



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BIN
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	26-09-2022 until 15-01-2023
Country (exchange)	UK
City (exchange)	Leicester
University (exchange)	Leicester university
Faculty (exchange)	

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to become more independent and broaden my horizons, meet new people, and better my English.

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

The language was my foremost reason. But I really liked the university and the city of Leicester.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I was so lucky to have a father who brought me to Leicester with the car (and the boat). But beware, we had to drive on the wrong side of the road and we had a little car accident because of that.

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	Global Cultures	7.5	This course explores cultural practices and traditions around the world. The course examines how cultural differences and similarities shape the way people interact, communicate, and perceive the world. Topics covered in the course include cultural heritage, identity, religion, art, music, literature, popular culture, media, and globalization. It is also explored how cultural expressions are influenced by factors such as gender, race, class, and politics	5	I loved this course. The teacher was so enthusiastic and sweet, it was contagious
2	Individual and Interactive Decision Making	7.5	This course focuses on the processes and factors involved in individual and group decision making. The course covers theories and models of decision making and how they apply to	3	

			different contexts such as business, politics, and social settings. You learn about cognitive biases, heuristics, and other factors that influence decision making at the individual level. You will also explore how group decision making can be affected by factors such as communication, power dynamics, and social influence.		
3	Youth, Young adulthood and Society	7.5	This course focuses on the social, cultural, and political aspects of youth and young adulthood. The course covers topics such as identity formation, transitions to adulthood, social inequality, and youth culture. In this course you will examine how social structures and processes shape the experiences of young people, and how young people engage with and respond to social change. They will explore how issues such as gender, race,		Again, loved the enthusiastic teacher.

			class, and sexuality intersect with youth and young adulthood, and how these intersections affect young people's lives and opportunities.		
4					
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload is definitely a bit lower than in the Netherlands but I had to get used to the accents of English people. The study materials such as articles and book chapters were similar of those I would have gotten in the Netherlands it think. The examination I had were mostly essays and the grading was pretty much the same as in the Netherlands I think.

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?)

Lecturers were approachable which I liked very much. Also we had several people who 'mentored' us during the period. You could ask them anything and they were more than willing to help. I highly appreciated that. I had some classes with locals but I noticed that I shifted more towards the other internationals. My group of friends consisted mostly of people from Indonesia, the US, France and the Netherlands.

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

All of the above. There were multiple canteens, a sport centre, a library, laundry facilities at all buildings and housekeeping (sometimes). The university of Leicester also places great importance on the well-being of students and we were provided with a whole list of people to contact if we were feeling lonely or stressed etc. (there even was an emotional support dog for the students if they wanted to cuddle with him to release stress). There were also monthly knocks on our dorms of voluntary students, organised by the university, to check upon everybody and to ask if they needed anything. Additionally, there were activities in all the buildings for students to come together. There were movie nights, culture events, cooking nights, arts and crafts, etc. etc. When I was there, the world cup was ongoing so we all went to watch that together which was a lot of fun since there were people from all over the world supporting different teams.

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?)

There are multiple different areas for students. The city, the village and a third one (I forgot the name). I stayed at the city which I highly recommend because it is new and clean and only a 5 minute walk to campus. However, If you want more green, an authentic English feel and less concrete you should sign up for the village. But the village is a lot further from the campus and you need to take a 20-minute bus to the campus (which is very unpredictable is what I heard from people in the village). Within the different areas you can select the type of housing you want. There are rooms in which everything is shared with roommates, there are rooms in which you only share a kitchen and there are full studios. I had a dorm with four other people with whom I shared a kitchen. I had my own bathroom. The more privacy and the more space, the more expensive it is. My room was 2100 for the full stay which was not that bad for what I got.

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

I think that the UK is pretty similar to the Netherlands. But I would say that people are nicer and more willing to help in the UK. However, drinking culture is very different. I was not used to going out a lot in the Netherlands so I did not participate in that because I heard from others that they party hard. A bit too hard for me but if you are into those kinds of things I think Leicester is the place to be for you.

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

During my time there, the prices were generally a little bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. But overall very similar. As said before, I paid 2100 for a room with my own bathroom. But there are lots of rooms with lots of different prices you can choose from to suit your preferences.

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

I walked everywhere. It was 5 minutes to campus and about 25 minutes to the city centre from my room. I did not take them but there were lots of buses driving around and you could even borrow bikes from the university to bike to the city centre. The transport was not free but not too expensive. I did take an uber once in a while and that was not expensive at all. Even less than in the Netherlands (however that depends on the place of the uber, Amsterdam is more expensive than smaller towns for example)

6. Free time

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

When you visit Leicester between September and October you will see Indian festivities all around. Leicester has an enormous Indian population so their traditions are celebrated on a grand scale. Fireworks and decorations everywhere. I highly recommend visiting some of the events.

Leicester has a great shopping hall, the highcross, with loads of great stores. I could lose myself for hours in that mall. Especially during Christmas when everything was decorated and everyone was in the holly jolly spirit! (The Christmas decorations already started in the beginning of October(!) so it felt like Christmas was so long this year, which is not a bad thing for me at all!)

If you like to party, I would recommend you download the 'rockstar promotions' app. Through this app you are notified about the weekly events and parties thrown at the club on campus (yes there is a club on campus). However, these parties and events are popular so I would recommend buying tickets beforehand instead of at the door (you can buy tickets in the app also).

During my stay, I went to Stratford-upon-Avon. This is the birthplace of Shakespeare and a 50 minute drive from Leicester. You can go by bus or by train. This is a historical and picturesque little village with lots of character. Perfect for taking photos.

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

I did not get the chance to visit London and Birmingham but I love to visit some time in the future. I heard great things about it!

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

If you like history, like me, you will love Leicester. This place is filled with history. A few years ago, students from Leicester university, found the long lost remains of king Richard III below a parking lot in the city. This was international news and something that Leicester is very proud of. I would highly recommend visiting the King Richard III visitor center where you can learn all about him and even see the place that he has been found with your own eyes.

I also went to the van Gogh exhibit. If you like art I would also recommend this. I talked to loads of people who did the same and like me, really liked it. It is a little bit of the Netherlands in Leicester.

For restaurants you have to go to London road, 10-15 minute walk from the campus. There you find all the best restaurants of the city. I would personally recommend Konak if you like Turkish food and Afrikana if you like African food. For dessert you HAVE TO visit heavenly desserts. This place is open until deep in the night and serves the most delicious deserts I have ever had. After you go to eat at London road you have to stop there for desserts.

But the best place in the city is Ms Bridget tea room in the city centre. This is the cutest lunchroom in the world. If the sun shines you should definitely sit outside in the little courtyard and grab a cup of tea and a lunch. I went there religiously every week. Prices are also great for the good quality food you get!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I had a hard time not being able to visit my family in the weekends. Being alone during the weekends also forced me to become stuck in my thoughts. Eventually I learned a lot during this time (also about myself and what I want) because I had so much time to think. But during some days it was hard I have to admit.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory is going to the city with all my new found friends from all over the world. We all went to a festival with live music, fireworks and a bonfire which was the ultimate highlight for me. I am still in contact with those friends who I would have never met if it wasn't for this Erasmus exchange period.

Note: I have to warn you about all the paperwork I had to submit before and after my stay in Leicester. I had greatly underestimated this and it gave me enormous amounts of stress. So be prepared for this.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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