



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International Land and Water Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	13/09/2022 until 10/12/2022
Country (exchange)	United States
City (exchange)	Corvallis
University (exchange)	Oregon State University
Faculty (exchange)	Agricultural Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I chose to go on an exchange for several reasons. In the first place, I wanted to learn how it is to study at a different university. Second, I wanted to learn different cultures and meet other exchange students from different countries and the local culture. Third, I wanted this to be in the United States for my cv, because these universities often have positive outcomes for your cv.

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

Living the American dream, and still have a good quality of education

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Public transport is not very easy in Oregon, and therefore I would recommend taking the Flixbus towards the University from Portland to Corvallis, or take the groome shuttle which is a bit more expensive. Both are easy to book.

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	Desert Watershed management	8	Learning about possible land and water interventions in dry regions and the characteristics and climate of dry regions	4	Course was a new course, so the structure of the course was not very clear, but the content of the course was very interesting.
2	Nature, adventure and eco tourism	8	Learning about sustainable tourism and the possible drawbacks or advantages of this	3	Very general course with not a lot of deeper and difficult information. Moreover, more focused on tourism in general instead of really deep into sustainability
3	Politics of developing countries	8	Learning how policies in developing countries are and different reasons why developing countries cannot develop	5	Very interesting course of good quality with new information where I had not heard about before
4	Water science and policy	6	The water policies and contracts in the United States and international and how this policies are reached and the influences of these policies	3	Focus was especially on the American policies, where I was expecting a more international vision
5					
6					

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

I would consider the academic level of the courses in general easier than in Wageningen. However, the workload is much higher with a lot of “busy work” in order to keep you making your homework. Most courses for me were just lectures with not a lot of variety in it. The examination was different per course. Some courses just gave assignments and papers, while others gave online open book exams. In general books were not necessary for my courses and with good effort it is possible to get A’s generally easy.

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?)

In general, the contact with lecturers is very easy and more personal than the WUR. They try to make contact with their students and especially in the smaller courses you get to know your lecturers. However, local students are in general hard to approach and seem to only go to their lectures and do not want to put a lot of effort into meeting internationals. Therefore, I had most contact with the international community. This community is very open and with the introduction period you already get to know all the exchange students

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

The university has centres for a lot of different ethnic groups and if you live on campus there is catering and laundry facilities included in your housing program. However, this housing program is often expensive. There is a huge gym with many sport fields available and free for all students at the university, just like there is a health student center for students available.

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?)

Housing is easy, since you can apply for a dorm at the university via their housing & dining page. However, this is often very expensive and therefore most internationals search a place to stay off campus which is cheaper. On campus, the price for a room is dependent on your roommates, and if you want a private room the costs can be up to 7000 dollar per term, while it is 2000 dollar per term if you are with 4 persons sharing a room. Off campus, this is often cheaper, and you can get a single room for 2500 dollar per term. The off campus facilities are very different from each other and you should search yourself for a room. Possible quality places to stay are Sierra, the Retreat and the Union, and the main international party house is called Ihouse. This is where I lived, it is a very fun place, but not very clean. It is also the cheapest place to stay.

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

In general, the culture is similar, except to the dining options. Most Americans eat on-campus and barely cook. Moreover, food is more expensive and less healthy. Most of the

Americans seem to be more setback and are often in their rooms and therefore it takes effort as an exchange student to really connect with them.

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

Living in Corvallis and the United States is in general much more expensive than the Netherlands. This is especially the case for the food in the supermarkets and the housing services. Moreover, public transport and hotels are more expensive and therefore you should really save some money if you want to travel.

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

Public transport in Corvallis is free and easy to use. However, outside of the city public transport is not very frequent and the Flixbus is the best and easiest option to travel around. Taxis are in general way to expensive, because of the far distances in the country and if you want to travel in bigger cities public transport is advised. However, there are often sketchy figures in the public transport and therefore we often used Uber or Lyft to travel around in these cities

6. Free time

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

We often went on trips in the weekends and this is easy to plan with exchange students, since most exchange students did not have classes on Friday. The whole West coast is worth seeing and there is beautiful nature to visit such as Mount Hood and Crater Lake. Some of the best cities I have been were Seattle and Vancouver, Canada.

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

The beach in Oregon is very beautiful and renting a car to drive along the Pacific Coast Highway is very recommendable

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

There are only 3 main bars in the city where all students go to in the weekend. However, house parties are more fun and therefore you have to make connections with boys in Frat Houses. Nevertheless it is hard to enter these parties (especially as a boy) and therefore it is fun to live in the Ihouse or connect with the internationals living there because they often have open parties in the basement.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

For me the biggest challenge were the non expected high prices of dorms and food. I chose a cheap option to live in a quad (4 person room) but this means that you have almost no privacy. Sometimes, this was a bit shit and living in the Ihouse in general was a very chaotic place where there is almost never privacy.

What was your best memory abroad?

The best memories I have are all the amazing exchange students I have met and the trips I made with them to Seattle, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Crater Lake, and Portland. The international community is very open with amazing people who are all just like you looking for a fun time in the States

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Bas1.vanwijk@wur.nl	