



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>       | Plant Sciences              |
| <b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b> | 03/01/2022 until 21/05/2022 |
| <b>Country (exchange)</b>                 | United Kingdom              |
| <b>City (exchange)</b>                    | Reading                     |
| <b>University (exchange)</b>              | University of Reading       |
| <b>Faculty (exchange)</b>                 | Agriculture                 |

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to improve my English. Also, I liked to get into contact with people from different cultures and get out of my comfort zone.

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

I really wanted to follow some business courses and this was one of the few universities where I, as a plant science student, could follow business courses. Also, I wanted to go to an English-speaking country, because here I could interact with the locals as well and learn something about their culture.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

If you take the train, you should apply for a 16-25 railcard. In this way, you can receive 30% off.

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

|   | Course   | ECTS | Short description of the contents   | Appreciation of course:<br>1(low) – 5(high) | Remarks            |
|---|--|------|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | AP3EC3 Contemporary issues in consumer behaviour & marketing | 5    | In this course, we applied consumer behaviour and marketing theory to current issues                | 4   |                    |
| 2 | AP3ID4 Principles of communication design for development    | 5    | In this course, we discussed how to use media effectively to achieve change in developing countries | 4   |                    |
| 3 | AP2EM1 Marketing Management                                  | 5    | In this course, we talked about the approach to marketing   | 2   | Level was very low |
| 4 | AP3EB3 Supply Chain Management                               | 5    | We discussed the approaches to and important aspects of supply chain management                     | 4   |                    |
| 5 | AP2EC1 Consumer Behaviour                                    | 5    | In this course, the theory behind consumer behaviour was discussed                                  | 4   |                    |
| 6 | AP3EB1 Business Strategy                                     | 5    | In this course, we analysed a business on all aspects of business strategy                          | 4   |                    |

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

Most of the work for the courses was self study. Per course, I only had one contact hour per week. Most of the examination consisted of essays. The academic level of most courses was quite low. As a student with limited pre-knowledge, I was able to follow third-year courses without any problems.

### 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?)

Lecturers are approachable, but engagement with students is not stimulated. A large difference is the smaller amount of contact hours.

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

There are meal plans and cafés on campus, there are large amounts of sports societies, a gym, laundry facilities, activities for students in halls, a students union on campus where you can go clubbing.

## 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?)**

Student housing is similar to Dutch housing, but organised by the university and with cleaning included. Rooms are all private, but rent rates are extremely high. However, room availability is great.

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

British people are not very open, so it costs a lot of energy to get to know them. Because of the regular cleaning, the students are not very independent and are very messy. Local cuisine is not amazing, mostly meat and a lot of fat.

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

I lived in one of the cheaper buildings with a kitchen: shared facilities and a small room. However, I paid 800 euros a month. If you have sufficient time before your exchange, I would recommend looking at private accommodation outside campus.

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

Public transport is quite expensive, but for students there are discounts. Download the Reading buses app and try to buy a 16-25 railcard (in the trainline app). Taxis here are not very expensive.

## 6. Free time

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

I mostly travelled by train. London, Bristol, Oxford, and Bath are quite close.

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

The Harris garden on campus. It is hidden, but amazing.

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

Going out is great to union on campus, or Qclub in town. Restaurants in the centre are all great, but if you have the chance you should go and have breakfast at café Yolk. Also, I would recommend to join a society.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

For me it was quite difficult to not have my friends around. The Erasmus office didn't organise any activities due to COVID, so meeting new people had to be on your own initiative. Also, it was quite difficult for me to gather the motivation for all the self study.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Definitely the trips to other cities together with the other exchange students.

**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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