



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International development studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/09/2019 until 04/01/2020
Country (exchange)	Turkey
City (exchange)	Istanbul
University (exchange)	Sabanci University
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to improve my English and I wanted to know how it would feel to study in a different country.

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

Istanbul has a very different culture than I was used to in the Netherlands and I was very interested in this.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It is very easy to reach Istanbul. It depends on where you are going to live, either on campus or in the city. Istanbul has several airports but Sabiha Gokcen airport is the closest one. From here you can reach the campus by taxi and the city by bus, which only costs 2 euro max.

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)
1	Human rights in world affairs	6	Learning about human rights	2
2	Social psychology	6	How people act in social situations	4
3	Turkish foreign policy	6	Turkey and the policies towards neighbouring countries	4
4	Local cultures, global forces	6	The course is in general about globalization	2
5	Myths of gender	6	About the myths that we have about gender in the society.	5

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

The academic year is split in two semesters, with each 14 weeks. In the middle of the semester you have midterms, most of them will consist of 20%-30% percent of your final grade. I think the academic level is comparable to that of Wageningen University. The classrooms are smaller, most of them have 30 students and every course is not more than 3 hours a week. Workload was not more than I was used to in Wageningen and examination was also quite the same.

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 is quite different than what I was used to in Wageningen. Teachers know the students name because there are not more than 30 students per course, which makes the lecturers more approachable. Local students really want to help you out and are also very approachable. One big part of your grade is participation in the lecturers which is I think a big difference with the WUR.

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

They have a big canteen with catering and several different restaurants, they have gym where you can also play squash for example, a cinema and laundry facilities.

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?)

You can either live on campus or in the city. There is a shuttle bus that goes from the Asian side, district Kadiköy, to the University which costs 11 lira, so that is around 2 euros. You can also live on campus and will be living in dorms with 1 or 3 other students. Dorms are a little bit more expensive than the rooms in the city, but people that live in the dorms don't have to pay the money for the shuttle bus.

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

The culture is very different than the culture in the Netherlands. Food is cheaper so most people eat in restaurants during the day. They have their local cuisine which is very good.

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

Living is cheaper than in Wageningen. Having dinner in a restaurant will cost you around 4 euros and having a coffee and stuff like that is also cheaper than in the Netherlands. Also renting an apartment is cheaper, but on the other hand you make more trips and do more things because you want to see things in the city and in the country, so overall for me it wasn't cheaper than I was used to in Wageningen.

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

The cost of public transport is really cheap. You can apply for a student public transport card which gives you a 50% discount in public transport. Going with the ferry is for example 1.50 Turkish lira, so very cheap. You can reach university by shuttle bus. The price of this is 11 lira's and takes around 1 hour.

6. Free time

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

Istanbul is a HUGE city. There are many different districts so there are plenty of things to see. I would advise to make a list of all the things that you want to see in the city. Thereby, Turkey is a beautiful country as well. ESN Istanbul organizes a lot of trips for good prices to several areas in the country. Every month they organize a trip, and you will go to very cool places in Turkey with other Erasmus students from different universities. This is one of the easiest and most fun opportunities to see more of the country.

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

I think it is worth to visit usküdar, one of the districts in Istanbul. This district is on the Asian side, whereas almost all of the touristic attractions are on the European side. The mosque in Usküdar is worth a visit.

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

Try the typical Turkish food in the restaurants, this is really good and cheap. In every district there are great places to go out. ESN organizes a lot of parties on the European side and especially in the beginning of the semester you should really check these out.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

In the beginning of the semester it was hard because you don't know the city, the people and the culture. This was a challenge.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory abroad was during one of my travels in Turkey. I went to this region called Cappadocia where more than 100 hot air balloons go into the air every morning. That was super special.

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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