



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	MIL & MFN
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	04/01/2022 until 27/05/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	France
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Toulouse
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Ecole d'ingénieurs de PURPAN (France AGRO)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	-

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to improve my French and be in an international environment.

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

Small scale school with interesting broad subject. Chose southern France for the pretty area and nice weather.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

There is a direct flight with KLM from Amsterdam, you can also take the train and go via Paris, just 1 layover.

## 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	Climate change	3	How does climate change impact the world	3	Knew most + nice workshop
2	Food resources & nutrition	3	Malnutrition on a global scale	3	Knew most
3	Biodiversity and environment	3	Ecology and how to improve	3	Knew most + excursion
4	Global gender issues	3	Women in agriculture across the world	4	Interesting + fun project
5	Geopolitics & global trade for French agricultural and agrofood products	3	How countries interact: diplomacy	4	Interesting and good lectures
6	Commodities markets	3	How the agricultural market works	4	Interesting, hardest course
7	Working across cultures	3	Intercultural communication	5	Really nice lecturers! Weird grading though
8	Better business	3	How to do better business by combining all previous modules	4	Combined all previous courses, nice
9	French language and intercultural issues of study abroad	3	Information on France and basic French everyday language	5	Take it! Learn more about France and some French language

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

Level is a bit lower than WUR, examination is done in creative ways: no exams. Workload is not that intense, I wrote my thesis while here combined with courses.

**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?)**

It feels a bit more like high school but that's fine. Lecturers are very approachable for international students. It's a lot smaller than WUR and you have long school days but little work at home.

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

You can join all kind of sports clubs and there are a lot of events and parties organised by the BDE (student association). These people really try to include the international students so it should be easy to join.

## 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 will provide several options for housing, I took a room with CROUS (French-wide housing for students). You can also try to find something yourself.

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

The French are pretty similar to the Dutch. What differs for sure is eating habits, here they eat for a long long lonngggg time.

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

The housing is cheaper, the living (food, going out etc.) is a bit more expensive. Also you will probably travel a lot which costs money as well.

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

You can get a Tisseo (local public transport toulouse) card for 10 euros per month as a student, this includes busses, metro, tram and even VeloToulouse (rental bikes for 30min). I rented a nicer bike for 12 euro per month (Maison du Velo) and biked to school every day.

## 6. Free time

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

Toulouse is the perfect starting point for travel, everywhere in the south is beautiful. You are 2 hours from the Atlantic (for surfing in summer), 2 hours from the high pyrenees (for skiing in winter) and 2 hours from the Mediterranean Sea. Some pretty cities are: Lourdes, Carcassonne, Bordeaux, Narbonne, Montpellier and Foix.

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

Plage la Ramée, it's a lake with a beach close to the city, when its hot you can cool down there.

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

A lot of good bars in Toulouse (Chez Ton Ton the most famous), especially on place saint-Pierre. Enjoy outside and the vibrant city in the sun, sit at the Garonne with friends or rent a bike and cycle around.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Talking French for official documents like your housing and things like CAF (grant for housing) and you will spend a lot of money so make sure you have a little extra saved before you go.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

So many! All the people I met and places I've been to. It was bizarre to swim in the sea with 20 degrees in late January.

**8. Contact details (optional)**

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Tim Jansen, tim.jansen@wur.nl	