



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Developmentstudies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/09/2021until 20/01/2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Florence
University (exchange)	University of Firenze
Faculty (exchange)	Economy and management

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I was always interested in going abroad since I wanted to expand my knowledge not only about the stuff you learn in university, but also about other countries, people and cultures. So this exchange seemed like the perfect opportunity.

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

I had never been to Florence before, therefore I was really interested in going there. However, I chose Italy because I already knew the country so it would not be a huge shock.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went there by plane. Train also would have worked but would take a lot of time.

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	Behavioural and social evolution	6		4	
2	Demography and Tourism	6		5	
3	Human rights and armed conflicts	6		4	
4	International Law	6		1	It was pretty difficult since I did not have any previous knowledge which was really needed.
5					
6					

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

Since I was there in times of Covid, it was all hybrid. It was pretty difficult to get to know how to sign up for on-campus lectures. The academic level really depended on the courses. Some courses were relatively easy, while others were very hard. The workload was okay.

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?)

Since it was in times of Covid, I did not have much interaction with local students, however the lecturers were very kind and responded almost immediately to any emails.

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

There is a library with study spots and a café.

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 found it quite difficult to find a room, since lots of rooms are double rooms and the rent rates are much higher compared to Wageningen. But when I found some good websites, it was okay finding a room.

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

People are very friendly and used to foreign people because of all the tourists. What surprised me the most was how many people scream something at you, when I as a girl, walked alone on the streets. However, I never felt unsafe.

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

I paid about 530 euros including gas, water and electricity, while I pay 310 in Wageningen.

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

I bought a bike to go to the university since the campus is quite far from the city centre. However, it got stolen after four days, so I would not recommend doing that. Trams and buses are very cheap! However the buses are not as reliably in being on time as they are in the Netherlands.

6. Free time

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

All of Tuscany is a must-see

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

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

Pino's sandwiches

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Being away from my family was not always as fun as it seemed

What was your best memory abroad?

My whole exchange was one big great memory

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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