



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Urban Environmental Management
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21/09/2021 until 14/02/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Portugal
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Porto
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Porto
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Engineering

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To have a new experience, meet new people and to live in another country than the Netherlands. Also I was interested to see the view on climate change and sustainability from another country.

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

The nice weather, it is close to a beach where you can surf. People in Portugal are quite good in English. Also Porto is not too big, so everything is walkable, but there is still a lot to see and do in and around the city.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

If you don't want to fly, it is possible to go by train / flixbus. The TGV to Bordeaux and from there the flixbus to Bilbao and then the flixbus to Porto. It takes some time ofcourse. Otherwise you can take the plane from Eindhoven or Schiphol.

## 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	Urban Forms and Structures (MPPU004)	6	The course focusses on different types of urban forms and structures. It focusses on a specific neighborhood in Porto on which a groupwork has to be done.	4	The classes were sometimes a bit vague, but the groupwork was nice. We also went on a fieldtrip to the neighbourhood on which the course was.
2	Urban Environment Quality and Planning (MPPU005)	6	This course is about different subjects on urban quality. It is divided in 7 subjects on how to design a city. It consists of group work on a housing block in Porto (and how to improve this) and an exam.	5	I really liked this course. It is really clearly structured and the subjects are really helpful for the practicals of designing a good city. The group work was also nice.
3	Planning Transports and Mobility (MPPU003)	6	About different ways to organise transport and mobility in cities. We also had 4 times a day of fieldwork included. Exam and essay (with presentation)	4	I really liked the course. The teacher is a bit weird, but he organized some fieldtrips, which was a nice way to get to know the other students.
4	Spatial Planning System (MPPU001)	6	It is about the spatial planning system of Portugal. You have to write a paper with a group about the spatial planning systems of your countries.	1	This course was really boring. The lectures were not really helpful, especially since there was no exam. Also you have to write about the history and planning system of your own country, which does not feel really helpful for further life.
5					
6					

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

In my university I had for every course one online theoretical lecture of 1 hour and a presential practical lecture of 1,5 hour. Since I had 4 courses, I did not have so many lectures. Especially compared to the WUR. The university can start at 8:00 in the morning, which I had twice in the week. I only had classes in the morning.

The workload is lower than at the WUR. I had some group work, but I put less effort in it than I normally do and still got a high grade. For two courses I had also an exam, for the other two the work was only evaluated by group 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?)**

My lecturers were quite approachable. I could always come to them when I had questions. I think it is quite similar to the WUR, but ofcourse this depend on how many people you have in the lectures.

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

They have a really good cantina, where you can have lunch for 2,85. You will get soup, main course and a small desert and you can choose between vegetarian, meat or fish. Also you can have a sport membership via the university for €85 for the whole semester. This is located on different locations in the city.

## 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?)**

You can apply for housing trough the university. However I do not recommend this, because it is far from the city (but close to the university though, so if you like this, then maybe it is nice for you). I found my housing trough 'uniplaces' and all my friends as well. This is a good website with all types of housings. I lived in the 'Breyner houé', which is a house with 23 people. This was amazing! If you like to live with many people I really recommend this! Also you have 'joy house' which is with 18 people and a bit more clean.

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

I am a vegetarian / vegan so I was a bit afraid for the food in Portugal, but Porto is very suitable for vegetarians. Ofcourse are the main Portuguese dishes mostly with meat or fish, but they have many options that are vegetarian. The main dish in Porto is Fransezinha, which is toast with cheese and a lot of meat. In many places they have vegetarian or even vegan options for this. Be prepared that people eat a lot later, Restaurant open at 7 and most people only go to have dinner at 8. The people in Portugal are very nice. They are always happy to help you and most of them speak quite good English.

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

For my house I paid around €310. Most of my friends also paid around this amount. I would say all houses are between 300-450 depending on the location and state of the house.

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

For €30 per month you can buy a transport card with which you can travel unlimited everywhere in the city, this is only if you are below 24 years, otherwise it is €40. I never used this because I had a bike with which I did everything. The company 'Velurb' has a deal with ESNPorto that you can buy for around 80 euros a bike and if you return this at the end of the semester, you will get half of this amount back! Also ubers / bolt are very cheap to use around the city and sometime useful if you are going with a bigger group.

## **6. Free time**

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

I recommend to go to nearby cities such as Braga and Guimaraes, but also to visit the nature in Gerês. Also close to Porto you have the beach of Matosinhos, where you can surf and chill. In the north of Porto you have a small city called Gaia, where you can see the most beautiful sunset (in the sea!). Also Lisbon, Sintra and Coimbra are worth a visit. Also, close to Lisbon Nazaré is located, which has the biggest waves of the world! Definitely visit this when there is a contest (or when the waves are high). All of these cities are easy to go to with train or flibus. For visiting the nature in the north of Portugal I recommend to rent a car.

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

Palacio Cristal to walk and see the sunset. Jardim de Morro to have the best sunset. Also do a port wine tasting! In Gaia you have ones that you will get 5 wines for 5 euro.

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

Go surfing on the beach! Some good technoclubs: hard club, ferro bar and gare. Other clubs: Maus habitos, Plano B.

For bars: a lot of nice bars are located in Cedofeita: Taskinha, Aduala, Espaço 77. Adega Leonor and Adega Sports are good for meeting other Erasmus people. To have a drink and see the sunset: go to Virtudes.

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

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

I did not have many challenges. I can imagine that people are maybe a bit lonely, but that is why I wanted to live with 23 people.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Everything! The people I have met, the trips I did and the nice days in the house and in the city.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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