



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/09/2023 until 22/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University of British Columbia
<b>Faculty</b>	School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
<b>Country</b>	Canada
<b>City</b>	Vancouver

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience studying abroad, meeting new people and exploring a different country

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

The fact they speak English in Canada helps to make the transition easier, and it also has so much beautiful nature to explore, and especially around Vancouver there are many places to visit and explore. I knew the university is relatively prestigious and figured it would look good on my CV, the courses they offered all looked interesting as well.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Book your plane ticket well in advance and book a retour flight to save some money!

## 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	DES430	6	Course about the functioning of a city, environmentally, in an infrastructure sense, green space and form wise.	5	The professor was very engaging, and although it was a demanding course at times, it always stayed interesting and felt relevant to my own programme as well.
2	LARC415	6	Plant design in an urban setting, learning about plants and making planting plans.	3	I did not know beforehand that the course would be mostly online, it also clashed a bit with my schedule. The pacing of the course felt a bit off too, it had a very slow start and then went very fast.
3	UFOR495	6	Biodiversity in Urban areas, the theory and research behind biodiversity in cities.	5	You read quite a lot of research papers but they were picked very well and were all quite interesting. The pace of the course was good, and it was taught in a logical way!
4					
5					
6					

### What is it like to study there?

*The courses generally all seemed pretty manageable in terms of difficulty and they were all interesting. The workload at times is high, where you have a lot of small assignments that you have to do at the same time.*

### What is the culture of the university?

*The way you approach your professors to me felt similar to the WUR. How much engagement there is with local students differs a bit per course, to me it was not a lot, especially if you pick some higher year courses because most people know each other already, but if you reach out a bit yourself you will meet people! The campus is very big, size is similar to the entire town of Wageningen, so that is something to get used to.*

### What does the university offer students additionally?

*There are many sporting activities to do on campus, a lot of other activities by the uni you can attend, a lot of interesting clubs that have their own activities too. Laundry facilities are mainly at the resident sites on campus if you are a campus resident.*

## 5.Housing-travelling-living

### **What are the possibilities for housing?**

*You will want to try to get housing because traveling to the uni can take a bit depending on where you live and off-campus housing can get very expensive in Vancouver. In my year (2023) around half of the exchange students got campus housing, my campus housing cost around 900 CAD a month.*

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

*Vancouver and the campus are both quite culturally diverse, so there are lots of different cuisine options available, which is nice! People are generally friendly, and a bit easier to strike up a conversation with than in the Netherlands. Tax is excluded in most things, and a tip of 12-15% is custom at most places.*

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

*There are mostly buses and there are a few metro lines, to and from the campus there are only buses. The city is quite big so it can take a bit to go from A to B. There is not really a lot of bike infrastructure, and it can get quite hilly at times. You get a bus card with your enrolment at uni, together with insurance this costs around 500 CAD. After that you can ride the bus for free. If you don't have your bus card every trip costs 2,50.*

## 6. Expenses

### **Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

Ticket there: 1000 euros retour

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 500 (comes with public transport)

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 900~, shared house with 3 roommates, kitchen and 2 bathrooms with 1 shower. Negative is that there were no kitchen appliances, or utensils, a lot we had to buy ourselves and give away/sell at the end of term. Same goes for bed linen.

Groceries: higher

Public transport: less

Restaurant/going out for dinner: similar, tax is excluded and tip is custom

Daytrips/sight-seeing: less? Depends a lot on what you want to do, there are beautiful nature trails close to the city everywhere, but you do need to get there somehow.

### **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## 7. Free time

### What are must-sees in the area?

*Vancouver Island is a great trip, beautiful nature, you can surf and cute little towns. If you like wintersport you can buy the student pass at whistler which costs around 700 CAD but if you plan on going more than 4 times it is already worth it. Banff is also a trip for a few days but is one of the best nature areas to visit.*

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

Vancouver Island or Seattle

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

*Nightlife generally sucks, but Village Studios sometimes has good artists. Definitely check concerts that are playing before you go and buy tickets in advance. The uni clubs sometimes also have good parties.*

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Workload became a bit much at one time, so remember to sometimes take your time to focus on that too, there is enough time for fun things to do!

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

The trip to Vancouver island with a big group of friends for a few nights where we surfed, hiked and had a big dinner with everyone.

## 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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