



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bachelor of Animal Sciences
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/09/2023 until 13/01/2024
Exchange destination:	University of Leicester
Faculty	
Country	England
City	Leicester

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to broaden my horizon and see how other countries view animal sciences. And I also wanted to experience student life of another university.

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

Leicester was my second choice. I really wanted to go to Scotland, because I love that country. And I thought well England is not too far from Scotland. And I chose this university because the course catalogue showed a lot of Animal Science related courses. However, unlucky enough, these were all in the second period and not the first. Which was announced after the application deadline.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I found travelling by train really easy. If you buy your ticket in advance and outside the holiday seasons, it is really cheap. And you can bring 2 full suitcases and the restrictions are not as strict when you fly.

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	Major Events in the History of Life	7.5	It is about which events occur a very long time ago and how you can see this in fossils.	3	I found the course really interesting but it was hard to know the expectation of the course as it was a second year course.

2	Diversity and Evolution of the Vertebrates	7.5	It is about how vertebrates evolved from the non-vertebrates.	4	I really liked this course because it gave a clear indication of the evolution of vertebrates.
3	Water Quality Processes and Management	7.5	It is about how waters can be polluted and how you can prevent/manage this.	4	It gave other insides of water management instead of only the animal science point of view.
4	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	7.5	It was about different signalling pathways in neurones and a bit about the development	2	I did not like this course. There were too many topics and I personally do not like neuroscience. I had to take this course because of timetable issues.
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

It was very hard to identify the academic level. It differs among the years that you study. The lessons were really interesting but they were based on literature and not on textbooks. Which made the workload very high because you had to study literature, which can be abstract sometimes.

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 very helpful. They know a lot about their topic. They do not necessarily work at the University, which is different from the WUR.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There are a lot of student societies, from sport to reading clubs. So you will definitely find something that fits you. There is one building that carries a lot of food facilities, pizza & pasta, chips with toppings etc. And in every building you can buy coffee and sandwiches. The laundry facilities are situated at the accommodation. However, this is quite expensive, 5 pounds for washing and drying.

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?

You can sign up for rooms on campus or you can find a room by yourself in Leicester. You have to accommodation sites, the City and the Village. The Village is situated in Oadby, a town next to Leicester. You can reach this via the Unibus. Rooms here are quite cheap however you have to travel for 30 minutes to go to campus.

The City is situated next to campus. Rooms here differ in prices, from 400 pounds per

month to 600 pounds per month. It depends on how luxurious your room is.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

The population is very differs. You find a lot of Indian food places, or Asian. There is not much local cuisine in Leicester. You can find some pubs but I would not say that the food is great.

British people are very polite. They can say no even to not bother you or ask if you want anything just to be polite and expect you to say no. So if you are Dutch, make sure that they know that you are direct and if you ask them anything that you mean it. Also, they say sorry a lot. And if they say, Hi how are you doing? Do not answer. It is just a way of saying hello.

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 quiet expensive. But if you buy a railway card for 30 pounds you can get 30 percent off of train tickets. Which is really helpful, because you will earn that money back. Also buy tickets via trainline. Because they use splitsave to sale cheap tickets.

The buses are not really reliable. And the regulation now is that every bus trips costs 2 pounds, which can be really cheap for long travels but really expensive for short trips. However, Uber is a widely used for traveling. And this can be really cheap as well.

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: 70 – 100 euros.

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 400-600 pounds

Groceries: 30 pounds per week (40 euros) but depends on what you buy.

Public transport: 2 pounds per bustrip and around 30 pounds for a train ticket. But that depends on where you are going. Short train trips can cost around 10 euros.

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 25 pounds pp

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 100 pounds per day, or more. Depends on the train ticket.

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Books are very cheap. You if you are a reader, go to the Works or Waterstones. I bought around 18 books for in total 50 pounds. So around 3 pounds per book.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

The city center is pretty nice. But I would recommend visiting nearby cities.

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

A Leicester Tigers game.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

I would join a student society. Also the Pho restaurant is really good. There is a restaurant on London Road called Saffron Street. This is a really good Indian restaurant. I would also recommend the Fish and Chips restaurant Captain Haddock.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I always struggle with homesickness. I battled this by hanging up pictures of my family to brighten my room and I called every week with my mom and boyfriend.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

My best memory is going to the pub with my roommates and end the evening with watching a TV show with them. This was my last night in Leicester and it was a really nice goodbye.

9. Contact details (optional)

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