



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bachelor Environmental Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	September until January
Country (exchange)	United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Plymouth
University (exchange)	University of Plymouth
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Science and Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to broaden my knowledge and dive into a different topic. Furthermore, I wanted a more international perspective and wanted to know if studying abroad would be something for me since I might go abroad for my master program as well.

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

The University of Plymouth is known for its marine sciences and is located next to the sea.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The bus is relatively cheap but also takes a long while. It is mostly offered during the night but you will not sleep much during the drive since the bus stops a lot.

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	Physical, chemical and biological processes in the ocean	5	Very interesting! I was not excited for the physical part but the lecturer actually made me enthusiastic about it.
2	Marine Ecology	10	Communities in marine ecosystems and how these change (by e.g. human activity or invasion)	4	A lot of freedom is given mostly to read literature. Also, during the lectures it is more a discussion than a standard lecture.
3	Biology of Marine Organisms	10	Many groups within the phyla of all marine organisms and their characteristics	4	A module with much information which might be overwhelming but I myself did not have biology in high school and did manage.
4					
5					
6					

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

The academic level is quite similar to Wageningen studies except that in Wageningen you would go through the material in less time. So, the workload is the same but you have more time to do your assignments and prepare for your exams. The lesson material is mostly based on literature and books from the library, so you do not have to buy your own.

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 really liked the atmosphere at the university since all lecturers were very approachable and interested in us as students. I felt like we had more personal contact with the lecturers and (although the amount of student in the class was similar as in Wageningen) most lecturers tried to know all names. On the other hand, the local students were less approachable but I have mostly met a lot of international students.

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

The university offers a lot of societies (comparable with associations in Wageningen) from sports to study related but also hobbies like music (bands, choirs), book club, vega(n) club, multiple international societies and more. Also, the university offers all kinds of services

from finding career to a writing café, this was very approachable since it was just located at the entrance of the library.

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?)

The university offers rooms for students. I myself have rented a room from a private landlord which is a bit more work but I had an amazing time. The rent rate is higher than in Wageningen but not too high (it is a bigger city after all).

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

Children wear uniform. People are very caring.

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

I paid approximately a hundred euros per month more than I did in Wageningen. In general it might be a bit higher than this.

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

As a student you can receive a small discount for public transport around the city you're studying in. However, the public transport is arranged a bit different than in the Netherlands, namely public transport is arranged per region instead of the whole country. So, there is not one app you use to look at all the bus/train times.

In the city most students walk everywhere and do not tend to have a bike. Everything is relatively close-by and easy to reach while walking.

6. Free time

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

Cornwall is just around the corner and has a lot of beautiful natural places. Examples are Newquay, St Ives or Lizard Point. Also, Dartmoor National Park is just North of Plymouth and is easily reached by bus.

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

I'm not sure what can be found in 'the travel guide' but see question above.

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

I really liked the Student Union (SU) which is basically a club in the basement of the university. They had nice parties and was very close to my accommodation. Also, the societies I've mentioned earlier are very nice to quickly get to know many people.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge I have experienced mostly at the beginning of my exchange was the adaptation to another university. As many know, WUR has many contact hours, so this will be much less while going (abroad) to another university. Therefore, I needed to get used to many hours of free time which should be seen as self-study hours of course ;)

What was your best memory abroad?

I have celebrated Christmas and New Year's with some friends I made there, we went to Scotland together which was an amazing experience.

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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