



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Urban Environmental Management
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	05/09/2022 until 27/01/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Spain
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Albacete
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Universidad Castilla-La Mancha
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Humanities and Technical Superior School of Agronomic engineering and Mounts

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

In my bachelor at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, I went abroad. I really enjoyed it and learned a lot, so I wanted to go abroad again.

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

My mother is from Spain which means I am half Spanish. I always wanted to live in Spain for a longer period and improve my Spanish. In my opinion, an Erasmus exchange is a perfect opportunity for this.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Go by airplane to Valencia, Alicante or Madrid and take a train (Renfe) or bus (ALSA) to Albacete.

## 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	Forestry ecology	6	Nice teacher, interesting course, exam, and assignments. Excursions to el campo.	5	
2	Biogeography	6	Nice teacher, some overlap with forestry ecology, but interesting. Exam, assignments, and presentation (about vegetation in the Netherlands). Excursion to el campo.	5	
3	Geography and environment	6	Basic course. Nice teacher. Did this course due to overlap in time schedule.	4	
4	Geography of Spain and Castilla-La Mancha	6	Interesting course, nice teacher. By passing the assignment, no need to make the exam.	4	

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

Exams, presentations, little bit of group work and individual assignments.

**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?)**

Definitely more lectures and less group work compared to WUR. The amount of students in the courses I followed were much lower than at WUR.

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

90 cents coffees at the cafeteria. The university have sports facilities. You can rent a field for around 10 euro. We played quite some volleyball with Spanish and Erasmus students.

## 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?)**

I stayed in a residence. I shared my room with another girl. We lived in the apartment with four, so I shared the kitchen, living room, balcony and two bathrooms with four persons. There are also private apartments available in the residence, but students who has been living there longer get priority. I value my privacy more now, but my roommate was very nice so I thought sharing a room was fine. Especially, because living in the residence makes sure you can easily meet your social connections as most of the Erasmus students will be living in the residence.

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

People are nice. They do not always speak English. For me, this was not a problem as I speak Spanish. Some knowledge of Spanish is very beneficial as often classes are also in Spanish. Also, the food is great. Life is cheaper in general. Dinner is definitely not at 6 o'clock.

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

I paid around €200,- a month.

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

Busses are pretty cheap, but basically everything is reachable by foot.

## 6. Free time

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

Albacete it self has not a lot of must-sees, but Spain in general is pretty so I would visit as many places as possible.

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

I was positively surprised when we came across a small coastal area near Cartagena called Algameca Chica. You can go for a walk/hike to this place. Definitely worth visiting.

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

Calle de Concepcion and the rest of the city centre, but you do not have to worry about this. ESN will show you all the bars, restaurants and clubs there.

## 7. Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

I was the only Dutch person. At the start, I noticed that people hang out with people from their own nationality. It took some time to find a nice group of people to go for a beer with, or go have dinner, or travel and visit new places. However, in the end, I had a great group of friends from all over the world.

### What was your best memory abroad?

Hanging out with my friends, going for a drink in bar, watch World Cup together, travel to different cities, have dinner at different apartments in the residence, go to stadiums to see Spanish football teams play, etc.

## 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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