



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BIL
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	22/09/2022 until 09/12/2022
Country (exchange)	United States
City (exchange)	San Diego
University (exchange)	University of California San Diego
Faculty (exchange)	Scripps Institution of Oceanography

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Get to know new people and a different way of life and to get the best education for the field I was interested in

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

I always wanted to experience the college life at an American University and Scripps Institution is famous for Oceanography which I always wanted to learn more about /do a minor in.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Its the US so you have to fly and then take decent American public transport but most likely uber as the US public transit system is a little underwhelming

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	The Oceans	5	General overview of biology, chemistry, physics and geology of the Ocean	3	
2	Introduction to Physical Oceanography	5	Specifics of flows, currents, waves, tides etc.	4	
3	Analysis of Oceanic and Atmospheric Data	5	Lots of useful MATLAB for both ocean atmosphere but also general application for data analysis.	5	very applied lots of support lots of hands on experience
4	Carbon Neutrality at UC	3	Overview of Campus wide, city wide, state wide and country wide carbon neutrality efforts and solutions also comparing things to the international equivalents.	5	
5					
6					

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

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 very approachable, as my classes were all 30 students or less (except The oceans with more than 300 students yet tutors were always available). The university gives lots of student support as compares well to how WUR handles their (small) classes. If taking smaller courses engagement with local students is guaranteed yet large courses have little interactions and other internationals unlike me stayed within the international bubble

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

UCSD offers sport clubs yet does not have a school and sport spirit like other American cliché universities as you'd see them in movies. Location wise the campus is great right next to the ocean (specifically SCRIPPS) but is sometimes a little socially dead if you approach it correctly and are open to join clubs both sports and other extra curriculars than there is plenty to do.

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?)

Possible on campus housing if you apply early and 70% of applications get a spot otherwise housing of campus is rare and otherwise very expensive 1000\$+ per month often times

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

Its still the western world, Americans are very open people and love small talk so they are very approachable but expect to have to drive everywhere. Recent developments enable some public transit but that is either limited or takes very long

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

1000\$+ per months sometimes to share a room. Its way more expensive

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

Cost is covered by your enrolment at UCSD so public transit is free and there are busses and trolleys to downtown and all but all take 1hr to get somewhere interesting

6. Free time

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

Mostly with groups of people and rent a car for all is most convenient. Otherwise the trolley downtown works it's a direct 1 hr trip from campus.

Must see is Joshua tree national park, Blacks Beach next to campus, Yosemite if possible but that's quite a trip and Hawaii is a 6 hr flight but closer than a flight from Europe.

Plan during holidays like thanksgiving when lots of time off and most people are at home anyways

GO OUTDOORS either surfing or climbing California has lots of both to offer and very fun people in both scenes.

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

Tijuana is cool because its cheap and right across the border in Mexico and adds a whole other culture to the exchange program

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

Going out is expensive but All Taco stands i.e Tacos El Gordo and convoy street is famous for Asian food

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Mobility

What was your best memory abroad?

Morning lectures with ocean view and lunch break surf sessions

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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