



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Development
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	20 / 09 / 2021 until 11 / 02 / 2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Padova
University (exchange)	University of Padova
Faculty (exchange)	Political Sciences & Psychology Department

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I enjoy living in foreign places for a while, and I was curious to find out what studying at a university in a foreign country is like compared to studying in The Netherlands.

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

I love Italian culture, and had been to Padua before. My first impression of the city was good.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

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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	Local Democracy	6	Focus on politics at the local level (regional/municipalities)	4	Very knowledgeable professors, but not a lot of interaction during class.
2	Psychology of inclusion and social sustainability	6	This course felt like a very long workshop on how not to exclude people at work/university. Very activist nature.	3	This was a new course, I expect it to change a lot.
3	Sociology, places and cultures of sustainability	6	This course had no structure, I was the only sociology student but even I did not understand what the professor was trying to say/do with this course.	1	This was a new course, I expect it to change a lot.
4					
5					
6					

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

Very easy courses, the local democracy was the only course that was somewhat challenging. There is not a lot of interaction between the professor and students and between students themselves during class. Lesson material is not very challenging either compared to the social science papers I have to read at the WUR. Examination was varied, orals, papers and written exams.

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?)

I would say that local students do not mix/interact a lot with international students. Italians like to stick with Italians, which is completely fine because there are many international students who love to connect. The lecturers are not very used to interacting with students, but when you do approach them they are very open to talk to you and are interested in your background and interests.

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

There is catering (not very tasty food though) better pay a couple of euros extra and get some real pasta/pizza! Sports facilities are ridiculously dated and pricey, better to subscribe to a private 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 year I went to Padua, accommodation for students was a serious problem as twice as many international student arrived compared to other years. Very difficult to find something and prices were absolutely ridiculous. Normally it should be easier as there are many options. The university offers rooms, but they are not amazing and have 'rules'. Many apartments and rooms are offered at Facebook pages, best to find one in advance (don't get scammed though!). Normally rooms should be priced similarly to rooms in Wageningen.

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

Food.

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

Quite comparable I would say.

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

Padua is a biking city! Get yourself a bicycle for in the city, trains for travel between cities.

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 plenty of things to do/see. I would recommend going to the Dolomites for a weekend.

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?)

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Finding accommodation.

What was your best memory abroad?

Trips with other students to other cities and the dolomites.

8. Contact details (optional)

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