



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Economics & Economics
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	1/02/2022 until 30/06/2022
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Madrid
University (exchange)	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Faculty (exchange)	Facultad de Economías y Empresariales

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I chose to go on exchange because I wanted to experience living in another country and other cultures, especially after COVID happened.

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

I chose for Spain because it is known as a very good exchange destination because it's a very vivid country, and also because I wanted to improve my Spanish.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Going by plane is by far the easiest but if you want to do it in a more sustainable way you can also go by train.

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	Marketing Tourism	6	Basic Principles of marketing with a tourism perspective. Very basic but fun class.	3	The level of education overall in Spain is very low. For me it was similar to 2 nd year high school when I was 14 years old. This holds for all courses.
2	Environmental Impact of Tourism	6	Compared to the wur this is a very basic class with respect to environmental impact	2	

			matters. It was more interesting because of the tourism aspect.		
3	Sociology of the Population	6	General population theories explained.	2	
4					
5					
6					

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

You have to hand in many things and it is a very schoolish approach. We did not even have to use sources when writing papers etc. I can imagine that for the Spanish students coming to WUR it will be too big of a difference and too hard, because I can honestly say that besides a lot of Spanish, I did not find the courses challenging.

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?)

I followed lectures all in Spanish and wouldn't know about the English ones. However the level of education was very low and there was not much interaction with the local students. Erasmus students do live in their own separate bubble.

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

They offer everything mentioned above, and Erasmus offers some get to know activities for students as well.

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 many online websites and companies that have houses especially for foreign students. You pay a lot and get taken advantage of in some cases, but overall they are trustworthy regarding the room and it can be fun living with other foreign students. I find my room through the company HelpHousing, its similar to all the other ones out there.

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

Expect to live your Dutch time schedule, but only 3 hours shifted later. Classes until 8 pm and dinner at 9 or 10. Many life outside on the streets and it just never stops.

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

I payed 510 rent for a big and light double room in the centre of Madrid, but in an old student house with 7 other people. This is excluding other expenses which for me were around 50 a month, so 560 in total. However, this is more when you live with less people. In Wageningen I payed 375 all in. Also, all the house renting companies for foreign students really take advantage of you, so that is just something you have to keep in mind and prepare for. Its hard to avoid so do not try too hard. You will end up paying a down payment of a month rent + a deposit anyway in all cases. Also, be prepared for some unexpected costs because the company will try to blame you for everything that gets broken in an already old house. So take pictures of EVERYTHING also common areas when moving in. I was prepared for all this so not surprised when they came with extra costs, but they are not fair and only out for your money remember that.

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

6. Free time

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

You travel by metro in Madrid. There are some daytrips to other towns nearby that you can make, but Madrid itself offers enough to do and is quite isolated from other big cities nearby. Valencia on the coast is a 4 hour drive but totally worth it.

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

I really enjoyed visiting Valencia by train and going to the San Isidoro Festival in May.

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

Madrid is not the cheapest city for going out, but there is SO much to do. It never sleeps and there are endless amounts of bars, restaurants and clubs. There is a really big night life so I would definitely suggest not putting all your classes in the early morning, and start a bit later (10 am earliest, just like the Spanish) cause otherwise its hard to keep up. Many student activities also start from 11 pm onwards.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

That because of the siesta, schedules are weird and if you do not want to stay on campus from 9:00 to 20:00 everyday, you have to drop some classes. So that's what I did.

What was your best memory abroad?

That I met amazing people, had so much fun experiences and nights and ended up speaking Spanish basically fluently.

8. Contact details (optional)

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