester, there were a few introduction activities and also buddy groups, which were nice to meet new people.

## 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?)**

In my application, you could sign up for a room (make a top 2 choice) and I got my first choice. Most people live either at Flogsta or Rackabergsgatan. They both have hallways with approximately 5-12 people and shared facilities. I paid around 450 euros for a room in a hallway with 4 other students with a private toilet, but a shared kitchen and shower. I lived in a building with only exchange students, which was very fun.

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

Swedish people can be a bit less open, but their English is very good, so once they are more open, you can have nice conversations. They love fika, which is a social break where they eat some good snacks (kanelbullar!) together and have coffee or tea.

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

Living in Sweden is a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. Groceries and alcohol are a bit more expensive (you carefully need to choose your supermarket) and also gym subscriptions. But public transport and housing are not necessarily more expensive. Good to know is that you need a credit card for many things, like ordering online and public transport.

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

In Uppsala, a lot of people use their bike to go to places (you can find good second hand ones). Moreover, the bus system is quite good and you can get a ticket via the online app. You pay around 3 euros for 75 minutes. You can also get a monthly card I think, but for me that was not really worth it.

## 6. Free time

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

Stockholm is a very beautiful and only 40 minutes from Uppsala central station. Moreover, you can do many hikes in Sweden and sleep in cabins along the route. Close to university is a big lake, which is nice in summer time. Moreover, there are some forests to cycle or walk through. But also Uppsala itself is a beautiful city with nice coloured buildings and the big church, river, and castle.

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

It is nice to explore a bit more of the nature of Uppsala, so walk/cycle to Gamla Uppsala or Haga.

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

To go to a student activity or party, you need to become member of a student nation. These are sort of student associations (without 'ontgroening') and they organise fun activities, parties, and you can have breakfast/lunch/fika/dinner there for cheap prices.

In Uppsala there are also many restaurants and bars, but no real clubs.

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

### **What was a challenge you have experienced?**

The biggest challenge is connecting with the Swedish people. You don't speak their language, so they won't start talking to you. In class, they will stay together as a group, the nations and union are in Swedish, and I only lived with internationals, so it is hard to really get into the Swedish student culture.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

I think our exchange group was really fun and we lived close to each other, so almost everyday we just ate together during lunch or at night, and everyone really has a mindset with we are on exchange only once, so we should make the best of it. That was just really nice! Going together to parties or weekends away, like hiking, camping or city trip.

## **8. Contact details (optional)**

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