



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/09/2019 until 18/12/2019
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	A Coruña
University (exchange)	UDC
Faculty (exchange)	Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To broaden my horizon.

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

It had courses which suited me and it was located near the Atlantic Ocean.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It is cheaper to fly to Santiago de Compostella and take the train to A Coruña from there. Also to Coruña there is no direct flight, to Santiago de Compostella is a direct flight on Monday and Thursday.

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	Paleobiology	6	Mainly about fossils	3	You have to study 84 fossils by heart
2	Ethology	6	Animal Behaviour	5	
3	Ecology and Environmental Biomonitorization	3	The importance of biomonitorization	4	This course started 2 weeks before I left
4	Internship	6	Research about a new species of flies	3	I was allowed to do an internship because there were no other suitable courses for me due to the timetable/language barrier

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

They provide the information through PowerPoints and put them on Moodle where you have access. Most of the exams are in January but I managed to do all in December. The academic level is lower than in Wageningen.

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 teachers are very approachable and they try to engage you with local students. The teachers have more attention per student because the study groups are small (10-20 persons per group).

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

Catering, sport facilities, library, Spanish cursus.

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?)

When you arrive you have to go to an agency for housing. I don't know much about this because I got a room through a Whatsapp group.

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

They have siesta which means that the supermarket and restaurants are closed in the afternoon (depends on the store). Also the local people don't speak English so I recommend you to try and learn some Spanish before coming to A Coruña.

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

Between 150-280 euros including water gas internet and so on.

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

You have to get a bus card at the Abanco bank. With this card you pay 75 cents per bus trip (doesn't matter how far you are going). Without It was 1,20 or 1,40 per bus trip. You could use the app Moovit to see the bus times.

6. Free time

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

Cies Islands is the most beautiful place I have been to. Also Braga in Portugal is very beautiful.

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

Pelicano has the most amazing parties. And you should go every Tuesday to the tapas night ESN organize. The best tapas place in my opinion is café Victoria. Also you should definitely drink 'tinto de verano'.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

My plane, which was supposed to land at the A Coruña airport, landed at the Santiago de Compostella at 24:00. There was no train going to A Coruña anymore and I had no idea what was going on. Also nobody spoke English so when I reached out to people about what was going on or if they could help me they just said 'No hablo Ingles' (I don't English). Eventually a bus came and I ended up in Coruña around 02:00.

What was your best memory abroad?

My trip with friends to Cies Islands.

8. Contact details (optional)

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