



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bsc Forest- and Nature Conservation
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/2022 until 01/2023
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Bologna
University (exchange)	Alma mater studiorum Università di Bologna
Faculty (exchange)	Dipartimento di scienze e tecnologie agro-alimentari

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

The main reason that I want to go abroad is experiencing how it is to live in a foreign country and to meet people with different nationalities. Studying in a country with a different language, culture and people contributes to my personal development. Because I only have to familiarize myself in another country, it contributes to becoming more independent. Besides that, I love learning different languages. Abroad I can improve my English and learn Italian.

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

I myself would like to go to Italy, because the culture there is more relaxed. It is known for taking more time to enjoy life. In the Netherlands everything is more rushed, I hope that I can learn a lot from the culture in Italy and thus develop myself further.

The city of Bologna really appeals to me because it is an old and large student city. Wageningen is a small student city with a modern campus, I would like to study in a city that is very different. The artistic and cultural center of Bologna really appeals to me. Furthermore, it is a lively city with a lot of students. This really draws to me and I think I can learn a lot about the world here and meet a lot of people. The subjects at the university also appeal to me. In the past 2.5 years I have learned a lot about forests, nature, policy and society in the Netherlands. However, I am also very interested in how people look to these topics abroad. In addition, I have always wanted to take more agricultural courses.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went back and forth by train from Arnhem to Bologna, I really recommend it! On my journey to Bologna I took a night train from Arnhem to Munchhen, and then a train from Munchen to Bologna. Back I took a train to Innsbruck and from Innsbruck a nighttrain to Arnhem. It is best to book the two tickets separate, but there are also a lot of other options.

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	Microbial Biotechnologies in Agroforestry	6	https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2022/435201	2	Really small class, and monotonous lectures. In the end there are some practical in the laboratories.
2	Sustainable Monogastric and Ruminants Management	6	https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2022/458843	3	Interesting topic and a good teacher. The course exists of just lectures and some videos. (I was with 3 students because this course is also in italian).
3	Greenhouse and Vertical Farming Systems	6	Greenhouse and Vertical Farming Systems 2022/2023 — University of Bologna (unibo.it) Course Timetable Greenhouse and Vertical Farming Systems 2022/2023 — University of Bologna (unibo.it)	4	enthusiastic and kind teacher. More interactive, with work in a greenhouse/vertical farm, excursions and guest lectures. With a lot of assignments you can get points for your grade. Examined with multiple choice.
4	Economics and Policy of Innovation in Agriculture	6	Economics And Policy Of Innovation In Agriculture 2022/2023 — University of Bologna (unibo.it) Course Timetable Economics And Policy Of Innovation In Agriculture 2022/2023 —	2	Now it was a bit chaotic because of changing of teachers. Professor Luca Mulanzulli is really nice and thinks of interactive lectures and assignments.

			University of Bologna (unibo.it)		
5					
6					

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

The study forms are mostly lectures, they are not really interactive and don't have a high academic level. The workload is not high, for most courses you have no assignments, or they are voluntary. The lessons were in English and correspond to the timetable you have in the app. The lectures are not obligatory and everything you need to know is on the powerpoint slides. Examination is mostly done by oral exams, but this exams go not really deep into the content and the teachers are nice so it is not that hard. Oh and often you have to come 15 minutes later to the lectures, because then they start!

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 agricultural faculty is a bit outside of the city center, but easily reachable by bike or bus. I really liked the faculty and the culture there! Because it is little and there are not so many students, everyone is really open. It is a bit like WUR, but way more little. It is maybe a bit more boring, but the people are also more open to talk and more relaxed. The professors know everyone and are making contact with the students. The Italian students are really open and friendly. Also they really want to help you with things. In the agricultural faculty there were not a lot of Erasmus students, but there were a lot of internationals. Also in the rest of the university there are a lot of Erasmus students!

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

On the agricultural faculty is a little catering and also a library and a study room. But you can also go to the city center and make use of the old libraries there! With the student card you can also go to most musea in Bologna for free. There are also sport facilities, but I didn't use them since they were a bit expensive.

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?)

In Bologna it is really hard to find a place to stay! The university doesn't offer any accommodations. There are a lot of students and the prices are rising. They are between 500 – 800 euros. Via dovevivo, esn or facebook and whatsapp groups there are possibilities to find nice student houses. Especially via facebook you have to watch out for scammers!

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

The culture is amazing! Everywhere in Bologna there are a lot of young people outside. The city is compared to Wageningen, chaotic, really young and lively. People are often drinking aperol spritz outside, or in front of the bar and there is the best food! I also found the people really open to talk and friendly.

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

For eating and drinking out prices are cheaper, but residence is way more expensive.

On the site of the university:

<https://www.unibo.it/en/services-and-opportunities/studying-and-beyond/living-in-the-city/living-costs-in-bologna>

But living in a single room in a shared apartment has become way more expensive, so more around 600/700 euros.

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

<https://www.unibo.it/en/services-and-opportunities/studying-and-beyond/living-in-the-city/living-costs-in-bologna>

Taxi is not that expensive.

Within the city walls you can do most things by foot. But that is when you live and study within the walls. Outside the walls a bike is really recommended. For the agricultural faculty I went by bike, the bike was really useful in Bologna! But there are a lot of bike thefts, so invest in a good lock and a cheap bike.

6. Free time

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

Bologna is really central in Italy, so you can easily travel by train, or bus (cheaper!) to a lot of places. The fast train is more expensive and you have to book it more in advance, but the other train has a standard price. I also recommend to go by Italobus or Marino bus. Cheap and do not take longer than most train rides. With public transport it is nice to go to Milano, Florence and Venice. But also places as Modena, San Marino, Ferrara, Parma, Padua or Verona. Other beautiful places are Tuscany and Cinque de terre!

With ESN there are also a lot of trips to places. I went to the Napoli trip and it was a real adventure.

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

For clubbing I do recommend to go once to another city, in Riccione there is Cocoricò, one of the biggest clubs of Italy. And go for studying to the old libraries, I recommend palazzo paleotti.

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

Nature: go to the hills of Bologna! You can walk to San Michele in Bosco for a short walk, or other parks as villa ghigi or parco della chiusa. All really close to the city.

Restaurants: there are too many! Some nice ones: Va mo la, trattoria belle arti, pizzeria belle arti, il rovescio!

Going for a drink: via del pratello, via zambioni and piazza Verdi

and my favorite gelato: cremeria santa Stefano!
There is so much to explore, so enjoy!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Finding your own way in a really chaotic city... You have to be active and assertive a lot and to figure it all out yourself. The university and whole society is not so structured, so I really had to get used to that. It takes some effort to arrange things with Italians...

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting so many new people and making friends of all different countries! I loved the evenings, just outside in the streets of Bologna with a beer or aperol the most! You can meet a lot of new people and also the people you already met. There is always something happening!
And also travelling with friends to the cities around Bologna!

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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