



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Nutrition & Health
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01-09-2019 until 31-01-2020
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Spain
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Barcelona
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Barcelona (UB)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I wanted something different than the WUR, and I wanted to experience to live abroad and to meet new people.

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

I have been to Barcelona before and I really liked that it was a city with a beach. I wanted to go to a big city and to a country where the weather is better than in Holland, like more sun and less rain.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

From the airport to the city centre you can take a taxi, the metro, the Aerobus or a normal bus. The taxi cost around 35 euros to the city centre. With the metro you need to pay something extra, this is around 4/5 euro. The Aerobus is 5.90 euro to the city centre. And a normal bus is for free if you have a T-jove ticket or a T-10 ticket.

## 4. University and studying

**Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?**

	Course	ECTS	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)
1	Research Seminars	5	3
2	Biotechnological Applications	5	5
3	Animal Biotechnology	5	4
4	Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics	5	3
5	Genetic and Molecular Basis of Biotechnology	5	3

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

For all subjects, I had lectures every day. At the end there was an exam and for all subjects we needed to do other assignments as well. All the exams I had were with true/false questions, but it depends per course what kind of exam you have. For the courses I took there were no books and the lesson material were the lectures. You could do a unique evaluation or a continuous evaluation. A unique evaluation means that your grade is only based on the final exam and with a continuous evaluation you grade consists of multiple assignments and a final exam.

**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?)**

I had class with not more than 20 people, but I don't know if this is for every course. We had classes in small rooms and most times the teachers knew the students by name. The teachers were very approachable and they really wanted to help you when you asked them something. I think at the WUR it is more formal and stricter than in Barcelona.

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

I know there is a sport centre, but I never used it and I don't know how much it costs. I just went to the courses and to the library and did nothing else at the university. This was also because at my faculty there were not many international students and I met my friends at activities of ESN, but not at the university.

## 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 don't really have a campus with rooms at the university. But you can use Facebook groups and apps and other sites to find a room. The rent is around 500 euros I think, and then you live with other (international) students.

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

Mostly the Spanish people eat later than us. They have lunch around 3 and dinner around 8/9. Also, the normal bread here is not very nice.

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

The rent of a room is generally around 500 euro.

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

For using the public transport in Barcelona you can get a T-jove ticket and you can use it unlimited only in Barcelona for all the public transport (metro, bus, train & tram). It is valid for 3 months and costs 105 euro. It is only for people younger than 25. In my opinion, the public transport is well arranged. Every 3 minutes there is a metro and there are a lot of busses. From the centre of Barcelona you can take a metro or a bus to the university. I think you never need to walk more than 15 minutes if you use the public transport.

## 6. Free time

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

From Barcelona you can fly very cheap to other destinations in Spain. So, I would definitely plan some trips in the weekends to other places in Spain. Also there is ESN, it stands for Erasmus Student Network and they organize many activities like a week with introduction activities, an integration weekend, parties, weekends to other cities etc.. With the train you can also visit Girona or Sitges for a day. I would visit Sitges in the summer, because then you can also go to the beach there. When you want to go to the beach for a day, I wouldn't go to the beaches in Barcelona, because there are a lot of tourists and they aren't very clean. You can for example go to Bogatell, Badalona or Sitges.

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

Bunkers del Carmel, Casa Vicens, Hospital de Sant Pau, Tibidabo. Barri Gotic and El Born are very nice neighbourhoods.

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

With the ESN card every Wednesday night you have free entrance to razzmatazz (a club) and every Thursday night you have free entrance to Sala Apolo (a club). In general, with the ESN card you have a lot of discounts or they organize activities with discounts. Every first Sunday of the month the museums are for free. You also have the shaz list or the welov list and with these lists you also get free entrances for different clubs.

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

### **What was a challenge you have experienced?**

All the bachelor courses were given in Spanish, so first I needed to do Spanish courses but I didn't speak Spanish. In the end, they made an exception and I could follow courses of the master Biotechnology. So, I would only go to the faculty of Pharmacy if you speak Spanish or if you are sure you can follow the master courses. Other faculties of UB have more English courses. Also, if you are on the street you really need to watch your stuff, because things get stolen a lot.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

Meeting new people, going on trips in the weekends, having visits from Holland in the weekends, going out, the nice weather, the beach, and a lot of other things.

## **8. Contact details**

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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