



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BES
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	12-09-2022 until 29-1-2023
Country (exchange)	United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Plymouth
University (exchange)	University of Plymouth
Faculty (exchange)	School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to go on exchange to experience living in another country and broaden my perspective. Especially in the environmental field I felt like it was important to get perspectives from other countries. Another reason was for personal development and to really live somewhere else and figure difficulties out on my own more.

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

I chose Plymouth university because I wanted to follow oceanography/water courses and the university offers a lot of them. They are quite specialised in oceanography/marine courses because Plymouth is an ocean city.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I travelled to Plymouth using the eurostar train from Amsterdam to London(it also stops in Rotterdam). In London I took one time the train but you can also take a 6 hour bus which is way cheaper (National Express). Both the bus and train from London are fine and you arrive in the center of Plymouth. For both it is recommended to book far in advance if possible because it will save money. If you plan on travelling more in the UK by train I would recommend getting a railcard where you pay 30 pounds for a year of 30% discount on trains. For me it was important to not fly to Plymouth due to environmental reasons. I would say it is definitely doable and not too expensive if you plan your travel in advance (especially the Eurostar).

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	Global Ocean Processes	10	Talks about physical, chemical and biological topics in the oceans and interlinks them.	5	Course had a good buildup. The (boat) practicals were really interesting. And due to the structure working well I really felt like I learned something)
2	Catchment to Coast	10	2 parts, coast part where you will predict the future shoreline. Catchment part talks about runoff, erosion and connectivity.	4	Not that many lectures and the timing of fieldwork compared to the lectures was sometimes a bit odd so not always sure what you were doing at the fieldwork. No exams only reports.
3	Quaternary to Anthropocene	10	Talking what the human impact are on Dartmoor (local nature area) in the past 10.000 yrs. It has some archaeology and pollen research in there too	-	Did not finish course due to personal circumstances.
4					
5					
6					

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

Way less contact hours compared to Wageningen. Difficulty is similar but the workload feels a little less. Especially the first weeks of the semester were quite chill. Most courses at Plymouth do not have exams but require you to write scientific reports or it is an open book exam.

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?)

You can definitely approach teachers easily. And compared to WUR the courses had less people (depends on which course) but 2 of my courses only had 30 students total so it is way easier to approach teachers after class.

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

There are multiple restaurants on campus, even a nightclub. They have a very wide range of societies and sports clubs you can join for really manageable prices and they also have an affordable gym on campus.

They also offer a really good student support center. If you have (learning) disabilities it is really easy to find solutions together with the university. They even offer free software to help.

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?)

They offer university managed halls with a price starting 107 pounds a week where you can have a contract for a semester. The uni halls are mainly used by first year students. They also clean the common areas. Private accommodation is similar maybe a bit more expensive.

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

Relatively similar dinner times and habits compared to The Netherlands. I lived with some British students and we had very similar eating and cleaning habits.

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

I paid around 600 euros a month for my accommodation

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

Within Plymouth everyone walks almost everywhere so no costs. Plymouth is not that big.

6. Free time

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

Definitely the Plymouth Hoe park and the Barbican. But also take the ferry to Mount Edgecumbe. Dartmoor nature area is definitely worth a visit. Burrator reservoir especially.

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

Totnes is a very cute market town easily to reach by train.

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

Wetherspoons is a cheap English restaurant you can find in every town. Caffeine Club is nice for both alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks and close to campus. Skiving Skolar is a cool bar. The Roundabout has a great chicken/cauliflower wing deal on Wednesdays and is a great pub if you like to watch sports.

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

More of a general challenge was that sometimes I wished for a bit more familiar faces even though the people I met were really nice. I solved this by calling my Wageningen friends regularly to keep up to date with them and taking days for myself if it was a bit too much newness (especially in the beginning)

What was your best memory abroad?

In the first few weeks we organised a potluck with like 50 of the exchange students on a sunny afternoon and played a lot of silly games to get to know each other.

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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