



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	MSc Urban Environmental Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/08/2021 until 31/01/2022
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Valencia
University (exchange)	Universidad Politecnica de Valencia (UPV)
Faculty (exchange)	Architecture

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I had been on exchange before and I found this such a valuable experience. It is a great addition to your personal and professional development. You meet a lot of people and get inspired by their stories. Further, I chose courses outside of my study field, which I discovered and found very interesting. I also developed my language skills of Spanish.

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

I love the country, the weather, the food and the people. I wanted to go to Spain to develop my Spanish and to enjoy the Spanish culture and lifestyle. I wanted to go a place which offered a lot, Valencia has the beach, historical city centre and beautiful campus.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by plane, easy and fast. Not so sustainable, but very convenient with a 30 kg suitcase...

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	History of Art	4,5	You learn literally all the history of art, all the painters and painting styles of the past up until now.	4	I thought it was a cool way to learn more about art in a broad way, without diving to specifically in the content. Teacher is also very nice.
2	Economic viability and project financing (in Spanish)	4,5	You calculate the economic viability of a project (building) that you want to set up in VLC. You look at all the costs and revenues that come with it.	3	It was a lot of calculating on excel, which did not really have my interest.
3	Plans for public participation in studies and landscape projects (in Spanish)	4,5	You learn all the methods how to do research about public participation and have to write your own public participation plan for a certain region.	4	Teachers are very kind and helpful. Interesting course.
4	Project management	4,5	You learn all the ins and outs about projects management. A lot of presentations, essays, exercises, quizzes and reading work.	3	Interesting, but I thought the amount of work was too high for the amount of credits and hours for this course.
5	Urban Design and Planning 2	4,5	You learn to critically thing how to design a place or location. Good understanding is given of urban planning, incl readings, history and many examples of the field.	4	Nice teacher, good assignments.
6	Spanish course B2	4,5	Spanish language course	4	This was just a language course, but would recommend doing one while in Spain.

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

Workload differed greatly among the courses. Some courses were high level and a lot of essays and assignments had to be handed in. Others only had a final hand in paper and a presentation. This really depends on the course and teacher. Overall good level I would say.

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 main difference is that it is not that common to have breaks, so usually a lecture is 3 hour long without any break. Also, you can have courses until 9pm or so and a big lunch break between 13-15h. This is Spain... 😊

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

UPV has a great campus. Many (cheap) cafeterias, which offer a great variety of food. Sport facilities are also very good, a lot of sport classes, sport grounds and a gym. The campus also has multiple valenbisi stations.

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 got a room via Uniplaces.com. Helphousing is also a good company I heard. You have to be careful not to get scammed, so that's why I recommend to rent via one of the official sites and pay a little extra for administration. I booked my room in advance, although others went to vlc and looked for a room there. Rents are between 300-500 euro, depends on what you like and your location. Most students are in the Blasco Ibanez area.

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

Spanish life is better than in NL. Weather is almost always good, food is nice and cheap. In the beginning you have to adjust to Spanish lifestyles (read; times to eat), but you adjust soon. Also, don't worry about being on time. Even teachers are late haha.

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

My price for rent was the same as in Valencia!

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

I recommend taking a Valenbisi card for around 30 euro a year. There are a lot of stations in the city and is very easy to get around with these bikes. But also recommend buying your own bike (never leave them outside overnight though).

Taxi's are very cheap, especially if you share them with friends. Very doable.

I walked or biked to university.

6. Free time

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

Go on many roadtrips with your friends. It is easy to rent a car and go around in Spain.

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

Go have lunch at SAONA, go to Mercanbanyal at the beach.

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

I took beachvolleyball lessons at BeachLiga.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I never lost anything, but many people got their phone or wallet stolen. Be careful and look after your stuff 😊

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting so many cool people and living abroad. You will treasure your memories for life.

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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