



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Geo-Information Sciences (MSc)
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	23-08-2021 until 24-12-2021
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Portugal (Azores)
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira island
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of the Azores
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Biodiversity group

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Mainly to improve my Portuguese and to experience another culture and place.

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

I wanted to go to a Portuguese-speaking place, and the opportunity arose to go to the Azores. My family had already visited the islands, and were very enthusiastic about the archipelago.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Plane is probably the easiest mode of transport, but if you are up for a challenge you can also try to cross the Atlantic swimming.

## 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	Internship	24		3	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

I conducted a research project within the biodiversity group.

**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 setting is very informal. There are quite a few Erasmus students and international doctorates.

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

The university has a canteen where you can get warm meals each day (also vegetarian). Other than that, the university does not provide any services. In some cases you might be able to rent a room through the university, but this will be a hassle and the staff was not very helpful in my case.

## 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?)**

I signed up for a room via the university, in the university residency, but I got the response that first-year students get priority. After staying on Terceira for about 1,5 months, I received an e-mail that I could still make use of the residency because they received fewer students than expected. As I had obviously already arranged housing by then, this was completely useless. For the private room (or actual house) I lived in, I paid 200 euros per month. The rent prices in general are quite low, and it is easy to find housing.

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

If you're vegetarian or vegan: good luck! The local cuisine only offers dishes with meat and fish. In a few restaurants you might be able to find some vegetarian food, but you

have to try hard. However, the supermarkets (especially the larger ones) offer a wide range of vegan/vegetarian products (meat substitutes, soy milk, etc.). Other than that, the Azoreans are known to take things slow. The best thing you can do is quickly adjust to the tempo on the island.

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

Although housing might be a bit cheaper, your living costs will be quite similar. Sure, coffee and a *pastei* (pastry) might be cheap, but if you're going out for coffee each day you will still spend as much money as you would in Wageningen, where most people only go out to a cafe once in a while. The supermarkets are comparable, if not higher, than in the Netherlands.

**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 on the island is horrible. There are both buses which traverse the entire island, and buses which only drive in the 'city'. If you need to go somewhere, the taxi is your best bet. Hitch-hiking might also work. If you want to explore the island, you should simply rent a car. This is not too expensive in the touristic off-season.

## 6. Free time

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

The island harbours many hiking trails through the lush vegetation. However, in my opinion, Terceira is definitely not the most beautiful island of the archipelago. If you have time (and money!), I'd suggest you visit the other islands, such as Pico or Flores. Travelling between islands can be done by boat at certain times in the year, but you will probably have to fly.

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

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

Well, as for going out: the nightlife is practically non-existent on the island. There are a few mediocre bars and a club. As for restaurants, you can find plenty of them both in Angra do Heroísmo, Praia da Vitória and any of the other towns and villages around the island. If you're interested, you can also go scuba-diving or get your Open Water license (if you do not have it yet).

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Dealing with the slowness of the islanders.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Reaching fluency in Portuguese and winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in a public speaking competition, hosted by the university.

### 8. Contact details (optional)

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