



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BSc Internationale Ontwikkelingsstudies
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	07-09-2023 until 18-01-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Università degli Studi di Firenze
<b>Faculty</b>	Department of Economics and Management
<b>Country</b>	Italy
<b>City</b>	Florence

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I love to travel and saw this as an opportunity to live abroad, travel around and enjoy being around internationals. I enjoy being abroad, so I use every opportunity I get to spend abroad during my studies.

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

I wanted to live and enjoy the Italian culture and I got really enthusiastic about Florence, which was for me the confirmation that it was the right choice.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I went by plane, which is most convenient via Pisa or Florence Airport.

## 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	International Trade	6	International trade, focus on GVCs, Melitz model, Value Added, globalization / slowbalization, offshoring / reshoring / outsourcing, investments, FDI, terms of trade, trade for and in developing countries, trade policies and international agreements. These concepts based on the existing models of international trade (Ricardo, H-O, etc.).	4	
2	International Law	6	International law, international politics, the security system, international responsibility, legal and political dynamics that guide the international society.	4	
3	Demography and Tourism	6	Demographic trends, concepts, and methods, related to the tourism sector. Population structures, Lexis diagram, demographic rates, direct and indirect standardizations, population increase, mortality - life table construction and interpretation, fertility and reproduction measures and interpretations, population projection and forecast, demographic transition and major population trends.	4	

			Application of methods of demography to the analysis and solution of the tourism issues and problems.		
<b>4</b>	Agriculture in Economic Development	6	Technical and economic features of agricultural production; peasant agriculture; agricultural household models; structural change and agricultural transformation; role of agriculture in economic development; land; farm organization and agrarian contracts; (access to) credit; risk and insurance; labor and migration; food security; rural-urban migration; human capital; access to market and value chain participation; environment and climate change; investments. Determinants of agricultural and rural development in LDCs.	5	
<b>5</b>	Human Rights and Armed Conflicts	6	Fundamental principles in the field of international protection of human rights. Main human rights protection mechanisms at universal and regional level. In-depth analysis of genocide, right to life, death penalty, prohibition of torture. International humanitarian law, law of armed conflicts, international criminal justice.	4	
<b>6</b>					

**What is it like to study there?**

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

It is nice to study at Unifi, but sometimes I missed a little bit space to study somewhere. There are some study rooms, but not many. However, most of the time I studied with some friends at public libraries or other public study places. The workload and examination were easy to follow, but sometimes there was not enough access to lesson material, which made some exams confusing. But this depended on the course, the professor, and his / her methods.

**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 culture at the university is quite open to Erasmus students. There are a lot of international students, which makes it easy to connect during lectures and group work. I liked it a lot that most of my courses were filled with internationals. Lecturers are well approachable, and they are there to help you. :)

**What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

The university offers catering facilities and there are some cafes on the campus. You get access to the university library. For sports facilities and other activities, you can engage and take part in ESN / EG / AEGEE / IC Firenze activities. These are student associations which offer a lot of activities, trips, and other facilities for international 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?*

I rented my room via HousingAnywhere, which is a verified platform. Rent rates differ between various types of accommodations and locations. I had a private room and I shared the apartment with four roommates, with whom I shared the kitchen and two bathrooms. The university does not provide housing, so you must take care of that yourself.

**What is the culture of the country like?**

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

Italian culture! Ate a lot of pasta, drank a lot of wine, and enjoyed a lot of sunsets at beautiful places in Tuscany. Within Erasmus contexts and during studies, I spent most of my time with internationals, not many Italians.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

For public transport in Florence, there is a monthly card of about 38 euros to travel with bus and tram. Single tickets are 1,70 euros and valid for 90 minutes. There is also a bike system in which you pay for your ride, and you can grab a bike anywhere (Ridemovi).

## 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: about 40-45 euros by plane (excl. luggage).

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: varies from 400-700 euros per month.

Groceries: basically, the same as in the NL.

Public transport: see previous question.

Restaurant/going out for dinner: cheaper than in the NL.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: depends on the person. Can be as much as you like.

### **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?*

I travelled around in Tuscany and basically saw every city in that region and some outside Tuscany. This was sort of my plan, but it depends on what you want to see. In Florence, there are many beautiful places to visit, and lots of museums. During your exchange, you will have enough time to visit places and cities outside Florence as well.

### **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?*

Go see everything in Tuscany, it is amazing. :)

Watch the sunset at Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence as many times as you can. :)

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

There can be challenges in being alone sometimes or making friends in the first few weeks. But because you are alone, you have to face it yourself, which makes you stronger once you overcome your own challenges. Live your amazing life on exchange, enjoy your time to the fullest, also do some studying, and you will be fine. :)

### **What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

Meeting amazing international people, spending every day with them, and learning about their cultures and lifestyles. Your world view will change, improve, and broaden and it is amazing. Seeing Tuscany and travelling around with them in Italy was truly amazing.

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

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