



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BSc Tourism
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/08/2021 until 04/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Lleida
University (exchange)	Universitat de Lleida
Faculty (exchange)	Arts

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

In the minor period we would have to follow courses at a different university either way, so why not going abroad. I love travelling so the experience of actually living abroad for half a year sounded amazing. I was excited to meet new people, improve my language skills and experience living in a completely different country.

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

Out of the 'left over' universities this university had a nice destination, especially the Spanish climate and lifestyle really appealed to me. And besides that there were plenty of courses that appeared nice to include.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The easiest way to reach Lleida is by flying to Barcelona El Prat Airport. From there you have the possibility to take a bus to Barcelona – Sants, the main train station. Here you can take a train which will get you to Lleida in an hour.

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	Audiovisual Narrative	6	Course about movies, movie structures and scriptwriting.	3	
2	Structure of Communication and Information	6	Course focussing on the development of media and communication systems	2	
3	Culture and Society of English Speaking Countries	6	Course talking about the different English speaking countries around the world, mainly colonised by the UK. Their history, independence and current effects of this past.	5	
4	Literature and Entertainment Management Workshop	6	This course is divided in two parts. The first half is about theory of entertainment and engagement. The second is about designing your own literary entertainment product.	5	
5	Journalistic Writing	6	Course focussing on journalism and the different news presentations.	1	Did not really learn a lot here.
6					

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

All courses take place for half a year. 4 hours a week. This can be either 2 days of 2 hours or 4 hours in one. The weekly workload is a little higher than we are used to in the Netherlands. Almost weekly or every other week assignments have to be handed in which will take part in your final grade. However, this does diminish the pressure on the final exams, which is nice. Furthermore, the academic level of the courses varied a lot depending on the degree and year of studies you enter in.

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?)

In class it became clear that Catalan people are not as open as some Dutch people would maybe be to international students. However, once you get to know one or two of them others will also be more likely to start talking to you. The teachers are always very helpful, especially knowing you are Erasmus and might not be familiar with all of the workways, procedures and systems at the university.

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

There are the options to sport at the university but I did not participate in any of these classes. Besides that there is a nice library with everything you need. In addition, the university offers a Catalan and Spanish language course for exchange students, which is really nice.

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?)

Most of the rooms in Lleida are apartments, for which you will have to find some room mates yourself. However, there are also houses where you can get a contract in an apartment individually, similar to living in a student's house in Holland.

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

Obviously Spanish climate is nicer than the Dutch. However, Lleida knows very extreme weather, which means very hot summers and cold winters. But the cold does not last as long as in Holland, mainly in December and January, then the sun is back. The people in Lleida are nice, some opener than others, but people will definitely help you where necessary.

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

For a room in Lleida you will pay between 200 and 300 euros a month including electricity, wifi and water.

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

In Lleida everyone travels to the university by foot. Besides that it is quite doable to walk to almost every place in the city. If you would need a taxi to get from A to B some day it will never cost you more then 6 euros.

6. Free time

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

There are lots of places you can easily visit from Lleida. Barcelona is a must. Besides that Zaragoza is a really nice city to visit. When renting a car you can easily get to Valencia for the weekend, or explore some of the beautiful beaches and villages along the northern coast of Spain. Tarragona, Cadaquez and Sitges are definitely recommended for a visit. In addition there are plenty of beautiful places to go hiking very near. Congost Mont-Rebei was my favourite.

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?)

Lleida seems not that vivid but with Erasmus friends you will have a lot of fun. Get beers at Pecaditos, which is the Erasmus bar. Going dancing at Fissure, Jimbos or Biloba(summer months). Eating is very nice at Pesseguer, Kimo, Udon, Kyoka and there are plenty of other delicious restaurants to be found. For the lazy days ordering pizza from Pronto Pizza is a good plan.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Sorting out all of the Spanish regulations was a bit of a challenge but in general everything went smoothly and with every problem you could either turn to other eramus friends or to the international office of the university.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory is not a specific day or event. It is mostly meeting all of these beautiful people who will really be there for you and become your best friends with whom you can talk, go on adventures and trips or go crazy on a night out.

8. Contact details (optional)

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