



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biotechnology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	25-01-2022 until 29-06-2022
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Barcelona
University (exchange)	Universitat de Barcelona
Faculty (exchange)	Farmacia

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To experience how it is to live abroad for half a year, and experience new cultures and meet new people.

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

Availability and compatibility with my studies, south of Europe (culture, climate, people).

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I did it by plane since train took too long and was too inconvenient with all the luggage.

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	Ethical, legal and management issues in R+D and entrepreneurship in biotechnology	5	What start-ups are and how they work, also legal aspects in biotechnology like patents	3	Was fairly easy to do but sometimes tedious due to the amount of information.
2	Structure and analysis of macromolecules	5	Mass spectrometry, crystallography etc about macro molecules	4	Could be quite interesting if you are in to AMOC
3	Nanobiotechnology	5	Everything about nanobiotechnology, from how they measure things and more medical focused applications	4	Fairly medical focused and physics
4	Gene, cell and tissue therapy	5	About the applications of biotechnology, especially in medics. How to alter cells for specific diseases	5	Quite interesting to learn about all the different applications and diseases them selves.
5	Molecular diagnosis	5	How to diagnose with molecular tools	2	
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload was doable since part of the grades was attendance. They were all taught in the afternoon which made the days sometimes feel long. But the examinations were really well doable. The level of the course was not too low, but sometimes the examination made it feel like it was.

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?)

Often part of the grade depended on attendance and participation in lectures, this was new to me since this is not the case at the WUR. The classes were split in English and Spanish classes for some courses, which meant that there was a lot of interaction with Erasmus students, but not so much with local students. If you can speak Spanish this might be different.

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

Not much that I know of, I was told there were also sports facilities but it felt like a relative big effort to enlist, and there was enough else to do in Barcelona

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?)

lots of options, I did not get housing via university. But found my own, the rent was more expensive than in Wageningen.

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

The food is good there, it is cheap to eat out. Often we would go for tapas since and a couple of drinks at a bar, which would be too expensive to do in the Netherlands. People were friendly and were quite international, everyone practically spoke English. Although it was appreciated if you tried to speak Spanish, even more so if you spoke Catalan.

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

Since you would go out a lot and do fun stuff all the time I'd say about 1.5-2x as much

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 3 month metro ticket for 80 euros, and besides that good deal you don't need anything else. My campus was located at the L3 green metro line, so if you live close to a stop you can just easily get there by walking and metro. Otherwise if you live farther away and don't have a good metro connection I'd recommend getting a bike.

6. Free time

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

Andalusia, the south of Spain is perfect for a week+ long road trip or to visit a city there for a weekend. A lot of day trips to the north or south are also nice. Costa brava has some nice beaches (north). And Madrid is also not too far by train.

I'd say most is doable by train, I had a month of free time left in the end which was perfect for travel, but if you don't you can easily take the weekends.

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

Bunkers in the north of Barcelona

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

I'd recommend going to the beerpong weekly events at either D9 (more party vibe) or senoras sports tavern (to go out afterwards), those are nice opportunities to bond/meet other Erasmus students. Visit the nice museums Barcelona has to offer. Get some beers/wine and see the sunset from bunkers or Montjuic. Take the metro line to go to a beach a bit more north to be able to play volleyball and a bit more peace.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Before going it felt like it would be hard to get to know new people and make friends there, but when classes started everything was totally fine.

What was your best memory abroad?

Making a week long road trip to Andalusia with my group of close friends I met there.

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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