



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	MSC Food Technology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	21-08-2023 until 09-02-2024
Exchange destination: University	Burgos
Faculty	Facultad de ciencias
Country	Spain
City	Burgos

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience to live abroad for a period. I did not do it in my bachelor program and regretted this. I was looking for options to stay abroad during my master and decided that going on an Erasmus exchange would be the best experience for me.

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

I looked for places that interested me and where I could follow some interesting courses. Spain interested me even more because I wanted to learn the Spanish language. I really enjoyed learning Spanish and am really motivated to keep learning this beautiful language in the future.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Traveling by plane to Madrid and taking the bus from there is the easiest. I drove with my car as this way I could carpool with a friend of mine, and I would have my car for easier travel in Spain.

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	Wines around the world	7	In this course you learn to taste and recognise different wines and their origin	5	It's an course that is taught during two semesters, so all year long.
2	Viticultural zoning	3	You learn the impact of different landscape zoning on vineyards and the production of wine.	3	It's an interesting course, but not super related to the processing of food, so less interesting to me.
3	Viticulture in the 21st century	4	You learn about the wine plants and how to treat them for optimal yields and products.	3	You learn a lot about the process of growing grapes. It has a big impact on the final product of wine, but is less interesting to me as it is not as related to the processing part of the production.
4	Innovative and traditional oenology	4	You learn how about wine processing techniques of the 21st century.	5	Very interesting for me. You learn a lot about the production techniques of wine and different methods that are possible in the wine industry.
5	Wine, wellness and health	4	You learn about the impact of wine on human health. The processing of wine into other by products in the cosmetics world is also discussed.	4	Interesting, as I'm also quite interested in nutrition and health. The parts where the cosmetic world was discussed was less interesting to me.
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What is it like to study there?

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

This master did not have many contact hours, but it did have a lot of assignments that needed to be done. Thus it was a lot of self-study.

There were some interesting excursions though. These were very interesting and involved everybody in the courses on a positive way.

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?

Like I said there weren't that many contact hours, but the teachers were very approachable and happy to help at any time. We also were with only 9 students in the master, so the atmosphere was very familial.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

At every faculty there was a separate cafeteria with good, affordable food. There was also a good sports facility that provided a lot of different courses and sports. The first sport course was even free for Erasmus students.

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 a lot of affordable, private rooms on offer in Burgos. There are also dorms available, but these are a bit more expensive.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

I really liked the Spanish culture. People value social life outside of your own home very much. It is very normal to go out for a drink or bite a lot more, which I really appreciated.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

There was a good bus system which was very affordable. There was also a citybike system which worked a bit less, but was extremely cheap. Next to that is most of Burgos walkable. So, you could always travel everywhere on a easy, cheap way (walking, biking, bus).

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):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: **€350,-**

Groceries: **Comparable to the Netherlands**

Public transport: **Cheap, bus was €0,20 per travel.**

Restaurant/going out for dinner: **A lot cheaper than the Netherlands, you could go out for food and drinks and spent no more than 10/15 euros.**

Daytrips/sight-seeing: **Spain has a lot to offer. I really enjoyed exploring Spain. Burgos is also 2h away from the coast (Bilbao, San Sebastian and other places) and 2.5h away from Madrid. Using the bonus cards of Alsa (bus company) you could travel really affordable (roughly €10,- per bus travel).**

From Madrid you could reach almost all of Spain quite fast by train, this is however a bit more expensive depending on destination (between €50 and €100)

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?

The north coast is really beautiful and close. Bilbao, San Sebastian and other places are easy to reach and a lot of fun.

Within 2,5h in the bus you're also in Madrid which is a very interesting city.

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

Maybe going to the Rioja area. Very beautiful area with a lot of culture. But I think this would also be mentioned in travel guides.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Just go out and eat at all the local restaurants and try to embrace the real Spanish culture. If you also try to speak to them in Spanish, you can really have some nice moments.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I had to work a lot on my thesis when I was on exchange. This took a lot of my time and was stressful at times as I could not focus on all my "exchange activities". Sometimes this made me make choices between certain activities or work which was not always easy. For me it was important to keep my goals in mind of my exchange period, but also to remember my longer term goals.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Speaking to the local people in Spanish and connecting with them. Also traveling Spain and seeing what the country has to offer was really important to me. I really fell in love with the country and its people. I really think that someday I might live here.

9. Contact details (optional)

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