



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	International land- and watermanagement
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/09/2019 until 31/01/2020
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Wales
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Cardiff
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Cardiff university
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	EARTH

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wished to improve my English and was curious what an exchange abroad would bring me. I wanted to see student life in another country and thought that it could be interesting to get a slightly different or new perspective of the world, concerning daily and political issues, by living in another culture.

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

I wished to go somewhere in the UK and Cardiff university offered marine related courses I was interested in.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flights to Bristol are usually much cheaper than flights to Cardiff airport, and coaches to Cardiff from Bristol (or anywhere else in the UK) (Megabus or National Express) are very cheap when booked in advance.

## 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	Marine ecosystems	5	Introduction course to the most important marine ecosystems and the interaction and abundance of flora and fauna in these ecosystems	4	Course is very clear and high level teaching, not many field trips or other special remarks though
2	Marine conservation science	5	Course about the threats to marine ecosystems, the role of humans, and the processing of data to develop management strategies	4	Continuation of marine ecosystems, clear and high level teaching, not many field trips or other special remarks
3	Cultural geography	10	Introduction to cultural geography, a quite philosophical approach to how humans interact with the places and spaces around them	4	High level of teaching, however I sometimes felt like the lessons were a bit unstructured
4	Sustainable developments	10	Overview of global sustainable development policies, including history of summits and so and a critical assessment of the sustainable development goals	3	High level of teaching, very broad in subjects, I found that they treat to many subjects which causes it not to go very deep

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

Academic level is comparable to the wur, mostly lectures and reading materials, quite a lot of essays. Formally the exams are in may thus exchange students got alternative coursework in the form of essays.

**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?)**

Very comparable to the wur, lecturers are approachable and willing to answer questions after class, local students are very much sticking together because they form groups in first year, but are also approachable, being it a big advantage that everyone speaks English.

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

All UK uni's have a 'student union' which offers everything you can think of concerning student life, like sport societies, all other types of societies, people to talk to about housing or personal issues etc. they even have a night club, where everyone goes for the night out twice a week.

## 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?)**

Campus room are available but always shared with fresher English students (halls), many letting agencies that let to students and private landlords, always check the room yourself!! Some are in bad condition.

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

British have a very dry sense of humour, big drinking culture, furthermore very comparable to the Netherlands.

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

It is more expensive, I had a cheap room which costed me approachable 400 euro/month.

**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 expensive, except the coaches (long distance buses) like national express and Megabus UK, if booked in advance online.

## 6. Free time

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

National parks Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire in Wales are both very beautiful. Bristol is a very nice city and creative hub for music and art lovers.

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

If you like horses, visit a polo game, it's amazing and spectacular.

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

The cafes in the student area (Cathays) are much cheaper than in the city centre, and mainly visited by students.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

There are moments when you can feel quite alone, especially in the beginning.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I really liked to try new sports in a new environment, and to make English friends.

## 8. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:louiisamp@gmail.com">louiisamp@gmail.com</a>	