



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Social Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	08-01-2020 until 18-03-2020
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	United Kingdom
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Leicester
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Leicester
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Management

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to improve my English and I wanted to meet people from different cultures and countries.

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

I chose for the UK, because I wanted to improve my English and I love England. I chose for Leicester, because they had the most interesting courses for me if I compared it with the other UK Universities.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It is easy to reach Leicester with the plane. However, it was also very easy to reach it with the car (if you go with the ferry from Hull-Rotterdam).

## 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	International Business	10	It's about factors such as politics, culture, and micro- and macro-economic that affect multinational companies	4	It was very interesting and they used a lot of contemporary examples. They really encourage you to think critically and form your own opinion about their topics.
2	Operations Management	7,5	It looks at the production processes from raw material to the consumer. And how you can optimise this.	4	It was very interesting. It includes logistics, consumer experience, and they use a lot of practical case studies as examples. Also you didn't have to calculate things.
3	Critical Analysis for Management	5	You analyse different types of management and look at the history and theories behind 3 types of management styles	3	The lectures were difficult to understand. I also didn't know in advance what the course was about exactly, so I expected it to be a bit more practical instead of theoretical.
4	Advertising and Consumer Culture	7,5	It combines culture, sociology and marketing.	4	It was an interesting course as you learned a lot about how consumer behaviour can be influenced by social media, culture and celebrities.

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

Per course I had 1 lecture per week (the duration of a lecture differed from 1 hour till 2 hours, but most of the time the lecturers finished early so you had 10 minutes to walk to your next lecture). You also had to attend 1 seminar per course, where they expect you to read 1/ more article(s). In the seminar you were able to give your opinion and discuss about this article (sometimes they gave you questions that you had to prepare). The work load is a bit less than the WUR, because I only had to make essays. However, this meant a lot of self-study and literature research. It is thus a bit different from the WUR.

**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 lecturers I had were very kind and if you had any questions you could meet with them at their office. You could also e-mail them or use the discussion board on BlackBoard for questions. It is thus similar to the WUR.

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

The university has a very expensive sports centre (150 pounds for 1 semester). They also have a Student Union (a canteen) with a Starbucks, snack bar, tiny supermarket to buy your lunch. And in a lot of other buildings you have a cafeteria where you can buy some food. They also have student accommodations with a laundry service (is around 6 pounds per week). In the student accommodations they organized every evening free activities, which was also accessible for students who didn't live in the student accommodations. I really liked those activities, e.g. free breakfast/ brunch/ dinner, yoga/ Zumba/ Pilates, game night, little trips to a forest/ nearby villages/ museums.

## **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 has 3 main student accommodations: Nixon, Brooklyn, and Opal (10 minutes walking distance from the university) and Oadby (20 minutes distance with the bus, for which you have to pay a bus pass). I would recommend Nixon, because it's cheaper than Opal and it's closer than Oadby. You can sign up for those accommodations for 1 semester on the university website. However, if you want to live in a house/ private accommodation, you can also join a lot of Facebook page such as Student Accommodations in Leicester; Leicester Houses, Rooms, Rentals; Leicester Rooms for Rent. And there are also a few websites you can use to find rooms if you search on Leicester student accommodation you have a lot of options to choose from.

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

The culture is quite similar to the Netherlands. However, I liked our food, especially bread and cheese, more. Another difference is that English people are more polite and indirect. And of course they drive on the left.

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

It is somewhat more expensive than in Wageningen. Prices vary between 300-450 pounds per month. Prices of food and other things are somewhat more expensive, but not that much different from the Netherlands.

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

I walked everywhere. Every day I walked around 1 hour. But you get used to it and the weather is actually better than in the Netherlands most of the time. You can buy a bike, however there aren't a lot of bike lines and most of the time you have to cycle on the road next to cars/ on the sidewalk. Furthermore, Leicester is very hilly and there are not a lot of bicycle shelters. Also, almost none of my friends had a bike so even people with a bike ended up walking a lot. I didn't use the public transport, but Ubers are a very easy and fast way to travel through the city (although they are a bit expensive).

## 6. Free time

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

I travelled a lot with the bus to nearby places such as Nottingham. The website Omio is very useful if you want to compare different public transport providers.. I also went on group day bus trips with my friends to Oxford and Stratford Upon Avon; and Stonehenge and Bath.

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

I really loved going to the Odeon Luxe Cinema. Going to the cinema was very fun, since the seats were much more luxe than in the Netherlands. Bring your own snacks though, because it is also more expensive.

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

Leicester is known for its Thai cuisine, so that's very good! Furthermore, Mosh and Republic are the best clubs to go out in Leicester. Local events can be found on Eventbrite.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

In the beginning it was sometimes difficult to choose what things to do, because there are many things to do. Especially the first week was difficult, since a lot of sport clubs and other clubs had events. I would recommend you to join at least 1 sport or other association. It's worth it, since I met most British people at those associations. In the classes they don't talk a lot (every semester they can choose their courses freely, so they don't go to the same classes as their friends).

**What was your best memory abroad?**

The trip to Oxford and Stratford Upon-Avon was amazing. I especially loved Oxford, I would say you can spend 1 whole day there because there is a lot to see (and a lot is free as well).

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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