



# WUR Goes Abroad

---

## 1. Student Information

---

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Landscape architecture and spatial planning
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21 / 08 / 2023 to 14 / 01 / 2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
<b>Faculty</b>	Landscape architecture
<b>Country</b>	Sweden
<b>City</b>	Alnarp

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to explore a new country and culture while learning about new topics in a different academic environment.

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

I lived in Sweden in the past and wanted to see more of the nature and people (culture).

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

The destination is easy to reach both by plane, flying to Copenhagen airport, or by public transport (train and/or bus).

## 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	Foodscapes I	15	Course about the relationship between the landscape and how food is produced/prepared/eaten.	3	This was a course with a lot of reading work but not very clear learning outcomes. Not very academically challenging but for me an opportunity to learn about different food cultures from my classmates from all around the world.
2	Urban Forestry: management of urban forests and trees	15	Course about trees in an urban environment and how they can be taken care of (where to place them, pruning, etc).	4	Several excursions that added a good practical perspective to the course. One minor remark is that it was mainly focused on the Swedish context which sometimes is quite different from the Netherlands. Nonetheless I recommend this course!

### What is it like to study there?

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

All the courses that I participated in included group work (not graded). Apart from this there were some lectures and self-study. The academic level and workload were similar/lower than my bachelor program in Wageningen even though I took courses at a masters level.

### 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 number of students in the courses was low (15-30) and therefore the lecturers and other students were very approachable and engaged in the lectures. Apart from this there was a good work balance at the university to only work during the scheduled hours of the course and not in the evenings/weekends.

### What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The university campus in Alnarp is quite remote and does not offer many facilities. There are laundry facilities on the campus that you can use when you live there. Furthermore, there is a café and a restaurant on campus and a library that organises some activities during the semester. There is also a student union that you can join for one semester.

## 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 housing on campus. This is not guaranteed but all exchange students that requested one got a room on campus. Many students lived with 4-10 housemates. I was an exception and only had one housemate in an appartement. My rent was a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands but this was because I shared my house with less housemates.

### **What is the culture of the country like?**

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

One of the differences in culture is that Swedish people always take off their shoes before they enter a house. I even had to sign a promise to do this in my housing contract. 😊 Furthermore, the Swedish students were very kind but also a bit reserved. It was easier to make friends with the other exchange students.

### **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 very good, affordable public transport in the area. You need to buy your tickets in an app on your phone that you also use to check in (Skanetrafiken). One thing to note is that you need a credit card or a debit card with visa to be able to buy the tickets for the bus.

## 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: Around €100 for a flight but this changes a lot depending on when you book the ticket. The flxbus to Copenhagen is also an option, from there it is very easy to travel by train to the campus, this cost me around €40-50.

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: €400,- (but I had a relatively expensive room)

Groceries: Around €120-150 p/month.

Public transport: I lived on campus so only needed this when I went to the city. Public transport is often a lot cheaper than the Netherlands.

Restaurant/going out for dinner: Comparable to the Netherlands.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: Really depends on where you go, the prices are similar to 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?*

Lund is a very nice city to visit, this is very easy to reach by bus/train. There are many nice cafés and a very nice open-air museum (Kulturen).

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

The student farm on campus is very nice to visit and I recommend helping out for a working session if you enjoy spending time outside.

### Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

The park on campus is very nice all year round to go for a walk.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

It was sometimes challenging to be so far from my friends especially at the start of the exchange. It helped me to visit different activities on campus to meet new people and stay busy during my weeks there.

### What is your best memory of your time abroad?

My best memory is of all the field trips that I went on with my course about urban forestry. It was a great way to meet my classmates and see some nice nature areas in the surroundings.

## 9. Contact details (optional)

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