



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Development
Study period exchange	10-09-2019 until 4-01-2019
Country (exchange)	Turkey
City (exchange)	Istanbul
University (exchange)	Sabanci Universitesi
Faculty (exchange)	Arts and Social Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To learn something from Turkish culture and to get in contact with people from all different types of countries and cultures. As well as the opportunity to do something different.

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

I wanted to learn something about Turkish culture since there are a lot of Turkish people in the Netherlands. Moreover, the city of Istanbul is one of the biggest and most interesting cities in the world and to live there for 4 months is a really cool experience.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I'd say fly from Amsterdam to Sabiha Gocken in Istanbul, and then take a taxi for around 8 euro to the university. A shuttle bus is also available but takes a long time and is not that much cheaper in comparison.

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	Politics of Development	6	Its about different problems a country can face regarding development. Such as corruption, international pressure etc.	4	
2	Local Cultures, Global Forces	6	It talks about globalization in a lot of aspects. Such as its discourse, world music and the spread of diseases or sweatshops.	3,5	
3	Turkish Foreign Policy	6	This class talks about different time-frames in Turkish Foreign Affairs and how it shaped its international Policy. Such as the Cold-War, the Gulf-War etc.	5	
4	Human Rights in World Affairs	6	Talks about Human Rights. How it was established and which route it took. Cultural relativism and Universalism. Applies it to current situations.	3,5	
5	Anthropology of City & Migration	6	This class is about the movement of people to Cities and how cities cope with this. It talks about different concepts like super-diversity, ethnic-lens and Methodological Nationalism and applies it to real situations in Turkey	4,5	

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

The workload is quite much. You can expect multiple papers for each class, as well as presentations, unannounced quizzes and around 4 papers to reach for each course every week. The classes are quite small which gives it a nice interactive style. The lesson material is of a high to normal level.

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 University tries to approach the American way of teaching and has the same grading system. The teachers are really approachable and know everyone's name. The difference with WUR is that this university is much more based on personal interaction during the lesson, instead of just listening to the lecturer. A lot of time there are around 10 to 15 people in the class.

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

The university has a very American approach and this can be seen on campus as well. The campus has a big canteen where food is offered quite cheaply. Besides that, there are 3 restaurants outside of the canteen where you can get better food, for a little bit more (but still extremely cheap). Besides that, it also offers a big gym with a squash-court, a fitness, a climbing-wall, a boxing court. There are 2 football fields, tennis fields or basketball fields. You can also join multiple teams in which you can play matches and have training. There are also table-tennis tables at the gym. There is a Starbucks on campus, a printer, a supermarket and a pharmacy. Laundry can be done in the dormitories. Cleaners come in once a week to clean your room. So, a lot.

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?)

It is really easy to rent a dorm as an international student. However, compared to living in the city, it is quite expensive. You can also choose to live in Kadikoy, from which a shuttle goes around 9 times a day, which is what a lot of people do as well. There are no private rooms, and I would say that the rooms are a bit too 'hospital-like'.

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

I would say that Turkish people are extremely friendly and open to help you with everything. One example is when we were searching for the metro and someone on the street helped us and gave descriptions. We walked away and tried to find it. Around 5 minutes later we see the same guy that had followed us to say that he did not give the

easiest route and helped us again. However, at Sabanci Universitesi, there are a lot of rich people as it is a private university, which makes them a bit different in my opinion. I would say that these people are really used to getting what they want and if you don't give it, they get angry. This can also be seen in the way quite a lot of guys approach girls and expecting them to go on a date with them. A 'no' is not always accepted easily.

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

Living in the dorms is around 7000 lire (so €1100 euro's) for four months. Which makes it around 270 euro per month. I would say this is around the same as in Wageningen. Would you live in Kadikoy, it would cost around 4000-5000 lire for four months. Which is around 200 euro per month.

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

The public transport in Istanbul works really well! You should by the Istanbul Card, which you can easily buy in some shops. In Kadikoy it is the easiest to buy it at the ferry-stations. It is extremely cheap to travel with busses or ferry's. For example, taking a ferry for 20 minutes is around 1 euro. Busses are around 50 cents. The metro is also a really good way to travel. Which costs around 7 lire (a bit more than 1 euro) and then you spend around an hour in the metro for example.

Going from Sabiha Gocken to the university is best done by taxi, which will cost around 50 lire max. Which is around 8 euro's. In 20 minutes you are there, and they are safe.

6. Free time

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

Living at Sabanci is quite far from the city-center. It takes around one hour to go to kadikoy. Going from Kadikoy to different places in Istanbul is really easy, as ferry's go almost everywhere. Moreover, it is really nice to stay on the ferry which is an attraction on its own. Busses are also quite easy and really cheap. But I would say ferry is the easiest.

Must-sees is almost everything of Istanbul as its such a nice city with something in every district. The city changes in every place you go. It feels like you are visiting 10 cities in one. Balat, Kadikoy, Eminonu, Karakoy are some nice districts to go to for example. Where Eminonu is famous for the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia.

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

I would say that the Mosque in Uskudar is really nice as it is the biggest in Turkey, I heard. It has an amazing view over half of the city and is really beautiful and modern. Balat is the old Jewish quarter with nicely coloured houses. Princess Island is also worth a visit when the sun is out (which is almost all the time).

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

Istanbul is a food heaven as you can literally find nice authentic shops everywhere. Cigkofte, Kofte, Pide, Kebap are nice authentic street foods that can literally be found anywhere. Nice restaurants in Kadikoy are Kuff, Küp, Simit Sarayı (for desserts), Balıkcı loktansı, but in general I would say that the food is really good in Istanbul. I don't know that much about going out, but Taksim is really famous and where a lot of people go to.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I had some problems with my roommate. Arriving the first day was quite hard.

What was your best memory abroad?

For me, a lot of the times it's the little things that make it nice. Spending time with friends, going to the gym together and making friends so easily. For me, visiting Cappadocia was extremely nice and a good memory.

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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