



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bachelor Animal Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	06/01/2022 until 10/05/2022
Country (exchange)	Iceland
City (exchange)	Reykjavík
University (exchange)	University of Iceland
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To broaden my horizons and experience what it is like to get in a new situation on my own. Also, I wanted to experience what it was like to study at another university.

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

I have already been really interested in Iceland for some time. Of course because of the great nature that is there to explore, but I was also interested in the culture and the similarities and differences from home, especially because Iceland can be quite isolated to some extent.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

I would say by plane is the most convenient, it should also be possible by ferry but from what I heard it can be complicated.

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	Conservation Biology	6	Conservation biology aims to alleviate this loss of biodiversity by understanding the impacts that humans have on biodiversity and drawing from multiple fields including ecology, evolution, economics, and resource management to generate conservation solutions. The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive view of the principles of conservation biology, the value of biodiversity, the threats to biodiversity, and the approaches to solve conservation issues.	4	
2	Icelandic Nature and Cultural Legacy	10	The course will give an overview of Icelandic history and culture from mediaeval times to the present. Students learn about the weather and climate, geology, vegetation and animal life (wild and domestic).	3	
3	Sustainable Energy Options	6	Mankind depends heavily on energy for virtually every aspect of daily life. The main energy source is currently fossil fuels, but the associated pollution and the fact that it is a limited resource, has led to an increased interest in other energy resources.	2	This course was mostly given online, due to Covid-19

			Sustainable energy development is the requirement, and in this course we will look at different energy options.		
4	Sustainable Futures	6	The aim of this course is to develop the students' critical thinking and leadership skills for a sustainable future. Students will also be able to organise and run workshops on topics relating to sustainability, learn about successful cradle to cradle good practice, understand the meaning of embedded water and embedded energy and be aware of the system's adaptation to climate change.	3	
5					
6					

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

What stood out for me during all the courses were the amount of projects (essays, presentations, field trips) that were done during the courses compared to courses at the WUR. I would say the level of all the courses would be a little bit lower than at the WUR. Also, most exams were open book exams which I am also not as much used to.

What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

I would say the lecturers are really approachable and try their best to help out exchange students. However, since all the courses I have taken were mostly also taken by other exchange students the engagement with local students was little. I would say at the WUR the courses and lectures are more strictly organised.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

There is a nice and relatively cheap, but small scaled sports facility. Next to a fitness room there are a few classes offered, but not many. There is a lovely Student Cellar on the main Campus.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)

There was a possibility to sign up for campus housing, but it was not provided. There were quite some possibilities on HousingAnywhere or via Facebook.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

I have experienced that there are some cultural differences where Iceland is unique. But overall, I did not experience a big culture shock.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

I think rental prices can be double the amount compared to Wageningen. So in Wageningen I would say €300-€400,- could be normal and here it would be €600,-€800,-

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

There are many buses driving around, a single ticket for one bus line is 490 isk so around €3,-. It is also possible to get a subscription but I mostly used my bike to get around. As almost everything in Iceland taxi's can also be quite expensive, therefore I used the bus wherever I could.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Except for Reykjavík city, a day trip to go to the Golden Circle and Reykjanes Peninsula is always nice and nearby. Also a hike up to the hot rivers in Hveragerdi is also a worthy visit.

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

I think there are many beautiful small parks around Reykjavík that are not always advertised but closeby and easy to visit.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

Gaukurinn, every Tuesday there is a karaoke at the bar with no entrance fee and many students go there! There are many kinds of bars and cafés in the main street(s).

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Finding a nice association to meet many new people, which was especially hard because of the Covid restrictions that were still taken.

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting many new people and making new friends around the world!

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail		