



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	<i>Spatial Planning (BLP)</i>
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	<i>15/09/2022 until 25/01/2023</i>
Country (exchange)	<i>United Kingdom</i>
City (exchange)	<i>Manchester</i>
University (exchange)	<i>University of Manchester</i>
Faculty (exchange)	<i>Planning and Environmental Management</i>

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted to go abroad and live abroad for awhile, instead of going on holiday. To go on study exchange is a really nice way of doing this because you will get a full to know another place and likeminded people, while you are not too long away from home. Which makes it somewhat less scary.

Besides, it is really nice to follow courses from your studies in a different country because you can get a different point of view and see how, in my case, spatial planning and policies work in England.

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

It was difficult to find suitable courses that fit the criteria. Spatial planning courses that are second or third year courses, taught in semester one, do not overlap with my courses at the WUR and are also taught in English. The modules I found in Manchester passed all criteria, were interesting and the UK appealed to me.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Plane. It is not environmental friendly, but even with the green travel grant, it is more expensive to go by train. And the plane is at least three times faster. Besides, Manchester has an airport with direct flights to Amsterdam, and you can travel easily and directly from the airport to student accommodation and university 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	PLAN20381	10	About policy and designations in England, the UK. Actualities, history, and some politics. Plus a small fieldtrip.	3	There had to be written one essay in the whole course, that counts 100% for your end grade. The course was informative but sometimes a bit boring. Second year course
2	PLAN20401	10	Environmental focus, mainly about the UK, but also lots of international examples and comparisons. About policy, climate change, green belts, biodiversity	5	Nice and informative course with a really enthusiastic lecturer. Second year course.
3	PLAN30731	10	About environmental policy, environmental law and environmental impact assessments	4	Really informative and a small class. The level was somewhat high in terms of marking. Third year course.
4					
5					
6					

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

The courses I was following all had one lecture a week of two hours. The workload was quite low, except for the exam week at the end of the semester. All courses had examinations in the form of essays. For two of the courses there had to be written an essay midterm too. The academic level and lesson material was quite comparable to the ways of the WUR.

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 were really nice and approachable during the lectures and also responded quick to emails. There were not much other exchange students in my courses, but there were lots of international students, who were doing the full bachelor. It also really helps that the local students do speak English as their first language, so there is no language barrier which may cause you to feel left out.

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

There is a great range of sports and societies to join. Most first year and international students choose for student accommodation owned by the university, where you are guaranteed a place and many

activities are organised for free each week. There are catered halls, but my hall was not. Laundry facilities were on site and cost 2.90 pounds for washing and 1.40p for drying.

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 is private and university owned student accommodation. You are however guaranteed a room as international student in university owned accommodation.

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

Really comparable with the Netherlands. England is also not that far away. You have to get a bit used to some accent though, because we mostly hear American English in the Netherlands.

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

The accommodation was expensive compared to Wageningen, more comparable to Amsterdam. I think I paid around 400-450 euros a month for my room? The shared bathroom and kitchen however got cleaned for us twice a week and the place was really close, 5-10min walk, from campus.

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

Places are really accessible by the bus network and a single trip costs 2 pounds. A bus pass for the semester was around 115 pounds. The taxis are also quite affordable, especially when you ride with your friends and split the costs. University is accessible by walking, cycling or by bus. But not too much people cycle.

6. Free time

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

Within Manchester for example John Rylands library and Castlefield. Which you can access by foot or bus. Further away is the Peak District, which you can access by train and is not too expensive.

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

Affleck's.

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

No not anything special.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

All people I knew being really busy, while I had finished all my work and had nothing to do for more than a week. That was quite lonely.

What was your best memory abroad?

Going on a weekend trip to Edinburgh with my flatmate and a friend.

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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