



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BBI
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	08/01/2024 until 27/4/2024
Exchange destination: University	UBC
Faculty	Sciences
Country	Canada
City	Vancouver

2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I really wanted to go abroad during my studies to experience a new culture, and make new friends in an environment different to my home.

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

I love Canada for many reasons, but being a biology student, the nature is really what got me to choose Canada to go on exchange.

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

UBC is in Vancouver, giving an experience close to beautiful nature but also close to a big city.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I would have loved to be able to reach my destination in a 'green' manner, but in the time frame I had, flying was the only option. I therefore do not really have other advice than to choose a good airline company.

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	Principles of conservation biology	6	This course taught us all about the intricacies behind conservation biology in a world rapidly changing due to climate change	4	Small course so there is enough personal attention from the professor which is really nice
2	Elements of biodiversity	6	We learnt about many different measures for biodiversity and how to compare natural systems around the world	4	Similar to conservation biology, the class was small enough to still have personal attention from the professor
3	Marine Ecosystems	6	This course was all about different marine ecosystems around the world and how they are impacted by humans but also interconnected	5	This course was quite a bit larger, but the professor was really knowledgeable and fun to learn from.
4	The Viking world	6	You learn all about the Vikings. When they lived, who they affected and how they were perceived	5	Very interesting course, and extremely refreshing as it was different to my normal biology courses
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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?

The campus has a very large community feeling which is very nice. Many people live on campus which makes it not only an academic area but also a social space to be. The courses are very interesting, and the students are very motivated. Would highly recommend an exchange program here.

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 are very approachable and prefer to be called by their first names. Very 'safe' space to learn and engage with the given topics. Students were also very motivated to learn and work hard.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

On campus living with laundry, social and sports facilities. Furthermore there are very many food options on campus giving ample choice.

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?

You can apply for on campus housing for around 400-500 euros per month. Housing also to be found in the city but often much more expensive and further from campus.

b. What is the culture like?

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

Canadian culture is different to Dutch culture but not extremely different. It is very American but also very European. The people are very kind and open to help if you need it. Especially in and around Vancouver where the beautiful nature calms everyone down, the people are very nice!

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 is very well organised to and from campus. You pay at the beginning of term for a full term of 'free' public transport which can take you anywhere in and around the city.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	600-1500 depending on when you book your flight
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	Around 300 euros for health insurance through university
Daytrips/sight-seeing	With free public transport in and round the city, virtually free
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	400-500 on campus
Grocery costs per month	150-250
Public transport costs per month	0
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	300

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

Higher, but if you did good research and bought the right things it was not too bad.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Overall an expensive country, but I was able to live there comfortably with a bit of extra financial help

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Vancouver island, Whistler (for skiing), Stanley Park, and all the nature around the city! If you're an avid skier, buy a Whistler season pass far before your exchange to make it much cheaper to go.

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

Night skiing on Grouse Mountain above the city. Beautiful views of the city lights at night!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Going abroad alone and having to make friends can be challenging, but do not forget that that is what everyone there thinks. Everyone wants to make friends, so it is easier than you think if you just put yourself out there.

b. Best memory?

All the priceless sunsets on Wrecks beach right next to campus.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name & email address (if yes)		