



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BSc Forest & Nature conservation
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	04/09/2023 until 26/01/2024
Exchange destination: University	Bordeaux Sciences Agro
Faculty	Bordeaux
Country	France
City	Bordeaux

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to take the opportunity that was given. I like getting out of my comfort zone since it always teaches me a lot about myself. I thought it could be interesting to try out some different types of courses than what I'm used to. Also going abroad is very exciting, getting to know a new country, culture, language. Other universities offer other ways of teaching so that was also a reason I wanted to try out something else.

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

Mostly because I love the south of France. I already knew a bit of French, but there was a lot of room for improvement, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to be able to work on my French. The university was one of the few options in southern France, Montpellier was my first choice, but they only had very limited options for bachelor students. So I decided Bordeaux would be a nice destination. Also the school is focussed in Agriculture which I wanted to get some knowledge in.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I went by bike, and I highly recommend bike traveling! It is such a free way of transport and it feels amazing. I think other ways of getting to Bordeaux are no issue, it's a big city and very accessible.

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	Agriculture and international relations	4	A look into the international relations regarding agriculture and agricultural economics	5	Super interesting course, gives a very good overview of worldwide relations and insights into economics. Shows how complex the agricultural/economic world is.
2	Worldwide agriculture	4	How is agriculture done around the world? Different viewpoints into agricultural methods	5	Very interesting, different types of learning as well, more student initiative learning. Content is very interesting as well.
3	Organic farming	4	A deep dive into organic farming, specifically in France and Europe. The rules and policy, but also the practical side	5	Nice course that gives a broad overview of organic farming, but also doesn't shy away from showing the shortcomings. Many excursions which were nice.
4	Agricultural land, challenges and tools	2	Specifically for France, the policies around agricultural land and land in general	4	Very interesting course, many excursions and conversation with farmers. Shows the difficulty we are facing regarding land distribution. But it was quite difficult and very France oriented.
5	Evaluating and accompanying the agroecological transition	4	Learning to use a certain tool to evaluate agroecology on multiple levels within exploitations	2	I was very excited for this course, but was let down a bit. Not a lot of theory about agroecology but mostly using a specific tool in a specific agricultural area (wine-making in Saint-Emillion).
6	Wood, sensory analysis	1	Many different aspects of wood and senses. Wood and music, wood and wine, wood and architecture	5	Very nice course, it was a smaller one with a lot of practical days and excursions. I love wood and this was a really nice course.
7	Wine in today's world	4	From wine tasting to climate change and wine-making. Also about changing wine markets and issues of labelling, production methods,...	4	Interesting course, I learned quite a lot about wine. We also tasted wines in class which was fun! I did learn however that wine is not one of my main interests and there are many problems with the wine industry.

What is it like to study there?

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

The workload was quite nice, never had a lot of work to do at home so I had time to explore the city and country as well. I think the university also takes into account that you are a Erasmus student. The examination methods were quite nice, mostly writing reports and the classes were very engaging. Quite small classes from 8 to 30 people, this creates nice atmospheres where I felt very engaged and involved.

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 very approachable. The university has an amazing person working for the "international relations" and she was super helpful and understanding. The campus and school is a lot smaller, which I liked, but it is different. The local students were a bit more difficult to engage with, but after some time it was nice.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There is everything available on campus. Most students also live on campus.

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?

Easy to apply for a room on campus. Also the city has some places but those are harder to find and often less affordable.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

Not so different than Belgium. I felt at home quite fast. Less veggie than Wageningen though. A lot of dairy and meat everywhere...

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 a lot cheaper than the NL. And quite good as well. Although I did everything by bike. It is a very bike friendly place.

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: /

Visa if applicable: /

Vaccinations if applicable: /

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 10-20 per month
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: max 400 per month, but you can get aid from the government
Groceries:/
Public transport: 1,80 for the tram/bus
Restaurant/going out for dinner:/
Daytrips/sight-seeing: /

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Everything is cheaper but not a lot.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

The ocean! Dune du pilat, reachable by bus and train. I loved biking around, many nice places to visit by bike.

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

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Mainly integrating with the local students I would say. It took time and some effort to just go up and talk to them.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

There are so many good memories! It was an amazing time! The best memory was just feeling so at home and in my place which was very nice and comforting.

9. Contact details (optional)

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