



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Bachelor Forest and Nature Conservation
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21/08/2023 until 14/01/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
<b>Faculty</b>	Forestry
<b>Country</b>	Sweden
<b>City</b>	Umea

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to get more experience from other universities too, so I wanted to go on exchange. This way I would learn more about the education in a different country and also learn new thing about that country and what they teach.

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

I wanted to go to a country with snow in the winter and where the education is known to be good. When I looked in the Scandinavian countries, I liked the courses in Sweden from SLU and therefore chose this University.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It takes quite a long time to go by train, so this is possible if you have a lot of time to travel to and go from Umea. Because of this I took the plane and this was very easy to do and it doesn't take that long. The train is also more expensive and more difficult with the amount of luggage I brought.

## 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	Forest History	15	It is a lot about the culture and the indigenous people in that part of Sweden. Also a bit about the management in the past. But a lot about the culture.	3	
2	Forest Ecosystem Ecology	15	There are a lot of different modules in this course about different topics in a ecosystem. I thought a lot was already what I learned during my bachelor, but a few new things about boreal forests.	4	
3					
4					
5					
6					

### What is it like to study there?

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

My courses had quite some lectures and practicals and groupwork. They didn't have a exam at the end, only a presentation. I didn't find it difficult at all and had a lot of free time. They had enough time to finish everything and I barely had to do anything outside of university. The lesson material is all online and sometimes get online papers.

### 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 lectures are really approachable and nice. They speak really good English as well. With groupwork and during lectures the local student are really nice and all speak English, but outside of university they are a bit closed off. It is not too different than the WUR, but the university is smaller, so the classes are really small too. Can range from 20-50 people.

### What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The university has a cafeteria, but it is pretty expensive. There is a really big sports facility, it can be a bit expensive, but for how much they offer and you can do is it really

good. Everyone in Umea uses it and a lot of students go there. There is also a small gym in the university you can use and isn't really busy.

## 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?*

You can get possibly a room through the university, but I suddenly heard really late, that there weren't any rooms available anymore and had to find one on my own. Then you can find a few sites through where you can get rooms and they have facebookgroups.

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

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

Swedish people are a bit closed off and I didn't really get close or do a lot with Swedish people. The internationals are really nice and you can easily make friends with them. Swedish people are nice and all speak English really good. I didn't eat a lot of the local cuisine, but they eat quite a lot of meat with reindeer and moose, but you can easily eat vegetarian too. Everything is pretty expensive in Sweden, especially also the alcohol. You can also only buy alcohol at a specific store and that closes pretty early and isn't always open. They do use a lot of snuss, instead of smoking a lot.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

They use bikes a lot in Umea, so you really need a bike there to have it easier. It isn't really big, so you can get everywhere by bike. When the snow comes, most people use the buses and you have to get the app of the local bustransport. Through there you can buy tickets. Taxis are expensive.

## 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 300

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 350, room at the first floor of someones house, 4 housemates

Groceries: 150

Public transport: I took the bike almost always, so don't really know

Restaurant/going out for dinner: didn't really do that, but more expensive than here

Daytrips/sight-seeing: Have to take the bus a lot and that is not too expensive, some ferries are free to islands

## **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 travel a lot by bus to get somewhere. But a lot is also not possible by bus, so you have to know someone with a car or rent one. I loved Holmön, an island, and Skuleskogens nationalpark, but that was a weekendtrip. You can plan a lot pretty late.

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

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

I was part of the Student Union there and they also had a lot to do and also a lot of internationals were a part of it. In the winter you can also go ice skating for free and skiing, crosscountry a lot too.

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

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

I didn't really have any challenges.

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

The weekendtrip I took with a friend I made there to a national park and small villages along the coast.

## **9. 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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