



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Bsc Food Science
<b>Study period exchange</b>	2/9/2019 until 24/12/2019
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	France
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Lyon
<b>University (exchange)</b>	ISARA

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

My goal was to improve my oral English skills abroad. Secondly after talking to a lot of different students who went abroad, I was convinced that the experience of being in a foreign country is spectacular. So I also did it for the experience.

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

I chose this university because the minor was focused on sustainability and management, both interesting subjects in my opinion. Secondly I decided that if I would go abroad, I wanted to go to a warmer place than the Netherlands. This ended up to be France.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I Went to Lyon using Flixbus, because it is cheap. When taking the bus, take the night bus. Then you can sleep away the time.

My travel back home I also used the Flixbus as there were national strikes in France, and trains were not available. Again the advice to take the night bus, as the day bus was extremely boring.

## 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
<b>1</b>	Sustainable Development in Food Industries	30	This is the main course during the exchange. Consisting of 2 different classes both responsible for 15 ECTS. There is one big group project 'core project' that runs during the entire period. Furthermore, there are some side projects and no final exam.	2	I was (together with most other student) not satisfied with the content of this course. In short: it was unorganised with lack of structure and communication between professors and students.
<b>2</b>	Integration Week – French classes & Culture	0	1 <sup>st</sup> week of the exchange. It's a week filled with French classes, but mixed with all the international students. A tour around town in French is included.	0	Here I made my friends for the rest of the semester. It is not your typical introduction week, as it actually is a fulltime week of French classes. Nice to learn the basics of the language and the culture. This introduction week is in the week prior to the start of classes. So no students besides the international students are at the university which was relaxing.
<b>3</b>	French Lessons	1	Every week there is 1.5 hours of French class		This class did not turn out really useful, as I learned more and faster during general daily life than during the classes.

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

During the 4 months there are a number of classes lectured by different professors. Besides those lectures there is the core project, a project that runs during the entire semester. This project is done in a group of students (international mixed with French) commissioned by a company. There is a field trip to Italy for a week where you will visit different companies. And some small additional cases and projects.

**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?)**

Most of the French students do not like to speak English and most professors don't even know the language. Therefore it is hard to communicate with others at the university if you don't speak French.

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

There is catering available and some student clubs. There is a wide variety of clubs ranging from beekeeping to art or sport. However all in French, and not inviting to international students.

## 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?)**

University will arrange housing in one of the Crous residences (Crous is the Idealis of Lyon) I had a studio with shared kitchen for 271 Euro/month.

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

The biggest difference in culture compared to the Netherlands is firstly the French are not that direct as the Dutch. Secondly they kiss on the cheeks when greeting.

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

The price is comparable.

**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 32 Euro a month and the metro will stop at a 5 minutes' walk from the university. For me it was also possible to walk to university but this depends on the residence you live in. City bike subscription is 30 Euro a year and free to take the bike for trips under 30 minutes. When buying a bike in Lyon, make sure you have a good bike lock otherwise it will be stolen. Furthermore they have cheap Uber rides to almost everywhere.



## 6. Free time

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

Open the Lyon website and you will find everything you need.

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

Paul Bocuse student restaurants. High quality dining for a good price. You will be served by students.

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

Boston Bar is a nice place that is open 7 days a week till 5 am. Furthermore we often went to a bar where you can play board games, named AFK BAR.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

the French like face to face communication, and therefore communication is quite slow. So patience is needed with the French. I'm still waiting for my login details of my French bank account as we speak, 3 months after applying for it.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Dinners together and making friends from all over the world. Talking about cultural differences.

## 8. Contact details

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