



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Animal Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21.09.2022 until 20.01.2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	United Kingdom
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Stoke-on-Trent
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Keele University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Biology and Geology

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I chose to go on exchange because I wanted to broaden my horizon. I was seeking a new challenge in my life and wanted to live in a different country for a while. I also wanted to experience a different study system based on semesters and not periods like in Wageningen.

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

I chose to do my exchange in the UK because I have always had a special interest in the country and its people. I also met a few English students in Wageningen that made me curious to see the country from within. I chose Keele because the campus is located in a rather rural area and not a large city, and I already knew a few people that study there.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Since Keele University is located rather rural, you will have to rely a lot on the bus. There is a quite reliable and fast bus line to the city. Stoke-on-Trent also has a Train Station that is well connected to big cities like Manchester or Birmingham. At night the best way to get somewhere is by using Uber.

## 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	<i>Insect Ecology and Pest Management</i>	15	This course teaches insect ecology in combination with pest management.	3	

			You learn important information about all main orders of insects and their significance in the ecosystem. We also discussed ways to manage insect pests from insecticides to biological and more sustainable methods		
<b>2</b>	<i>Animals and Society</i>	15	This course teaches about ethics and animals, it dives deep into debates about animals, whether it concerns animal welfare or legislation. This is very interesting especially regarding increasing debates about the welfare and ethics of animal livestock systems. It gives insight into how different approaches can be taken to understand the issues of animal ethics and to find a personal direction in this matter.	5	
<b>3</b>	<i>Current Topics in Biology</i>	15	Current Topics in Biology is a class in which we inform ourselves on important topics regarding Biology, these are primarily concerning parasites in livestock, environmental damages, and pesticide resistance in order to debate about them. This course does not only teach content primarily about animals but also valuable skills for academic work. I could practice my skill of evaluating data and facts to form a founded opinion.	3	
<b>4</b>	<i>English for Academic Purposes 4</i>	15	English for Academic purposes is an advanced English class in which we learn basics of academic conduct. It allowed me to improve my English skills in relation to academics. I learned how to write essays properly, prepare and present a presentation	3	If your English is already very good, this course is not advanced enough and does not teach many new things. But it was a fun course to follow.

			for an academic topic, and new vocabulary.		
5					
6					

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

Keele University follows the semester system. You choose 4 modules per semester. The uni emphasizes on essays and alternative assessments for marking, because of that, there are not many exams but rather projects or individual essays to work on. The workload heavily depends on the individual course, for example whether there are 2 or more essays to hand in per course and their individual word count. The academic level is medium, it is certainly more relaxed than Wageningen.

**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 lecturers are friendly and welcoming, but I did not engage much with them. In comparison to WUR, each course is organised by one lecturer only, but they may have guest speakers for some lectures. Some courses offer seminars which are a lot more interactive than lectures.

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

The Student Union is a place to hang out and meet people. Every night there is an event, whether it is a party, special DJ-set or Cocktail evening, you can always find something there. The Campus has multiple cafes, and food places. There is also a campus grocery store.

The Athletic Union and Sports Centre offer many different sports and there are a lot of active teams. Whether it is Dancing, Badminton or American Football, Keele offers trainings for various sports.

## 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 recommend signing up for on campus accommodation. Housing for international students is mostly guaranteed. You can also rent off campus, but this is difficult to set up as an international because students plan longer ahead where and with whom they live for the next academic year. They rent a whole house together in the city rather than individual rooms. On campus accommodation can be a hit or miss, some blocks are nice, others may be with many people or rather messy (similar to Idealis housing). Pricing is very diverse depending on room type. The traditional rooms are very basic but affordable, whereas en-suite rooms (you have your own bathroom) are very expensive. Everyone has their own room, but you may share a bathroom and the kitchen depending on the room type you choose.

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

Students are a lot more laid back. A lot of them like to party and go out for drinks. England is a fun country to live in, but it is not that much different to the Netherlands.

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

I paid roughly 1800 euros for my stay for four months (so ca. 450€ per month). I chose the cheapest room type. Housing is definitely more expensive than 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?)**

There are special bus tickets for Keele students to the city, a day ticket costs £3,10. An uber on average £6. If you want to travel through the country, I highly recommend the 16-25 railway card for £20, the discounts are very high sometimes.

## 6. Free time

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

Manchester and Birmingham are the largest cities close by and well connected by train. Since Keele is located almost in the middle of the country, it is easy to travel in all directions.

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

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

The KPA is the best pub on campus.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

The study pace is a lot different. At first, I struggled with the slow progression of the lectures. It is a different way to live and a different country, therefore it feels strange at times and it takes a while to get used to it.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I made a lot of new friends. My best memories were made on nights out with them.

## 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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