



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biotechnology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	30-08-2022 until 18-12-2022
Country (exchange)	Ireland
City (exchange)	Limerick
University (exchange)	University of Limerick
Faculty (exchange)	Department of Chemical and Environmental sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience what it is like to study in a different country. To meet new people and learn about different cultures.

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

I wanted an English speaking country to be more involved with the local students. Also, I thought the level of education would be a bit higher in Ireland and I liked the Irish culture and nature.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The easiest way for me was by plane to Dublin, and then by bus (Dublin coach) to Limerick campus. It will be smart to get a leap card (like OV-kaart). This saves about half the public transportation costs.

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	Energy and the environment	6	How energy usage influences the environment. Quite some thermodynamics and	3	Course was small, quite fun. But very unorganised. Exams were more performed as a guessing game by students rather than actually studying.

			combustion calculations		
2	Safety & Industry	6	How to perform safe practices in industry	5	The only course here were I feel like I learned a lot of useful things for later. The course was fun, the lecturer even did explosions in class. And I actually learned a lot.
3	Introductory food science and health	6	Learn about components in food, and how it influences your health	1	I actually already knew 90% of what the teacher said (by first year WUR courses, and interest in food). But still managed to get a B3 (only had A's for the other courses) because there were very weird essay questions in the exam.
4	Introduction to technology management	6	Learn the principles of how technology management goes. How to choose and develop new technologies in a company.	3	The course material was quite nice. But the exams were really easy, level was very low.
5					
6					

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

Mostly with lectures. I had about 8 lectures and 2 tutorials per week. You can do 5 courses (called modules there) at the same time and there is an exam period at the end. Sometimes there were midterms in between. There were a lot of assignments as well. This also counted for quite a bit part of the grade sometimes.

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 quite approachable, a bit more formal maybe. The engagement really depends on the course, I would say it is a bit less.

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

The university campus has quite a lot. Multiple restaurants, a big sports facility, laundry facilities, a small supermarket, 2 pubs even. That is also because it is still quite far to the city, so you don't really have to leave campus.

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?)

The university offers a lot of rooms to Erasmus students. Yet, this is not enough for everyone, so it is important you sign up quickly. I was first put on the waiting list, because I could not sign up yet, as my administration from the university took a while, but I still got a room a few weeks later (same as multiple other students). Finding a room which is not via university is incredibly difficult, due to the housing crisis, and there are many scams going on. I would suggest to just look at the university housing opportunities, even though they might be a bit more expensive. Also, it is a lot more fun to live on campus.

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

People, especially the older generation, are very friendly, I liked that a lot. The students are less motivated than in the Netherlands in my opinion, for example, they would just not show up for group work or presentations. They often come to the university in gym clothes, but really dress up when going out.

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

When I was there, there was a big housing crisis going on, which caused the prices to go up a lot. I paid 830 a month for an about 16 m² room with my own bathroom. That was the most expensive one available, the cheaper ones were about 650. Private accommodation was a lot cheaper, I heard things like 350, but this is incredibly difficult to find, so I would not count on that.

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

Like I said earlier, it is very smart to get a leap card, this will make the public transportation pretty cheap. There are not a lot of connections, only to the bigger cities, but they are cheap. I paid about 8 euros to get to Cork or Dublin. The bus to the city is only 60 cents, taxis are about 5 euros per person to get back from the city to campus.

6. Free time

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

It is very nice to visit Dublin, Galway and Cork by yourself, I also really liked going to Belfast, but this is a bit further. Apart from that there are so many beautiful destinations in Ireland. You cannot get there by public transportation, but the university offers daytrips for 35 euros to many nice destinations. The cliffs of Moher is a classic beautiful destination, also the ring of Kerry and Connemara is stunning. I joined the outdoor pursuits club as well (for 5 euros). This club did hikes every Sunday and some weekend trips. This cost 10 euro per hike, and it was really nice. The club was a good way to see the country and meet more (international) students. I would really recommend it. The hikes however can be full quite quickly, it does help to get to know the committee and many other people. The more involved you are, the more you get on the hikes and the weekend trips.

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

I really liked the Kilkee cliffs, they are not very famous, but incredible. The only downside is that it you need a car to get there. I went there with my parents when they came to visit me.

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

Going out in the Stables (on campus) is very nice. Every Friday there is an international night, which is really fun, because you see are your friends and acquaintances there. For lunch and coffee I enjoyed scholars a lot, which is also on campus.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

This may sound weird, but how to entertain myself better. There were a lot of fun things in the evening, but I only took 4 courses instead of 5 and I had to put in a lot less effort than at home. Also, I was in the board and multiple committees of my association at home, so there was always enough to do, while in Ireland I had no extracurriculars. This was quite a big change, so I really had to adjust to not having so much to do during the day and finding new hobbies.

What was your best memory abroad?

The trips were amazing. I loved the weekends trips with the outdoor pursuits club and the trips I made with my friends to the bigger cities. I am really happy to still have contact with some friends and I am planning to visit them in the summer.

8. Contact details (optional)

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