



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-02 until 01-07
Country (exchange)	Turkey
City (exchange)	Istanbul
University (exchange)	Sabanci
Faculty (exchange)	Political Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience living in a country that is 180 degrees different than the Netherlands. I wanted to learn more about a new culture, language, integrate with international people. Most of all I wanted to know whether I enjoy starting up somewhere in a completely new and unfamiliar environment. I wanted to see how I could handle this situation and how I would create my new inner circle of friends.

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

I wanted to study in a big metropole city within a country that has a culture I did not experienced yet. Also I wanted to study at a university that offers courses that are in line with my personal interests and ambitions. Therefore, for example the university of Sabanci offered most perfect courses in which I could learn about my passion for film and improve a third language.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flying.

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	Gender and Sexuality in Turkey	6	Explores different waves of feminism in Turkey and important concepts such as sexism, masculinity and LGBTQ	3	Although the content was very interesting, the participation and level of interaction during class was very low.
2	Film, Vision and Representation	6	Course analyses diverse films and genres in the last 2 century	5	During the class the professor really tried to have a talkative lesson. I highly enjoyed the films that we analysed and the movies were of relevance of the genre and era we were discussing.
3	Current political issues in Turkey	10	The content of the course included a brief history of Turkish politics, focussing on the rise of the AKP. Moreover the focus was paid towards crucial subjects such as the backsliding of democracy and the foreign policies of Turkey.	4	The content itself was very interesting and I learned a lot from my peer students (we had to give weekly presentations). However overall it was sometimes a bit chaotic and unclear what specific topics we were really focussing on.
4	French A2	X	A2 level	5	Very intensive and good way of teaching French. Although I followed this course, it is not included in the ECTS
5					
6					

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

Part of my studies was online and other courses were mandatory to follow on campus. The workload was a good level, although sometimes the academic level could be higher. There could have been sometimes more challenging assignments. But overall the academic level was okay and the workload was good.

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?)

In comparison with the WUR, Sabanci has a different culture. Because the university has a campus and is far located inside Istanbul (away from the shore), there is a large part of the students that are more active on campus than the other half. As I lived not on campus but in Kadiköy, I don't really know how the campus life was. Nonetheless my experience with the campus was always fine and they comfortable restaurants and study places. The lectures are very approachable and the professors are easy to talk to.

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

As I said I am not aware of campus facilities. However the university provides a lot of restaurants, has a gym, swimming pool and music hall. Besides that the university was always very keen with arranging shuttle busses from the city to the university and the other way around.

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?)

Campus yes. Facebook offers enough rooms in Istanbul by various people.

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

The Turkish culture is very warm, open, social and kind. I have only nice words to describe the culture in Turkey and in particular Istanbul. The people have very well manners and are very open to international people. However the political situation is of course different than what I am used to. I have spoken to many Turkish people of my generation and the frustration among the society towards their government is really visible.

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

I paid 300, but cheaper is very much possible. I would say between 350-200.

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

The transportation is very easy in Istanbul. After you have everything arranged with the uni, you can get a student transportation card. You only have to pay about 40% of the original price. Besides cheap transportation you can also take public taxi's, the Dolmush. This is a nice transportation when you need to go the European or Asian side and have to be there fast.

6. Free time

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

Antalya, Izmir, Ephesus, Cappadocia.

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

Some wild camping in good hiking areas.

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

Yes I have a lot haha. If someone really wants to know more they can always contact me.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

As a foreign blond girl you sometimes get more attention than you want.

What was your best memory abroad?

My new Erasmus family.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	isabelromijnders@gmail.com	