



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bachelor Biology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	15-01-2024 until 05-06-2024
Exchange destination: University	Gothenburg university
Faculty	Life sciences
Country	Sweden
City	Gothenburg

2. Motivation for exchange

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

Ever since I knew of the possibility of going on exchange I wanted to go. I heard stories from family and friends and I wanted to explore this wonderful opportunity to the max. Really get into a different culture and start some sort of a new life there and see what might happen.

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

I always had a fascination for the Nordics and wanted to explore either Norway or and landed eventually on Sweden since it is a bit cheaper in food etc but the choice could have gone either way.

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

Gothenburg university provides a wide array of study directions and this interested me to see other studies outside of the life sciences since the WUR is mostly life science focused.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Gotenburg is really easy to reach both by car, train or plane. Train might give you some difficulty in Germany but otherwise it can go very smooth.

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

1	Behavioural Biology	15	This bachelor course showed an introduction but also a very wide understanding of the field of both animal behaviour as human psychology. This created a good picture of how research is done and what might or might not interest you.	4	
2	Stream ecology and fish conservation	15	This master course mostly offered a new introduction into fresh water system we hadn't yet received in Wageningen. On top of that a lot of field work was done where we could explore the wonderful Swedish landscapes and fresh water systems in and around Gothenburg	5	

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

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): Yes

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

f. What is it like to study there?

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

Studying in Sweden has felt really calm. It is not rushed or your schedule is not filled to the brim. The Swedish value a lot of time to process and really understand the information that is given. Take Fika for example.

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?

Lecturers and professors are easily approachable they all want you to address them by their first name and really are understanding of a lot of situations and really try to help out wherever they can. The same goes for the Swedish students everyone is very friendly and provides help when needed.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

Outside of teaching and a very good lunch menu our faculty doesn't really offer a lot of extracurricular activities but nonetheless there is plenty to stumble onto or find if you wanted to.

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?

Housing was done for me through the university and SGS (the Swedish company that provides the housing for a lot of students in Gothenburg). If you would prefer to find a room yourself this is very achievable and can be done through qasa (a site for rental rooms etc.) About rent it can vary a lot but there were no extreme prices, mostly between 4400 and 600eu, but you can choose how wild you go.

b. What is the culture like?

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

The Swedish are very hospitable everywhere you go, always friendly and ready to lend a hand. For me as a person that's born and raised in the Netherlands there were some differences but not major ones. I enjoyed a little slower pace of living and taking more time to appreciate everything that is happening.

c. 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 in Gothenburg is amazing. Västtrafik the company that provides PT has some perks but trams and buses are plenty and I was consistently surprised as to what only a zone A ticket could get me. For this I paid about 45eu per month with unlimited transport which is really cheap in comparison as to how much I have used it to go everywhere.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	100-200eu
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	0-30
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	500
Grocery costs per month	250-300
Public transport costs per month	45
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

Generally equal but some prices differed it eventually it ended up mostly equal.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Not that Gothenburg is super expensive but you will spend more than you expect due to impulse trips and fun things to do which are all worth eventually.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

You can plan everything very spontaneous if you want to but, some recommendations are:

- Stockholm
- Universeum
- Natural history museum
- Saltholmen and the southern archipelagos, both in Winter and Summer
- Liseberg
- Maritiman
- Haga
- Renting a car and doing a roadtrip is amazing and can be done easily
- Slottskogen
- Trollhätten
- If possible go to Lapland!!!!
- Lake delsjön
- The Frölunda ice hockey matches

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

Everything I haven't mentioned above is worth seeing, it all is so different but so cool to see how the Swedes do it.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I experienced no real challenges. The Swedes speak perfect English and there is always someone to help in any situation.

b. Best memory?

Spending time with the life long friends I have made there. Gothenburg sets the precedent for Erasmus but the people you meet make the exchange complete every moment spent with them I will treasure forever.

9. Contact details

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