



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	International Land & Water Management (BIL)
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	14/08/2023 until 15/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University Faculty</b>	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)
<b>Country</b>	USA
<b>City</b>	Urbana-Champaign

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

- To gain experience amongst leading researchers in my field of interest (food insecurity & climate change)
- Experience a different university culture

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

- Courses available lined up with my field of interest
- gaining experience in the US is important in my field due to the presence of the World Bank, IFRPI and others

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

- Peoria charter from O'hare to Urbana

## 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
<b>1</b>	Agricultural Marketing	6	Examines factors affecting the size of the market for agricultural products and the scope of marketing activities; functions and services performed; pricing agricultural products, including the nature and causes of price fluctuations; and costs of marketing and efforts to reduce costs and improve the marketing system.	3	Only about the corn & soybean markets in the US Midwest. Nothing about small scale markets and trading
<b>2</b>	The World Food Economy	6	Examination of global food production, consumption, and trade; problems of hunger and population; the role of agricultural development, trade, and aid in relieving hunger.	5	Perfect course if you're interested in food. Lectures are unfortunately online
<b>3</b>	Natural Resource Economics	6	Economic principles are used to analyze a broad range of natural resource policy and management issues. Economic concepts developed include public goods, social welfare, discounting, dynamic efficiency, and resource scarcity. Natural resources examined include biodiversity, fisheries, forests, minerals, soil, and water resources.	4	

4	Climate and Global Change	6	Introduces climate change and its interactions with the global environment; surveys the physical, chemical, biological and social factors contributing to global change; includes topics such as greenhouse warming, acid rain, ozone depletion, distinguishes anthropogenic influences and natural variability of the earth system; addresses societal impacts, mitigation strategies, policy options and other human responses to global change.	5	Amazing course to get an introduction about the physics of climate change
5	Social & Environmental Issues	6	Introduction to the complex relationship between people and the natural environment from a social science perspective. Explores different approaches to environmental issues, and examines the role of population change, political economy, technologies, environmental policymaking, and social institutions in causing and resolving contemporary social and environmental global issues.	2	Very easy course if you have experience with social sciences, not the most interesting
6					

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

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

- Level is quite low at undergraduate level. Don't be scared to take 400 level courses, most people get straight As

### **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 approachable lectures. I would recommend to go the office hours to get to know your teachers better

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

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

- Sports facilities and public transport made available

## 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 paid 550/month for off campus housing at the Atrium. More expensive rooms available closer to campus

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

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

- differences aren't huge, nothing to be worried about.

**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 card for free within urbana-champaign

## 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: 850

Visa if applicable: 370

Vaccinations if applicable: /

Insurances (extra, if applicable): Mandatory student insurance 1200

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 550/month

Groceries: very expensive

Public transport: free

Restaurant/going out for dinner:

Daytrips/sight-seeing:

**Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

- exchange semesters are very expensive. Be prepared for that

## 7. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area?**

*E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

- Highlights are Chicago, Nashville and Miami. Join the student association “travelling Illini” for fun group trips. Trains are widely available

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

- Bangkok Thai on Green street. Amazing restaurant!

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

- Half price burgers at Murphy’s on Mondays (green street pub)

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

- Getting sick sucked. US hospital bills are expensive, still waiting to see how much I have to pay.

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

- Travelling with friends and football/basketball games.

## 9. Contact details (optional)

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