



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	MSc Environmental Sciences
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	21-08-2023 until 26-6-2024
Exchange destination: University	Danmarks Tekniske Universitet
Faculty	n/a
Country	Denmark
City	Kongens Lyngby

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

In the program environment sciences with the environmental technology track the variety of courses is fairly limited. I have always been very interested in the energy transition and sustainable energy in general. WUR did not provide the courses I was looking for at the time. DTU however has a great record concerning courses about sustainable energy which is why it got my attention.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

Denmark is a forerunner in the energy transition. Also I like the general image of Denmark, close to home yet calmer.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

As mentioned before, DTU has a great record concerning courses about sustainable energy which is why it got my attention. I have heard good stories from friends who have been there before as well.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

The train is affordable and just as quick as the car. Flying is easy as well.

4. University and studying

a. 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
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1	Green fuels and Power-to-X	5	Power to x is a very important method for the future of energy. Since high energy density materials are all oil derived its important we learn how to make them sustainably. In this course we learned about the challenges of the sector in general but also how to design a factory that is able to produce these fuels.	5	Great course, blend of chemistry, thermodynamics, group work and project realisation
2	Energy Systems Analysis Design Optimization	10	Design complex energy system that integrate sustainable energy sources is a huge challenge and in this course we learned how to model system that are able to deal with these new challenged like solar heated warm water tanks or heat recuperation in chemical processes.	4	I definitely did not have the required programming background for these models at the start but I have learned a lot and managed to do my fair share in the group work.
3	Industrial bioreaction engineering	5	Comparable to the courses we have at WUR about reactor design, mass balances energy balances and application	2	Not really my cup of tea in the end. Content was vague but the teacher was nice and helpful
4	Application of Renewable Fuel in Internal Combustion Engines	5	We have learned to model Internal Combustion Engines and how it would behave if we used different fuels other than gas or diesel.	4	I have always liked engines and combining it with sustainability seemed like a great option. Just modelling is not my cup of tea.
5	Physics of sustainable energy	5	General background of physical phenomena behind the sustainable energy solutions, solar panels, wind turbines etc.	4	I liked it, absolutely adored the teacher. Amazing guy always keeps his lectures fresh and interesting.
6	Thermal Gasification and Sustainability	5	Theory and practice behind the gasification and pyrolysis techniques. Working with mass and energy balances and how to conduct experiments on real life set ups	5	I have been waiting for this course since I started at DTU. We worked on a special campus in Riso where the equipment was located. Amazing to learn how these

					machines work up close. Great experience with amazing teachers.
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b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, there were so many courses and I was not even able to pick all the courses I would like since even two semesters was not enough. All master courses are in English

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): That varied widely, overall yes. The way of teaching is just different

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Kind of, overall I would say yes. But I was not able to take one of the courses I would really like to take because it had limited capacity.

f. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

DTU focuses way more on application than WUR. Some courses do not have exams, the assessment is sometimes completely based on the product you or your group can deliver instead of a momentary test at the end of the semester. This is definitely something WUR should take in mind. The pace is lower than at WUR, courses feel more easy going. They use a system comparable to BrightSpace for their course content.

g. What is the culture of the university?

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?

Very comparable to WUR, teachers are accessible and flexible. The people tend to be more motivated though with genuine passion for the work they do, I missed that in Wageningen.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?

Plenty of good canteens with in- and outdoor seating. There is a gym and there are many sports clubs.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?

BDTU is the most accessible way to get accommodation. Its fairly expensive and they do not have a good reputation. I would recommend to look somewhere else first. But their buildings are nice. It is all fairly expensive though.

b. What is the culture like?

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

I lived in a mixed dormitory Danes and Internationals and I has been very nice. Nice mix of cultures and foods and it blended well together. Danes are fairly open people, but just like Dutchies they tend to hang out with their own more often than not.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Taxis are ridiculously expensive, don't even consider it. The Rejsekort that they use for public transportation is nice. Costs about 10 euros to get it initially and you can top it up at most stations. Its not cheap at all, but at least it functions.

6. Expenses

a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	120
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	1500
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	750 (own bed+bath room + shared kitchen)
Grocery costs per month	200
Public transport costs per month	100
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	50

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands: A tad higher, on average I would say 10-20% more expensive.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

The services are expensive. Transportation, hair cuts eating out. Everything else is affordable.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

Copenhagen is great and there are many place I loved to hang out in. Reffen definitely takes the top spot. It's a place in the harbour where there are food trucks and live music for young and old. Mons Klint is also great, about 1h by car away, beautiful white cliffs where you can walk around in the nature park. Malmö is also close. About 40m away from Lyngby and it's a nice authentic Swedish city with cheap groceries! Aarhus is also a great city to visit, 2-3h by train and its feels like Copenhagen but smaller and more cozy.

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

Reffen, for sure. Also the many parks Copenhagen and Lyngby have to offer.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

The money is quite an issue, the basic necessities are affordable but everything 'fun' is expensive. I ate out max 5 times in my year there. So I had to be careful with the money I had since it would be gone in a split second when I would stop thinking about it.

b. Best memory?

I made a trip with TimeTravels (their ESN travel organization) to Northern Finland and it was an unforgettable experience.

9. Contact details

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