



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Forest and Nature Conservation
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21 sept. 2022 until 16 jan. 2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	United Kingdom
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Keele
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Keele University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Multiple

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

It seemed like a really cool thing to experience. My sister did an exchange as well, and she came back full of awesome stories and pictures, so I wanted that as well. It's a great way to get to know other people and cultures, but also get to know more about yourself.

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

I've been to England a couple of times before, and it's a beautiful country. The nature especially is really pretty. I chose this university mainly because of the many associations outside of study (sports etc), it's an easy way to get to know people and fill your time with nice activities. The campus is pretty as well.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by train. It's really easy and a lot less trouble than going by plane I feel, plus it's way better for the environment. With the Eurostar you go from Rotterdam to London in 3.5 hours, which is really doable. From there you still have to go to your uni of course. I got picked up by the university by bus at the airport (got there by tube from the train station), on the way back I used a train. Public transport is quite okay, though not always on time, so calculate a bit more time when traveling I'd say.

## 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	Space and Society	7.5	Feelings of home in different groups, power dimensions in space and between groups	5	Very interesting course to follow. Not really in my field of study, but that was no problem.
2	Animals and Society	7.5	The way animals are treated in society and why that differs per animal, time and place etc.	4	Really makes you think about the way things are currently in society when regarding animals.
3	History, Media, Memory: The Presentation of the Past in Contemporary Culture	7.5	The way history is portrayed across various forms of media	4	Interesting. I didn't know a lot about history, but doable. Makes you notice how ways of portraying alter how we see things.
4	Animal Behaviour	7.5	How and why do animals behave the way they do	4	Very fun course, lot's of fieldtrips to zoos and stuff. Half the lectures were videos, that was a bit annoying.

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

The level of the university is good, relatively comparable to WUR I'd say. You will get a lot of assignments instead of tests (at least in these fields of study), since they are trying to get rid of those. Workload is okay, though sometimes many assignments in the same week. You can get a 'free' extension of 7 days on three assignment per semester.

### 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 atmosphere is pretty relaxed in the courses I followed. Lecturers are really kind and approachable. Local students are nice as well, though I did not really have interaction with them outside of class.

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

There are a lot of activities organised both by student associations, the student union and the university. There is a broad range of sports for you to try out, plus multiple cultural things as well. The university does it's best to assure a good student well-being, so they have support for that as well (activities, moments to meet up and talk with people etc.). Every housing quarter has a laundry room (4 pounds for washing and drying) and a common room to meet up with people. On campus, there are places of faith, big sports fields, a coop and convenience store, multiple cafés and places to eat. There is also an apothecary and health centre (you can become part of the MHS for free).

## 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 signed up for a room on campus. There are multiple types (you can give a preference) with according prices. My room (house shared with 3 others and a table in the kitchen) was around 520 euro's per month. This includes weekly cleaning of the kitchen, toilet and bathroom.

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

Lot's of pet names are used by the English people. The popular one around Newcastle-Under-Lyme is 'duck'. When a place offers lunch, this is likely a warm meal with mashed potato and sausages etc instead of the normal bread I'm used to.

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

A bit more expensive then in Wageningen, but you get the cleaning with it as well. Don't know how it is when you seek accommodation of campus.

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

Keele University is located next to Keele (very small town) and Newcastle under Lyme. To get to other places, you have to go to Newcastle (busstation) or Stoke-on-Trent (trainstation) by bus. Busses are frequent and there are multiple bus stops on campus. The bus to Newcastle is 2 pounds, to Stoke 2.60. A problem I had was that my Dutch debit card did not work in the bus, so I had to pay by cash. There are a lot of taxi's available as well, but I've never taken one.

## 6. Free time

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

The roaches is a really nice place to go for a hike if you like nature. It's difficult to reach if you don't have a car, but you could maybe join one of the hikes organised by the mountaineering association.

By train it's easy to go to Manchester, from where you can travel to almost everywhere. If you want to go somewhere that's difficult to reach by public transport, consider taking a taxi and sharing the costs if it's not too far away.

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

The student union organises a lot of opportunities for going out. I mostly spend my time with associations. There was also midnight crafts on Friday night for the creative ones

which was really fun. The KPA is a good place to meet up with friends and have lunch/dinner. They also organise parties and activities. If you like a sport, it might be worth it to visit a match. And: try out something new! I tried out bouldering after I joined the mountaineering association for their hikes, and I found out I really liked it. You're there for a short period of time only, so it's a great opportunity to try out something you haven't done before.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

My debit card did not work in the busses or some cash machines. Furthermore, my card does not have a CCV/CVC code, which meant I could not pay on the Student Union website (for association membership) or certain other websites. It might be worth it to get yourself a different card with such a code if yours hasn't (or accept asking others to pay for stuff and paying them back).

### What was your best memory abroad?

I honestly had not expected to meet such nice people as I did. It made my time infinitely better. Sporting, walking around campus, visiting places or even just studying together, it's so much more fun when you have nice people to share it with.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Floor Cromjongh floor.cromjongh@hotmail.nl	