



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BLP
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/09/2022 until 15/01/2023
Country (exchange)	United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Leicester
University (exchange)	University of Leicester
Faculty (exchange)	Geography and Sociology

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted an abroad experience preferably in an English speaking country to improve my English.

It also felt like a chance to get to experience something like this, kind of a once in a lifetime experience.

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

I only looked at courses that interested me and this brought me to the University of Leicester, as they had many courses that really interested me.

Besides, in my opinion you should not overthink this choice as your experience mainly depends on the persons you will meet there and the courses you take.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Taking the Eurostar from Rotterdam or Amsterdam is quite cheap when you book it a couple months in advance.

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	Live Sociology	7,5	Fieldtrips to ten different locations in and around Leicestershire. Where you have to keep track of a field notebook and write a case study about one of the locations.	4,5	
2	Economy, Society and Space	7,5	Analyse commodity chains and the impact of them on society. Examples are; waste, diamonds and coffee. Where does it come from? and where does it go?	4	
3	Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation	7,5	Kind of a crash course about climate change its impacts, the vulnerabilities adaptation and mitigation. It is focussed on case studies all over the world.	2,5	Really big group of people took this course and it was just a bit chaos.
4	Social and Cultural Geography	7,5	Very broad course. About, for example; culture, place, gender in space, young people in space, gentrification, power, nature, interpretation. Every week has different topics.	4	

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

1. Field notebook hand written (no limit) and case study (3000 words)
2. Paper (2500 words)
3. Popular science article (1000 words) and a group poster (800 words)
4. Paper (2000 words), Blog (500 words) and presentation (15-20 minutes)

Academic level is the same is in Wageningen, however they expect you to read a lot of papers and articles.

The workload is pretty much the same as in Wageningen.

For every course you have 3 hours in a week of lectures, fieldtrips and seminars (here you discuss the papers you had to read). 12 hours on average per week. The rest is self study

Not a lot of groupwork, mainly individual assignments.

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?)

There is a student village with mainly first years, so it is really easy to meet friends there. Besides, there are several external and internal parties who organise events which are really easy and fun to join.

If you live in the village, like I did, you have to take a bus to the campus, which is not that reliable at all, but you can also walk for 35 minutes. I would say that that is the only downside to the village.

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

There are sport facilities on the campus as well as in the village (not a lot of options and it costs around 60 pounds for 3 months).

All university accommodations have laundry facilities nearby.

And as I said the university offers a lot of extra events which you can join and where you can meet people. In general the people in Leicester were really nice and open and willing to help you and willing to become friends. Which in my opinion is a big plus.

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?)

University of Leicester has an accommodation office and a website which are helpful. If you sign up for housing before a certain date you get a guaranteed accommodation.

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

Leicester is one of the most diverse places in the UK if not the most. So, it is a bit different, but not shockingly different to the Netherlands.

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

You will pay 90 to 150 pounds per week, so that is compared to the rest of the UK pretty cheap, but if you compare it to Wageningen some rooms can be a bit expensive.

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

Buses have the same price as in the Netherlands. If you live in the village there is a free bus between the campus and the village. If you want to travel from city to city I would suggest taking the National Express buses, these are really cheap in comparisons to the trains, which are very expensive.

6. Free time

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

The downside to Leicester is that it is a kind of boring place if there are no other students, cause there is no national park or must see nearby.

I would suggest see Diwali as Leicester has the biggest celebration in Europe. Go to Bonfire night. See the curry mile and have a meal there. Watch a horse race in Oadby. See the Market in the center. Go to the botanic garden oadby. Watch a Leicester City football game. Go to National Space centre. Take buses to other cities like Nottingham, London, Manchester, Birmingham (German Christmas market), etc.

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

The things I mentioned above. Especially the horse racing and Diwali are cool experiences.

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

Meet other people and see what they are up to.
Another suggestion is don't buy the freshers wristband, but buy the separate events. You have to go to 8 parties in 14 days to get you money back, I would say not worth it.
Leicester is a relatively cheap city.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Not having payment options, you need something like Mastercard or PayPal to do your online payments, or if you for example want to use the laundry machines.

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting new people. I've made new friends and one of them has already booked his train tickets to see the Netherlands.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Jim.vankeulen@wur.nl	