



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	1-9-2021 until 25-1-2022
Country (exchange)	Latvia
City (exchange)	Riga
University (exchange)	University of Latvia
Faculty (exchange)	Economics, business and Management

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

My main reason to go abroad was to meet new people and broaden horizons.

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

I had lunch there once while on a road trip and it seemed like a cool city to study.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Plane from Eindhoven is the cheapest way to get there. Public transport, mainly the busses are great and cheap.

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	Economic Diplomacy	6	It is about the work an economic diplomat does, with personal experiences	5	Was given by an economic diplomat, with very actual subjects
2	Human development in the economic globalization context	6	What is human development and how did it develop during	4	Quite social and historical
3	Cross-cultural relations in the context of business and value systems	6	How different cultures influence the business-culture and how to handle the differences in culture	4	We worked a lot with the experiences of other students
4	Management	6	Business management	3	
5	European economic integration	6	History and future of the integration of the markets of the EU	4	We had a great teacher
6					

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

This was during covid, so it could have changed by now. I had one 3 hour lecture a week per course and some courses had a practical. Although the workload was very low, the academic level was quite good. Some of the courses did multiple choice exams, others exams in essay format.

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?)

Because everything was online and we never went to the university, it is quite impossible to compare this with the culture after the pandemic. I did like the small classes (10-20 persons for some courses).

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

The offered to arrange housing and the ESN is very active there. Sports and other facilities were partially closed due to covid.

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?)

The university had 2 student hotels for internationals, so you can always have a apartment. I went for another student hotel, a bit newer with more facilities, which

costed me 300 Euro a month. This was a private room, but it is quite normal to have roommates

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

For me it was a surprise how little agriculture there was in Latvia. Instead there is a lot of nature to enjoy. I was less pleased with the service I got at bars and restaurants, as it took the ages to place orders.

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

I paid 300 euros a month for a 16 m2 room with a bathroom and a cleaner who came once every 2 weeks. It had a shared kitchen and livingroom.

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

For 16 euros a month you could use all the trams and busses, which were very frequent and brought me everywhere. Bolt, which is the same as Uber, is also very affordable. The train system was also great and cheap.

6. Free time

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

I really liked going to the beach (Jurmala) and to the forrest (Sigulda), and got there both by train. I also went on a lot of international trips as plane tickets are quite cheap.

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

However I already studied there for a while, doing a tour guide was very fun. Also going to a sport event is nice.

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

A lot of the restaurants in old town are very touristy and expensive, so you should go to the less touristy parts for cheaper restaurants. For going out Talinnas Iela has some nice bars, Rock café in old town is very fun and in French bar and ERA are a lot of other Erasmus students.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Meeting new people during covid.

What was your best memory abroad?

The Lapland Trip

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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