



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BSc Tourism
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	12/09/2023 until 24/01/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University of Aveiro
<b>Faculty</b>	Department of economics, management, industrial engineering and tourism
<b>Country</b>	Portugal
<b>City</b>	Aveiro

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience how life as a local university student in another country would be compared to the Netherlands. I also wanted to learn a new language and culture and get to make friends with people from all over the world.

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

I mainly chose to go to Aveiro in Portugal because of the climate and location. It is quite more south than the Netherlands so the climate, culture and language are all different which I found very interesting to experience. Aveiro is also close to the ocean which means that beach days and surfing would be possible.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Aveiro has a bus- and train- station, this makes it very easy to reach. The easiest is from Porto airport to take the public transport, a metro and a train. This takes about an hour and a half. It is also possible to fly to Lisbon but that is a journey of about three to four hours to Aveiro.

My tip would be to look at the FlixBus between the airports and Aveiro. Much more comfortable and faster than the trains.

## 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
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<b>1</b>	<i>Travel Agents and Tourist Operators</i>	6	Learning about tourist distributions and how to use the flight reservation system Galileo	4	3 <sup>rd</sup> year bachelor course
<b>2</b>	<i>Hotel Management</i>	6	Lectures on the topics of Human Resource Management, Finance, the hotel structure, marketing and quality management	3	3 <sup>rd</sup> year bachelor course
<b>3</b>	<i>Public Urban Space</i>	6	Lectures about the function, performance, evaluation and types of public urban spaces. And an assignment on assessing a local public urban space and come up with suggestions for improvement.	4	1 <sup>st</sup> year master course
<b>4</b>	<i>Management, Tourism, Real Estate and Heritage</i>	6	An introduction to tourism management focusing on heritage and real estate. And group project focused on creating a tourism product focusing on real estate and heritage.	4	1 <sup>st</sup> year master course
<b>5</b>	<i>Development and Integrated Planning of Tourist Destinations</i>	6	A main group project focusing on a real-life challenge given by a local tourism entity.	3	1 <sup>st</sup> year master course
<b>6</b>					

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

The individual workload per course is lower than in BTO. However, the overall workload is about the same or a little less as we are used to during our time in Breda, as in Breda we have three courses at the same time and in Aveiro you take all five at the same time. Study forms are less modern, it was more usual to take out a notebook and pens than to take your laptop to class (which was allowed). Most classes consist of in-person lectures and time in class to dedicate time to group work and ask doubts.

### **What is the culture of the university?**

In my experience the lecturers are very approachable, most lecturers respond quite quickly to their email, and they are very willing to meet in person if needed. The lecturers knew our names and treated us in a more personal manner instead of only a number as classes are usually not bigger than 30 people.

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

This university offers a lot of services apart from the classes. Their university library is open 24/7. There are multiple canteens and restaurants for lunch and dinner with different menus, nearly all departments have their own little café/bar to get coffee and sandwiches, there also is a students bar, bike maintenance shop, pharmacy, school supply and merchandise store, and copy/printing store on campus as well as the ESN office. The university is next to the local salt plants which is a great area to go for a little walk and enjoy some of the nicest sunsets.

## 5.Housing-travelling-living

### **What are the possibilities for housing?**

The university has student residencies, but these do not have many rooms for exchange students. It is easiest to find a house and flatmates in the ESN accommodation Facebook group or to rent from the local real estate companies. Most students lived in apartments with 4 to 6 international students with the rent prices ranging roughly between 270 euros to 450 euros depending on the size and location of the apartment.

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

The Portuguese are very friendly and welcoming and generally speak very well English making communication with the locals quite easy. They eat a lot of fish and meat in the traditional cuisine. In the Netherlands it is very important to be on time or even be there a little before the appointment and even though this is still happening in Portugal there is more relaxation. Many times, appointments and classes start later than scheduled and life is a bit more relaxed than the fast Dutch lifestyle.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

The Public transport in Portugal is very well priced and works really well. I mainly used the urban trains and the FlixBusses to travel through the country. It is also very easy to use Uber and Bolt, these taxi rides are significantly cheaper compared to the Netherlands and have been our main transport to the beach. As Aveiro is a flat city it is easy to cycle, however, the cars are not that used to cyclists on the roads as we are used to in the Netherlands. To get to the university most of us walked. From most places it is an enjoyable 25-to-10-minute walk through the city. I personally walked everything during my stay so I do not know how the busses in the city work, but I know that there are bus lines in Aveiro.

## 6. Expenses

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

Ticket there: including luggage and flying in summer season, 140€. Going back was 40€ in the winter season.

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 350€/month, shared apartment with 4 students in total.

Groceries: slightly lower than in the Netherlands.

Public transport: much lower than in the Netherlands.

Restaurant/going out for dinner: slightly lower than in the Netherlands.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: slightly lower than in the Netherlands.

### **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## 7. Free time

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

Nearby cities to easy visit by one train are Porto and Coimbra. Braga, Lisbon, Sintra Nazaré, The Algarve, Ericeira and Peniche are places to be seen as well which take a bit longer to get to. And an absolute must-see are the Portuguese islands Madeira and The Azores reachable by airplane from Porto.

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

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

Try out all the local restaurants, cafes and shops. Go surfing and form groups with local and international students to play volleyball, basketball, go running or any other sports or activities together or to go on city trips.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I struggled with finding a friends group in the beginning which I overcame by showing up to most ESN events to get to know people and meet up with them more often.

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

The city trips with my friends and spending New Year's Eve in Portugal with an amazing group of Erasmus students.

## 9. 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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