



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Study programme WUR</b>              | MSc Geo-information Science |
| <b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>   | 01/09/2023 until 31/01/2024 |
| <b>Exchange destination: University</b> | University of Alicante      |
| <b>Faculty</b>                          | Geography                   |
| <b>Country</b>                          | Spain                       |
| <b>City</b>                             | Alicante                    |

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I chose to go to Spain to broaden my knowledge of Spanish and learn more about remote sensing before starting my MSc thesis.

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

Spain, University of Alicante. To improve my Spanish.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I flew to Spain from Eindhoven airport and came back to Schiphol airport. The flights are cheap and take only 2 hours. Public transport is no option.

## 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 | SIG APLICADO A LA ORDENACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO  | 6    | High level GIS/RS course. Working with Qgis, Saga, Sentinel data, lidar data | 5  |         |
| 2 | SISTEMAS DE INFORMACIÓN GEOGRÁFICA APLICADOS A LA PLANIFICACIÓN Y GESTIÓN DE ESPACIOS TURÍSTICOS | 6    | GIS course. Working with Qgis, Google earth data.                            | 2  |         |
| 3 | CURSO CUATRIMESTRAL DE ESPAÑOL COMO LENGUA EXTRANJERA. NIVEL INTERMEDIO ALTO (B1)                | 6    | Spanish language course  | 4  |         |
| 4 | FUNDAMENTOS DE ECONOMÍA DE LA EMPRESA  | 6    | Economics course   | 3  |         |

**What is it like to study there?**

*E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.*

Studying in Spain is different. Academic level is generally lower. Workload is good. Almost everything is done in class and in groups. Teachers give a lot of attention to students. Students decide dates of exams together with teachers. Exams are during the semesters and the courses had a exam counting for 50% at the end of the semester.

**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?*

Lecturers are really approachable. Especially if you are a foreign student. Local students are really open to new students. I directly got invited to work in groups, hangout with them. It was really easy to make contact with them.

**What does the university offer students additionally?**

*E.g. catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?*

Food was widely available in restaurants all around the campus. Sport facilities were widely available, cheap and of high quality.

## 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?*

Housing on campus was available but is expensive and far from the city centre. Recommended is to find something yourself in the city. The prices range between 300 to 500 euros a month.

**What is the culture of the country like?**

*E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?*

Spanish people are proud of their culture. Eating starts very late. The food is amazing and the restaurants are really affordable. The people are open and very social. There is a lively culture on the streets till late in the night.

**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 was free until June 2024 for everyone under the age of 31. The free ticket can be collected at tram stations by making an appointment.

## 6. Expenses

**Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

*E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.*

All the expenses are cheaper than in the Netherlands.

Ticket there: not applicable

Visa if applicable: not applicable

Vaccinations if applicable: not applicable  
Insurances (extra, if applicable): not applicable  
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 400 euros housing in shared apartment  
Groceries: 200 euros a month  
Public transport: free  
Restaurant/going out for dinner: 30 euros a person  
Daytrips/sight-seeing: 30 euros a person

**Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## 7. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area?**

*E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

Travel by tram and bus was perfect and it was free. Nearby recommended sightseeings: Althea, Villajoyosa, Valencia, Madrid, Benidorm, Isla Tabarca

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

In the summer go to isla tabarca for a day trip. The ferry cost 20 euros and leaves from the Alicante harbour. Bring own food because the food on this island is expensive.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

Cheapest place to go out before the final club: Parabarap --> drinks starting from 1 euro  
Favourite bar: Casablanca bar. They have great offers for students. Try the sangria suicide.

Playa San Juan to play sports

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

**What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?**

The start of the exchange is really unstructured. During the first 2 weeks of the occicial class dates you can still change courses so don't worry about rosters etc, everything will fall into place.

**What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

The friends I met from all around the world. With them we hung out every night.  
Also weekly bowling games at the bowling centre in San Vincent (next to the university).

## 9. Contact details (optional)

|   |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b> | yes <input type="checkbox"/> | no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Name/e-mail</b>                                  | Daan Leppink                 |  |