



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International development
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	13.09.2021 until 09.02.2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Firenze
University (exchange)	Unifi
Faculty (exchange)	Economics and management

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience a study program at another university abroad and wanted to experience living in another (bigger) city. With the chance of an minor abroad I could expand my horizon and learn a new culture and country

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

In my youth I've been to Florence and I always loved the city. The city has so many beautiful opportunities concerning all different parts of culture. Next to that I figured out that the 'exchange scene' in Florence was quite big and lively, which was appealing to me. The university offered courses more based on law and humanitarian aid, which I really like but aren't offered that much at WUR

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Reaching my exchange destination was easy by plane, but also by train. In the city you can basically walk everywhere and when you went out of the city it was easy to catch a bus or tram. Public transport was well taken care of and easy to understand.

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	Human development and international cooperation	6		5	Really interesting lectures
2	Human rights and armed conflicts	6	Talking about humanitarian aid and conflicts	5	Lots of interesting examples in the lectures
3	Behavioural economics	6	Understanding economic behaviour of people	3	Theoretical
4	Behavioural and social evolution	6	Why people make economic decisions	4	Really interesting and easy to follow
5	International law	6	Looking at the development scene from a law perspective	2	Interesting but way to hard
6					

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

All of the courses just existed out of lectures and essays you needed to write. The workload was quite low, just as the academic level. Most of the courses were easy to pass, except for international law.

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 lectures were not really engaging with the students. But we also had online lectures so due to covid we didn't see much of the university

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

There was a restaurant and many cafes at the university

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?)

You had to find a room yourself, however this was quite easy

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

The people in Italy are very friendly and always want to help you out. They also start talking to you randomly which doesn't appear that much in Wageningen. It's also a safe city to walk alone at night

as a girl. Italian man are a little less respectful than dutch men. And of course is the italian cuisine way better than the dutch one :))))

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

I paid more than 500 euros rent and groceries are expensive. However if you travel to the outer parts of florence it will get cheaper. Sometimes we travelled there just for groceries

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

You can buy a ticket for 1.50 euros with which you can travel 90 minutes with bus/tram. (buy at the stop) For the train you can easily buy tickets at the station, it's not expensive. Next to that you can actually walk the city and bike outside of it. For less than 50 euros you have a second hand bike. However, it will get stolen probably hahaha, my bike lasted 4 weeks.

6. Free time

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

Travelling by public transport is really easy. Going to fiesole is defenitely worth the bus ride

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

Fiesole

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

I loved the odion cinema there and walking in fiesole

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Being away from your friends and family

What was your best memory abroad?

All the trips I made during my exchange !

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes X	
Name/e-mail	Marije van der Ploeg marije.vanderploeg@wur.nl	