



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bachelor of Science Tourism
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	12/09/2023 until 01/02/2024
Exchange destination: University	Universidade de Aveiro
Faculty	Tourism, Management & Economics
Country	Portugal
City	Aveiro

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I went to experience a new country from the "local" point of view. Wanted to broaden my interests and perspectives!

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

I liked the courses since they suited my future master/career interests.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

If you can, take a sustainable transport mode. For me it was quite far so I took the plane. I'd suggest every student going a few days before the school starts 😊

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	HOTEL MANAGEMENT	6	Basic description of the hotel industry & human resources.	2	Sometimes too easy, and a lot of time wasted.
2	PUBLIC URBAN SPACE	6	Engaging course about spatial planning in regards to public urban space. Great insights from experts.	5	Great Erasmus course, a lot of engagement! Came the closest to WUR courses.
3	TRAVEL AGENTS AND TOURIST OPERATORS	6	Working in a system called Galileo, booking flights & accommodations, etc. Very interesting and different than normal!	4	Great teacher, great practical work.
4	DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED PLANNING OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS	6	Good Master course, every week different topic about planning things in a tourism destination. Great practical work throughout the course.	5	Great teacher, great practical work.
5	MANAGEMENT, TOURISM, REAL ESTATE AND HERITAGE	6	Course about tourism products in regards to local real estate heritage. Heavily based on a group work.	2	Unfortunately it's a course in the beginning, so it has a lot of points of improvement, however cool practical work.
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

The level is a bit lower than in Wageningen. The examination can be done in both ways- intermediate + projects, or final exam; which gives the students a lot of choice to take their own path. I really liked that about the school and subjects. Lesson material, workload and academic level is however lower than in Wageningen and the Netherlands in general.

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 culture of the university is lovely. It's a beautiful space where people meet, talk and greet each other. The international students are very welcome here, and interact a lot with the local community especially through the ESN organization. The students are usually outside in the area of campus which feels always amazing.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

Sports, parties, bars, pubs, restaurants,...

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 are dorms however they are tough to get for students from the Netherlands or Dutch Uni. Usually they give them to countries with lower income. For the majority of exchange students, facebook ESN housing market place was the way how to find housing. There were many cases of scammers, however overall it is quite reliable, and it works the same as in Wageningen with Facebook rooms.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

First of all, Portuguese weather hahah, best weather ever. Local cuisine is cheap and tasty, a lot of fish dishes. Habits are slow life which feels nice in comparison with the Dutch rushed life.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

Aveiro is a bikeable city so I bought a second hand cheap bike and biked all around the city which I fully recommend. Other than that it's not that big so walking was the most used transport. Regarding public transport it was not that used by exchange students but it was cheap.

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.

Ticket there: lower

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:
Insurances (extra, if applicable):
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: equal
Groceries: lower
Public transport: lower
Restaurant/going out for dinner: lower
Daytrips/sight-seeing: lower

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?

(surfing) Praia de Barra

Porto

Lisbon

Nazare

Serra de Estrela

Madeira & Azores

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

Serra de Estrela

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out

Try Portuguese pastry.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Typical moving out stress, finding friends, and not understanding the local language.
Overcame them easily with just time.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Being surrounded by the nicest people ever. Having the ultimate freedom.

9. Contact details (optional)

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