



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	18/08/2021 until 11/03/2022
Country (exchange)	Norway
City (exchange)	Longyearbyen
University (exchange)	Went to Unis via UiT
Faculty (exchange)	Arctic Geophysics

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to extend my horizon and see something of the world. Furthermore I wanted to experience different cultures.

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

My interest in my study is in climate change and by going to Svalbard, I had the opportunity to see one of the places where global warming is going the fastest in real life. This meant I got to directly experience the consequence of climate change in a very sensitive area and see the processes in action. Furthermore provided going to Svalbard the possibility of experiencing some of the extremest conditions in this planet and experience actual nature.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Book the entire flight via SAS and look for youth tickets or via Norwegian and use the code UNDER26 (assuming you are younger than 26 :))

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	15	Meteorology course about general meteorology and meteorology in the Arctic. Included 4 to 5 day fieldwork campaign in an external location	5	
2	AGF-214	15	Oceanography course, with a focus on the processes and water formations in the poles. Included a 7 day research cruise.	5	
3	AGF-350	10	Meteorology course focussed on the arctic boundary layer and arctic processes. Included a 7 day fieldwork campaign in the vicinity of the town.	5	Can only be followed as part of a Masters Degree
4					
5					
6					

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

The study is focussed on the fieldwork. All of the lectures are in general focussed on the correlation to the processes investigated during the fieldwork. Using this knowledge the fieldwork is then set-up, executed and the data processed. After the fieldwork the data is analysed, with help from the teachers and a report is written. This report is 30% of the grade. At the end the knowledge is tested during an oral exam, where you have a conversation with the teacher and an external examiner. The focus of this exam is on the report you have written and can also refer to information provided during the lectures.

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 teaching is very personal and on a very small scale. The classes are around 15 to 20 people maximum, with a high number of teachers giving lectures and helping out. Due to the small nature of the university centre, the teachers are very engaged and very approachable.

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

The student council gets money from the university, which is invested in several student organisations. A few of the permanent organisations are the student cabin, which can be booked by students, and the student equipment, which offers the possibility to borrow equipment, so you don't have to buy all of it.

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 are two buildings in which all the students stay. All the rooms have their own private bathroom. The possibilities are a shared room with someone else, a private room or an (shared) apartment. You can sign up for the room via the student housing corporation. The rooms and kitchens are quite modern and already furnished. The private room is around 14 square meter including bathroom.

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

The country difference is not too big with the Netherlands. Because there are no permanent students, the experience is new for everyone studying at Unis, both for the Norwegians and the international students. A bit less than half the students are from Norway, therefore the general culture is mostly very international and not directly Norwegian.

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

The prices are quite expensive with around 360 euro per month for a shared room, 530 euro per month for the private room and around 900 euro for an apartment.

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

Due to the small scale of the town, the main transportation in Autumn is just walking. It is around 5 minutes walking to the university from the student housing and most things in town are around 5 minutes walking. The limits of the town are around 30 minutes walking. It is possible in Autumn to have a bike, but it is definitely not necessary. In Spring semester a snowmobile is a very important way of transportation outside of town. Although it is possible to rent snowmobiles, I would recommend buying one and selling it at the end of the semester if the stay is for the whole semester.

6. Free time

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

In general Longyearbyen itself is not very big, therefore the main focus of leisure time is usually on the outdoor activities outside of town. In Autumn this mainly consists of going on hikes to the nearby

mountain tops and another possibility is to do a kayaking course and go kayaking. In Spring hiking becomes a bit more difficult, but instead you can go skiing or go on trips with snowmobiles.

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

In general the travel advice is very much focussed on tourists. Since as a student you get the possibility to explore the surroundings of Longyearbyen without guide, this is definitely my main advice of doing.

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

Besides the main bar/restaurants (Barentz, Svalbar and Kroa), I really liked Fruene for coffee and lunch or cakes, Karlsberger Pub for drinks and Mary-Anns when you need to see some plants :).

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Due to the limited time, the fear of missing out on outdoor and social activities created some stress. Especially when this was combined with the university work and sometimes lack of sleep.

What was your best memory abroad?

The oceanography fieldwork, during which we were on a ship for a week. The combination of the unique experience of living and working on a ship for a week, the amazing surroundings and the amazing company of my classmates made for an incredible experience.

8. Contact details (optional)

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