



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BSc Tourism
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	27/09/2021 until 31-01-2022
Country (exchange)	Portugal
City (exchange)	Lisbon
University (exchange)	Universidade de Lisboa
Faculty (exchange)	Instituto Superior da Agronomia

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Experience and being immersed into a new culture. Furthermore I wanted to have the opportunity to study something outside of my field of expertise.

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

This university offered different courses related to animal biology and wildlife management which were the main motivators for choosing this university and this country.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flying to Lisbon is by far the easiest. Flixbusses are also a option but it will take you a long time

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	Wildlife Management	6	How to manage an nature area so the wildlife can thrive	5	Amazing course, professor was very enthusiastic and made the lectures fun.
2	Natural Resource Management	6	How to handle in resources and use computer programmes to calculate the ideal solution.	3	A lot of mathematics and computer science, more then was described in the course guide.
3	Forest Governance	6	How policies and governments influence the creation of forests.	4	
4	Management and Conservation of Vegetation and Agroforestry Systems	6	Learn about different types of vegetation and how to manage invasive species.	2	The course was suppose the be given in English but the professor did not speak English, until later during the semester when they switched professors.
5	Animal Biology	8	Learn about different types of animals and their origin.	4	Course was given in Portuguese, but exams and assignments were given in English
6					

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

The workload differs per course quite a bit (Natural Resource Management was high, Management and Conservation of Vegetation and Agroforestry Systems was low). The examination was usually a group project or personal essay combined with an exam. The examination process felt very appropriate.

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?)

Professors and students interacted a lot with each other. If there were any questions you could always go to the professor for help. Contact over e-mail usually took quite some time (2 week response rate). Also the international exchange coordinator helped out a lot. Biggest difference with the WUR was the professors were more close with the students.

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

It does offer some sport facilities but it was mostly for national students, international students did not get much change to join in. However, every 1 or 2 weeks there were social events for the exchange students which were lots of fun.

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 found my room through facebook, lot of room opportunities there. But most rooms in Lisbon are not in a very good condition (no heating and no isolation in the walls). University did not offer me a room until right before the start of the semester but it was very late and I did not want to risk not having a room. My rent was 375 euros a month for a room about 14 m2. I shared the bathrooms and kitchens with 12 other people. This was fairly normal price.

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

The culture of the country is different than in the Netherlands. The people spoke fairly good English. People are very hospital and kind towards outsiders as long as you show them respect as well. Furthermore the lunch breaks are about 2 hours and you go out to eat a warm meal, which is different than the cheese sandwich (broodje kaas).

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

I paid about 800 euro a month for all expenses. Rent, food, travel cost to and from uni and the occasional cup of coffee at the university.

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 quite cheap. As a student you can get a public transport card that cost 40 euros a month for unlimited use in and around Lisbon (highly worth it). The metro and trams work really well. Trains are also not half bad but the busses are really shit in Lisbon.

6. Free time

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

Must see are all the different Miradoura's (viewing points), Belem, Cascais, Sintra, Cabo de Roca and Porto. Best way to get to these destinations are by train or by Flixbus.

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

The different local restaurants. Go and talk to some locals and ask them where they go to restaurants. I guarantee it will be worth it.

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

For going out, pink street / Santos / Bairro Alto and Cais do Sodre are the place to be. For some nice bars with a view go to Topo Chiado & Seen. Best restaurants in Lisbon in Maca Verde, a local Portuguese restaurant which is delicious and cheap.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The meeting of some new friends. Most people came in groups and already had friends and would only speak in their own language. So it took some time to infiltrate these groups and get to know all these people.

What was your best memory abroad?

The moments in the Irish pub with live music with different people from all over Europe sharing a laugh.

8. Contact details (optional)

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