



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Molecular Life Science
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/01/2020 until 23/03/2020
Country (exchange)	Ireland
City (exchange)	Limerick
University (exchange)	University of Limerick
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Science and Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to develop myself on several levels, make new (international) friends, improve my English, learn to organize things, learn a different culture and how things are regulated at a different university.

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

I chose Ireland, because it is a English speaking country, the beautiful landscape and the courses offered by the university attracted to me.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

There are two options, the airplane to Dublin and then the bus. There are two bus companies who you can chose, Dublin Coach or Eir eagle. The other option is to fly to Shannon, however, there is no direct flight to Shannon from the Netherlands.

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	BY4008, Genetics and Molecular Biology	6	Mendelian genetics, DNA replication, translation, transcription.	4	
2	BC4904, Proteins and DNA	6	How proteins and DNA function to allow life.	4	
3	BY4214, Principles of Human Nutrition	6	Basic concepts of human nutrition.	3.5	
4	FT4214, Public Health Nutrition	6	Epidemiological perspective/strategies to tackle public health issues through nutrition.	3	

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

There are lectures and for two of the modules I took, I had laboratories. There were of a good academic level. The workload was good, as always same period were busier than others. However, I can't say much about the examination, since that was changed (online) because of CoVID-19.

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 lectures are very approachable and engaged with the students. The lectures are giving in small lectures rooms and usually last one hour. There is a big difference in the laboratory, the WUR is much more organised/structured and it much more clear what is expected from the students. If you have a question the lecture can help and explain what you have to do. In UL it is much more independent and most students don't know what is expected from them.

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

Since most Irish students live on campus as well, the campus offers a lot. There is a laundry at every student village (very expensive though), a good sport centre with a lot to offer (fitness place is free, lessons you need to pay for), a lot other sport associations (like football, ultimate frisbee, surfing, diving, outdoor pursuits). In addition there are a lot cafeteria's/restaurants/bars. One small grocery store on campus and three other near by.

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?)

As an international you have priority at housing. There are several village on campus, a few off campus and few private housing options. I had a room in a on campus village, I would recommend this because most of the time you spend on campus and all other activities are based on campus. The room was very experience, all rooms were, my room was €600 p/month. I had a private bathroom and shared the (big) kitchen/living with six people. All villages have reception, laundry room and possibility to rent a bike for three hours (free).

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

There was a nice atmosphere on campus and in the cities I've been to. Most people are very nice and happy to help you. I didn't really enjoy the local cuisine, because it much based an meet and I'm vegetarian. However, there are enough other options to chose. Irish people are much more polite than Dutch people. If you greet someone, you ask them how they are doing and not always expect an answer.

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

The place of residence is much more expensive compared to living in Wageningen. In Wageningen a room is between €250-€400. In limerick the cheapest room is around €400. General living (food/drinks/clothes) is a bit more expensive compared to Wageningen.

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

There are a few bus companies that drive to the big cities (Dublin Coach and Eir eagle), you can use this to travel from the airport to the university. The local bus that leaves from campus to the city centre is €2.40 for a single and with leap card (student discount) it is €1.60. The buses only drive till 12 o'clock in the night, so after a night going out everybody takes the taxi. A single ride is about €15.00 for 3-4 persons.

6. Free time

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

In the evening most pubs in the city centre have live music, this is very nice, even the pubs who don't live music are worth visiting. The milk market is every Saturday and a good place to buy good food! And off course you need to visit the four biggest cities in Ireland, Belfast, Dublin, Galway and Cork. When you visit Belfast, take one day to go with a touring company and see the surroundings of North Ireland. Because of the corona crisis my stay in UL was cut short and I couldn't explore more of the beautiful country. The bus is the best way to travel, reasonable cheap and easy. The best time is off course in the weekends, if it's possible leave on Friday afternoon to experience two evenings.

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

I think Galway was a very nice city that is not mentioned a lot in the travel guides, but definitely worth a visit.

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

I bought a (second hand) bike via donedeals.ie and used to cycle around the campus (very unusual for Irish people) and to the grocery store. It is also very nice to cycle or walk around the campus. There are a lot options for restaurants/cafeterias, in most of them you can also just sit with your own food. I really recommend joining a sport association, it's the best way to meet local people and try out a different sport. There are two bars on campus, one has a dj five days of the week and people can enjoy a dance. On Thursday there also are a lot clubs/bars in the city centre, most people go to Amber for example.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Arriving there and not knowing where to go or the first day when you don't know many people yet. Also the process before your stay can be challenging, because of the amount of things you have to organise and all the different deadlines.

What was your best memory abroad?

The trips I went on, for example Belfast and Galway were the best memories. But I enjoyed everyday during my exchange, because everything is new and exiting. Really try to do as much as possible, because at the end you only regret the trips you didn't do or the night that you stayed at home. If your study program allows it (for example if you don't graduate in three years), take one module less to have some extra leisure time!

8. Contact details (optional)

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