



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Bachelor Internationale Ontwikkelingsstudies
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	29/07/2023 until 17/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Toronto Metropolitan University
<b>Faculty</b>	Sociology
<b>Country</b>	Canada
<b>City</b>	Toronto

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to broaden my international experience and expand my network outside of the Netherlands.

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

Canada is an English-speaking country and therefore I was certain I could communicate with the locals. Another factor that attracted me to Canada, was the fact that there is a not much blatant racism against Black people.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The only way to get to Toronto from the Netherlands is by plane, so that would be the best option.

## 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	The Hip Hop Lens on Society	6	The course looks at society and academics from a culture that is often not included in any formal field. It is focused on Black culture.	4	It is a course that would not be taught in the Netherlands but gave great insights into a culture that is typically not set in an academic context. The organisation however was a bit messy at times.
2	Media and Images of Inequality	6	This course is very contemporary and draws on today's inequalities as seen in the media.	3	Even though it was a very interesting course, it was extremely easy, but at the same time tedious.
3	Queer Sociology	6	This course speaks on almost all aspects of the queer community and how this community works and its hardships.	5	This course is amazing and very interactive. The way this course is taught demands everyone's attention.
4	Blackness and Freedom	6	This course takes you through Black history from the Black persons perspective and gives overlooked insights in historical events.	5	The professor was amazing, and she gave us opportunities to learn in different settings, such as excursions and guest speakers
5	Sex, Gender Identities and Sexualities	6	This course discusses what gender, sex and sexualities are and how people identify or misidentify with it.	2	The way this course was taught was very boring. However, this might not be the case if another professor would have taught it.
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### What is it like to study there?

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

The academic level is lower than in the Netherlands, but the workload is a lot more in my opinion. Examination very much depends on the course, I only had one exam in the exam week, but had 5 essays due in this same week and the weeks around it.

### 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?*

TMU is a commuters university, which means people travel an hour to two hours to campus. But everyone is extremely friendly and it is easy to make friends with the local

students. The lecturers take the time to learn your name in most courses, and actually show interest in their students.

**What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

As an exchange student, you get free access to the sports facilities. There are a lot of different clubs and groups you can join too. There is some food provided on campus, but the university is surrounded by food places.

## 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 only on campus housing for students that are there for an entire year, so I would recommend booking an airbnb. Toronto is very expensive so keep that in mind.

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

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

Canadians are very friendly people, and the city is really safe. It is a huge mix of all kinds of nationalities, and that shows in the local cuisine, and culture.

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

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

The public transport system in Toronto is great, you can get anywhere by public transport. There are metros, trams, buses, and trains. You can get a monthly subscription on your Presto card (travel card) at the local drug store for 128 CAD if you're a student. Otherwise, a single trip costs 3,30 CAD.

## 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:

Visa if applicable: 7 CAD

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 178,07 EU

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 1000 EU

Groceries: 450 CAD per month

Public transport: 128 CAD per month

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 150 CAD per month

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 500 CAD total

**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 must see the Niagara Falls if you're going to Toronto. However, there is enough to see and do in the city alone. The nature surrounding Toronto is phenomenal and going on a day hike is very much recommended.

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

Little Jamaica

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

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

*For going out, go to King street west!*

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

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

## 9. Contact details (optional)

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