



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Soil, Water and Atmosphere
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	14-08-2019 until 04-12-2019
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Norway
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Longyearbyen
<b>University (exchange)</b>	UNIS
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Arctic Geophysics

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted some new experiences. Going abroad was a good opportunity to improve my knowledge (about myself). Meeting new people, living in another country of which you don't speak the language is frightening, but makes you a stronger person.

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

I am interested in climate change and the Arctic. When I was 10 years old I saw UNIS on a Dutch travel program, and the idea of studying so high north was incredible. When I heard I could go there with my studies, I did not hesitate and immediately applied for courses.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Plane is the only option.....

## 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	AGF-213 Polar Meteorology and Climate	15	Meteorological and climate processes in the Arctic	5	Was a bit similar as several courses at the wur combined
2	AGF-214 Polar Ocean Climate	15	Oceanography applied in the Arctic and Antarctic region	5	Completely new for me, really interesting.
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

You receive handouts and powerpoints are available in the student drive. Workload is good, academic level is high. A lot of knowledge is gained from the field trips. Oral exam worked out good.

**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?)**

The biggest difference with the WUR is the size of UNIS. UNIS only has around 300 students, so the community is really close. Everyone knows everyone, and lectures are easy approachable and always want to help you with any kind of trouble. This is the best place ever to study.

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

'clubs', for example: hiking club, knitting club, party club, Friday gathering club etc. If you have an idea you can make a 'club' and get funding from it from the University.

## 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?)**

2 types, barrak or a big complex. All rooms where privat, rent was high, around 4500 kr per month at lowest cost.

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

It is the Norwegian culture which is surprisingly similar to the Dutch culture.

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

I spent double the amount of money on food and on rent. Svalbard is just a really expensive place because all food has to be flown in.

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

There was no public transport, only taxi's. I had to walk to school everyday in total of 1 hour (around 6 km)

## 6. Free time

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

Pyramiden and Barentsburg this are the only places to visit on this island. Go there when it is still light and summer. Only option is to visit it by boat.

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

There is not really a travel guide...

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

There is only one place to go out, Huset. For restaurants Coal miners cabin and Svalbar are nice places with student discounts. Hiking in your free time is the best to see the island.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?** Missing my family sometimes and FOMO (fear of missing out) with activities in the Netherlands

**What was your best memory abroad?** I have so many good memories that I don't have one best memory. I have had the time of my life up in Svalbard, and I have not regret going abroad for one second during my stay.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Fleur Ekleman Fleur.ekelmans@home.nl	