



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Social sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21/02/2022 until 23/07/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Italy
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Padova
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Università degli studi di Padova
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Political sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

For me, I really wanted to study in another country to experience a new culture, language, and university. This was for me the main reason: the experience to go abroad.

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

I choose Italy, because I really love southern Europe, and I love the Italian culture. This is why I really wanted to go to Italy. I choose the university of Padova, because I heard very good stories about this university, and because they had a great offer of English courses in Political science courses.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I think you can reach Padova in multiple ways, but I went by train and this was a really good experience. It is beautiful to travel through the Dolomites, and a more sustainable way. 😊

## 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	GENDER EU POLITICS AND GLOBALISATION	6	It is a course about the diversity and about gender equality in the political system. A very interesting course, definitely because it gives different insights and a different perspective towards political sciences than what I found before in the Netherlands.	5	
2	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES (MOD. A)	6	The course focuses on green policies within the European Union. It provides information about the Green Deal and specific programs within this policy.	3	It is an interesting course, but it was also sometimes really slow, or elaborating for a long time about some topics.
3	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND POLICY EVALUATION (MOD. B)	6	This is the second part of the course above, and has a focus on the budget of the European Union.	4	
4	Italian language course A1	3	This is of course a course where I started to learn Italian. 😊	5	I really would recommend to motivate students more to do this, and to acknowledge it as a real course. Learning the language of the country you live in, made that I got local friends, that I was able to communicate with local people in shops/parks, and that the local people 'accept' you more. I can really say this add so much to the cultural aspect of an exchange, in stead of only get friends with Dutch and German people. 😊

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

The course mod. A and B, where a lot of lectures, one written policy report and presentation in groupwork (30%) and a written exam of both modules (70%). The course Gender EU politics and globalisation, had also lectures. The examination was based on an end project.

**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 had great engagement with the local students, the groups were not that big and it was a very nice atmosphere. A lot of people also asked questions or gave answers, the teachers were approachable for questions afterwards.

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

There is a canteen, there a sport facilities, libraries, but I did not really used these offers.

## **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 multiple responsibilities, you can look for a room during Facebook, or through house sites as Bed Student, there are also rooms from the campus and university. However, it was REALLY difficult to find a room in Padova, and I just found a room two weeks before departure, and I also knew people who found a room later on. So you have to start very early, and look for rooms a lot.

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

The culture is really different than in the Netherlands. The Italians are very passionate about their language, their food, there buildings, etc. But it is a really good culture, and the locals are definitely willing to tell you about it.

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

My room was 360 euros, but I also had friends with a room of 500 euros. So it is more expensive than Wageningen, but you just have to be lucky or unlucky.

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

You can travel by bike in Padova! So buy a bike for 30 euros, and you are fine. However, the tram is 1,60 for 70 minutes, and there are also busses. Trains (for trips) are also not that expensive.

## 6. Free time

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

There is a lot. Cities nearby are: Verona, Bologna, Venice, Treviso. But the Dolomites are also not that far, and the same for the sea!

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

You find everything out when you are there and meet people!

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

Go out in Ciosco! And the Fishmarkets. It is going to be veery nice, and your leisure time will be without doubts filled with amasing things.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Leaving. :p No, I really loved almost everything. Of course you find yourself sometimes when you miss your family, or your home, but the good things were for sure bigger for me.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

New beautiful friends, rafting at night in a lake, a camping weekend with my Italian friends.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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