



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	28/02/2022 until 16/07/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Italy
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Padova
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Padova
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Political Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Several reasons made me choose to go on study exchange. First, to discover a different country, environment, culture, people and language. Second, is the possibility to choose a variety of courses for my minor that are not available at the WUR. And third, is to look at a different university and the life there.

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

Italy is a beautiful country because of its nature, people, language and culture. The reason I chose Padova is its location, the city is lovely and not too touristic and big, it was together with Milano the only option in Italy and its reputation is very good.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It takes a while but going through Germany it is very easy to take the train and/or bus from Wageningen.

## 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
<b>1</b>	EU Policy Design and Implementation	12	Theoretical background on EU integration, policy mix/design, sustainable development & environmental policy integration, workings of EU institutions, principles, etc. Practical information on grant applications, financial aspects of EU.	4	Especially the first half of the course is good. The parts on implementation are taught less well and take a bit of a long breath. There was one group work, which was nice but collaboration within the group was difficult.
<b>2</b>	European and global citizenship	6	Learning about EU citizenship, history and current debates and conceptualisations.	3.5	Nice course with great potential, but sadly this potential was not fully exploited. Quite Eurocentric approach to the concept of citizenship without extended critical reflections. But it is possible to focus on an aspect/theme you like and choose it as a final presentation topic.
<b>3</b>	Gender and EU politics and Globalisation	6	Looking at history, developments, globalisation, social, economic, and political spheres from a gender/feminist perspective	3.5	The content of the course and the papers to read are very nice. It is also possible to focus on one's own field of interest. However, the didactics of this course were sadly not well executed.
<b>4</b>					
<b>5</b>					
<b>6</b>					

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

The examination takes place at the end of each semester. Thus, it can happen that the workload seems very little at the start of the semester and increases a lot towards the end (no procrastination recommended). The academic level depends a lot on the course, often it is possible to set one's focus or follow one's interest within a course.

**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 are very friendly and approachable but the ratio of lecturers/students seems to be higher than in Wageningen. Unfortunately, I experienced sometimes poor didactics and from some teachers little interaction with students during the lectures.

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

There are sports facilities, cafeterias, events and additional lectures.

## **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?)**

You can sign up for a (double) room in one of the university buildings. A double room is quite common for private housing. In Padova, the housing situation is quite overstressed and since a lot of (international) students flooded the city it is quite difficult to get a room (but possible and after being scammed I found a beautiful double room). Please be aware of scammers (it is likely to happen)!!

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

Of course there are lots of differences but since Padova is in northern Italy it is quite like other middle European countries. The food is amazing of course and the aperitivo culture is very enjoyable.

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

As I lived in a double room the rent was cheaper than anything you can find in Wageningen. However, for single rooms you easily pay equal prices.

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

In Padova everyone cycles around. It is advisable to buy a good lock though.

## 6. Free time

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

The dolomites are close by and amazing for hikes and other activities. Of course, Venice (during the week) is a must see and beautiful and other Italian cities and the coast are also easy to reach.

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

The hills (coli) nearby are very nice and strolling around the city is great.

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

If you like ice cream you must go to portogallo (at prato della valle)! For hanging out piazza della signori is super nice and of course on Wednesdays portobello! In spring and summer there are also lots and lots of nice festivals, events, and music (Sherwood the most famous one). And if you like dancing and nice music outside of the Erasmus bubbles go to centro sociale Pedro or also piazza gasparotti! For during the day there is also a nice boulder hall where you can meet very cool locals and internationals.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Being scammed when I arrived in Padova! It was very stressful but worked out in the end.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Living together with super nice Italians, meeting lovely people and the food.

## 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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