



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Master Earth and Environment
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-09-2019 until 26-01-2019
Country (exchange)	United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Plymouth
University (exchange)	University of Plymouth
Faculty (exchange)	Science and Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I choose to go on an exchange because I wanted to expand my knowledge both study related as personal topic as independence, resilience and social skills.

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

I wanted to study in the field of marine science and the course at Plymouth University seemed very interesting and also seemed like the kind of course that fell into the right area of what I would like to study

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

From Heathrow Airport a pick-up service is organized via the university I really recommended when going to Plymouth on an exchange to make use of this service, it is a nice way of already meeting some people.

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	Global Ocean Processes	10	Get a better understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes occurring in the oceans of the world.	3	
2	Marine Remote Sensing	10	Using Remote Sensing techniques to get a better understanding of the marine environment.	4	
3	Biology of Marine Organisms	10	Learn about morphology, physiology and interaction of major marine organisms.	3	This course is rather hard without a lot of biology background knowledge
4					
5					
6					

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

For Global Ocean Processes and Marine Remote Sensing the level was quite alright, the workload was not evenly distributed over the semester, in the beginning it was fine but later everything (different assignments and the examination) was due around the same time. Mainly papers and the lecture slides were used as lesson material.

For Biology of Marine Organisms the level was for me quite high because I had to catch up with a lot of biology. Even though the workload was high, it was doable. The examination was good compared to the lectures and practicals. The lesson material was composed of the lecture slides and some book chapters.

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 culture of the University of Plymouth is actually quite comparable with the WUR, at least for the part of the university and its personal that I came in contact with. The major difference with the WUR is that Plymouth University is bigger, but the lecturers are quite approachable and the communication is often fine. Also the engagement with local students is good, they were very nice and interested.

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

There are quite some societies both related to study as to sports, but also there are other opportunities. There are quite some cafes on campus, there is a sports hall.

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?)

There is housing through the university but also private landlords. The rents are higher than in Wageningen so that is something to keep in mind. But overall the housing is well organised.

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

The overall culture in the UK is quite comparable to the culture of the Netherlands, there are some small differences mostly in the cuisine and also some habits and traditions are different. The people are nice and approachable and especially in the south they are quite willing to help.

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

Like I said above, the UK is in general a bit more expensive including rent and food.

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 some opportunities, but the network is not as good as in the Netherlands and it is also quite expensive. I think there are some kind of public transport card available but I am not sure how it exactly works.

6. Free time

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

There are some cities and towns in the area that are quite nice to visit and which could be reached by train, for example Exeter. But also Dartmoor National Park is a must see.

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

To my experience most of the things in and around Plymouth appear in the travel guide. But the coastline in general is worth a visit, it is not explicitly mentioned in travel guides

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

Quay 33 which is a restaurant in the Barbican is a nice and small restaurant with nice and good food that is treated with respect for the environment.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge for me was mostly finding my place in Plymouth, because especially in the beginning it was quite lonely because I did not yet know anyone and also the area was still new. So adaption to a new surrounding was the biggest challenge for me.

What was your best memory abroad?

With a friend that I made during one of the course I went the visit Dartmoor National Park this was super nice and so beautiful.

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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