



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	MSc Food Technology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	27/09/2022 until 15/12/2022
Country (exchange)	Wales, United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Cardiff
University (exchange)	Cardiff University
Faculty (exchange)	School of Earth & Environmental Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

In 2020, I went to Norway but that exchange was cancelled halfway due to the pandemic. I really wanted to experience a full Erasmus period.

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

I have always loved the UK, with its culture, beautiful nature and funny language. I knew Wales had some spectacular landscapes to offer, so that's why I chose it. I also wanted to discover the Welsh language.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Cardiff is easily reachable by train/coach, even within a day. You can take the Eurostar to London and from there you'll be in Cardiff in an hour or so.

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	Exploring Planet Earth	10	Basics of geology, hydrology and geography	5	
2	World of Dynamic Environments	10	Basics of geosciences with case studies from over the world	5	
3					
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5					
6					

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

Every day, you have a few hours of lectures. Sometimes 2-3 hours of a tutorial. During the semester, there are a few field trips you can join in on. The academic level is adequate for first year bachelor's students with high school knowledge of geosciences. The exams are very easy, it's all open book.

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 lecturers are very approachable, the atmosphere is informal. The teachers love discussing things with students. At WUR, the workload is higher, more contact hours.

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

There is a gym which is quite affordable I think. But the main thing I loved is the huge number of student clubs. There's a club/association for every possible hobby: ball sports, martial arts, cooking, outdoor sports such as kayaking, caving or climbing, baking, there's even a Taylor Swift club (!)! There is student accommodation with catering but I didn't stay there.

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's university shared and private housing. Most first-year students go into shared accommodation like that and then find a private property to rent together. It's a bit expensive to live in Cardiff but it's not the worst. On average I think a room in Uni housing is £500 a month.

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

The culture in Wales is so friendly and warm. They like tea with milk and Christmas presents. They also LOVE drinking. That's quite a difference I noticed, it's truly a pub culture. Also, in Wales the people are generally very polite and considerate in public spaces. People queue all the time, keep doors open and let go you first in crowded spaces. I personally liked seeing that. They also apologize a lot, for anything. That was a bit much sometimes, but funny.

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

It's more expensive. Say a room in Wageningen on average is €350 a month, in Cardiff that will be €450-550 probably.

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

In Cardiff, most people walk everywhere. The trains within Wales are relatively affordable. Buses are cheap, £1,50 for a ride anywhere in the city. You can also cycle through Cardiff quite well (even though you have to be more careful, the infrastructure for bikes is not the best).

6. Free time

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

The Brecon Beacons national park, the coast line all around Wales, Snowdonia National Park, Pembrokeshire National park, basically: go out in nature! Also the small towns around Cardiff (Penarth, Barry) are cute.

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

Wales has a fascinating history. During the industrial revolution, Wales was full of coal mines and people from all over that worked in them. Now that the industry has faded and the coal has run out, there are a lot of empty-ish, deprived villages hidden in the mighty hills of the Valleys of Wales. There is a coal mine museum, called Big Pit, which is super fascinating. You can go underground into the mine and learn loads.

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

I personally went bouldering a lot. There are 2 great bouldering/climbing gyms: Boulders and RocBloc. Every Wednesday, in the Student Union they organize parties. Just go to the uni intro week and you'll get to know all the things that are being organized.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Not knowing people, finding your way alone. Putting yourself out there every time again to meet people.

What was your best memory abroad?

Sleeping in a bunk room with a few people I just met a couple of weeks/days ago, and climbing the 2nd highest mountain of Wales together whilst chatting and laughing the day after.

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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