



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Land and Water Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	08/09/2022 until 07/02/2023
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Almeria
University (exchange)	Universidad de Almeria
Faculty (exchange)	Falcultad de ciencias experimentales

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To have a language, cultural and academic exchange and experience living in another European country for some time.

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

My main reason to go to Spain was the ability to study in Spanish and improve my language skills. Almeria was the university that offered best courses in environmental science and agriculture fitting my previous education and interest.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

You can reach Almeria best by bus or train from Malaga or Madrid.

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	Ecosystem restauration	6	Restauration of fluvial systems and ecosystems	4	At the beginning quite basic but later on interesting content
2	Georisk and Desertification	6		4	Especially the second part of desertification is interesting
3	Landscape analysis	6	A lot of information about Spanish landscapes and flora	5	Very tough course but interesting content
4	Drylands ecohydrology	4.5	Plant soil water interaction in semi-arid regions	4	At the beginning quite basic but later on interesting content
5	Silvopastoral resources	4.5	Mainly about silviculture	3	Lacking interesting information about silvopasture
6	Citizen science and environmental communication	4.5	Mainly about citizen science projects	1	Quite low level of education and very unorganized

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

Academic level is medium, very dependent on the professors of the courses. Most courses start very basic and become more interesting in the second half.

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?)

Very informal, eye to eye communication. The lecturers are super approachable and contact with local students is easy.

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

The university has very nice sport facilities and activities such as hikes, kayak tour etc. The canteens at the university have barely any vegetarian options.

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?)

There are plenty of rooms in Almeria with an average price of 250 euros. Easiest to find something is through facebook or the mentor/budy programm of the university. Most people live close to the beach in 'zapillo' or in the city center.

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

In Almeria there is a very open, chatty culture. The sun shines almost every day so everything happens outside at the beach or in bars/cafes.

Very famous for Almeria is that here, if you go to any bar and get a beer, a tapa (small dish of food) is included in the price. Take advantage of that.

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

Everything is probably 1/3 cheaper than in the Netherlands. Especially going out to eat is very affordable here. On average you pay around 12 euros per person for food and drinks.

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 in Almeria exists, but is not very reliable. I would recommend everyone living here to get a bike. You can reach every place including the university within 25 minutes by bike.

6. Free time

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

Around Almeria is plenty to see. There is a natural park called cabo de gata, caves etc. The sierra nevada is only about 1.5 hours far and Malaga and Granada are reachable by bus or train within 3 hours.

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?)

There is so many amazing small tapas bars in almeria, I would recommend you trying as many as possible until you find your favorite.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Everything here goes slow and you really live into the day. That's something to get used to in the beginning. Now I love it.

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting so many amazing people from all over the world.

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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