



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Biology
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	Feb 2022 until July 2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Portugal
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Faro
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of the Algarve (UALG)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	FCT

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

After traveling in my gap year I couldn't wait to live abroad again, doing an exchange was the perfect opportunity.

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

I wanted to go to the south of Europe, warm and good weather and I wanted to go somewhere with marine biology courses. This leaves Italy, Spain and Portugal. In Faro the master courses were in English so this was a big plus for me and there is a lot of sea.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by car. It was amazing to roadtrip down through Europe. Other than that, it is sad to say but the train was almost impossible. There are a lot of busses though, so next time I go there I will go till Madrid by train and then the last part by bus, to avoid the airplane. However, there is a good airport really close to the city (20 minutes by normal bus).

## 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	15611005- PORTUGUESE- FOREIGN LANGUAGE II- A1	5	Portuguese language course	5	In English, later more Portuguese. If you wanna learn the language this is really helpful.
2	14121158- MARINE GEOLOGY	6	Basic geology, focussed on oceans	3	In Portuguese, a bachelor course. For me most I already knew from highschool.
3	14301049- MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION	6	Fisheries course with the two sides of management, what fishers need and nature	5	In English, amazing teacher.
4	14301076- SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENTION OF FISHERIES	3	The name says it all.	3	In English, good teacher bit chaotic classes. And it was all online.
5					
6					

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

The general level is slightly lower than we are used to in the WUR. I still had some classes online because of covid. Other then that it was all nice.

**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 haven't shared classes with local students, or I did for marine geology, but since there was overlap with another course I have never been in that class. Do not expect teachers to answer emails, but when you talk in person they are lovely, helpful and nice.

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

The university has 2 campuses, separating the beta and alfa studies a bit. Gambelas, where I studied, is quite far from Faro (25 minutes by bike, 20 by bus). Penha is walking distance from wherever you live in faro (max. 15 minutes walk). Both have one or two canteens where you can have lunch and dinner for around 3 euros. They offer sport clubs, parties (once a month on Thursdays) and other events. Self-study areas, a library and some offices which help you with exchange things, and other stuff.

## 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 is student housing from the university, but due to covid they were closed (for European students I think). Other than that there are plenty house owners who rent to (international) students and ask way too much, but still cheaper compared to the Netherlands. It's just unfair for the locals. It is possible to live on the beach, but then everything else is quite far away (35 minutes by bike, 20 minutes by bus, 30 minutes by ferry).

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

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

Between 200 and 400 you'll have a decent room in a shared apartment/house.

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

For taxi, use bolt or uber, that is really cheap. The busses you can buy a card at the bus station, there are multiple options and something with discount till 23 years old, but I avoided the buss in general. There are two busses going to the campus. I bought a bike and used that and sold it again, I'd say that is the best way of transport. The university offers extremely cheap rental bikes, but you have to sign up early since there are not that many. <https://www.ualg.pt/en/ualg-eco-bike>

## 6. Free time

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

By train you can explore the whole Algarve, it has really cute cities with amazing beaches and nature areas. There is a discount till 25 and you can bring your bike for free. Portimão is still one of my favourite cities.

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

Since it is quite touristic, most is described somewhere, try to see all the tops before or after high season, since you are there a few months you have enough time to plan around and see all the sights without the many many tourists.

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

Faro is small, try as much as possible and also look for less touristic areas. And go surfing.

Other tip: look for festivals and concerts, also in Porto and Lisbon.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I was unlucky with my flat mates, so I ended up just sleeping there and spend rest of the time with friends outside or at their places.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I went to Lisbon to see my favourite band in Lisbon with a Portuguese friend I made during my exchange. He used to live in Lisbon for a few years and he was my local guide. The trip was amazing.

**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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