



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Plant Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01-02-2022 until 30-06-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Spain
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Sevilla
<b>University (exchange)</b>	US Sevilla
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	ETSIA

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I could. I figured that now I could, I should take the chance. When I'm working, going to other countries is not that easy anymore.

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

I had been to Spain before, so I decided I wanted to go to Spain again. I went to Santiago de Compostela before, so I decided to go to the other side of the country. And I saw that Sevilla that courses that I could follow.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by plane.

## 4. University and studying

### Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

(I only followed three courses during my exchange)

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Fruticultura	6	You learn about how several fruits are grown (in Spain) and everything that's	5	Nice course, where you learn about a lots of fruit that do not grow in the Netherlands. There are several excursions and practicals.

			important during the growth and processing process.		
2	Olivicultura y Viticultura	6	You learn about how olives and grapes are grown and processed into wine and olive oil.	4	The viticultura part was very interesting with well developed exercises (teacher=Ana). The olivicultura part was quite boring, because we just had to read a lot (teacher=Maripaz). The excursions and practicals were interesting, since we got to taste wine, olive oil and olives.
3	Botánica ornamental	6	You learn about different garden plants and trees	4	It is super easy to pass this course (at least with my teacher). If you're present at the practicals you already have a 5, and the exams can only raise your grade. The excursions were very nice, this way you get to see some other cities (Málaga and Córdoba). And it's nice to learn about the various ornamental plants.

Important to know: You need a B2 in Spanish! Because the WUR asks for a B2 in English from exchange students from the Universidad de Sevilla. I was very lucky to have cheated a bit (oops) on the Erasmus language test (because I didn't realise it was an official test), so while I only had an official B1 diploma from a real language school my B2 from Erasmus counted to be accepted at the university. But I didn't know I needed the B2 when I applied for the exchange. So that was quite a surprise when they told me that when I was already in Sevilla and filling in the forms. And I was not the only one that (accidentally) cheated, I heard more stories of people cheating because otherwise they couldn't go. So: It's very useful and necessary to know Spanish, but you will also improve a lot during the exchange. At the end of my exchange my level was a C1 on the Erasmus test (without cheating :) ).

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

The academic level is low. What surprised me is that they don't know how to use scientific literature. While at WUR this is very important. The practicals are nice, but you just have to follow the practical guide, at no point did I do my own mini research or something. The workload is normal, because they give you easy work but a lot of it. The examination is mostly made up of several components: practical assistance, homework, exams, group work.

**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?)**

I found that students are not enthusiastic at all. They barely have activities outside of university, not like here at WUR. There is no study association, and nothing that looks like the Bongerd. Also a lot of students still live with their parents, so it's difficult to meet up after school. The lecturers are very approachable, and everyone calls them by their first name.

They also don't separate lectures and tutorials. SO sometimes during the lecture you suddenly have to do a mini assignment, but this has to be super quickly because also the lecture has to continue and they have limited time.

There were unfortunately way less places to sit than at WUR. In Wageningen you can always find a place to have a break or discuss group projects, but at the ETSIA they don't really have these places. There is a study room, but this is just a normal classroom so the tables are not set up for groups.

I found my peers to be very childish sometimes. Some just could not shut their mouth during the lectures, while most of them were older than me.

And something else that surprised me: they don't have 1 standard format for presentations. Every course has a different style of PowerPoints, which was quite distracting. And I'm quite sure one professor even used Comic Sans in his presentations.

Something else: I received 0 information about my Erasmus from the Universidad de Sevilla. So I went to my faculty, the week before the lessons would start. I went to the office of Víctor Manuel Fernández Cabanás ([victorf@us.es](mailto:victorf@us.es)), the international coordinator (he responds quickly to his emails, so if you need something, ask him). And he asked if I had already gone to the centro internacional. But I didn't even know it existed. So please look for what you have to do yourself, or email people from your faculty if you don't receive information.

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

There is a café, but it's from the other university at the same campus. There are coffee machines, but there are very few places to sit comfortably during the breaks. Almost everyone just stands outside. Something that the ETSIA faculty has to offer is a tree orchard for the practicals. But, you can also pick some delicious fruits from them for free in the right season.

## **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 university does not provide any services themselves, as far as I know. I found my room through a website I found in a Facebook Sevilla Erasmus group. I stayed at the Calle Guadarrama 16 from the company called Roommates Sevilla, but I would not recommend them per se. If you're in desperate need the company is ok, but Idealis in Wageningen is better haha. My recommendation: look at Google reviews if it's a company to see if you can trust them. And, ask for phone numbers of current residents to ask how the service and the house is, and you can also talk a bit to see if you would be compatible housemates.

When looking for a place to stay, I would recommend somewhere close to the center but also close to a metro station to get to university. (And if you study something else than me and don't have to go to the ETSIA, find a place from which you can easily reach your faculty.)

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

I found everyone very hardworking, but also not efficient. Lots of things take a lot of time. For example, to finalize my application I had to go to the centro internacional. There, they said that they would send me an email that day with a document that I had to take to the bank. So I waited. But the next day, I still had no email. So I went back, told my story, and then suddenly they were able to give me my document on the spot. It was an invoice for 6 euros to pay for my student card. Then I had to go to a bank, wait 15 minutes in line, and then I could pay it. I still don't understand why I couldn't pay this in advance in the Netherlands or just online, because it took way too much time for what I had to do.

It's also more difficult to do activities with other Erasmus students, because of the time schedule in Spain. In the Netherlands, everyone eats around 6-7 so you can meet up at 8 to do something. But in Spain, some have school in the evening, so it's hard to find a good time.

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

I think the prices are comparable. I paid 300 euros (all costs included) for my room in Sevilla compared to 350 in Wageningen. But my room in Wageningen is bigger and my house here is also bigger, so I think the prices are comparable. On the other hand, prices vary a lot. Some friends paid 200, and other 400.

The cost of living is cheaper than in the Netherlands, but I also spent more money on going out to eat with friends to restaurants and cafes.

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

Sevici is a bike service that is amazing. For 35 euros you can always use a bike for 30 minutes without extra costs. This is almost always enough to take you to your destination in Sevilla. Just remember that the bike paths are not as great as in the Netherlands. Otherwise, there are a lot of buses and a metro. But there is just 1 metro line. I used the metro to travel to university. This costed 83 cents per ride, and the metro stops at the campus. You can buy a metro card, but a credit card works too. And there is a tramline.

## **6. Free time**

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

ESN and Erasmus Club Sevilla organize many trips, and I can recommend going with them. Transport, food or drinks and some tour guide is included, so it's relatively cheap with them.

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

Carmona is a nice little village.

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

La Sra Pop is a nice café with sometimes live music and cheap drinks. It's also great to just sit at the river near the Triana bridge.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

I found it quite difficult to suddenly be with some many not Wageningen students. It sounds silly, but in Wageningen most people care about recycling, have plants, and like to do things besides going to restaurants or just sitting together. But in Sevilla, there were so many students from studies that are not green or have to do with life sciences. And then it's quite difficult to talk about study, since their curriculums are so different.

### What was your best memory abroad?

Oof, difficult. I would say just enjoying the flora. The flora is very different in Sevilla: there are palm trees everywhere! It was just really cool to see different plants and trees than in the Netherlands. Of course it's also amazing to make new friends, but 5 months is a bit short to really find friends that fit you. I think that I made the best friendships in the last month, but then of course there was very little time left which was quite sad.

## 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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Fill in the questionnaire, and send it to [erasmus.studentexchange@wur.nl](mailto:erasmus.studentexchange@wur.nl), to inspire other students to go on study exchange and help them with preparing their study abroad. The questionnaires will be shared on [www.wurgoesabroad.wur.nl](http://www.wurgoesabroad.wur.nl)