



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Study programme WUR | BIL |
| Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy) | 04/09/2023 until 25/01/2024 |
| Exchange destination: University | Universidad de Castilla La Mancha |
| Faculty | Environmental Sciences |
| Country | Spain |
| City | Toledo |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to live abroad again and get to know another culture. I wanted to learn about the way another university works and what it is like to study in a different environment. I also wanted to learn to speak Spanish.

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

I went to Spain because I have always liked the country and I really wanted to learn Spanish. I went to Toledo because it is not the biggest city, it is very beautiful and cozy, and I like the atmosphere.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Figure out what you want to experience and what you want to learn and then find a place that matches these goals. More literally, just do your research on travel options.

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 | Planning and Management of Protected Natural Areas | 5 | Rules and regulations natural protected area and some design | 4 | |
| 2 | Meteorology and Climatology | 6 | Weather and climate systems and predictions | 4 | |
| 3 | Natural Land Resources Management and Conservation | 6 | | 1 | |

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|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 4 | Fundamentals of Climatic Change | 5 | How climate change works in general and the current climate change/global warming | 4 | |
| 5 | Foundations of Environmental Engineering | 6 | e.g. wastewater treatment systems, some chemistry and physics | 4 | |
| 6 | | | | | |

What is it like to study there?

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

Academic level is a bit lower than WUR but most material and lectures are in Spanish.

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?

Very casual, teachers are called by first names, you have one fixed classroom, and the studies are small. The students and teachers prefer it if you speak Spanish. Seems smaller than WUR.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There are sports facilities, a good cafeteria and a library.

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?

Housing has to be arranged by the student but is doable through idealista for example.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

It's Spain. Spanish food and culture. People are friendly, get used to the two kisses, learn Spanish and the rest will work itself out.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Trains are expensive, book in advance. Buses are cheaper and you can get certain discounts or memberships. You can get a travel card in Madrid that is cheap and it works for the metro and the bus to Toledo.

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: 100

Visa if applicable: no

Vaccinations if applicable: no
Insurances (extra, if applicable): travel
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 400
Groceries: 150
Public transport: depends on if you leave the city, otherwise none
Restaurant/going out for dinner: 20.
Daytrips/sight-seeing: 30

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?

Toledo itself is a beautiful picturesque city and Madrid is close by (1.5h by bus).

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?

My house didn't have WIFI, check this beforehand.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

9. Contact details (optional)

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