



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BCs Environmental Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	10/01/2024 until 27/04/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Toronto Metropolitan University
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Arts
<b>Country</b>	Canada
<b>City</b>	Toronto

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience a different educational system than the one I was used to, and meet new people.

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

I wanted to try to live in a big metropolitan city and in an English-speaking country.

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

I was really interested in the courses offered, and also the university is located in downtown Toronto, so it really is in the heart of the city.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The university is located in downtown Toronto and therefore it is easy to reach, also from the airport. The main advice would be to look for an accommodation in advance because it can be very hard to find a place to stay in downtown Toronto.

## 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	GIS and Geographic Analysis	6	This course offers social science and human services students opportunities to examine many analytical functions available in GIS focusing on the data used within their programs of study	5	
2	GIS/Bus: Strat Mgmt Decision	6	By geographically referencing customer records, and linking them to data such as demographics, GIS enables business enterprises to evaluate their client-catchment areas	4	
3	Resource and Environmental Planning	6	This course provides a survey of concepts and approaches for resource and environmental planning.	5	
4	Sustainability in Organizations	6	The course is an introduction to the planning and implementation of environmental and sustainability management in different organizations	5	
5	Explorations of the Urban Environment	6	This course examines the internal structure of the contemporary city from a geographic viewpoint.	5	
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**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):** yes, the university only offer courses in English

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, there was a big variety of courses to select

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, the level of education was very high

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, after changing a course, I was very satisfied with all the courses I selected.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

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

There are more graded assignments and paper to write, and normally the final grade doesn't only consider the grade of the final exams. Moreover, the semester, and so all the courses selected, last four months, but after two months there are the midterms.

**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?*

The professors are all very available and you really have the chance to meet many local students. One of the main difference with WU is that all the course material is very job oriented.

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

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

The university offers many additional facility, in particular sports facilities, such as two gyms, a swimming pool, an ice rink arena, a basketball court, a volleyball court, squash courts, etc. Furthermore, there are also many university bar and cafes across the campus.

## 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?*

The university doesn't provide housing for you, so you are responsible for finding your own place. It can be very hard to find an accommodation in Toronto, especially an affordable one.

**b. What is the culture like?**

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

Toronto has many different cultures, and all the influences can be seen once you arrive there.

**c. 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 aren't expensive, but they are not extremely well connected. Most of the people use cars to travel around and if you don't have one, Uber can be affordable, but obviously not for everyday transportation. Personally, I only walked to get to the campus because I was living very close by.

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	1200 euros
Visa - if applicable	7 CAD
Vaccinations - if applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	250 CAD
Daytrips/sight-seeing	10-50 CAD

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	1200 CAD/month, apartment in a student building shared with three other roommates, one kitchen, four bedrooms, two bathrooms
Grocery costs per month	400 CAD
Public transport costs per month	20-30 CAD
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100 CAD

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

**c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## 7. Free time

**a. What are must-sees in the area?**

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

Toronto is in general a beautiful city, in particular Toronto islands is a daytrip you must do in spring/summer. Also, the Niagara falls are close by, you can reach them by train but it's probably easier to rent a car. Furthermore, if you have the opportunity to visit Canada, I'd also advice you to go to the Rocky Mountains and Montreal.

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

In Toronto the waterfront is gorgeous and also Kensington market is worth a visit.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

**d. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?**

The food quality is lower than in Europe and I needed time to adjust to it. I've learnt to only buy organic foods, but obviously it's also more expensive.

**e. Best memory?**

Visit Banff national park

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>	Alice Guerra alice.guerra@wur.nl	