



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BSc Bos- en natuurbeheer
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	10/09/22 until 17/12/22
Country (exchange)	Scotland
City (exchange)	Stirling
University (exchange)	University of Stirling
Faculty (exchange)	Environmental sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To become more independent, learn to live on my own in another country and get out of my comfort zone.

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

I knew I would love the nature in Scotland or other northern countries. A country where English is the native language seemed like a good opportunity to improve my English properly. Stirling was the only available university in Scotland.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

If possible, I recommend taking the Megabus from Edinburgh Airport to Stirling. From there, just take the bus (20 minutes)

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	Heritage; Theory and Practice	10	Learning about how heritage plays a role in our society and how we can protect it. Keywords would be; Values, public participation and data records	4	The assignments are pretty cool. However I expected more interesting lectures in this course. Most of the material was provided online (Like powerpoints uploaded on Brightspace). The fieldwork is not something to look forward too.
2	Glaciers and landscapes	10	You learn about different glacial processes and how these impacted the landscape. Greenland, Scotland and antartice are highlighted.	5	Very interesting course. The fieldwork takes you to some really cool, offroad, sites. I never expected to be so hyped about some stones. Also, the assignment and lectures are very interesting. The final test is pretty tough.
3	People and the environment	10	Basics about world hunger, water shortages and landscape planning	3	I choose this course because I expected it wouldn't be very time consuming. It's very easy and you basically only have to write 3 500 word reports to pass the course. If you would like to learn something new or more complicated, I would not recommend it
4					
5					
6					

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

On average I had 6 hours of lectures on campus a week. There is a lot of stuff online, I did look at this from time to time, but would not worry about it. Most of the times it is not very much needed, however it was nice to be prepared for class.

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?)

Awesome. You can have proper personal contact with the lecturers if you would like to. Besides group projects, I didn't speak much with the local students through University. I made most of my local friends through other activities, like sports. You will interact a lot with the local students during the first week, Freshers week.

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

They have some nice catering and there is a supermarket at the campus. Also, The university of Stirling is known for its sports facilities. They have every sport you can imagine. No jokes. They even have polo, scuba, ultimate frisbee and, yeah everything. I joined the field hockey and darts team. Besides just trainings and games they have really awesome socials. I must say that it was a bit like a frat. Had to eat some raw onions and other weird stuff. The 1s team was, I would say, too competitive if you only stay in Stirling for one semester. I spent a lot of time on the bench and would've preferred the 2s team in the end. There is a laundry facility on campus.

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?)

There are 3 facilities you can choose from as an exchange student. Or you can try and find yourself a place of course. I stayed in the cheapest one on campus, Muirhead. It was 470 a month. At first, I seemed terribly small, but I got used to it in a week or so. It made it easier to bond with your roommates for sure, your roommates are very likely to be exchange students too. Muirhead might be terrifying at first but in the end it fucking rocks.

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

Pretty much the same

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

Muirhead or Union street

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

Get yourself a 'young scotts card' ASAP. With this card u can take every bus for free. You really should get this card since it will save you mad money. I took the bus every day, if not twice, so it saved me like 4/8 bucs a day.

6. Free time

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

Dumyat, and you should definitely go do some other hikes nearby. Also, I did a 3-day tour in the highlands with Hearthland Travels. You stay at a lodge with your group for 2 nights. This lodge is mad fun and I had the greatest nights. This was fucking awesome u should definitely do this if you don't have any other way to explore the highlands. I also visited Edinburgh, Glasgow, Saint Andrews. Also I took a plane to Dublin, and from Dublin to Copenhagen (Joined my American friends who wanted to see Europe). You could do anything anyday

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

I never read the travel guide, but I would recommend st Andrews or the Glasgow Half Marathon

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

- Fubar nightclub (Do not be scared by the google reviews, because it really is awesome. Don't miss a single Fubar Wednesday)
- Cold beer company, Wetherspoons are great places to drink.
- Also there is a reservoir north of the campus, in the middle of the hills. I went skinny dipping here a couple of times.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

My Rabobank card didn't work the first week, so I had to make a credit card account on Revolut

What was your best memory abroad?

Making awesome friends from all over the world. We even unlocked a fire door so that we had like the whole friend group from Muirhead connected. Beautiful moments. This or getting banned from this bar 'the kilted kangaroo' in the first week of the exchange.

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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