

WUR Goes Abroad

# **1. Student Information**

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| Field of study in Wageningen | Bachelor Food Technology |
| Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy) | 16/01/2023 until 21/05/2023 |
| Country (exchange) | Ireland |
| City (exchange) | Dublin |
| University (exchange) | TU Dublin |
| Faculty (exchange) |  Food Science and Environmental Health |

# **2. Motivation for exchange**

# Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I choose to go on study exchange because I wanted to experience what studying and living is like in a different country. I wanted to see how I would handle being away from home for a couple of months in a completely new environment. It seemed like a very great experience to have.

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

I choose for Ireland because Ireland always occurred to me as a very beautiful and nice country. I had been to Ireland a few times before and I always felt very at home. I wanted to experience what it was like to live there. TU Dublin was actually my second choice, but it was nevertheless very great, and I would not want to have had it any other way.

# **3. Accessibility to reach destination**

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

## The most straightforward way to go to Dublin is by plane, since Ireland is a big island. Once you are in Dublin, there are many ways to travel from the airport to your accommodation, like buses and taxis.

# **4. University and studying**

## Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

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|  | **Course** | **ECTS** | **Short description of the contents** | **Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)** | **Remarks**  |
| **1** | FOOD4003 Science of Brewing & Distilling 2 | 5 | This course generally covered brewing and distilling processes and elaborated on several aspects of these processes. | 5 | The lecturer was very nice. There was only a small number of students following the course, making the lessons very interactive. |
| **2** | FOOD4008 Sustainable Food Bioeconomy | 5 | This course explained how currently underused bio-streams can be valorised to become part of the bioeconomy. | 3 | The lecturer was kind, but the accent was sometimes a little bit hard to understand. The lessons consisted mainly of lectures that were not so interactive. |
| **3** | TFEL5004 Climate Change | 5 | This course explained recent developments surrounding climate change and the effects of climate change for the future on us as humans and (among other things) our food production. | 5 | The lecturer was very kind and helpful. The lectures were very interactive and the lecturer always included Irish as well as Dutch examples in his lessons to include us. |
| **4** | TFID4006 Food Marketing | 5 | This course explained the basic principles of marketing using mainly food companies as examples. | 4 | The course was very well structured, interesting, and clear. The lectures were not as interactive as some of the other courses. |
| **5** | TFID4007 Strategic Management & Sustainability | 5 | This course explained the basic principles of strategic marketing and focussed also on sustainable marketing. | 2 | The lecturer was not very enthusiastic about her subject, making the course material sometimes a bit boring. Also she was not always clear about deadlines and other practical information. |
| **6** | TFNT4005 Life Cycle Nutrition | 5 | This course explained the nutritional needs of humans in all stages different stages of their life cycle: newborn, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, elderly, etc. | 4 | The course was very well structured and clear. The lectures were not very interactive, but it suited the course. |

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

## All courses were on a sufficient academic level for bachelor students. The examination of each course could be different. Some courses had only an exam as examination, while other courses had an exam as well as a report and/or a presentation, while some other courses used only a report and/or a presentation. The workload of the courses was well spread among the semester.

## 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?)

## All lecturers were easily approachable, especially since all courses were given to relatively small groups of students (maximum approximately 30) it was always possible to ask questions to your lecturer either during the lesson or after or to send them an email. Some lecturers engaged a lot during their lessons with the students by asking many question and creating classroom discussions on the teaching material. Other lecturers were less interactive and recited their lessons. Both methods of teaching were nice and appropriate for the specific courses. The main difference compared to the WUR were the smaller groups of students that followed the courses. This ranged from 5 students to around 30 students for the courses that I followed.

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

The university offers several other facilities that students can use. There are catering facilities where students can sit, eat, and drink during their breaks or free time. There is a sports facility (a gym) on the campus that is open throughout the week. Finally, there are many sports or other clubs that students can become a member to meet other students while participating in their hobby. For Erasmus students the university organised several activities that we could attend, like a large hike though nature and going to a Gaelic football game.

# **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 is availability to sign up for student housing (comparable to Idealis in Wageningen), but this does not go through the university itself. You would have to contact the housing organisations yourself. These houses are filled quite quickly, so you should be fast or otherwise email them if they have any other possibilities for you.

You can also rent privately by searching for a room on, for example, Facebook. This is where I found my room in a student house with 8 other Erasmus students.

The university offers to help with finding rooms in host families. You therefore have to email the international students housing contact person.

The rent rates in Dublin are significantly higher than in Wageningen. I paid €800 a month for my room, which was relatively cheap. The Idealis-like rooms could easily cost €1000 or €1100 a month.

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

The culture in Dublin is not very different from the culture in the Netherlands.

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

As mentioned above: the rent rates in Dublin are significantly higher than in Wageningen. I paid €800 a month for my room, which was relatively cheap. The Idealis-like rooms could easily cost €1000 or €1100 a month.

**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 much cheaper in Ireland compared to the Netherlands. You can order a student bus card with which a bus journey costs you €1 for 90 minutes of travelling. This card can also be used for the tram lines in Dublin, which are even cheaper than the bus.

Taxi prices are also cheaper than in the Netherlands. A taxi ride from the airport to the city centre (around 20 minutes) costs around €15 to €20 euros.

I lived quite close to the university, so I walked every day. But the university was also well accessible with the bus and the tram, or even by bike. This also counts for other locations in Dublin such as museums etc.

# **6. Free time**

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

Ireland is full of beautiful nature. Howth and Gray are two villages surrounded by beautiful nature very close to Dublin that are easily accessible by train (using your public transport card for €2). Also, all large cities in Dublin are easily accessible by intercity trains that can be booked online in advance for very nice weekend or day trips.

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

14 Henrietta Street is a very nice museum. Powerscourt gardens is a very nice estate and parc that you can visit in the Wicklow mountains by taking a bus from Dublin.

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

ESN organises weekend trips for Erasmus students to many different places in Ireland. These are very nice and relatively cheap. Definitely a must do if you want to see different places in Ireland.

Going out is possible in the well-known Temple Bar area. Here there are many nice pubs but also many tourists. However the atmosphere is always very nice. If you want to go to an area where there are a little bit less tourists, you should go to Harcourt street (Coppers or Diceys).

# **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

There were not many challenges that I have experienced during my exchange.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I have many amazing memories, but my favourite moments were the weekend trips that I have done to many different places in Ireland, like Cork, Galway, Killarney, Belfast, Donegal, etc.

# **8. Contact details (optional)**

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| **Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?** | yes [x]  |  no [ ]  |
| **Name/e-mail** |  Femke.mehagnoul@wur.nl |