



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Soil, Water, Atmosphere
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/1/2023 until 16/6/2023
Country (exchange)	United Kingdom
City (exchange)	Cardiff
University (exchange)	Cardiff University
Faculty (exchange)	Earth Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience how it is to live abroad for some months, I wanted to meet new people and I wanted to explore a new place I had never been before.

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

I had never been to the UK before and I wanted to go there because the nature and culture seemed really nice to me. I chose Cardiff University mainly because of the courses they offered and because of the beautiful pictures I saw of the Welsh landscape.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

I went with the Flixbus to London and from there I took a bus to Cardiff. You could also take the train, but this is more expensive.

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	Geodynamics	10	It is about geological processes that shape the earth. Topics are: plate dynamics, mantle dynamics, mid-ocean ridges and more	3	It was an interesting course, but the level was too high for me. I did not have the background knowledge that was expected.
2	Hazards, Risk and Resilience	10	This was a more social course about how to deal with disasters and how to prevent them	2	The level of this course was too low and it did not challenge me. Also, there were only very few contact hours.
3	Environmental Geomorphology	10	Environmental processes like river flow and sediment transportation, hillslope evolution and dune formation are explained	5	Very interesting course that elaborated on the knowledge that I already had. I especially liked the computer practicals

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload differs per course, but in general it is lower than in Wageningen. Most of the contact hours are used for lectures, but there were also practical sessions. The level of the courses also really differed.

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 lectures are very approachable. During practical sessions you also work together with local students which is really nice.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

The Students Union has sport and other societies which you can join. When applying for accommodation you can mention if you want catering with your accommodation (which I did not have). Laundry could be done at the accommodation, but was expensive.

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 university residences for which you can apply. When you apply you can indicate if you want a catered room or not. There are also a lot of private rooms. Most of them are offered on Facebook. The rent rates are a bit higher than in Wageningen

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

Similar to Dutch culture

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

It is a bit more expensive than Wageningen. Both groceries and rent are a bit more expensive, but the prices are low compared to other cities in the UK.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

From most residences you can walk to the university and otherwise you can buy or rent a bike. Bus tickets are cheap (7 pounds from London to Cardiff), but the train tickets are more expensive. However, if you stay in Wales the trains are also cheap.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire coast and the Brecon Beacons. You can travel by bus or by train.

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

I liked Roath park in Cardiff. It is less known and smaller than Bute park, but just as beautiful.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

Join some trips with Give it a Go. They offer trips to places around Wales and England. I for example went to Oxford with Give it a Go.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Being on your own, especially in the beginning, which can sometimes be lonely.

What was your best memory abroad?

Hard to mention a single moment, but if I have to choose I would go for the trip to Oxford.

8. Contact details (optional)

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