



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Bachelor Health and Society
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	13/09/2023 until 15/01/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Keele
<b>Faculty</b>	Psychology and Criminology
<b>Country</b>	England
<b>City</b>	Newcastle-under-Lyme

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To improve my language skills, meet new people and to become more independent.

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

Because it is an English speaking country, not too far away from home and the university looked friendly and fun.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It is doable to go by train, just keep in mind you can only reach the campus by bus or uber.

## 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	<i>The Psychology of Crime, Investigation, and Punishment</i>	7,5	You learn about psychological processes from the start of the arrest until the sentencing	5	
2	<i>Faces, Forgetting, and Forensic Psychology</i>	7,5	You learn about which factors play a role in making it difficult to remember a face (important for eyewitness identifications).	5	
3	<i>Psychopathology</i>	7,5	You learn about different mental illnesses, like	2	

			depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.		
4	Psychology and Crime	7,5	You learn about why some people commit a crime and why some don't.	5	

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

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

I only had lectures, which I really enjoyed. The work is a lot, but easy to finish in time because one period is 4 months. The material is really interesting with lecturers who also work in the field.

### **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 lecturers are approachable and willing to talk to you 1-on-1. Local students aren't really approachable. But this is maybe because they already have their societies and friends. The introduction week was amazing with the first night only being for exchange students, which is perfect to meet new people. The difference with the wur is obviously the campus. In Keele you don't have to leave the campus if you don't want to, because everything is on there: accommodations, teaching buildings, restaurant, societies, grocery store, etc.

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

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

There is a big sport centre where you can try out all different kind of sports. There are launderettes, but these are really expensive. Unfortunately, you don't have a choice, but to use the launderettes.

## **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?*

International students can get a room on campus if they want to. This is the easy and most convenient option. However, it is very expensive (twice the rent price, compared to my room in Wageningen, and twice as small). I had one of the more "cheap" options and then you don't have a living room or a place with a table and chairs. You just have a kitchen, two showers and two toilets you have to share with 16 people.

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

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

English students are used to going to their parents every weekend. The cuisine is really high in calories. A general breakfast is scrambled eggs, sausage, and toast with beans. It is normal for students to bring bags of crisps to the lectures and eat it (even in the morning). Their manners are kind and social, but their appearance is a bit fake because for girls it is normal to wear hair extensions, fake lashes, a lot of make-up and not a lot of clothes. Vaping and smoking are very common among students. On campus there are more cigarette bins than there are general bins.

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

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

Unfortunately, the campus is not accessible by train, but there is a bus every 15 min. On average, a single bus trip is 2 pounds (2,10 euros), and within 30 minutes, you are at the train station (very comparable to Wageningen, hahaha). The train station is amazing because it is almost in the middle of England. This makes it easy to travel wherever you want. You can buy a railcard for 30 pounds to get a discount of 1/3th of your ticket price every time.

## 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 euros (to get to the campus from the Netherlands)

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 600 euros per month

Groceries: More than 100 euros per month

Public transport: difficult to give a price

Restaurant/going out for dinner: More than 200 euros (but this was also during trips)

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 300/400 euros per month

### **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?*

Trentham tea rooms: typical English tea room with scones and oat cakes (a local meal) Cities:

Chester, Oxford

Travel by uber for nearby trips and take the bus and train for trips further away

You don't have to plan a long time in advance.

### **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?*

Enjoy your time in the KPA (student restaurant on campus) Go for a walk to Keele Hall

Try a new hobby, I like to do cross-stitch, but it can also be a sport

Go off the campus on the weekends; you are on the campus all the time, so enjoy free time during the weekends.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

My Sundays were really boring because in the Netherlands I'm used to going to my parents. I filled it with sleeping in, cross-stitching, and a walk around campus.

I worried a lot about money because England is more expensive than the Netherlands. But I tried to not worry about it because this is an experience you want to enjoy fully.

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

All the time I spent with my group of friends of international girls.

**9. Contact details (optional)**

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Linde Bodzinga bodzingalinde@gmail.com	