



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/01/2023 until 28/04/2023
Country (exchange)	Canada
City (exchange)	Vancouver
University (exchange)	University of British Colombia
Faculty (exchange)	Animal Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I chose to go on exchange because I wanted to see what it was like to study abroad. I wanted to expand my horizons and see what different universities have to offer to help develop my education.

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

I am interested in biodiversity and welfare of animals. Canada has a unique biodiversity and therefore specific issues concerning wildlife. UBC has a large animal sciences faculty, which interested me which ultimately led to my decision to study there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

An aeroplane is really the only way to reach Vancouver from the Netherlands. From there, Vancouver has a well-developed public transport system which allows easy access to the university campus.

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	MICB 408	6	Advanced Bacterial Pathogenesis	4	This was an interesting course. I enjoyed learning about the different mechanisms of bacteria
2	BIOL 260	6	Fundamentals of Physiology	4	This course was quite broad. It had lots of little assignments throughout the semester which helped to understand the material given.
3	BIOL 204	8	Vertebrate Structure and Function	4	Fast paced course with an interesting lab.
4	APBI 311	6	Comparative Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Osmoregulatory Physiology	5	It goes in depth into to different systems of the body. Nice course!

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

Overall, I found the workload to be more than in Wageningen. There was often other assignments and tasks that needed to be completed for the course next to the exams. However, I found the academic level slightly lower than in Wageningen.

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 lecturers were all very approachable, it was highly encouraged to engage during the lectures and to talk to the lecturers about the course.

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

UBC had almost everything, from catering, to big sport events, to workspaces, to laundry facilities. In theory, there was no need to leave the campus for anything.

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?)

Yes, there is on-campus housing, which I would really recommend!

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

Canadians are very nice and helpful. The culture shock was not big at all. Only thing that shocked me were the prices at the supermarket.

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

Vancouver is a very expensive city, which causes housing to be expensive as well. About double what you would pay in Wageningen.

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

Public transport is free for students.

6. Free time

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

There were lots of cool hikes around Vancouver which are really worth doing! Sometimes it is hard to get to with public transportation, but most often it was worth sitting in the bus for!

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

That is a good question. I would recommend asking the locals.

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

There are lots of Instagram accounts with good event suggestions which are worth going to.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge I faced was finding a right balance between studying, exploring the country, and meeting new people. It took a while to find the balance, but once it was there, it worked really well.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory abroad was meeting the new people. It was really nice getting into contact with other exchange students and also the locals. I have made friends for life.

8. Contact details (optional)

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