



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Land & Water Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	24-08-2022 until 22-12-2022
Country (exchange)	United States
City (exchange)	Madison
University (exchange)	UW-Madison
Faculty (exchange)	Agriculture

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange? I always had the dream to study at a university in the US. However, this is very expensive. With this exchange I was able to go studying in the US, without having to pay the tuition that you would normally pay for a university.

What is the reason you chose for this country/university? I choose this university because I am a big fan of American Football, and this university had the best American football program from the universities I could choose from. Thereby, is the UW-Madison one of the better universities in the US, with a very good agriculture program.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Obviously, you have to fly to the US from the Netherlands. I flew to Chicago. From downtown Chicago you can take the "coach USA" bus to Madison. This is the cheapest option. The university also provides some options that you can hire someone to pick you up from the airport, however this cost a lot more money than going by bus.

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	BSE 301	6	Land Information Management	4	
2	BSE 473	6	Water Management Systems	5	
3	ENVIR ST 306	6	Indigenous Peoples & Environment	3	
4	ENVIR ST 402	6	Water Governance, Policy & Conflict	4	
5	HORT 261	4	Sustainable Turf Management	4	
6	HORT 262	2	Turfgrass Management Lab	3	

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material) During the semester, you will have a lot of assignments. For each assignment you will get grades which count for a major part of your end-mark. I would say that the academic level is even to the level at the WUR, however the workload is more. Since at the WUR, most of the time there will be 1 examination moment you can study a lot during the study week. This is not the case at UW-Madison, due to the fact that you have a lot small tests, midterms and assignments. I liked this way of studying way more than the WUR way of examination, since you are required to be more active with the lesson material.

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 lectures are very approachable and will always help you when you are stuck or having problems. My teachers where all very easy to talk to and tried to engage me as much as possible during the classes. The local students are very kind as well. I met a group op guys during one of the first evenings in Madison, and kept in contact with them throughout the whole semester. They threw a lot of parties and always invited me and my other exchange friends to come. However, most of my friends where exchange students.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?) UW-Madison has a lot of catering options on campus. Thereby they have multiple gym's that are free of use for every student. During the first few weeks the university organises a lot of events with free food, free activities and information. These are very nice to go to, definitely to get to know other students.

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?) During my exchange in the Fall semester, it was not available to rent a room from the university due to the high number of applications of freshman. During the spring semester it should be able to rent a room from the

university. I found my room via an organization named WESLI. This might be option for other students as well during the fall and spring semester.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?) The biggest difference with home is the food. I really did not like the bread in the US, so I had to figure out what I could eat instead. Food is really expensive as well, so this was a challenge. Sports is very important for the Americans. Everything at the university and the local residents are dedicated to the sport events.

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

600-1200 dollars

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?) you will get a free bus ticket from the university. This can be used in Madison and this is really handy. A retour ticket to Chicago is around 65 dollars. And most people will walk or use a bus to go to university.

6. Free time

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

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?) Going out on Thursday nights at Whiskey jacks is my biggest recommendation. The drinks are then really cheap compared to the other nights. Asking the local people is the best way to get to know which clubs the best are to go to.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced? Missing my close family from the Netherlands.

What was your best memory abroad? My best memory are all the friends that I made during my exchange. I have friends all around the world now that I definitely want to visit after my exchange. Thereby where all the nights going out and gameday moments I will never forget

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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