



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Bachelor Land and Watermanagement
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	until 28-01-2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Portugal
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Aveiro
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Universidade de Aveiro
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Environmental engineering

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I choose to go on exchange to learn new experiences. To try something new and to challenge myself.

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

I have been in Portugal for several times. I already knew a little bit of the language. I also really wanted to go to a country in the south of Europe. The fact that Aveiro is close to the beach and perfect to surf made my decision for Aveiro definitive. Also had the university a faculty with English courses about environmental sciences.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

You can take the plane either to Porto or Lisbon and from their take the train to Aveiro. I would recommend to take the plane to Porto because it is cheaper and faster.

## 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	<i>Ecologia Industrial</i>	6	You learn about life cycle assessment and the circle of life of products	4	I was the only Erasmus student so the groups work was a bit difficult.
2	<i>Energia e Ambiente</i>	6	There are 2 parts, economy part and energy part. The economy part is about capitalism together with climate change. The engineering part is like physics and calculating processes	3	The teachers are a bit unclear and strange
3	<i>Gestao integrada de recursos naturais</i>	6	During this course you only have group work and a few presentations, you don't really learn stuff from the teacher	3	
4	<i>Planeamento Ambiental</i>	6	This course takes a lot of effort. You have to present 3 times and write 3 rapports. But I thought it was really interesting. Also this course is followed by a lot of Erasmus students and the English is very good.	5	
5	<i>Portugues ligua estrangeira A1</i>	6	It is nice to learn the basics of Portuguese so you can use it in your daily life. The lessons are twice a week in the evening	5	
6	<i>Psicologia da emocao e da motivacao</i>	6	This course was a bachelor course in Portuguese. So I didn't go to the lectures. I translated the powerpoints myself and studied myself.	3	

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

I studied the master Environmental engineering. This master is English. The level of the education is not very high, as bachelor student you can easily keep up with the level. I choose some courses from the environmental engineering courses, but when I arrived in Aveiro I got a list with all the courses given in the environmental area. So I choose some different courses when I arrived.

**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 classes are quit small. You have classes around 20 students. The teacher will know your name, and will check your attention. Teachers are really approachable, often you will get their phone number for WhatsApp and you can call them by their first name.

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

At the university you have different places where you can eat. The canteen is very cheap, during lunch and dinner you will have a soup, main course, salad and piece of fruit for 2,65. You can choose between meat, fish and a vegetarian option. There is also a sport facility provided on the campus where you can take sport classes for 2 euro each or take a abonnement for 12 euro each month.

## 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 not really houses on the campus. You can find a house on the website idealista or look at the university website for trustworthy landlords. Write a mail in Portuguese and English, and also landlords prefer if you call. Begin early because a lot of houses are gone very soon.

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

The culture is really relaxed. There is a lot of sun so get used to be outside a lot. Having a drink somewhere or eat in a restaurant is very cheap and common to do. During lunch it is normal to eat what we would call diner, and then in the evening a smaller meal. The local cuisine is mainly based on potatoes, meat and fish but most of the time there is also a vegetarian option. With every meal there is also soup.

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

I paid 280 each month. The normal price is around 300 euros. It should not be higher than 400 euros. It is normal for Portuguese houses to not have any central heating or double glass. So get used to a room which is colder than the temperature outside. Also it is really humid, so sometimes it takes a few days to dry your clothes.

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

I always walked to the university, but you can also buy a bike. For transporting to other places close by is the uber very cheap. I also used the train and flixbus to move around the country or to Spain. Both are also very cheap.

## 6. Free time

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

You can always go to the beach and surf in the afternoons or weekends. I also went a few times to Porto, the train cost just 3,55 euro. To Lisbon, Lagos, Faro, Nazare, Braga and Madrid I took the train and flixbus. Madeira is a Portuguese island and the flights are very cheap, so if you have a long weekend of, you really should go there.

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

Look at cities close by in Spain, and the Portuguese islands Madeira and the Azores for sure!!

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

It is very cheap to eat in a restaurant or go to a bar. So do this a lot with friends!! Make sure you have cash on you because most of the time you can only pay with cash.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

For me it was a challenge to find a house in Aveiro. I started a little bit too late with searching for a house. Also arriving is quite a challenge, because you don't know anyone. I participated to the introduction week of ESN which was a lot of fun, and I made a lot of friends there! Also had some Dutch people already reached out to me via the Facebook group, and we met up the second day I arrived, which was really nice.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I have so many good memories! All my trips were really fun. But I think the best memories are just eating with some friends (make Italian friends, they are amazing cooks!!) playing some games and go out in the centre! These nights were always a surprise and so much fun!

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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