



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bedrijfs- en Consumentenwetenschappen
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	18 – 01- 2023 until 16 – 06 – 2023
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Alicante
University (exchange)	Universidad de Alicante
Faculty (exchange)	Tourism

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I lived abroad before I started studying in Wageningen and I really enjoyed that so I wanted to have another abroad experience.

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

I've been to Spain a few times in my life and I really liked the country. I also really wanted to go to a country where the weather is warm and preferably a city next to the beach. So Alicante was perfect. Besides that, I liked the courses they provided at the University.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

There is an airport 20 minutes from the city. You can go by bus from the city to the airport which goes every 20 minutes and is very cheap. If you have a lot of suitcases you can take a cab which also only costs 20 euros to go into the city.

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	Cultural Heritage	6	Learning about the value of cultural heritage in the field of tourism.	4	Fun course, not so hard. Very nice teacher.
2	Market research 1	6	Doing a qualitative market research and	1	I really didn't like the teacher. The workload was a

			learning about the qualitative research methods.		lot and the teacher was really bad at answering our questions which made the course very hard.
3	Sociology in Tourism	6	Learning about concepts like mass tourism, tourismphobia etc.	4	It was a nice course.
4	Operations and Production processes in tourism industries	6	Title is self-explanatory I think.	3	Fun but not so interesting because for me it was too specific on one type of industry. We only really talked about hotels which made it a bit boring sometimes.
5	Economics of Development	6	Learning about the different topics surrounding development countries	4	Fun course, very nice teacher.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

Not so many contact hours (about 10-20 per week), the workload differs a lot per course. Almost all the courses have lectures and seminars, where you are graded in the seminars and the grade is a (small) part of the final grade. All the exams in the last three weeks.

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 are in general very approachable, they are really willing to help the exchange students. For me there was not much engagement with local students because all my classes are in English and the Spanish people generally take their classes in Spanish. I think the UA is very similar to the WUR in for instance the size and the campus.

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

There is good catering on the campus, besides that there are also sport facilities which you can use for around 50 euros per year. There is a pool, tennis field, gym and way more.

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 housing available at the university but I stayed in the city. I didn't hear a lot of good stories about the housing at the university because it is more expensive and far away from the city centre. So I would recommend hiring a room in the city centre. Most rooms are found via Facebook or Idealista and the rent is very low around 300-350 for a very good room.

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

The biggest difference for me was the eating times because in the Netherlands we are used to have dinner very early but in Spain you can even get dinner at a restaurant around midnight. But you will get used to it fast.

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

The price for residence is in general lower than in Wageningen. I paid 320 euros for a very good room in the city centre and everyone I talked to and all the rooms I saw were around this price and very good. Besides rooming, the city itself is also not so expensive. Restaurants are quite cheap and alcohol as well. The supermarket prices are currently I think a bit lower than in the Netherlands and you can get to other cities by bus or train for very cheap.

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 to the university by bus and tram. During my stay people under the 30 could get a free card for the tram (and later also for the bus) but I think this was only until the 31st of July 2023 so I don't think it will work for future exchange students. But, the public transport is cheap, you will pay around 75 cents for a one way trip to the university (and anywhere else) if you buy an public transport card. In the city itself you can walk everywhere because the centre is not so small. I have never taken public transport to get to somewhere else in the centre.

6. Free time

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

From Alicante Railway station you can basically travel anywhere within Spain in a few hours which is very good. If you plan on time the train tickets are very cheap. There are also a lot of cute villages near Alicante which you can visit by tram or bus.

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

The villages around Alicante (Altea, Villa Joyosa, Calpe, etc.)

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

The beach is for sure the place where I spend most of my leisure time, because the city is not so big and the beach is basically in the centre of the city you are at the beach very fast, the water is very nice. The beach can be a bit crowded in the summer so you can also take the tram to go to San Juan and go to a less crowded beach over there. Furthermore for going out I would recommend to go to the ESN parties in the first few weeks, so you can get to know the clubs and bars a little bit and of course meet new people.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

To be honest, my experience was all really really good. The live in Alicante is not so expensive so money wise it was fine for me, I also had a good experience with finding a room and making friends. So the biggest challenge for me was leaving because I had such a good time over there.

What was your best memory abroad?

The best thing about living in Alicante was definitely the friends that I made there. And about memory I think it would be the trips I made, specifically my trip to Barcelona and Ibiza.

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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