



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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| Field of study in Wageningen | Bsc Tourism |
| Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy) | September 2022 until February 2023 |
| Country (exchange) | Portugal |
| City (exchange) | Porto |
| University (exchange) | Universidade do Porto |
| Faculty (exchange) | Faculty of Science |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to live in a different country for a while.

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

Porto seemed a really nice city and the university had courses that appealed to me.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flying is the only reasonable option. Or take some time to travel down by public transport for a few days.

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 | Computation for remote sensing | 6 | Introduction to python and application to remote sensing | 3 | Content is interesting, but classes are very dull. Study pace is very low. Especially for the python introduction |
| 2 | Planning transports and mobility | 6 | Course on transport planning. Mostly from an economics perspective. | 4 | Included a few field trips. Interesting course overall with a nice professor. Very introductory though. |
| 3 | Geographic information system | 6 | Introductory GIS course from an | 3 | Course is in Portuguese, but practical's get adapted for international students. |

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| | | | environmental perspective | | Practicals are in Qgis and easy to follow, the pace is quite low. Examination consist of a practical and a theoretical exam. Theoretical can be quite hard because all the material is in Portuguese and you have to translate it yourself. |
| 4 | Urban Environment Quality and Planning | 6 | Course focusses on urban design principles to create resilient cities. | 4 | The environmental aspect of the course is very weak. For me, and I guess for all students from Wageningen it was all repetition. The main focus is on urban design principles, not on environmental planning. |
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

Study load is much lower than in Wageningen. Teachers are knowledgeable, but the course level and pace are much lower. Generally, I had one course everyday for four days a week, having to be at university for about three hours a day. Arranging everything at the university can sometimes be difficult. You need some flexibility to switch courses. You are also allowed to follow courses at other faculties as long as most of your credits are within your Faculty of exchange. But do note that this involves more arrangements and that faculties are located in different parts of Porto. However, everyone is aware of the organizational struggles for Erasmus students so teachers take that into account and are flexible in the first weeks. Just call the international office of FCUP or visit it in Porto if something is not working out. Email can take a long time.

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?)

All my classes were quite small scale with around 20 – 40 students. Teachers even know students by name at times and classes have a very relaxed atmosphere. My teachers all spoke English very well and were easy to approach. Local students are open to engage with you, however won't approach you very fast.

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

There is catering at all faculties. The most facilities are around the main campus around the Faculty of Engineering. Here they have extensive sports facilities. The best canteen is the faculty of medicine, just across the faculty of engineering.

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?)

It is quite easy to find housing, especially compared to the Netherlands. However, do look a bit early (March - May). I waited for the confirmation of the university (which took ages) and was therefore a bit late to look. It is better to just book a house first, everything related to the university will eventually be sorted out, it just takes a long time. Websites such as uniplaces and spotahome are reliable and most people I know used these and had no troubles. Rates are around 400 euros a month. There are a couple of residences around FEUP that are a bit more expensive. I stayed in the city centre and paid 385 euros a month.

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

Everything is a bit cheaper.

Rent – around 400 euros

Dinner – around 20 euros

Beer – 2 euros for a pint

Surf rental – 10 euros for 2 hours

Metro monthly card – 30 euros

Car rental – 20 euros a day

Groceries – Comparable to NL. Foreign products and all toiletries are remarkably expensive.

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

There is a monthly transport card for students (below 23) for 30 euros a month. As with everything it does take some effort to get it. The university provides you with a form that you have to fill in. If you are not sure what to fill in, don't write something down. Just ask at the counter. You are not allowed to correct, so if you put down something that's wrong they will send you away and you have to do the whole process again. Also there are only a few metro stations with counters. Try to go to the quieter ones such as Casa de Musica. Avoid trindade as the line there is usually very long.

6. Free time

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

Portugal is incredibly beautiful. The Douro valley is beautiful and an easy visit if you rent a car. The cities around Porto (Aveiro, Braga etc.) are a bit overrated, but still fun day trips. The Azores are incredibly beautiful. If you have the chance, make sure to visit them. Out of season it is quite affordable. Furthermore, I have been to Lisbon, Madeira, Sintra and the Algarve and all were really good.

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

Just wander around in the historical centre. As soon as you leave the waterfront, streets are pretty empty, but there are some lovely spots to find there.

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

Restaurants:

Lareira Baixa

Tapas de Batalha for the best steak sandwich

A grade

Don Pepe

There is a small restaurant on the stairs next to Guidalense FC with great sardines

Nicolau

Tapabento

Bella Mia has the best pizza in Porto (according to the Italians)

Nightlife:

Adega Leonor

Adega Sports

More club (quite bad, but free)

Plano B

Boite

Gare and Ferro for Techno

And Neopop organizes great techno parties in the superbock arena. If you are into that be sure to check it out.

All nightlife is concentrated around clerigos. Metros run till one, so if you are living close to campus you will have to rely on bolts/Ubbers. Walking at night is very safe, but if you live far this might take some time.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The university is organizationally challenged. However, don't let this discourage you. It just takes some flexibility, in the end everything will resolve. The international office told a friend of mine facing troubles "Porto is a beautiful city, go for a walk". While it sounds absurd, it is indeed the best advice.

What was your best memory abroad?

The whole stay has been amazing. I made a lot of friends and the trips I went on were amazing.

8. Contact details (optional)

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