



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	12-09-22 until 03-02-23
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Portugal
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Porto
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Porto
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Science

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I liked to learn about landscape architecture on a different university and meet people from different cultures.

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

I chose for Porto because I really like the relaxed atmosphere and the mindset of people in the south of Europe. Besides Porto is not a very large city like Milaan or Valencia that were also possible for my study area.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I travelled to Porto by plane which was the easiest because of all the luggage I had to carry with me. I think its also possible to go by train through Paris and then take a flixbus to Porto. The journey would be longer but if you would like to travel without plane, I would recommend this. In Porto you can easily go everywhere by metro or walking. If you are under 23 you can get a discount student transport card through the university which will save you a lot of money. In Porto I lived in the centre so I almost walked everything. Only to go to university and the beach I went by metro.

## 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	Biogeography	3	The course is about how the environment	3	It is a nice course, but the level was not very high

			influences the biodiversity.		
2	Studio: Planting design 1	6	In this course you learn how to design with plants, how to draw them, how to make a design and you learn a lot about different species in Portugal	3	If you are interested in learning about plant species it is very nice.
3	Landscape Representation techniques	6	In this course you learn how to make your plans digital and draw them in different computer programmes like Autocad, photoshop and sketchup.	3	It is a recommended to follow this course with the other studio called Construction Techniques applied to (Landscape Architecture) Project
4					
5					
6					

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

In my study area the academic level was lower compared to Wageningen. Sometimes the deadlines were also not hard deadlines as we have them in Wageningen and can be very flexible which is something you have adjust to. On the other hand the teachers are very friendly and helpful, so if the deadline changes which is inconvenient for you they are almost always willing to make a compromise. I think if you can study in Wageningen you will not have any troubles with the level of the exams and the courses in Porto either.

**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 were in my opinion very approachable, they responded quickly on my emails and were very friendly. I personally hung out more with the internationals on my university than the local students, because the students had sometimes troubles with speaking English.

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

The university has a cafeteria where you can have lunch everyday for only 2 euros (for a complete warm meal!). Other then that I think the university has different sport teams which you can join. I haven't done this myself but I think they offer almost all the sports.

## 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?)**

In Porto there are multiple student residents that provide rooms where you can live with other (mostly international) students. Most of them are in the north near the FEUP and ISEP. There is also a student residence in the centre in Bonfim its called Odalys. The

downside of these residences is that they are very expensive (around 500-600 euros). It is also possible to find private accommodation through *Uniplaces* which is often way cheaper. But you have to make sure the landlord is verified to avoid scams.

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

The biggest difference from the Dutch culture is that Portuguese people are way more relaxed and that they don't really plan anything. You have to be a little bit more patient because to organise things it will take maybe a little longer, but the people are really nice and welcoming and always very happy to help with all the struggles you have. In terms of the food the Portuguese people eat a lot of meat and have dinner later than in the Netherlands, mostly between 20:00h and 22:00h.

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

I think the prices compared to living in Wageningen are almost equal. It depends, as I said before, if you live in a residence (400-600) or a private accommodation (around 200-300 euros).

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

In Porto there are metros and busses which can take you very easily around the city. If you have student discount card for under 23 you pay 30 euros a month to make unlimited use of all public transport. If you have a normal card you will pay around 40 euros a month. Also ubers are a lot cheaper in Porto compared to the Netherlands. Metro's go usually till 1 am, so if you wanna go home after a night out it is either safe to walk, take the night bus or split an uber which is usually around 6 euros.

## 6. Free time

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

ESN-Porto is a very active student organisation that organises in the first few months almost every day an activity like speed dating, movies nights, parties and cultural trips. In the weekends I would usually do a lot of surfing or visit places near Porto by Flixbus (5 euros to go to Lisbon!). You can visit Lisbon, Aveiro, Braga, Coimbra or do some hiking in Gêres or some wine tasting in the Douro Valley (where the Porto wine is made).

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

Something that I did a lot in the weekends which was really beautiful is rent a bike and cycle all the way to the north along the coast. The beaches there are really beautiful and the waves especially in the autumn are huge! You can easily have a picnic on the beach and take the metro back to Porto.

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

Porto has an endless amount of nice restaurants, theaters, art galleries, shops and amazing surfspots!. Besides the typical Portuguese food you can also enjoy a lot of other cuisines like Italian, Asian or even Mexican. Also there are many nice bars and clubs to go out every night. There is one bar in particular where every international starts their night. It is called Adega and because of the discount for esn members every night

the square in front of the bar is filled with at least 50/100 people that love to make new friends.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

One of the biggest challenge I experienced during my Erasmus was starting a life somewhere completely new without anyone I knew. First I found it hard to leave my comfortable life in the Netherlands behind. I missed my family and friends, but luckily the people I met in Portugal became my second family.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

Meeting my friends and travelling with them to the most beautiful places like the Azores and the Algarve in the south of Portugal.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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