



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Internationale Ontwikkelingsstudies
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	19/09/2023 until 09/01/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	United Kingdom
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Reading
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Reading University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Agriculture, Policy & Development (AP)

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

It seemed like a unique experience that I could learn a lot from.

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

The university was supposed to be a good university, I really like England and it is really close to London.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by car to Reading because it is hard to take enough stuff for half a year on a plane. We took the ferry and the total trip took about 8 hours, my girlfriend dropped me off. The total time traveling was similar to travelling by plane and it was cheaper.

## 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	Forestry and Woodlands	5	How to take care of forests and woodlands.	4	It was a fun and well taught course with a few fieldtrips.
2	Financial Management	5	Balance sheets, balance of payments	3	It was a good course but the way in which it was taught was a bit dry.
3	Marketing Essentials	10	Basics of marketing	3.5	It was a well taught course.
4	Firms in the Global Economy	10	International trade and institutional policies.	4	It was a really interesting course and we put our new insights into practice.
5					
6					

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

The study was well arranged, apart from the start. In the first 2 weeks, 170 students had to select courses and all the students had to be allocated by 4 people. This was cause for a slight chaotic situation and afterwards I felt I did not fully select my preferred courses because of it. When all the courses got underway, everything was well arranged and communications went smoothly. The level was good but the workload was significantly lower than at the WUR.

**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 culture at Reading University is similar to the culture at WUR. The lecturers were very approachable and I made a lot of contact with local students. The main differences from WUR were that almost all students lived on the university grounds, this caused the atmosphere to be a lot different.

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

The university offered a lot of facilities! There were a lot of sports facilities, catering facilities/bars. There were also a lot of societies you could join, these were arranged by students as a part of the university. I joined a few different societies and I also went on a few very fun trips, that was a very nice part of my experience!

## 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 housing possibilities were good, as long as you were on time you could sign up for housing on campus. The rooms were very expensive though, I paid approximately €750 a month for a student room (10 m<sup>2</sup>) with shared facilities.

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

The overall culture is similar to the culture in the Netherlands. The main differences were the drinking habits, I enjoyed the cuisine a lot less and there were a lot more chain companies.

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

I paid about €750 for my room, this was including electricity, water and weekly cleaning of the shared spaces. I think the same room would cost about €500/€550 in Wageningen.

### **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 was good, not as well arranged as in the Netherlands as there were a lot of delays. The public transport connection between Reading and London was very good! This would only take half an hour by train and a daily return ticket costs about €25. I was able to rent a bike via the university, this was a very good initiative. The rental of the bike only cost me about €50 for the total time I was there.

## 6. Free time

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

London was very nice to visit and reachable. During Christmas, there were a few more things to do in Reading. The nature surrounding the river was nice and so was the city centre, next to the city centre there is a very old monastery that is nice to visit.

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

I have not looked at any travel guides.

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

My main tip would join some societies, at the start of the term there is a big market where you can have a look at all the possibilities.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

Connecting with other Erasmus students, there were some trips arranged for Erasmus students but I wasn't able to join any of the trips.

### What was your best memory abroad?

Connection with some very lovely English people and the two caving trips I went on.

## 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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