



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BBC
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/09/2021 until 23/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Greece
City (exchange)	Athens
University (exchange)	Agricultural University of Athens
Faculty (exchange)	Food science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted to go on an exchange to experience living in another country for a longer period of time. To get out of my comfort zone and meet new people, experience new things.

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

Athens was only my 5th choice, after I didn't get into my initial top 3. But I don't regret it all! I choose the destination because it is a big city with warm weather.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

take the metro from the airport, if you mention that you are a student (in a Greek university) you will also get 50% discount. There is also a public transport card for Athens itself that will only cost you 13 euros per month as a student.

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	Agricultural extension	5	During this course you learn about teaching farmers about innovations.	4	Examination is done through presentations mostly
2	Policies for protection of the rural environment	5	This course teaches about the threats to the environment and what instruments are possible to combat those	4	An essay and presentation are done as examination
3	Dairy technology I	5	All types of dairy get covered, so butter and milk etc.. Both theoretical lessons and practicals.	3	The practicals were explained in Greek to the Greek students and the English speaking students (us) barely got any explanation during the practical.
4	Food legislation	5	This course was taught at the same time by the same professor as food quality control. Basically the laws and directives applying to food were explained.	3	This professor combined the 4 courses he teaches into one weekly lecture. The examination was one 40 page essay for both courses together.
5	Food quality control	5	The control systems in food companies were explained.	3	
6	Microeconomics I	5	Introductory microeconomics	3	The course was only self study and examination was 4 smaller exams.

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

There are mostly lectures. 1 lecture per course per week. I felt like the academic level was 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?)

Since all 'regular' courses are given in Greek, almost all my courses except for one were together with only Erasmus students. This meant that I experienced not a lot of contact with the local students. Organization wise the university is also not perfect. After arrival you have to contact your professors yourself to make a schedule for example. WUR seems perfectly organized in comparison.

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

There is a cafeteria on campus where you can eat for free for lunch and dinner. Unfortunately I didn't live very close to university so I didn't eat there very often. Also there was a free gym.

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?)

The university offers no accommodation itself. I found my room via an organization called stayinathens but there are also other possibilities. For example through facebook groups.

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

Greek culture is a lot different to the dutch. I feel like a lot more things happen outside because of the climate. People are generally nice and speak good English. Athens is a big capital city, so there is a lot going on all the time.

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

I paid 300 euros for my room, all of my friends paid also paid roughly the same (280-320 euros).

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 costs 13 euros per month. Taxi prices are cheap, mainly after going out its common to take a taxi home. Athens has 3 metro lines that work pretty well, I would recommend living near a metro station because that helps a lot with travelling time. I travelled by metro to university.

6. Free time

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

The best part of an Erasmus in Greece is the possibility to visit the islands! The ferries are 50% cheaper when you are a student. So going to an island and getting an Airbnb with friends on the weekend is very nice.

Some great islands I visited were:

- Aegina (closest island, perfect for a day trip and renting quads)
- Mykonos (crazy party island, in summer it's apparently filled with rich people which is also noticeable in the off season)
- Tinos, Syros and Sifnos (just beautiful islands)

A lot of people also visited nearby countries and cities. I went to Istanbul which was very nice. Jordan was a pretty popular destination too because of the cheap flights.

Of course the Meteora are a must see too.

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

Athens is surrounded by mountains and just going up those gives you a very nice view over the city. Some destinations around Athens are Pentelli cave, Pentelli waterfall, Valanari and Mount Hymettus.

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

The part of Athens where most clubs are is Gazi. EKEI is also a nice club. Nice and cheap restaurants can be found everywhere. Rosalia in Exarchia is a nice restaurant. At Victoria there is an Afghan restaurant which is incredibly cheap (a good meal for 4-5 euros).

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge I faced was due to COVID. I had the virus during the Christmas period while I stayed in Athens. So when everyone went back home to their families I was left self-isolating in my house, which was not a great situation.

What was your best memory abroad?

The best memories are definitely the trips and things I did with the amazing people I met there. My Erasmus was filled with little and bigger trips to beautiful destinations. I'm very happy that I got to see a lot of different places with very good friends. A trip that stands out would be my 5 days in Istanbul.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	YES FOR SURE!! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Bas.burger@wur.nl	