



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	31/08/2021 until 18/12/2021
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Ireland
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Galway
<b>University (exchange)</b>	NUIG
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Science and Engineering

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To find out how it is live to abroad and to meet new people from across the world.

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

Ireland is a beautiful country with amazing people. Galway in specific is a very lively town with always something going on. Additionally, NUIG had courses that seemed interesting to me.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Take the plain from Amsterdam to Dublin. Then take a bus to Galway (necessary to book this beforehand!)

## 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	<i>Introduction to ocean sciences</i>	10	Introduction to both chemical and physical oceanography	3	
2	<i>Hydrology and water resource management</i>	5	-Flood calculations and calculate water levels in rivers. -Flood frequency analysis	4	
3	<i>Advanced professional skills</i>	5	How to start a successful start-up	5	
4	<i>Project management</i>	5	Introduction to the basic principles of managing projects and large teams	4	
5	<i>Environmental engineering</i>	5	-Waste water treatment -Municipal water treatment	4	
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**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

Primarily lectures with quite some assignments that need to be handed in.  
The academic level was a bit lower that I was used to. The workload tended to peak, between quieter times and a sudden bursts of much work

**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 lecturers were always very friendly and open to questions. Also the students are all very friendly (generally the Irish are very open and friendly people). The engagement with the other students came primarily by joining all the sporting/culture clubs and associations.

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

There are multiple catering options on campus. Furthermore there are plenty of sport clubs and culture societies that are all free to join so you can try out as many as you want!

## 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?)**

In Galway it is very hard to get a room. You can try to get a room via a private-sector landlord although this can be sketchy sometimes.

I would recommend to try to get a room in corrib village or goldcrest village. This is provided by the university but you have to be really quick as the demand is very high.

I paid 470 (twin room in corrib village, which means sleeping with another person in your room) a month.

My advice is to start early or if you don't succeed to first stay in a hostel and then the university will help you.

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

The Irish are very friendly and will chat to you out of nowhere.

There is a real pub culture so you will meet your friends in a pub and have a few pints while listening to live music.

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

- Rent is a bit higher than Wageningen (rent between 450 – 600)
- Groceries around the same price when going to Aldi or Lidl
- A night out in Galway is probably the same as when going to a bar in the Netherlands
- Public transport is a bit cheaper

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

Public transport is pretty reliable between the big cities and is also not that expensive (student fees). You can get a leap card which further decreases the price when using public transport regularly.

I bought a bike as this got me around town a lot quicker and I definitely recommend getting one.

## 6. Free time

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

- Join the mountaineering club and go every Sunday on an amazing hike in Connemara.
- Kylemore abbey
- Salthill
- Cliffs of Moher
- Burren
- Cork
- Killarney
- Just go out into the nature

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

There is so much around to do in Ireland. I would recommend to go earlier or stay longer to visit especially the whole west-coast of Ireland. Dingle Peninsula is beautiful (although it takes a long time to get there with public transport).

A visit to Belfast is also definitely worth it.

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

Pub recommendations:

- Monroes
- Darcy's
- Tarlors
- Taafes
- Dail bar
- Bar an claddagh
- Tigh nigh coilin
- Crane
- Sult
- Sliding rock

Generally every pub is pretty amazing as most of them have live music every day. You can also go out every day of the week as Galway is pretty packed every night.

In the weekends just visit the country and go hiking as hiking in my opinion is one of the best ways to experience Ireland.

Definitely join societies and clubs as they are great ways to get to know people.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Missing my girlfriend, family and friends

**What was your best memory abroad?**

After an absolutely amazing hike resting in a pub next to a fire and warming up after getting soaked.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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