



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Landschapsarchitectuur en Ruimtelijke Planning
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/10/22 until 16/01/23
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Turkey
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Istanbul
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Istanbul Technical University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Landscape Architecture

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to go on exchange because I wanted to develop myself by living and studying in a strange environment; a different country. I wanted to experience a different culture and meet new people from different nationalities. I also wanted to experience studying at another university in a different country.

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

I travelled to Turkey, because I wanted to experience a country that is not comparable to any western country. Furthermore, Turkey is the gateway to the (Middle) East and this area is where my fascination lies.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I would advise travelling by plane, because of the huge distance. However, if you are up for a challenge I travelled back to the Netherlands by train and, although it takes a bit more preparation, it is doable and it provides a beautiful adventure.

## 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
<b>1</b>	The Modern Middle East	4.00	About the situation of the Middle East in present time. The course provides insights in various aspects of the region, like religion, politics and culture	5	Teacher is very knowledgeable and the information is rich
<b>2</b>	The City in History	4.00	About planning principles starting from the very first cities on earth to the way cities are built today. It is a history course on Urban Planning	5	Great teacher. I learnt a lot and my grasp on cities in different places on earth has improved a lot.
<b>3</b>	Large Scale Urban Projects	4.00	What goes into a Large Scale Urban Project? This course provides knowledge on the different challenges and the planning process and with who to deal with.	3	Interesting knowledge, but the way of teaching did not appeal to me.
<b>4</b>	Other Worlds	4.00	Combining science fiction with urban planning. One will read a novel and will learn to understand the geographical setting of the story. This course is meant to expand your creativity	4	Fun course and it is a philosophical course that makes you think about many aspects of life and you will look to the future in many different aspects.
<b>5</b>	Metropolitan Planning	4.00	What goes into the planning of Metropolitan cities and areas?	5	Beautiful course and great teacher. You have to work hard but you will learn a lot.
<b>6</b>	GIS in Urban Planning	7.50	Here you learn techniques in GIS to analyse the physical landscape	4	Very interesting, but the pre requisite knowledge was vague. You should be quit handy with GIS and have experience in writing long academic papers.

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

There are 2 semesters and you follow all the courses you choose at the same time. Studyload is harder than expected, but if you keep up it's doable. Sometimes the university felt like a prestigious highschool, which I saw as an interesting experience.

**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 teachers ought to be respected. They are in a sense more professional in a conservative way, however they are really helpful and approachable.

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

Many student clubs. I for instance did capoeira and cave exploring. There is lunch provided at university and it is really good for how much it costs. There is no housing service, so you have to find one yourself. There are several libraries and they have university cats at Taskisla.

## 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 have to find a room yourself. The university does not offer one.

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

Food: Divine!! Much meat, although very healthy. Not processed and everything is fresh

Habits: Turkish people are very hospitable and kind. They are easily approachable and are not afraid to approach you. Be prepared for much tea and invitations.

Istanbul compared to the Netherlands is quite busy in terms of amount of people, so go there with the right mindset.

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

Price range: 150-400. I paid 300 for a room and facilities in the city center. Be prepared that the Turkish will charge foreign students more than the local students. You just have to accept that.

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

For European people the public transport costs almost nothing. There are bus, metro, boat, taxi services so you can move around 24/7.

## 6. Free time

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

Explore the whole city and inform yourself by the locals. Ofcourse see the tourist attractions, but the city has so much more to offer in terms of food, history, museums, music and city landscape. Also go inland! The country is beautiful.

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

Turkish music is great! Go to the many musical events the city has to offer.

Take a walk through the less touristic neighborhoods and sit down in a random tea shop or restaurant. You will see yourself what I mean.

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

Learn the language!!!!

Do not be afraid to say NO. Many people will want something from you. Money, for you to dine in their restaurant etc. Not all people have the best for you in mind

Stay open minded! A lot of people DO have the best in mind for you. And try a lot of different things.

Visit a Jazz bar or a secret rave.

Do not forget to barter, but learn to notice on when to do it. It is not always appropriate.

Enjoy!!!

Oh and balik ekmek is a must have.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Navigating a city of 20 million.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

My travels to the Southeastern part of the country. It contains such beauty( history, food, nature, culture, weather) and people have the best hospitality and expect nothing in return.

PLUS exploring a forbidden cave with a group of 40 turkish students and camping in the forests. (It was legal because it was a club with licence)

## 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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