



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Management and consumer studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09-09-2022 until 20-01-2023
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Barcelona
University (exchange)	Universitat de Barcelona
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Economics and Business

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to go on exchange to meet new people, improve my English and grow on a personal level.

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

I wanted to go to Spain because I really like the country and also had Spanish lessons in high school. Barcelona in particular really appealed to me because there are lots of things to do and because it's a beautiful city next to the beach.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I think it's the easiest to reach Barcelona by plane. This is the fastest way. After being landed at the airport, there are multiple ways to reach the city centre. This is possible by metro, train, taxi, or the aero 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	International marketing	6	Acquire capacities in the international exchange of goods and services. Gain a basic understanding of the concepts of international marketing at a global level. Acquire in-depth knowledge of the information systems that traverse the development of an international marketing plan.	5	Really liked this course, both the material as the way the course was given
2	International financing accounting	6	Understand the meaning, recognition, measurement and processing of basic accounting transactions, applying standard principles and rules of measurement. Understand the content and implications of financial statements. Interpret the transactions carried out by an economic agent and carry out the corresponding recognition and measurement. Understand the different types of transactions during accounting periods and the financial year (accounting cycle). Be able to prepare different types of balance sheets and profit and loss statements.	3	Good course, just didn't really liked the way of teaching
3	Mathematics for finance	6	Understand the theory of interest, understand the most common financial transactions, be able to work with mathematical skills to understand money growth. Teaching blocks: financial arrangement, annuities, loans, and bonds	4	Nice course if you like mathematics
4	Principles of taxation	6	The course covers the main aspects of a tax system. The first part of the course deals with tax	3	Good course, just not quite my thing

			incidence, efficiency and equity, in particular the concepts of vertical and horizontal equity, tax progressiveness, legal and economic incidence of taxes, and economic effects of taxation. The second part evaluates in detail the different taxes applied in a system, such as taxes on consumption, personal income, or the profits of firms.		
5	Business econometrics	6	Be introduced to econometric methods. Acquire knowledge of the theoretical foundations of the multiple regression model. Develop the capacity to correctly interpret results obtained using the multiple regression model, as a tool for quantitative economic analysis. Learn to work with econometric software that allow the use of the multiple regression model.	3	Good course, just not quite my thing

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

For most of the courses I followed, they made use of 2 or 3 mid-term exams with, in the end, a final exam. You were able to choose between making mid-term exams or only the final exam. I think that the academic level, in general, is lower than in the Netherlands, but this also differs a bit between the courses. The workload is also a bit lower, mostly because there is less group work compared to Wageningen. The biggest difference is that Barcelona works with 2 semesters instead of 6 periods, so you follow 5 courses at the same time, each course twice a week.

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?)

The lecturers were really approachable, so that is nice. The biggest difference in the culture of the universities is that the university in Barcelona seems less organised. It is all a bit more chaotic, something I had to get used to in the beginning.

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

The university has catering and offers sports facilities. I didn't make use of any of these myself, so I don't know much about them.

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?)

I, personally, think it's not very hard to find a place to stay. I found my room via [housinganywhere.com](https://www.housinganywhere.com), but there are many different options. The rents are in general quite high. The University doesn't offer rooms on campus but works together with some institutions. There are both private and shared rooms available.

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

In general, the culture is not very different. The biggest difference is the eating rhythm. People eat much later than we do in the Netherlands. Further, things can take some more time before they are organised.

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

Wageningen is much cheaper than Barcelona when it comes to renting. I think that most people in Barcelona paid around 450-750 euros per month, depending on the size of the room and the neighbourhood.

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

Public transport is relatively cheap. For €40 (if you are under the age of 25), you can get a public transport card which is valid for 90 days in the metro, bus and train in one zone (which covers almost the whole city). Also taxi's are relatively cheap compared to the Netherlands. I was able to travel to my university by metro.

6. Free time

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

In Barcelona itself, there are already many things to do and see. My three favourite trips I made outside of Barcelona were:

- Girona
- Sitges
- Montserrat

These locations were all easily accessible by train.

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

I think the small towns next to Barcelona, in particular the nature or more quiet beaches.

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

Restaurants: mimo's born, tapeo, don kilo, la tasqueta de blai
Cocktail bars: Paradiso, Bobby's free, Orient Express
Going out: razzmatazz, la terassa, jamboree

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I think the biggest challenge was at the beginning of my exchange period. In this period you have to get to know new people, which is nice but can also cost a lot of energy. I also had to get used to the new rhythm. I had classes starting at 8 am, and in the beginning, I had to get used to this.

What was your best memory abroad?

When looking back, I think I mostly enjoyed the days on the beach, day trips and nights out with friends. It's hard to make a top three because I have so many nice memories from my exchange period.

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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